

TRANSITION TIMES

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1

FIRST QUARTER 2009

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT RETIRES



Barbara Gill, Administrative Assistant at the Great Falls Transition Center, retired at the end of February after eight years of service. Her long professional career included many years in nursing home administration and admissions prior to her tenure at the Center. Her husband Don also retired the same day. They will continue to live at their self-built mountain home in the Dearborn. Barb will continue to enjoy the challenges of gardening in the mountains, cutting and stacking fire wood, and listening to Southern gospel music and some bluegrass, but all at a much more leisurely pace. We wish them both a long and wonderful retirement.



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WOMEN IN CORRECTIONS TRAINING



Tracy Napier

Participants in training

Tracy Napier, trainer for DOC, presented a course designed to educate women on the challenging factors associated with the correctional field and give them tools on how to handle those factors, in dealing with both offenders and staff. Some of the issues covered included the following: history of women in corrections, verbal harassment from staff and inmates, inappropriate compliments, inappropriate language and intimidation, sexual misconduct issues, and learning to set boundaries.



NITA AND GEORGE TYNER, VOLUNTEERS

Once a week on Friday afternoons Nita and George Tyner share their crafts expertise with the female residents at the Great Falls Transition Center. Nita has been doing crafts for four years and George started very recently. Juanita Rosales invited Nita to come to help with crafts and here she is several years later.

What kinds of crafts projects? The following are examples of their crafts: fans out of plywood which are decorated and then have cup hooks attached to hang jewelry, a piece of iron with a clothes pin to be used as a recipe holder, cards, beading, jewelry, candy, and soap.

They enjoy working with the female residents, laughing and talking. They hope their activities will have a lasting positive effect on the residents.

Sheena Jarvey, Volunteer Coordinator, shared the following thoughts:

It gives me great pleasure to write about how much Nita and George contribute to the Pre-Release and how much we all like them. Nita is our anchoring rock. She is always down to earth, sensible and sees right through to the best way to do things. She takes challenges in stride and always helps the rest of us stay positive. Nita has many clever craft ideas and approaches them with a can-do attitude. Nita's better half, George, is our newest addition to the Volunteer Mentor Program. George is a fascinating guy with a great sense of humor. Like Nita, he has had many life experiences and provides a positive, optimistic presence. George is also very clever with craft projects and has expanded our range of craft potentials. My deepest appreciation to Nita and George for sharing their lives and time with the Pre-Release Women's Volunteer program.

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JAKE HOGSETT FORMER BOOTER, RESIDENT - SUCCESS STORY

Jacob Hogsett moved to Montana from California for family. In Kalispell he committed felony robbery and did some time and wound up in the Boot Camp program and finally in the Booter Aftercare program here at the Great Falls Transition Center. As a booter Jacob did community service at the History Museum and impressed the staff there with his attitude and abilities to the point that he was hired and became the Special Projects Coordinator, a position he has held for about the last six months. Once he graduated from the Aftercare program, Jacob became a resident of the Transition Center for six months.

Christine Morris, Director of the History Museum and Jacob's boss, had many positive things to say about Jacob. She said that Jacob is a very hard worker, capable of being involved in many things at the same time. He takes leadership responsibility, raises the morale of the entire museum staff, and knows what is going on throughout the museum. Jacob designed and built a low stage for the piano pictured below that the Museum acquired recently. He installed antique wooden doors and built display cases among other projects.

Jacob plans to work in construction this spring and work only part-time at the museum. His wife and daughter have moved here, and they plan to stay in Montana for awhile.

Jacob's situation is an example of a young man turning his life around. We wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

Jacob Hogsett on the stage he designed and built

Booter Volunteer Shane Park
Christine Morris, Former Director
Jacob Hogsett

Jacob Hogsett with displays



HO ARE WE?

Great Falls Pre-Release prides itself in a professional staff covering all aspects of our mission. The following is our current staff:

Administration:

Administrator Paul Cory
Treatment Services Director Alan Scanlon
Facilities Service Director Jeff Barnhart
Program Manager Mike Scott

Counselors:

Timothy Allred Laurie Evenson
David Booth John Fontana
Trish Brodock Tara Kimball
Patty Clark Kathy Pitkanen
Karen Conley Roxi Stroh
Joanne Thompson

Booster Aftercare:

Counselor Michael Buckley
**Counselor Assistant/
UA Supervisor** Michaela Stroop
Aftercare Program Assistant Sandra Bearchum

Community Services Sheena Jarvey
Education Counselor Harvey Niemi
Job Developer Roger Lesofski
Registered Nurse Gail Hopewell

Staff:

Administrative Assistant Rhonda Vermeulen
Business Manager Kim Flanagan
Accounting Assistant Mary Jo White
Food Service Director Bruce Vallier
Assistant Cooks Faye Kangas
Eric Lawson
Amy Stephens

Compliance Officers

CO Supervisor Tony Gribble
Assistant CO Supervisor Kim Serfes
CO's:
John Albertson Paula Livingston
Lisa Anderson Joseph Marten
Nicole Anderson Pat McCall
Mark Blom Michael McCalmon
Stuart Brown James McMullen
Rosie Buda Lisa Meyers
Barbara Cottrell Rebecca Scally
Tyra DeLuca Natasha Siliezar
Brandy Gauer Annette Smith
Stephani Grove Stephen Sowell
Shelly Hansen Bonnie Spiller
Michael Hopp Bob Stevens
Mark Howell Shauna Symonds
Leila King Brian Wallace
Nicole Kojetin Sam Witherite
Jana Letcher

Maintenance:

David Pickle
Bill McLean

Community Service Director

Support Specialist Al Recke
Security Coordinator Jerry Kelley
Nick Miller

Contractual

CD Counselors Robert Kemp
Karen Workman

Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following employees on attaining milestones this past quarter:

1-Year: John Fontana, Counselor; David Pickle, Maintenance Coordinator; Becky Scally, CO
5-Year: Rosie Buda, CO
15-Year: Mike Scott, Program Manager

New Employees

Welcome to our new employees this past quarter:

CO's Nicole Anderson, Natasha Siliezar, Shauna Symonds;

Amy Stephens, Assistant Cook; Tara Kimball, Counselor; and Rhonda Vermeulen, Administrative Assistant.

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, Inc., 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.