

TRANSITION TIMES

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 4

FOURTH QUARTER 2007

SHEILA RICE FACILITATES LONG-RANGE GOAL-PLANNING SESSION AT THE GREAT FALLS PRE-RELEASE by Paul Cory



Board Chairman Bill Quast, Director Paul Cory, and Sheila Rice



Board members, staff, and invited guests

Board, staff and invited guests of the community gathered for one evening October 22, 2007, to chart the course of Great Falls Pre-Release Services. This was an opportunity to review accomplishments but, more importantly, to prioritize future activities of the Center. Consideration was given to the nature of our mission statement and whether we should explore other avenues of helping people become productive members of society. Some of the issues discussed involved: greater family involvement; methamphetamine continuing care; mental health issues; need for variable length of stay; serving sex offenders; stages of programming for repeat offenders.

This was only a partial list of the many topics discussed during this session. These difficult issues and many others will be addressed by the Board of Directors in their respective committee reviews. Our **thanks** go out to Sheila Rice and all of those who gave their time to help make this meeting a productive effort.

RESIDENT CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Christmas parties were held for residents and their families in all three buildings on Saturday afternoon, December 8, 2007. Each resident received a gift bag and children in attendance each received a present. Visitation and refreshments concluded the festivities.



Alexis Robinson
and her dad
Nick Robinson



Jhase Monroe
son of
Joshua Monroe



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER - BARB GILL

Barb, her husband, two sons - ages 12 and 13 - along with a three-year-old grandson, pulled up stakes in Texas and moved to Montana in the spring of 1984. They settled in the Dearborn area and built their own log home which is still "off the grid." They power their home with a generator, a battery bank and some solar panels. Barb home-schooled the children for the first three years in a small, 2-room, 100-year old homestead where they lived before they started construction on their home. She said they have some wonderful memories of those first few years as they faced - and overcame - many obstacles and challenges.

Prior to moving to Montana, Barb worked in nursing home administration for 17 years. When she returned to work after home schooling the boys, she gravitated again to the work she loved - nursing homes. She was Admissions Coordinator at Park Place Health Care Center for 12 years where she also served as interim administrator when needed. Barb joined the staff of the GFPRC in April 2001 as Administrative Assistant. She said

she has truly enjoyed the change of pace and especially the comradery of staff. "While I sometimes miss the many opportunities to share the struggles of, and encourage those confined to a nursing home, I have been encouraged by the many success stories that we see here in the Pre-Release Center." And while there are so many "opposites" in her two career fields, she said the common denominator is the special-needs people that are served by both.

Barb enjoys the challenge of gardening in the mountains, cutting and stacking firewood, and listening to Southern Gospel music...and a little bluegrass..

The following quotations from her nomination give insight into her selection for this award.

"Barb is not only very good at what she does, she is **consistently** good. That goes double for her pleasant disposition and the fact that she is genuinely concerned and cares about everything that matters. Not surprisingly, staff, their families and residents too top her list of things that matter as evidenced by her daily missives (Thought for the Day) and her monthly contribution to the *Pre-Release Press*. More than "Jus' Good Stuff" she is "Just Good People" and we are very lucky to have her on our team.

"Workwise, no call is too small or too tall.... Barb is right on top of the tasks with forethought and diligence.

THOUGHTFULNESS - VIGILANCE - RELIABILITY - CONSISTENCY...just a few of the qualities that make her a true Administrative Professional and my choice for the Employee of the Quarter nomination."

IN MEMORIAM - HAROLD SCHUTT

DECEMBER 2, 1930 NOVEMBER 21, 2007

Harold Schutt was born in Stanford, Montana, served in the United States Air Force, and served as staff and later as director of Gateway Treatment Facility in Great Falls. He spent the last 20 years mentoring and counseling with the Human Choices Program at the Great Falls Pre-Release Center.

Sheena Jarvey, Aftercare Counselor at the Great Falls Pre-Release, submitted the following tribute to Harold.

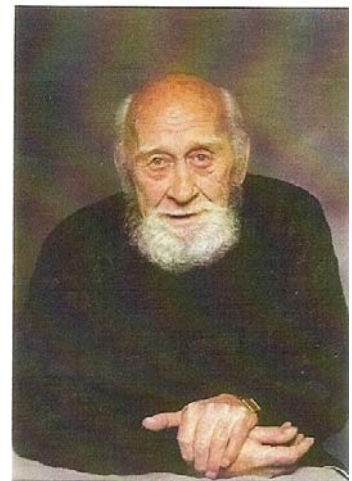
"Thank you, Harold Schutt, for everything you taught me and helped me to understand. You had many messages, but these are what I observed from knowing you at work for many years:

*Mess-ups in life are valuable once we learn from them and then make the necessary adjustments. They enable us to be strong, smarter and to assist others going through similar situations. They teach us to be humble and to give back.

