

# TRANSITION TIMES



**VOLUME 20, ISSUE 4**

**4th QUARTER 2019**

## Commitment to Excellence

Corey Hoskins and Jay Warehime were recognized for their attitude, integrity, and dedication to the highest standards of excellence as employees of Great Falls Pre-Release at this year's staff Christmas party held at the Heritage Inn. Individuals are nominated by the previous year's Commitment to Excellence winners.



Compliance Officer **Corey Hoskins** goes above and beyond to help her coworkers, working extra shifts and covering where needed. She is respectful to her coworkers and the residents and is always there to talk to someone if they are having a bad day. Corey comes to work with a smile on her face and an eagerness to complete the daily tasks. Very seldom do you hear her say she is tired, and she never complains about having too much to do. Corey is well deserving of this award.

**Jay Warehime** brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Maintenance Coordinator position at Great Falls Pre-Release. Prior to his hiring, he served as the maintenance man at Quality Life Concepts for 23 years.



Jay has set a new standard with the work being completed around the Center in a quality, timely, and consistent manner. He is typically seen working alongside, guiding and teaching, two or three inmate workers in a wide variety of projects. Jay imparts a solid work ethic along with a sense of pride in his position.

## The Power of our Intentions

### A NOTE FROM SHEENA JARVEY



Congratulations to **Nakita Martin** and **Jeremy Hand** on their huge accomplishment of graduation on December 18, 2019. Nakita graduated with her Certified Nursing Assistant and will be starting at the University of Montana. Jeremy received his HiSET, allowing him to also go on to university.

Their graduation was a joyous occasion and none of us could stop smiling.

So how did Nakita and Jeremy achieve their success? This: they both set out to do what they promised themselves they would do. They didn't let their present situation or their past stand in the way of a promising and productive future. A future they decided for themselves. That last point is critically important.

The other factor was that Jeremy and Nakita sought out help to make their goals happen. Staff at Great Falls College MSU (thank you, Vicki), Pre-Release staff and Pre-Release residents pitched in to help – people spending extra time and attention to make this happen. Thanks so much, folks, we appreciate all that you did.

When Jeremy was asked about his goals in therapy group, he said he wanted to go to university for an Engineering degree. A simple sentence that opened the door to his future.



**Jeremy Hand, Vicki (Great Falls Career and College Readiness Center), Nakita Martin**

## Volunteers Spread Christmas Joy

The joy of Christmas also came to all three campuses at the Pre-Release courtesy of volunteers Debbie Olson, Diane Kliewer and Julie Saenz. Pizza was the main event (as in everyone had lots of slices of pizza), as well as soda pop and presents. Thank you to the kitchen staff and Inmate Workers who helped round out the meal with sides. What a lovely and giving Christmas gift. Good cheer surrounded everyone as we shared food, laughter and presents. Words cannot express our gratitude to these lovely, generous volunteers. Your thoughtfulness and kindness will be remembered throughout the year. From all of us: a huge thank you.



## The Goal to Become a Recognized Artist

Veteran Reentry Program resident **Frank Big Man** has been tasked with creating an illustration to represent the movement to bring awareness to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). His sister asked Frank to do this after the recent disappearance of their friend's 16 year old niece, Selena Shelley Faye Not Afraid, from the rest area between Billings and Hardin.

As a little boy Frank loved watching cartoons. When a show ended, he didn't want it to stop, so he started drawing the characters. Mickey Mouse was one of his first drawings. Frank is a Crow and grew up in Billings. His dad married a Navajo from Arizona, so Frank lived there for about 5 years as a child. During the summers he was sent to man the sheep camp with his step-grandmother, a horse, and several dogs. It was there Frank discovered sculpting. "It was very boring watching the sheep eat. I found pieces of wood and used my pocket knife to carve – a bird's head, a cowboy boot, anything I could carve with the stick." His love for art blossomed in his elementary and high school art classes, igniting the desire to be a recognized artist.

After high school Frank joined the Army and completed basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He trained to be a Black Hawk helicopter mechanic at Fort Eustis, Virginia. Frank spent two years stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. His remaining two years were with the Montana Army National Guard.

Frank's next phase of life was pursuing an art teaching degree at MSU Billings. While attending a teacher's conference about technology he was drawn to a booth where a man was demonstrating digital photography. Frank was invited to give it a try. He drew Mickey Mouse and then Bugs Bunny. The man gave Frank contact information for Pixar and asked him if he ever thought about going to California to do an apprenticeship. As tempting as it was, and still is, Frank is determined to finish his last year of college to earn his bachelor's degree in Art Education. After that, he will see if the offer is still available.

Frank would like to finish his schooling in Santa Fe, New Mexico where there is a tremendous market for art.

"People told me I could be rich, but someone had to work and pay the bills." Frank was forced to quit college after three years due to a lack of money. He went to work in the construction field and worked his way up to foreman. Now that his children are grown and they have children of their own, Frank can concentrate on his art. Unfortunately, Frank's body has developed rheumatoid arthritis which can get in the way of the fascinating ideas that come to his mind that he wants to draw. "I get into my drawing and want to keep going, but my hands say no." Renowned artist, Kevin Red Star, encouraged Frank to never give up on his dream of becoming a recognized artist. Frank is getting close to finishing the MMIW logo, so stay tuned and be prepared to be amazed!





