

# TRANSITION TIMES



**VOLUME 21, ISSUE 3**

**3rd QUARTER 2020**

## **Honoring the Great Falls Pre-Release and Paul Cory**

By Carol Bronson

NeighborWorks Great Falls recognizes the Great Falls Pre-Release, and its former Executive Director, Paul Cory, as Partner of the Year, Honorable Mention, for their long-time support of and collaboration with NeighborWorks Great Falls on community revitalization efforts.

From 2001 through 2012, the Pre-Release worked with multiple residents, government agencies and nonprofit organizations through a federal revitalization program called "Great Falls Weed and Seed," to weed out crime and seed in community revitalization. Partnership with the Neighborhood Committee began about that time, and together we have worked to strengthen people's ability to re-enter society after incarceration.

Paul and the Pre-Release also supported our Transition Coalition, a multi-agency collaborative program to create educational programs and resources to reduce barriers for ex-offenders and their families as they re-entered Great Falls neighborhoods.

The Pre-Release has supported these community efforts by hosting the Weed and Seed and Neighborhood Committee monthly meetings, with a full lunch, at their facility – since 2001. They also work with us on our prescription drug take back program and other efforts to combat crime, drugs, and blight. Equally important, the Pre-Release continues to host resident engagement through their hosting of Neighborhood Council 8 for their monthly meetings.

The Pre-Release recognized our partnership by giving our Director of Community Initiatives, Carol Bronson, their Law Day Award in 2018.

We also take this time to remember and honor Paul Cory's legacy and support of and collaboration with so many community efforts to build Great Falls and the surrounding area.



Left: **Carol Bronson** - Director of Community Initiatives, NeighborWorks Great Falls  
Center: **Alan Scanlon** - Executive Director, Great Falls Pre-Release  
Right: **Sherrie Arey** - Executive Director, NeighborWorks Great Falls  
Photo Credit: **Chelsey Hutmacher** - Fundraising & Outreach Coordinator, NeighborWorks Great Falls

## Alan Scanlon Named as the New Executive Director

by Dan McLaughlin and Brenda Demers



The Search Committee of the Board of Directors of Great Falls Pre-Release Services, Inc. selected **Alan Scanlon** to fill the open position of Executive Director. The committee interviewed five highly qualified and experienced individuals from Montana and across the United States.

Alan joined the staff of Great Falls Pre-Release Services, Inc. in July of 2002 as Treatment Services Director and recently marked his 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Center. Alan had been serving as the Interim Executive Director since May of 2020.

Alan shared a bit of his background: "I lived in Ireland until my family moved to New Jersey when I was five years old. After graduating from high school I joined the United States Air Force as an Aerospace Dining Hall Technician, or Cook. I did basic training in San Antonio, TX, and technical school in Denver, Colorado. After that I received orders to Andersen AFB, Guam. I had never heard of Guam and had no idea what I was in for. But it was very nice, much like Hawaii, and I spent 3 years there and everyday was 80 degrees. Then one day I got orders to Great Falls, Montana. I heard of Montana before but didn't know much about it. After 3 years on a tropical island, I was not at all prepared for my first day in Montana when it was almost 30 degrees below zero. I just about died. With a few short trips out of state, I have lived here for 30 years. I am without a doubt the worst Montanan ever. I don't hunt, fish, or go camping, and I have never purchased a pair of cowboy boots."

Prior to coming to the Great Falls Pre-Release, Alan served as Administrator for the Great Falls Children's Receiving Home. Alan holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Services from the University of Providence (formerly University of Great Falls) and has also completed numerous courses while working towards a graduate degree in Human Services.

Alan commented, "I enjoy working at the Great Falls Pre-Release Center, as I believe in our moto, *A chance for change*. I want every resident to complete our program and never come back. The employees of the Great Falls Pre-Release Center have helped to make this such a great place to work. I have worked alongside some of the finest people I have ever known and I am proud to be part of the Great Falls Pre-Release Center team."

