

TRANSITION TIMES



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1st QUARTER 2017

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PAUL CORY



Treasure State Correctional Training Center Aftercare Program: The end of an era.

When talking about the closure of the Boot Camp, where does one begin to summarize the past 23-plus years. More to the point I suppose, what does it really matter? I thought it would be an appropriate tribute to begin by writing a short history on the evolution of the Camp. I think of the early days when the program was located at Swan River Forest Camp and the leadership of then Superintendent, Dan Maloughney. I remember the adoption of the term, “Booter” and the gradual embrace and eventual acceptance of this population by the community of Great Falls. There is so much there to remember as the Treasure State Correctional Training Center and Aftercare program melded into one. The biennial Booter reunions tied it all together as former graduates and current Booters would spend an afternoon with their loved ones in sharing and enrichment. We will never forget the ‘Talking Circle’ and the wealth of healing that came from that exercise. Yes, I thought to talk about the history of the program but, then again, what does it really matter?

This is not a nostalgia trip; it is about the future and development of new efficiencies and effective programming when dealing with the corrections population. After all, most of the testimonials and firsthand knowledge we have is anecdotal at best. I am not certain how many graduates of the TSCTC there have been but I would venture to say few, if any, would describe their experiences as anecdotal. Every Booter I have encountered is very proud of their graduation from the Boot Camp and considers that achievement as possibly the most valuable experience of their life. While that speaks volumes about the value of the program, it is just history, after all.

What we do know about TSCTC and the Aftercare Program is that it has *had* a profound impact on the participants. It modified their thinking and provided them with a very real sense of hope. As someone recently stated to me, ‘the Boot Camp produces observable results unlike any other program. It gets their attention when nothing else has.’ I have heard that repeatedly in one form or another over the years. Booters are well known and accepted by employers and community leaders alike. They have become community members in good standing which is a status they have never been accustomed to before. It’s an odd relationship it seems but it makes them feel normal and successful for the first time in a very long time. That is a healthy outcome and a worthwhile achievement by any standard.

There is an old saying about those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it. In this case, that would be a very, very good thing.

RESIDENTS EARN HI SETS

Education Coordinator, Dave Nelson, is passionate about pushing our residents to achieve what they never thought they could.



Malinda Descharm



Matthew Hooper



Lisa Komeotis



Joshua Stewart



Jacob Thompson



NEW TAGLINE

Reentry is a term that we have been hearing frequently since the Department of Corrections' Reentry Initiative. Because we want people to make the connection that Great Falls Pre-Release has provided reentry services since its conception, **Providing Re-Entry Services Since 1984** has been added to our signage and logo.



GFPRC HOSTS MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

by Lela Zuck

Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Montana DPHHS, Karl Rosston, spent a day at the center training a number of our staff and representatives from Helena and Great Falls Probation and Parole and the Great Falls Youth Transition Center on suicide. Mr. Rosston shared pertinent information regarding the growing epidemic of suicide in Montana, the warning signs, and the strategies to help individuals in crisis. He taught **ALGEE** which is mental health first aid's 5 step action plan:

Assess for risk of suicide or harm

Listen nonjudgmentally

Give reassurance and information

Encourage appropriate professional help

Encourage Self-help and other support strategies

Mr. Rosston also covered issues that plague society such as alcohol addiction, drug abuse, debilitating mental illness, and their co-occurring problems.

CITY/COUNTY HEALTH PROVIDES FREE HIV and HEPATITIS TESTING CLINICS

Health Education Specialist, Darcey Johannsen, from the City County Health Department comes to Great Falls Pre-Release twice per month, rotating between the three campuses, to provide free testing for HIV and Hepatitis C. Trish Gardner started coming in 2009 prior to Darcey taking over two years ago. Trish is now the Privacy Officer/Accreditation Coordinator. The goal of providing this service is to identify infectious diseases and stop their spread, but more importantly to educate individuals. They noted that there are a lot of conspiracies about how HIV is spread. They want to decrease the stigma and say it is a good thing to talk about it and want it to be routine, especially for those that are considered high risk. Studies have shown that as



a result of educating the public, there has been a decrease in infectious diseases nationwide. Testing is done by a simple blood draw and results are available within 20 minutes. If an individual tests positive for HIV or Hepatitis C, Darcey does not just leave them in a state of shock. She provides the individual with all of the resources available and with case management and follow up support. Darcey also travels to the Rocky Mountain Treatment Center and the Cascade County Detention Center to provide testing. Darcey and Trish were happy to announce that City County Health was awarded a new grant that will provide for an additional outreach worker so the service can be provided to more sites.

Darcey Johannsen and Trish Gardner

NEW SCRUBS FOR CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT GRADUATES

Sandra Bearchum, our Federal Social Services Coordinator, graciously donated nine sets of colorful new scrubs to be given to our residents who complete the CNA course. Our Education Coordinator Dave Nelson fostered a partnership between Great Falls Pre-Release, Benefis Health System, Spectrum Medical, and Great Falls Adult Education to offer qualifying residents the opportunity to become certified CNA's.



SECRET CUPID

There was a lot of sneaking around going on at Great Falls Pre-Release the week prior to Valentine's Day. Participating staff inconspicuously left small gifts for one another leading up to "reveal day" where they lunched on pizza and exchanged one last larger gift. Staff enjoyed trying to guess who their secret cupid was or catch them in the act.



