

TRANSITION TIMES

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SECOND QUARTER 2009

LEO RIVERS - LAW DAY AWARD RECIPIENT



CURTIS
THOMP
SON
AND
LEO
RIVERS

Leo Rivers, Supervisor of the U.S. Probation Office's Great Falls district, received the Great Falls Pre-Release Center's annual Law Day award at the May Board meeting. Board chairman Curtis Thompson presented Rivers with a plaque and stated, "He has dedicated his professional life to serving the ends of justice."

Leo began his career as a state probation officer in Glasgow and Bozeman before being named a federal probation officer in Great Falls in 1990. He was a training officer and a drug/alcohol treatment specialist before becoming the supervisor.

Leo has also been a member of the Great Falls Pre-Release Board of Directors since 1997.

DARLENE LONG - VOLUNTEER

Darlene Long grew up in Frazer on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation where her husband was also from. He was a railroader on the move, but they called Bainville home for 23 years. Darlene worked

for the Bainville school those 23 years as a secretary, teacher's aid and a cafeteria cook. When her husband retired in 1991, they moved to Great Falls, sort of geographically in between the locations of their two sons and daughter and their families. Also Great Falls was close enough to the parks. Darlene worked in the West Elementary cafeteria before she retired in 1993.

Darlene and her husband were very active in the Rambling Sams, attending jamborees in Montana; Gillette, WY; Walla Walla and Moses Lake, WA; Lake Louise, BC among other places. Seeing hot air balloons at one of their destinations provided inspiration for later craft work. She also enjoyed seeing the fall colors on the East Coast and traveling the Inside Passage to Alaska.

Volunteers George and Nita Tyler invited Darlene to come and do crafts at the Women's Center. And here she is several years later enjoying crafts with the female residents. She shares her expertise in crocheting, knitting, plastic canvas hot air balloons, whirligigs, etc. and finds the time spent with the female residents a positive experience.

Darlene is also doing afghans at present for the newborns in the Cutbank Hospital.

Sheena Jarvey, Transition Center Aftercare Counselor and Volunteer Coordinator stated, "Darlene is a delight to have at our Friday craft day. I am always especially struck by Darlene's sense of optimism. Darlene always comes in on Friday with a wonderful smile that radiates an inner happiness, which she readily shares with others. Darlene enjoys life and this is evident with her willingness to make our craft day even more special with her presence. She is ready for whatever craft projects that people are interested in and is also available for talks on any subjects, as she has had a wide range of life experiences. Darlene is both competent and caring. Thank you, Darlene, we appreciate that you include the Pre-Release in your life."



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STAFF NOTES

Nichole Anderson, moved to Counselor from CO

Congratulations to the following staff members who celebrated their anniversaries this quarter.

15-years: **Bob Stevens**, CO

5-years: **Bruce Vallier**, Food Service Manager

1-year: **Lisa Anderson**, CO; **Shelly Hansen**, CO; **Gail Hopewell**, Registered Nurse; **Annette Smith**, CO

NEW EMPLOYEES

Welcome to our new employees this quarter:

CO's **Merle Begay**, **Milinda Flesch**, **Pat McCall**, **Ray Naranjo**

Jean McDonald, Licensed Clinical Social Worker



WEED AND SEED

Weed and Seed is a multi-agency program with a goal to “weed” out violent crime, gang activity, and drug use and trafficking. This program attempts to “seed” the area by restoring neighborhoods through social and economic revitalization. The community steering committee of Weed and Seed is divided into four subcommittees: Law Enforcement; Community Oriented Policing; Prevention, Intervention and Treatment; and Neighborhood Restoration. The local site coordinator is Patty Caldwell.

Weed and Seed meets at the Great Falls Transition Center for its monthly noon luncheon meeting and has been doing so for seven years. We welcome their use of our facility and offer our support in their endeavors.

CITIZENS’ POLICE ACADEMY TOURS THE GREAT FALLS TRANSITION CENTER

The Great Falls Police Department Citizens’ Academy met at the Great Falls Transition Center April 25, 2009. Staff members Alan Scanlon, Treatment Services Director; and Mike Scott, Program Director, greeted participants, oriented them on the purpose of the Transition Center, and gave them a tour of the new East Campus.

The Citizens’ Police Academy is an opportunity for interested citizens to learn how the Great Falls Police Department operates. Through a series of 35 hours of classes and hands-on training in a 9-week period, participants learn about patrol functions and duties, weapons, detective work, street crimes/gangs, the high risk unit, support services/dispatch, and the criminal process. A tour of the Police Department building is included as well as tours of other sites.

GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

Karen Grove of Neighborhood Council 8 nominated the Great Falls Transition Center for the Good Neighbor Award to Neighborhood

Council 4, which handles this award.

The nomination was based upon our positive relationship with and the services offered to Council 8, our cleaning up the area, the community service of our Booter Program, and our willingness to offer our facility for use by other organizations.

Director Paul Cory and Board Chair Curtis Thompson accepted the award at the City Commission’s May meeting.

This is the second Good Neighbor Award that the Transition Center has received.

The secret to staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age.

~ Lucille Ball

Transition Times

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.