

# TRANSITION TIMES



**VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2**

**2nd QUARTER 2019**

## A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Center Shakedown:** Let's face it, not everyone comes through this program with the best of intentions. In fact, some continue to engage in the same self-destructive behaviors that led them here in the first place. It is for that very reason that on occasion we must help to remind them of the true value of the opportunity they have been given. While evidence-based programming is great, deterrents still do work.

On June 20, the Center conducted a major shakedown of the East Campus with the assistance and leadership of Great Falls Probation and Parole, U. S. Probation and Parole and U. S. Customs and Border Control who provided a drug dog for the exercise. Wayne Bye, Deputy Chief of State Probation and Parole for Region 3, largely coordinated the effort in partnership with Keven Heffernan, Supervising United States Probation Officer. Charlie Martin, State Probation and Parole Officer II, should also receive a "shout out" for his role in supporting this undertaking. Thanks to their involvement, roughly 30 State and Federal Probation Officers arrived en masse to perform a comprehensive shakedown of the residents and East Campus facility. The process was handled professionally with the utmost consideration given to the dignity of the population.

We thank all the Officers for their participation in this effort and are grateful for their ongoing support. Pre-Release Center staff also worked hand in hand with the officers from Probation and Parole and are commended for their hard work and dedication to this project as well. Partnerships are often discussed but rarely seen to the extent witnessed at the Center on June 20.



**Paul Cory**



**Raymond Powell finds painting to be therapeutic**

Sometimes everything makes me feel confined,  
and my thoughts are blind.  
So I take a deep breath  
to help me unwind.  
I'm keeping clean and won't be back on the grind.  
I'm puttin' that old life behind and not goin' to hit rewind.  
I close my eyes and pray the Lord heals my mind.  
Bein' a product of the system makes us blind.  
Finding sobriety can be hard to find.  
Take this time we have now to shine,  
and take life one moment at a time.

**Written by Vincent Parker**

## LAW DAY AWARD

Thank you  
Our Savior's  
Lutheran Church!

Paul Cory  
Bill Larson  
Judy Ericksen  
Pastor Anna  
Merritt  
Pat Orham  
Harlan Orham



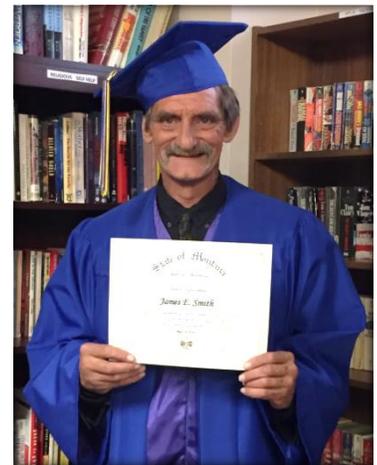
Each May, in recognition of Law Day, the Great Falls Pre-Release Board of Directors honors an individual(s) directly or indirectly involved with the criminal justice system. The Center acknowledges the unsung heroes that demonstrate absolute commitment to their profession but rarely, if ever, receive recognition of their efforts. This year, for the first time, the Great Falls Pre-Release honored an organization. Our Savior's Lutheran Church has been a strong supporter of the Center for the past 25 years. They have unconditionally provided items for the gift bags we give each resident at Christmas time.

\* \* \* \* \*

### IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

With the odds against him, **James E. Smith, Jr.** was bound and determined to obtain his HiSET. He utilized Great Falls College MSU's Adult Education program to study and prepare for testing. James passed the reading, writing, social studies, and math sections in his first round of testing. Most people find it difficult to pass the math component, but it was the science portion that did not come so easily for James. Twice he tested and failed. On his 3<sup>rd</sup> and final chance he was ecstatic to learn that he passed and exclaimed, "I've finally accomplished something!". James now has a goal of attending Flathead Valley Community College and majoring in Sociology.

\* \* \* \* \*



Art by  
Shane Goss



## CASCADE COUNTY DUI TASK FORCE LAW ENFORCEMENT RECOGNITION CEREMONY



**Ashley Archer, Dan Arnold, Joseph Cik**

The Cascade County DUI Task Force recognized the following individuals that were nominated by their superiors at a ceremony at Great Falls Pre-Release:

Cascade County Sheriff's Office: **Deputy Robert Sanders** shows his concern for the safety of the public with every DUI stop. In 2018 Deputy Sanders led the sheriff's office in DUI arrests. Robert Sanders is a proactive deputy whose passion for the profession is shown in his actions.

Great Falls City Attorney's Office: **Joseph Cik** is the lead counsel for all of the driver's license reinstatement proceedings. He provides valuable support to the city's prosecution team, assisting in the preparation of motions and other pleadings in prosecutions of DUI's in Municipal Court, even occasionally directly prosecuting DUI cases. Joe assisted the Montana State Attorney General's office in drafting SB 65 to update and improve Montana's DUI laws and enforcement.

Cascade County Attorney's Office: **Ashlee Archer** is the prosecutor for Justice Court and handles DUI prosecutions daily. She has conducted several DUI jury trials and works hard to enforce DUI laws. Ashlee is a great asset to Cascade County and works every day to protect its citizens.

Great Falls Probation and Parole: **Officer Heather Moore** doesn't back down from a challenge and is always prepared to go the extra mile. Assigned to Adult District Treatment Court and Veteran's Court, she supervises offenders sentenced for felony DUI or related offenses. Heather holds them accountable while providing them with the opportunity to make positive changes in their lives. She understands the unique risks DUI offenders pose to the community and takes steps to ensure the safety of our community.

Montana Highway Patrol: During 2018 **Trooper Dan Arnold** processed 118 individuals for both drug and alcohol DUI offenses. In addition to his regular patrol, Trooper Arnold worked STEP overtime specifically looking for impaired drivers during local events and throughout the summer months. Through his dedication to the mission of the Montana Highway Patrol and his desire to remove impaired drivers from the public roadways, Trooper Arnold truly makes the community a safer place.