Joe Marten, Chris Hickman,
Kori Vogt, Sandra Bearchum



Joe Marten

MEET OUR NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

by Sheena Jarvey

Building on the tradition of the previous editors, Brenda's newsletters show a community correctional facility in all its complexity. While the perception might be that a correctional facility is a dreary, dim, one-dimensional place, Brenda's editing shows the vibrancy, the colors, the diversity and the dimensions of a facility where people strive to better their lives. She shows the interest and commitment of our amazing community partners. The newsletter also highlights the creativity and successes of the residents, as well as the professionalism, commitment and creativity of the staff, the Board of Directors and the volunteer staff. Our newsletters are a way to showcase that the Great Falls Pre-Release is a vital part of the Great Falls community and that all our people: residents, staff, board members, volunteers and community partners, work together to create a safer and stronger community.

So, now I would like you to meet Brenda Demers, our new editor. She graciously agreed to answer my questionnaire, so I will let that speak for itself. However, I would like to add that, among Brenda's many excellent qualities, is her ability to care about other people and connect with their lives. She remembers what people are up to and what is important to them. These people skills are what make Brenda so valuable as our Administrative Assistant, as well as our newsletter editor.



What do you enjoy about working at the Pre-Release? This is my first job in corrections, and I find the field very interesting. I see each resident as a unique person who has something good in them. I also enjoy working with and getting to know my co-workers. One of the best things about my job is that I am not the person in charge of answering incoming phone calls!

What made you take the next step and become our Newsletter Editor, in addition to all of your other duties? I feel the newsletters offer a way to recognize staff, residents, volunteers, and supporters in the community. They are also a good way to establish a written history of the center.

What do you feel creates interest in our newsletters? What topics do you look for? I'm still trying to figure out what creates interest, but I think people like a lot of pictures and short articles. There is much we can learn from each other as individuals, so I am hoping residents and staff will share their talents and experiences. I want the newsletters to be uplifting and to foster a desire for self-improvement.

Tell us something about your background. What other jobs have you done? I was raised with 5 older brothers on a working cattle/sheep ranch in the southwest part of the state. I was active in 4-H, church, cheerleading, and music.

One of my first jobs away from home was on a dude ranch in the mountains of Colorado. It was there 30 years ago that I met my husband who worked as a wrangler. Other jobs in my hometown of Philipsburg included working for the county attorney, the title company, the school district, and the bank. I have always had cleaning jobs on the side. When our children were young, we spent 2 years on the Florida coast where I worked at a private airport. As a side job to that, my husband and I washed individual and corporate-owned airplanes. After our son and daughter were raised and left home, I obtained my commercial driver's license and went on the road long haul trucking with my husband until he retired.

What recreation and hobbies do you enjoy when you have free time? Gardening is my passion. It amazes me that tiny seeds can flourish into beautiful flowers and delicious fruits and vegetables. I enjoy exploring the outdoors by going for walks, drives, or horseback riding; and I like to clean (weird huh!), sew, bake, and can fruits and vegetables.

FAREWELL TO LONG TERM EMPLOYEES

STAFF NEWS



Tony Gribble displaying the wall hanging/coat rack Jeff Barnhart made for him. The house on the left honors his 22 year Air Force career; the middle house commemorates the years 1999 through 2017 at Great Falls Pre-Release where he started out as a Resident Advisor and worked his way up to Compliance Officer Supervisor; and the house on the right with the question mark is what is in store for his retirement. The first thing Tony is going to do is travel the United States and visit friends and relatives, some which he has not seen since his Air Force days.

Jerry Kelley surrounded by GFPRC volunteers and Volunteer Coordinator, Sheena Jarvey. Throughout Jerry's 17 ½ years at the Pre-Release, he worked as a Resident Advisor and in the Community Service Office, first as the Support Specialist and then as the Community Service Coordinator and Cascade County DUI Task Force Coordinator. Jerry has always been a staunch supporter of the Volunteer Program.



Debbie Olson, Jerry Kelley, Sheena Jarvey, Pauline Merenz, Darlene Long, Juanita Rosales, Maxine O'Neil, Sandy Gurnsey, Rebecca Gomez

MILESTONES



Joshua Weist - 5 years: Joshua was raised in Great Falls. He spent time working security in Great Falls as well as at Fort Harrison. He has been a member of the Montana Army Guard since 2007. Josh discovered the employment opportunity at Great Falls Pre-Release through the job service while looking to move from part time work to full time. He was hired as a swing shift compliance officer. He then became a U.A. tech in addition to working as a compliance officer. In 2014, Joshua was promoted to the Aftercare Program Assistant where he works alongside the Aftercare CTS and his assistant to enforce policies and regulate the booters on count. Joshua oversees the intake process of all incoming Booters and ensures that they are properly acclimated to the program. In addition, he supervises their physical training program. Joshua enjoys weight training, boxing, fitness, and rap music.

IN HOUSE PROMOTIONS

Andre Carrethers: UA Tech in addition to Compliance Officer

Albert Flamand: from Compliance Officer to Aftercare CT Assistant

Joe Marten: from Aftercare CTS Assistant to Support Services Specialist

Ron Spry: from Compliance Officer to Compliance Officer Supervisor

Joseph Williams: from Support Services Specialist to Community Service Coordinator/DUI Task Force Coordinator

NEW STAFF

Avis Ball: Compliance Officer

KayDe Burkstrand: Compliance Officer

Jamie Johns: Correctional Treatment Specialist

James Kist: Compliance Officer

Kristi Poendexter: Staff Cook

Chris Sowell: Correctional Treatment Specialist

Kori Vogt: Correctional Treatment Specialist



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Providing re-entry services since 1984

TRANSITION TIMES

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Kevin Heffernan: Supervising United States Probation Officer

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.