

TRANSITION TIMES



VOLUME 19, ISSUE 3

3rd QUARTER 2018

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HOLD ANNUAL MEETING



Front L to R: **Max Van Heel, Bill Quast, Karen Grove, Trudi Schmidt** – Not pictured: **Kevin Heffernan**
Back L to R: **Jon Boutilier, John Gregory, Bob Dompier, Gary McFerrin, Kathy Van Tighem, Curtis Thompson**

Board members and administrative staff, along with their spouses and guests, held their annual meeting and dinner at the Meadowlark Country Club on October 3rd. Our directors donate a considerable amount of their time attending meetings and contributing their individual expertise to the operation of the center. Our board and staff are committed to the center's motto – *A chance for change*.

A resident who recently completed our program had this to say:

"I've never had a job before I came to pre-release. I was never accountable, now I am. I was never honest, now I am. I received my HiSET. I am now better at managing my time. I gained so many positive things -- too many to name -- from the pre-release center. **It really was MY chance for change!**"

SHERIFF CANDIDATE MEET AND GREET



Bob Rosipal and Dan O'Fallon discuss issues with a community member.



Jesse Slaughter listens to a community member's concerns.



Food Service Manager, Charlene Bonde, and her staff prepared an impressive spread for the event.



PROBATION AND PAROLE OFFICER TRAINING



The Transition Center hosted students attending the Probation and Parole Officer Basic Course at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy on September 4, 2018. The P&P Basic Course is structured to prepare recently hired Probation and Parole Officers to be proficient in their assigned duties to supervise offenders on their assigned caseload. In addition to learning legal issues, case management, and survival tactics in the field, officers are provided an understanding of the resources offered through community Pre Release and Treatment program partnerships. Oftentimes, the best way to truly understand something is to see it first hand and get the information directly from professionals involved. P&P Basic Class #28 wishes to extend gratitude to Director of Treatment Services Alan Scanlon and Board Member Kevin Heffernan for the opportunity to visit the Transition Center and receive their presentation about the programs that are offered and how best to consider and refer clients for screening consideration.

By Michael Buckley

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EDUCATION PROGRAM

By Dave Nelson, Education Coordinator

Residents Receive their HiSETS

Congratulations from the entire staff at the Transition Center and much continued success in your future!



Cheyenne LaFountain
CTS Shellie Babinecz



James Scott
CTS Linsey Shannon



Diana Lamere
CTS Karen Conley

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.

NEWS FROM SHEENA JARVEY, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



A warm thank you to our caring volunteers

Pauline Merenz, or Pauli, has been volunteering at the Pre-Release since 2012. Pauli coordinated the soap making that has become a Pre-Release tradition. When the volunteers host “Let’s make soap for Christmas”, the dining rooms are filled with scents, laughter, color and creativity. Check out back issues of our newsletters to see pictures of the fabulous soaps that were given to parents, spouses, kids and grandparents. Some of the soaps were really works of art and all were from the heart.

Pauli also was a regular at our Friday craft time on Women’s and plans to continue to assist with special craft events. The list of crafts would be too long to list, and Pauli always was a dedicated partner in these activities.

Pauli has increasingly become involved in several quilting groups and is now focusing her time on her beautiful quilts. Thank you, Pauli, for your participation, time and your caring.

The awesome Friday women’s volunteer craft group
- spring 2018:

**Darlene Long, Sheena, George and Nita Tyner,
and Pauli Merenz**



The impact of grief is inexplicable and unavoidable. Each person will react differently when it comes to experiencing grief and loss. Our volunteer grief counselor, **Maxine O’Neil**, understood how grief can shake our lives and how grief counseling can offer healing.



Maxine came into our Pre-Release volunteer family bringing us an abundance of blessings. Her spiritual gifts were given generously and thoughtfully. Maxine offered her services as a grief counselor when we needed her the most. Through the years Maxine’ grief counseling, from a workbook she developed, had an impact on so many residents. Maxine’s services were so in demand that she often worked four days a week, seeing two clients each day. Maxine’s faith based teachings and counseling went right to the core of the issue and helped to put the pain into the perspective of faith, strength and hope.

Thank you, Maxine, for your volunteer service which began in 2009 and went until the summer of 2018. We wish you happiness and peace in the new phase of your life. You and Pauli are always a part of our volunteer family.

Maxine O’Neil

STAFF NEWS

New Staff

Welcome to our newly hired Compliance Officers **Danielle Altenburg, Patrick Christensen, and Toby Tighe**. Welcome to our new Accounting Assistant **Cheryl Haynes**.

A sad goodbye to our co-worker and friend, Tom Hillstrand

Tom was no quitter, and he was dependable. Since he began working here in 2010, we could count on him to be here to work his Friday through Sunday shifts. The loss of his voice and the added luggage of an oxygen tank were no deterrents. Tom always showed kindness to both staff and residents alike. We will miss you!



Unsung Hero



Dave Van Hovel was chosen by his peers as this year's recipient of the Unsung Hero Award. Dave is nearing his sixth year as a compliance officer and serves as a shift leader. He works behind the scenes to ensure that his co-workers perform their job effectively and efficiently. Staff appreciates Dave's attention to detail, professionalism, and willingness to go the extra mile.

Milestones

5 Years – Dawn Adams: Assistant Compliance Officer Supervisor

Dawn spent the first four years of her life in South Dakota. After that her family moved to the Great Falls area where she and her three brothers and three sisters grew up. Prior to coming to Great Falls Pre-Release, Dawn worked in housekeeping, as a cook, as a waitress, as a bartender, and was "the whole office" for two trucking companies.

Dawn raised four of her own children and is now raising three of her six (soon to be seven) grandchildren. Her hobbies include fishing, camping, hiking, baking, reading, and woodworking. What does Dawn like about working here? "I love my job. I love helping new CO's learn the job and working with the residents. I love seeing the residents complete our program, and I wish them the best of luck in their future. I look forward to working here for many more years."

5 Years – Albert Flamand: Compliance Officer

Albert's hometown is Browning. After moving to Great Falls, he worked as our former Assistant CO Supervisor's Schwan man. His politeness and professionalism drove her to recruit him to Great Falls Pre-Release. Albert is full of energy and always has a positive attitude and a smile.

While living in Browning, he served for the Blackfeet Law Enforcement Agency which covers 1.5 million acres!

Albert's family is of utmost importance to him. His hobbies include most anything that has to do with the outdoors.

What does Albert like about working at Great Falls Pre-Release? "The people I work with."





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TRANSITION TIMES

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Trudi Schmidt: Former State Legislator, Educator, and Social Worker
Curtis Thompson: Attorney, Thompson Law, P.C.
Kathy Van Tighem: Counselor, Great Falls High School

MISSION STATEMENT

Great Falls Pre-Release Services, Inc. provides a cost-effective alternative to incarceration for offenders through a variety of community-based correctional treatment programs. Great Falls Pre-Release Services, Inc. is dedicated to public safety and trust through professional, quality services which facilitate personal growth through positive change and individual responsibility of assigned offenders.



gfprc.org

Vision Statement

Dedicated to providing resources and opportunities that safely and successfully restore offenders into society.

Statement of Values

- *Motivation:* A desire to help others reach their full potential.
- *Professionalism:* Maintain proper interactions with staff, residents, and the community.
- *Accountability:* Take ownership for successes and shortcomings, to ourselves and others
- *Equality:* Ensure equality by expressing, in attitudes and actions, respect for all.
- *Dignity:* Model behavior in a respectful manner to instill a sense of self-respect and to bolster a positive self-image.
- *Community:* Develop a positive environment that facilitates healthy change as the residents integrate into the broader community.