



Women's Opportunity & Resource Development, Inc.

30 YEARS STRONG

Women's Opportunity and Resource Development Newsletter

Spring 2017

A WORD from our new Executive Director

As we head into May, spring flowers are blooming, trees are beginning to bud out with the promise of shade for the warm weather to come, and I am celebrating 2 plus months as the new Executive Director here at WORD.

It is an exciting time to be the head of a Feminist organization. The positive gathering of women in Helena for the Women's March on January 21st was an inspiration to me. And internationally people came together peacefully to show their support for all people to be treated fairly and with dignity.

WORD was created 30 years ago, in 1986, by Judy Smith and a group of dedicated, inspired women to address the educational and economic needs of low income women. The Montana Community Development Organization, now the Montana and Idaho Community Development Corporation, began at WORD. HomeWord, often confused with WORD, had its beginnings at WORD, as did Montana Women Vote. All these organizations began by addressing the needs of women in our community. All three have flown from WORD's nest to become successful organizations continuing to address the needs of women and low income families across the state.

To continue that work, I am excited to share with you that WORD has received an assessment award from the Missoula Project for Nonprofit Excellence. WORD is one of 3 recipients this year, giving us the opportunity to build capacity within our organization and create a vibrant path forward for the next 30 years. As with all season changes, and change in general, it can be exciting, challenging, and sometimes even scary. We will be challenging ourselves as an organization to meet the needs of women and families in Missoula. We will be looking for innovative ways to address gaps, and support the work that WORD continues to do with case management, referrals, education and helping young parents get the support they need to raise happy, healthy children.

By supporting women, giving women equal pay for equal work, providing professional child care options at affordable prices, making sure women are able to make the choices that are best for themselves and their families, we support our entire community. When women are flourishing, the community grows and prospers in every way. Help WORD continue to support women's development, leadership and choice for the benefit of the entire community for the next 30 years.



All the Best,
Suzin Kratina

We need your help to continue providing the critical services our clients rely on. Send in a donation or give online at www.wordinc.org and help us raise \$30,000 for another 30 years empowering women and strengthening families!

Upcoming Events

Eat, Drink, and Raise Money at Caffè Dolce:
April 25th

Circle of Security Classes:
May 2, 9, 16, and 23

Missoula Gives 24 Hour Fundraising Event:
May 4th and 5th

Family Fun Night
May 24th

In This Issue

- **A WORD from our Executive Director**
- **Updates from Parents as Teachers, Families in Transition, and the Futures Program!**
- **Thank you to all our supporters.**
- **Eat, drink, and raise money for WORD!**

Parents as Teachers' enrollment holding steady

By Diane Adami, *PAT Coordinator*

The Parents as Teachers program is continuing a steady course working with clients and their pre-school aged children in child development and learning activities. Enrollment for April is 27 participants, up from 23 at the end of 2016. PAT works with clients from all across Missoula County and also mothers at the Carole Graham Home. Our PAT teachers are always busy meeting caregivers where they live and this is what makes PAT such a unique program and a successful way to engage clients.

Our PAT coordinators continue to monitor all client records to ensure they are meeting the PAT Essential Requirements for reporting and documentation and they will also be attending a Healthy Montana Families meeting in Helena May 9 - 11.



To further engage our PAT participants, they have been attending WORD's monthly Family Fun Nights which help ensure we keep our families involved and participating in our programs as well as providing an outlet to meet other families who may be dealing with similar experiences.

A local PAT participant playing with basic things found around the house, such as this box, can learn motor, language, and social emotional skills - all important skills to master for success in school!

FIT helps those in need of our services

By Kim Hope, *FIT Program Coordinator*

FIT has provided twenty families with rent stabilization and provided in-office, phone, email or in person off-site advocacy for a total of 1,028 resource and referral connections from January 2016 through December 2016. Though FIT has very limited support service funding, we provided 149 bags in the form of toiletry and hygiene supplies for families from January 2016 through December 2016. FIT also had fewer donations in Christmas assistance this year, but the Immanuel Lutheran Church adopted four families and the local accounting firm, Anderson Zurmuehlen, adopted two families in the FIT program, which made Christmas a little brighter, considering the challenges our clients faced.

On February 9th, 2017, accounting students from the University of Montana donated their time in order to help our clients set up free tax preparation at the WORD office. Under the supervision of Clem Lockman, the students helped several of our clients understand their taxes, in addition to setting up their tax refunds. We would like to thank Clem and the University of Montana School of Accounting. We hope to make tax preparation an annual event for our clients and their families.

Thank You
to all of our
sponsors,
in-kind donors,
speakers, and
everyone who
attended and/or
donated to our
**30 Years
Strong
Benefit
Luncheon**
on International
Women's Day.

We raised over
\$10,000 to
empower
women and
strengthen
families for the
next 30 years!
We couldn't
have done it
without the
support of the
Missoula
community.

THANK YOU!!

Engaging young parents in fun activities that benefit the whole family!

By Tara Goettle, *Young Family Advocate*

The Futures program is a voluntary program that works with young mothers, fathers, and pregnant women through until their 24th birthday, in order to build a secure future for themselves and their children. The young family advocates work with parents to secure housing, access community resources, job search, support parenting skills, provide basic toiletries including diapers and wipes, and offer monthly family fun nights.

We had a great turnout for the March Family Fun Event at Westside Bowling Alley. Together with Parents as Teachers (PAT) we had over 50 bowlers! Thanks to Westside for allowing our families to take over the bowling alley and for donating the shoe rentals!

We are excited for spring and are planning a May garden party and barbeque for our families. We will be partnering with Home Resource to build a garden bed for our office at WORD. We are looking forward to families planting and bringing the vegetables home to enjoy. As an added nutrition piece we are going to collaborate with EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program). EFNEP will be joining us at our Garden Party to recruit families for their program and will begin classes in June using WORD's office kitchen. Participating families will receive six lessons where they will prepare new recipes and receive lots of goodies for their kitchen!



A Future's client bowling with his twin daughters.

WORD
2405 McIntosh Loop
Missoula, MT 59801



Eat, drink, and raise money for WORD!

Join your friends at WORD for dinner on Tuesday, April 25th, from 5 to 9 at Caffè Dolce for their Non-Profit Tuesday event where 15% of all sales that evening will be donated to WORD. Enjoy a scrumptious meal with a Mediterranean flair, a vast selection of beer and wine, and don't forget the gelato for dessert, all while supporting your favorite nonprofit! You can make your reservation today by calling Caffè Dolce at [830-3055](tel:830-3055). See you there!

Contact Us

Please call for more information about our services and programs.

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Visit us on the web at www.wordinc.org and make an online donation to support WORD for another 30 years!