Great Falls Police Department: **Officer Brett Munkres** led his patrol team in DUI enforcement for the year. DUI arrests have become increasingly complicated, and DUI blood draw search warrants are more prevalent and time consuming. Officer Munkres has been noted for providing excellent courtroom testimony for his arrests. Also, in his written reports he takes the time to paint a picture of the incident which aids the prosecution.

### **A special thank you to the following businesses for donating items to present to the recipients:**

Caterpillar Construction	Double Barrel Cafe	Double G Engraving	Fuddruckers
Great Harvest	Holiday Inn	Lithia Subaru	North 40
Perkins	Roadhouse Diner	Scheels	Schulte's
State Farm Insurance	Tacticality Workwear	Teriyaki Madness	True Brew



## **RODNEY'S LEGACY** By Sheena Jarvey, PREA Liaison



In 1995, 16 year old Rodney Hulin, Jr. tossed a burning projectile at a garbage bin, which caught on fire. The dumpster fire was quickly put out, no one was hurt, and the damage was minimal. Rodney admitted that he had started the fire, after which he was sentenced to 8 years in an adult prison.

Rodney did a year in Abilene, Texas with no problems, and he was hopeful of receiving his parole in a few years. However, after he was suddenly transferred to Brazoria County his situation quickly deteriorated. He wrote to his dad, "Dad, I'm really scared, scared that I will die in here. Please pray for me." After repeatedly being beaten, raped and robbed, Rodney wrote to the warden explaining what was happening to him and asking, "Please, sir, help me." These concerns were dismissed by the warden, even though the prison nursing staff noted clear evidence of sexual abuse.

When they took Rodney's body from his cell, they carried out a 5' 2" 17 year old who weighed less than 125 pounds. Assuming, based on his experience, that no staff would help him and knowing he could not protect himself from the violence from other inmates that he experienced on a daily basis, Rodney decided to determine his own fate.

Alone in his cell, Rodney wrote a farewell letter to his family: "To all my family: I can't live being hurt, lied to, beaten and raped. I would rather die of my own free will then be killed, which I feel will be coming soon. If I don't do this someone else will." He went on, "I wish I could be with you, but I feel I am with you in spirit. He then signed his full name and told his mom and dad in large block print, that he loved them. Rodney also wrote, "I have found forgiveness for those who have hurt me in my life, which, admittedly, has been a rather short one."

Rodney's legacy, which I think would have astounded him, became the tipping point in a long fight against prison sexual abuse that culminated in what we now know as PREA. After Rodney's death, his parents went public with what had happened. As Rodney's father wrote, "Sending children to be beaten, raped and robbed does not deter crime." Rodney's frightful prison experience, and his lonely death, help forward the movement to legally address the issue of rape and sexual assault in confinement, and in 2003, with bi-partisan support, the Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act was signed into law.

So, to everyone, each staff and each resident, who honors the Prison Rape Elimination Act by the integrity of your actions, I thank you. This is not to be taken for granted, for the line separating violence from nonviolence can be tenuous. The environment that we are used to living and working in can morph, without constant attention, into something unsafe and malicious. PREA works because of the integrity of all residents and all staff in our facility. You keep trust with the intent of PREA every day through your actions and words and, despite whatever struggles you are experiencing, you take the time to be responsible and respectful to those around you.

At the end of his life, Rodney found his moment of grace when he offered forgiveness for those who hurt him and love for his family. Rodney's legacy is not forgotten. While violence and rape in confinement still occurs, Rodney Hulin, Jr. and his family did change the narrative, in that this violence should never be accepted, nor is it ethical, nor is it legal.



## DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

### Community Service Office: The Joe's

Joseph Williams and Joe Marten have 18 years of combined experience at the Transition Center. Both started out as Compliance Officers, so they are very familiar with the workings of our organization.

They are well known by many members of the community, no matter which side of the fence they are on. The Joe's not only assist our residents, they work with probation and parole, judges from all courts, non-profit organizations, and the Salvation Army. Joseph and Joe are in charge of the city and the county's community service programs. If a judge sentences an offender to perform community service, the Joe's meet with the individual and correlate jobs with a suitable non-profit. This can be challenging due to age restrictions, work locations, and scheduling.

The Joe's also facilitate the Enhanced Supervision Program. If an individual violates the terms of their probation, they may be sanctioned to this program. They are required to check in at the Center daily and provide a breathalyzer. A urinalysis is done randomly, and the offender meets with one of the Joe's weekly to discuss any problems they are having, their medications, and other general issues.

The Joe's administer the Jail Alternative Program at the Center. A probation violator or someone that received a DUI may be given the opportunity to serve their jail sentence at the Center. The individual is required to pay \$30.00 for each night of their stay and is allowed to go to work as long as it was authorized by the court.

Other duties of the Joe's include orientation of new residents, facilitating haircuts prior to job search, covering the job search class in Roger's absence, violent offender registration, aiding the residents in obtaining their identification, and taking identification photos of new residents. They also serve on the Center Visionary Committee. In addition, Joseph Williams serves as the Cascade County DUI Task Force Coordinator. The Joe's are truly assets to the Center and the community!



Joseph Williams

Joe Marten

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## STAFF NEWS

New Staff: We are pleased to welcome **Katherine Block** as a new Compliance Officer.

In-House Staff Movement: Compliance Officer **Joshua Weist** was selected to be the Compliance Officer Supervisor. Compliance Officer **Toby Tighe** was chosen to be the Security Coordinator. **Patrick Christensen** was selected to be the UA Lab Supervisor.



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**TRANSITION TIMES**

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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.