

TRANSITION TIMES

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1

FIRST QUARTER 2007



Join us
as we dedicate
our new East Campus.
Ribbon Cutting
and
Open House
Friday, April 20, 2007
3:00 p.m.

EAST CAMPUS UP AND RUNNING

Staff began training in the new facility at the end of last year to be ready for the new residents. New residents began moving into the building right after the first of the year.

As this newsletter goes to press there are 70 + residents in the new facility. One program manager, four counselors, 10 RA's, one cook and five inmate workers are assigned to the East Campus. Additional employees - the Education Counselor, Jobs Developer, Community Services Coordinator, CD counselors, and the registered nurse with offices in the other buildings - make timely visits to the new facility to meet with residents and handle their needs.

Step-out rooms are available for those residents who need short-term housing as they await interstate compacts or await more permanent housing in state and locally.

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STAFF NOTES

Welcome to our newest staff members: RA's Marcus Allen, Chris McGraw, and Shannon Sullins; Robert Turner, Security Coordinator; and Mary Jo Drew, Accounting Assistant.

Congratulations to Harold Schutt, Human Choices facilitator, who began his 20th year here at the Transition Center on February 1, 2007.

FEATURED DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Education Department offers a variety of services to fulfill residents' needs as well as fellow employees' requests.

Those residents who have not earned a high school diploma or GED may work on obtaining a GED via a computer course, workbooks, tutoring, or classes at Skyline Center.

Educational counseling is available regarding college or vocational programs. Current catalogs and application materials are available for colleges in Montana. Financial aid forms and help filing them is available.

Appointments with admissions counselors at the local colleges can be arranged.

Those residents wishing to learn typing, key-board-ing or number pad may do so through a computer course.

Those wishing some basic computer literacy have the opportunity to learn computer operations through tutoring or various computer programs.

Help is available to write resumes, cover letters, business letters, parole plans, and to fill out various forms.

During tax season residents learn to fill out their tax forms for the current filing year. If they have not filed tax returns for the three previous years, they can file tax returns for any of those years.

Skill building in English usage and math is available through computer programs.

Manuals for drivers' license, motorcycle supplement, and commercial licenses are available for test preparation. Those residents who qualify may test for their Class D licenses.

Residents can get help in securing ID's such as birth certificates, Montana state ID's, etc.

Books and magazines as well as computer use are available in the Computer Room/Library.

Proofreading and help with documents is available for fellow employees.

Harvey Niemi, Education Counselor, was instrumental in setting up the Education Department for the Great Falls Transition Center.



WHO 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

Treatment Staff:

Counselors:

Susan Antonsen	Patty Clark
Bob Bailey	Laurie Evenson
David Booth	Josh Lachenmeier
Mike Buckley	Kathy Pitkanen
Wayne Bye	Roxi Stroh
	Joanne Thompson

Community Services

Education Counselor	Sheena Jarvey
Job Developer	Harvey Niemi
Registered Nurse	Roger Lesofski
	Kathleen Johnson

Staff:

Administrative Assistant	Barbara Gill
Business Manager	Kim Flanagan
Accounting Assistant	Mary Jo Drew
Food Service Director	Bruce Vallier
Assistant Cooks	Faye Kangas
	Eric Lawson
	Clint Penwell

Maintenance

Community Service Director	Bill McLean
Community Service Assistant	Al Recke
Security Coordinator	Jerry Kelley
Booster AfterCare Counselor/ Assistant/UA Supervisor	Robert Turner
	Micaela Stroop

Resident Advisors:

RA Supervisor	Tony Gribble
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RA's:

John Albertson	Leila King	Kimberly Serfes
Marcus Allen	Kirtis Kramlich	Tess Shawver
Sandra Bearchum	Paula Livingston	Bonnie Spiller
Stuart Brown	Chris McGraw	Robert Stevens
Rosie Buda	Patrick McPherson	Shannon Sullins
Barbara Cottrell	Lisa Meyers	Earl Vielle
Lauri Ferrari-Ring	Nick Miller	Rhiannon Vigen
Stephani Grove	Ann Murillo-Bacon	Chandra Vislay
Tony Haynes	Allsion Neal	Curtis Wall
Michael Hopp	Caleb Peterson	Brian Wallace
Brenda Johnson	Tim Ramsted	Genevieve Wilson
Bonnie Kelly	Becky Rate	Sam Witherite

Contractual:

CD Counselors:	Robert Kemp
	Karen Workman
Human Choices:	Harold Schutt



BRUCE VALLIER EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Bruce was born in Green Bay, WI, lived in Alaska, but calls Montana home, having lived in Colstrip, Billings, and Great Falls. In Alaska Bruce was an executive/corporate chef for Holland/America Carnival Cruise Lines. He ran a hotel convention center and worked for Sheraton, Holiday Inn, and Radisson hotels. He cooked for Presidents Reagan and Bush, Sr, when they were in Montana. At a competition in Minnesota he won a gold medal in Culinary Junior Olympics. He was the premier chef selected in Alaska to cook for a dinner of 1500 when the Bill of Rights was on tour of the states. He has created many ice carvings and sculptures for various culinary events.

Bruce was an AAU Montana state wrestling champion four times and a national champion two times. He also went to Germany and Japan twice on an AAU cultural exchange wrestling team.

Bruce will be starting his fourth year on May 1 as Food Director for the Great Falls Transition Center. He supervises three staff members and 11 inmate workers, feeding 200 residents plus staff members. He was instrumental in designing the kitchen in the new center, selecting equipment for it, and in hiring the new cook for that kitchen.

Bruce is proud of the fact that his inmate workers complete and receive certificates of Servesafe training, enabling them to be more hireable when they seek employment.



MEET THE BOARD KRISTINA NEAL

Our newest board member, Kristina Neal, heads the Regional Public Defender's office here in Great Falls, responsible for Cascade, Toole, Teton, Pondera, and Glacier counties. Board member Dan Donovan invited her to seek board membership. She was voted a board member in February and will also serve on the Personnel Committee. To date she has been very impressed with the Board and their involvement with the Center.

Kristina hails from Augusta originally. She has a B.A. in sociology from the University of Wyoming and graduated from law school at the University of Montana.

She worked for a private law firm in Missoula, in the Yellowstone County Public Defenders' Office in Billings, and in the Appellate Defenders' Office in Helena before accepting her present position.

She enjoys spending time with her husband and one-year-old son at the family ranch at Augusta.

Transition Times

Great Falls Pre-Release Services, Inc.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Energy West

Herb Waltermire, Vice-Chairperson

Retired Executive Director
Job Service

Dan Donovan, Secretary

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Thompson, Potts, & Donovan

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Kristina Neal

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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.