**Compliance Officer Steve Rogers earned his bachelor's degree in psychology**

## **The Journey was Worth It, by Steve Rogers**

I lay in my rack aboard USS Georgia (my first submarine) in the Northern Pacific Ocean, sliding back and forth with the roll of the waves, trying to figure out how the hell I wound up here. The reason I found myself in the Navy was to pay for college. Working 60 hours a week to pay for school and taking two classes a week just wasn't cutting it. Throughout high school I focused on getting my college degree in law, creative writing, or archaeology. However, after taking a class in psychology, my desire shifted.

When I went to the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) to pick my Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC), I was offered machinist mate submarines, postal clerk, store keeper, or sonar technician for submarines. Being a sonar technician on submarines sounded the most interesting of the offers. It created ideas of being Seaman Jonesy in *Red October* hunting down Russian submarines while being shot at with torpedoes. A sonar technician on a submarine listens to the water to make sure the boat stays safe from ships overhead and does not hit the bottom of the ocean. Little did I know that a majority of my time would be spent listening to storms, chowing down on shrimp, and watching trawlers pass by. Somehow I kept tricking myself into staying in the Navy for 20 years. By the time I retired, I accrued 128 transferrable college credits.

While stationed in Yokosuka, Japan, I met my beautiful wife, Patricia, who gave birth to our daughter, Catherine. They currently reside in the Philippines. Since we have been married, we have only spent a total of three months together in the almost five years we have been married. Patricia is looking forward to coming to Montana because for some strange reason, she is a Filipina who loves the snow and Catherine wants to go camping.

My biggest accomplishment while in the Navy was earning my Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medal. Part of this award consisted of counseling and assisting individual sailors who had problems or incidents involving alcohol. This created a desire to focus my degree in psychology towards being a counselor. This became more refined when working at Camp Sky Child with children whose parents were either incarcerated, abusive, or abusing some form of substance. Some of the children were afraid of becoming part of the system and believed it inevitable to wind up in foster care.

I was fortunate to complete the remainder of my required hours of internship at Great Falls Pre-Release. I finally graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Providence in December. Between working the overnight shift at the Center full time, assisting other vets in the Vet's Lounge during the days, attending a full load of classes, and raising a little girl (while she was here), I was still able to maintain a GPA of 3.82. With the little sleep I got over the last two and a half years, I made the Dean's list two times, the President's list three times and graduated Magnum Cum Laude from the University of Providence. It made the accomplishment of receiving such high honors so much sweeter because all that hard work paid off. I have been accepted by the University of Providence into their Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling program. From a lack of athletic ability, a high school GPA of 2.77, and no way of paying for college, to becoming a Navy veteran with a bachelor's degree, it has been a long time coming, but the journey was worth it. Thank you to those that helped me along the way: Mr. Scanlon, CTS Babinecz, CTS Conley, DHO Carrethers, LAC Kemp, CTS Smyth and LAC Workman. Your assistance in acquiring my degree is much appreciated. I learned so much from all of you.

## Victim Impact Training

Correctional Treatment Specialists **Gen Smyth** and **Kori Vogt** attended a three-day training in Helena to become certified to facilitate victim impact groups. The Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center states that *the curriculum is geared toward helping offenders to become more aware of the impact that crime has on victims and to take responsibility for their actions and begin to make amends. The curriculum makes victims and their rights a central premise.* Gen and Kori described the training as intense. Victims of two separate crimes came in and spoke to the students. The students were required to play the part of an offender for the three days they were in training. Gen chose to be the person who was convicted of Negligent Vehicular Homicide as a result of driving under the influence. The exercise really hit home to the participants and made it seem real.

## (MRT) Moral Reconciliation Therapy Training

Correctional Treatment Specialists Jim Clancy and Tim Schultz attended a four-day training in Billings to become certified to facilitate MRT groups. MRT is a type of behavioral therapy aimed at decreasing the likelihood of someone returning to substance or alcohol abuse. It teaches individuals to give forethought to the moral aspects of their choices and behavior as well as to the social consequences. Groups provided at Great Falls Pre-Release provide the opportunity for our residents to discuss their experiences and learn from one another.

## Generosity

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the generosity of those business and community members that made donations so gift bags could be provided to each of our residents. A special thanks to Our Savior's Lutheran Church for their many years of continued support. Our Food Services Manager, Charlene Bonde, spends countless hours throughout the year preparing to make both the staff and resident Christmas parties memorable.



## New Staff

We are pleased to welcome **Andy Anderson, Michelle Fought, Roque Houseman, Jason Marko, and Tanner Rigor**, who have joined us as Compliance Officers. We welcome **Liz Davis** as a staff cook, and **Jim Clancy** as the Veteran's Reentry Program Correctional Treatment Specialist.



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**TRANSITION TIMES**

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**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.