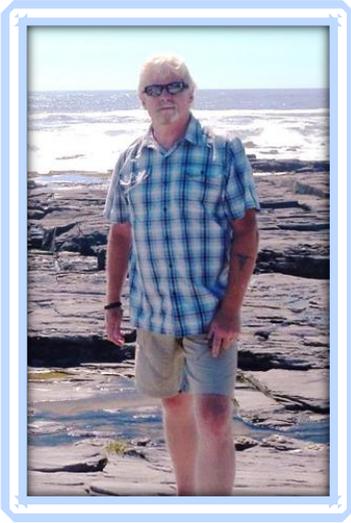
With Alan at the helm, this becomes an exciting new era of opportunity and adventure for the Center, including the staff, residents, and all those associated with the Center. We would like to thank the Selection Committee of the Board for their efforts in finding and selecting the right person to lead our team!

\* \* \* \* \*

**New Staff:** In addition to the new staff and staff promotions already highlighted in this newsletter, we would like to welcome new Compliance Officers **Camille Delaloye**, **John Selvidge**, and **Christina Stewart**.

## A Familiar Face takes over the Reins as Treatment Services Director

By Dan McLaughlin, Mike Scott, Brenda Demers, and Sheena Jarvey



Mike Scott was recently selected to fill the position of Treatment Services Director at Great Falls Pre-Release Services, Inc. The position opening was posted after Alan Scanlon was named to his position as Executive Director. The Center received numerous applications from highly qualified and experienced individuals both internally and externally.

Mike grew up in a small coastal town in Maine. He reminisced, *"My future was decided at a very young age. I come from a very long line of sailors and like those before me I developed a deep love and respect for the sea. Shortly after graduating high school I joined the Navy, shipped off to boot camp, and began a career that spanned over 20 years, hundreds of adventures, and thousands of miles across the globe. I saw amazing things and met some truly remarkable people."*

Along the way, Mike not only obtained a Bachelor's degree from the University of the State of New York, but also fell in love and married a third generation Montana girl. After countless years on the move and Mike's retirement from the Navy, they agreed to settle their growing family in Great Falls. Mike acknowledged, *"It was my intention to land a nice cushy desk job that would never take me away from family for extended time-frames. The job economy was not favorable at the time, at least for those high paying cushy jobs I had envisioned. Instead, I accepted a part-time position as a Resident Advisor at Great Falls Pre-Release. Even though it wasn't a very cushy job, I was pleased to have gotten my foot in the door."* At that time there was only one building and less than fifty male residents. I paid attention to the job, learned everything that I could, and perhaps most importantly, listened to the seasoned employees and even a few seasoned residents. I worked every extra shift I could get and recall working many back-to-back shifts. We did not have a video monitoring or TOM system and the few computers that were around were used as word-processors by management and counseling staff."

Fast forward one year and there was finally a full-time vacancy. Mike applied and was chosen to fill the position as counselor for the Boot Camp AfterCare program. *"Twelve years later we started construction on the East Campus, and I was asked to provide oversight for programs (Quality Control) and to fill a management presence at the new campus."* Mike held the title of Program Manager for the past 14 years. Quietly, behind the scenes, he arrives at work before some even get out of bed and takes care of those little tasks of tracking residents and monstrous tasks of writing handbooks and programs that many take for granted as to how they just seem to happen. Those who have had the pleasure of working with Mike know he is a "technical wiz", has a great background and knowledge of the Federal Program and PREA, and is a good person to work with. No matter how busy Mike is, he always takes time to "make his rounds" of the three campuses and greets staff with his familiar, "How are you doing?".

As the Treatment Services Director, Mike will relocate his office to the West Campus and will be assisting the Executive Director in operating the Center's treatment program. Alan and Mike's long term working relationship will no doubt provide for a smooth transition in their advancements within the organization.

## Our very own Shellie Babinecz named as the new Program Manager

By Brenda Demers



Federal Correctional Treatment Specialist, Shellie Babinecz, was selected to fill the position Mike Scott previously held as the Program Manager. Shellie has been a CTS for 6 years, first at the Women's Center, and then at the West Campus, primarily working a federal caseload. She likes working at GFPRC because, "Every day presents something new that requires critical thinking and some imagination to problem solve. Since working here I have learned a great deal about people and the different perspectives on life they have because of their backgrounds. I have worked hard to develop more patience and develop new ways to motivate others."