*Be passionate about your work. I know that Harold came in to meet with clients nights, mornings, weekends, holidays. He didn't have a high-paying job, big status, glitzy material possessions or other outward signs of success in our society. He was a humble man who cared deeply about his work, about giving back, about helping people heal and move forward with their lives. Harold believed in what he did and the people he worked with.

* Let people know you care about them and that they matter in your life. When I heard Harold was in the hospital, I decided to postpone my visit until the weather cleared. Mistake, because he died the next morning. So, I want to say this now:

Thank you, Harold, you taught me so much and I want you to know that I so appreciate the life you lived and the legacy you left us. You were a man of integrity and commitment and will be very much missed.





LIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

CAROL TAMANG AND JOYCE LUND

Volunteer/mentors Carol Tamang and Joyce Lund give of their time to work with female residents at the Great Falls Transition Center. Both grew up in Great Falls and received their basic educations here. Carol went on to the University of Montana and majored in English and minored in art. She taught for seven years in Alaska and returned to Great Falls after marrying her husband in Alaska. Joyce went to business college and then worked for an attorney before her marriage. She and her husband lived in Pennsylvania for 50 years prior to returning to Great Falls. Carol and Joyce are cousins.

Carol was one of the first volunteers in the Women's Center, beginning in 2000. She feels everyone deserves a second chance. She is there for her mentees as a good friend who listens

Joyce Lund and Carol Tamang

and cares. In her tenure of volunteering she has never had a negative experience.

Joyce started her volunteer work here in 2004, partially to fill the void after losing her husband to Alzheimer's disease. She had to take some time off after surgery for a brain tumor in 2005 but is now working her way back into volunteering here as well as in the school district as a foster grandparent. She finds it very gratifying to see people succeed even though everyone is not going to succeed. Joyce said, "Loving people helps them want to be better people." She likens helping a person to throwing a pebble into the water and seeing the ripple effect across the pond. Not only is that person helped but so are family, friends, and the community as a whole.

FEATURED DEPARTMENT - BOOTER AFTERCARE

The Treasure State Correctional Training Center (TSCTC) AfterCare Program was designed to deliver follow-up services to assist TSCTC graduates internalize the Boot Camp philosophies, disciplines and tools. The residential 60 to 90 day program builds upon the Boot Camp experience while providing a re-introduction to societal living. It was founded in response to the Department of Corrections' request for a specialized, short-term residency program with emphasis on treatment. The first six Booters were received in October 1993 and in October 2007 the AfterCare Team discharged the 1000th Booter from the program. Out of those 1000 Booters, only 130 (13%) were disciplinary returns or escapes. That means 870 (87%) Booters successfully graduated AfterCare and returned home from an institutional setting in the fourteen years since the original Alpha Squad formed and reported aboard.

Booters have contributed to several organizations which include Habitat for Humanity, St. Vincent de Paul, and the Cascade County History Museum. In addition the Children's Museum of Montana can attribute almost the entirety of their second and third floor exhibits to the Booters that have assisted them over the years. Most Booters do internalize their commitment to being positive forces in the community and many continue to perform services after discharge to community supervision. Hardly a day goes by without some special project or another and although trying at

Sandra Bearchum,

Aftercare Program Assistant



times, it truly is a pleasure to be in the business of helping others.

Mike Buckley, Aftercare Counselor

Micaela Brandt,

Aftercare Counselor Assistant

STAFF NOTES

Employees reaching their one-year tenure during this past quarter include the following: RA's **Stephanie Grove, Paula Livingston, Nick Miller, Earl Vielle, Chandra Vislay**; Counselors **Susan Antonsen** and **Laurie Evenson**; and Assistant Cook **Eric Lawson**.

New employees hired during the quarter are the following RA's: **Misty Benson, Trevor Haney, Donna Houle, Megan Main, and Joe Pipinich**.

Transition Times

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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 is dedicated to ensuring public safety and trust through professional, quality services which facilitate personal growth through positive change and individual responsibility of assigned offenders.