Shellie commented, "I became interested in the position of Program Manager to facilitate new challenges for myself. I hope to expand my knowledge of the community corrections field, and I feel this position will give me the opportunity to grow and learn. My initial goals for this position are to get all of the federal CTS's up to speed and functioning at the same level as a cohesive team. In addition, I want to be a resource for problem solving and case management for the state CTS's I will supervise. Finally, I want to learn the parts of the job which will be completely new to me as quickly and efficiently as possible."

When not working, Shellie enjoys golfing, reading, and if COVID ever lets up, traveling.

## New Federal Correctional Treatment Specialist

By Pete Gammill

My name is Pete Gammill, and I am the new Federal CTS guy downstairs in the basement. My wife Jill is a history teacher here in Great Falls, and we have two daughters, three dogs and two cats. Our family just recently decided to move to Montana from Arizona as we were tired of the 115 degree heat.

I worked for 13 years at the Central Arizona Florence Correctional Complex where I served as a CO, Case Manager and Unit Manager to over a 320 inmate housing unit. Our contract was with the US Marshal Service, and I have extensive knowledge of the federal contract. I am looking forward to transitioning from the prison setting to the pre-release and actually getting a chance to help people instead of incarcerate.

Originally from Washington state, I am a die hard Seahawks fan. I love to hunt and fish, which is one of the reasons we chose Montana for our new home. Sports are very much one of my passions. I served as the head softball coach of our local high school for a couple years and guided our team to the state semi-finals. I was also the public address announcer for the high school football and basketball teams. My daughter is a softball pitcher and I hope to see her in the circle for the Great Falls Bison this spring!

I am excited to be a part of the Pre-Release Center and look forward to helping people on a daily basis.



## **GFPRC Welcomes a new Business Manager**

By Brenda Demers



**Bob Dompier** was selected to fill the Business Manager opening. He commented, “I really was not looking for a job, but the job found me. At the time, I was one of the Center’s board members. When Kim Flanagan put in her retirement notice, I volunteered to help out until a suitable replacement could be found. I already knew several of the employees and had the chance to meet many of the others and realized this was a great place to work with great people. Knowing I only wanted to work for three more years before retiring, I applied for the opening. I have worked in the hotel industry since I was 15. For the most part, I’m still in an industry that houses people.”

Bob grew up in Billings. He majored in business and minored in psychology at Eastern Montana College. He has an extensive history in the motel industry serving as the General Manager both locally and regionally. Bob has also served on the board of directors for a number of local and state associations.

Bob and his wife, Janice, have been married for 42 years and have three daughters. In addition to spending time with family, he enjoys bowling, fishing, camping, and computers.

Bob shared, “My immediate goal for the position is to learn as much as I can about my position and have fun while doing it. My hope is that I can streamline the position and educate others on the job duties. I’m a believer in the Center and an admirer of the staff working here. I want to be part of this team in any way I can and help foster the best working environment possible.” Brenda notes that Bob is quick to catch on, uses common sense, has a great sense of humor, and is a joy to work with.

## **Employee Milestone**

### **5 Years: Compliance Officer – Julie Sangster**

Julie was born and raised on a ranch in Geraldine. “We raised 400 head of cattle and 200 head of pigs. I still love working with cattle and pigs to this day.” Julie’s favorite hobbies are riding horses, hunting, and camping. She worked for the Town of Geraldine during the summer months for four years repairing water/sewer lines and the streets. Julie moved to Great Falls in 2011 after graduating from high school and getting married. “I worked with the developmentally disabled adults and Easter Seals for nearly five years and then came to work here.” Julie enjoys working at Great Falls Pre-Release because she likes to help people



that don’t have the self-confidence or know-how to help themselves. Julie and her husband, Brent, have three children – an 8 year old daughter, Emily, and 4 year old twins, Blake and Bryce. Julie and Brent own a water company and haul water when they aren’t working their regular full time jobs. They have five horses (Roscoe, Chief, Skye, Festus, and Annie), two dogs (Cletus and Duke), several chickens, and a couple of barn cats (Daisy & Memphis).





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**TRANSITION TIMES**

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- 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.