



Women's Opportunity & Resource Development, Inc.

## 30 YEARS STRONG

Women's Opportunity and Resource Development Newsletter

Winter 2017

### WORD Family Portrait Day – Just in time for the holidays!

By: Becky Margolis, Futures Program Coordinator

On Saturday, December 3rd, WORD held a holiday family portrait event, which was a huge success. Faculty and students from the University of Montana Photography Department generously donated their time and skills, as well as studio space and photo supplies, to shoot and print portraits for 26 WORD families throughout the day. Each family received digital copies of their portraits, a framed 8x10 print, and a few smaller prints as well. Participants were so pleased with the results, and many families commented that these were the first professional portraits they'd ever had taken. Huge thanks to the UM Photography Department for helping us provide this opportunity to WORD families!

In preparation for the event, we had reached out to the community for donated frames and were unprepared by the response. We received over 50 frames! These were cleaned up and ready for use during the event and the UM Photography team printed and framed the portraits for every family. Thank you to the Missoula community for their generosity!

We provided snacks, beverages, and entertainment for the little ones. One family of 6 included a set of twins and an infant had their hands full but everyone helped to keep the kiddos entertained. Families who have known each other through WORD's programs chatted and shared parenting stories and when the time came to get their portraits, each family was thrilled by the final product. For those who had never had a professional portrait taken, this experience was especially meaningful and the families were so grateful for the opportunity to participate. We plan to make this an annual event and appreciate the UM Photography Department for making it all possible!



### Upcoming Events

**Family Fun Event:**  
January 19th

**Women's March on Montana:** January 21st

**Project Homeless Connect:** January 27th

**International Women's Day Luncheon:** March 8th

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# Parents as Teachers

By: Diane Adami, PAT Coordinator

The Parents as Teacher's (PAT) program continues its home-based visiting program for Missoula families, who have children up to kindergarten age. PAT has been going strong and as of December 2016, 23 families are enrolled in the program, with three additional referrals on the horizon. The PAT program has also been actively involved with the Carol Graham Home since mid-July and the Carol Graham Home has now integrated PAT as part of their own program.

PAT continues to focus on enrollment and retention. We believe that the PAT program has a high retention rate because we build strong relationships with our families. In order to be a valued and effective resource to families, we have adjusted our own schedules and have begun working on weekends in effort to offer our clients more flexibility when scheduling their home visits.



*A child's artwork, compliments of the PAT program.*

## Families in Transition

By: Kim Hope, FIT Coordinator

Families in Transition (FIT) provides advocacy and support for individuals and families by helping them access services and resources within the community. FIT also provides some financial resources for rent stabilization, which helps Missoula families and individuals who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. FIT helps clients search for and apply for housing, and FIT will advocate and work with landlords on behalf of our clients. One of housing programs FIT offers is called Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA). TBRA can assist with a deposit and up to four months of rent subsidy. Basic Needs Assistance (BNA) is another program offered through FIT. BNA can offer partial assistance of \$300 for rent stabilization, or help with new deposit and rent.

### **What's Been Happening with FIT:**

From October to December of 2016, FIT's BNA program served 18 families. This BNA money has either helped homeless families move into housing or it stabilized housing which prevented families from being evicted from their homes. In partnership with the Salvation Army, FIT distributed Emergency Winter Shelter Funds (EWSF). The EWSF program provided families who were homeless or at-risk of homelessness with \$300 in rental assistance. Some of FIT's clients used funding from both the EWSF and BNA programs to help cover security deposits. FIT also issued 15 certificates for individuals and families, through the TBRA program. Four of those applicants have already leased up while the other approved families are looking for stable housing. In addition to rental assistance, FIT provided 45 families with support service assistance by supplying hygiene and toiletry items as well as providing 276 people in the community with resources and referrals.

# Join WORD January 21<sup>st</sup> for the Women's March on Montana in Helena

By: Erin Nuzzo, Development and Outreach Director

A grassroots movement is taking place across the state of Montana brought about by the recent political election cycle. Organizers statewide are forming local groups to unite and march in Helena on Saturday, January 21, 2017 from noon to 3 pm. A national march in Washington DC, the Women's March on Washington, is slated for the same day and the Helena march is being held in solidarity. Other states are joining in the same call for solidarity by marching in their state capitols.

The Women's March on Montana is open to all – men and women alike. It is designed to shed light, not only on women's issues, but on issues facing all marginalized populations who are being targeted with human rights violations. The Women's March will send a unified message to the new administration on its first day in office, and to the world, that women's rights are human rights. Organizers believe the march will be a positive step towards unifying marginalized communities including women, all immigrants regardless of status, Muslims and those of diverse religious faiths, Native people, people of color, people with disabilities, and survivors of sexual assault. Organizers are placing a high priority on security and safety to ensure a peaceful march.

Get your carpools together and join WORD and thousands of others (men too!) on January 21<sup>st</sup>. For more information, visit [www.womensmarchmontana.com](http://www.womensmarchmontana.com) or contact Erin Nuzzo at 543-3550.



*Join your friends at WORD January 21st for this historic opportunity!*

Thank you to everyone who donated to WORD over the holiday season!

With your help, we were able to provide approximately 80 families with Thanksgiving meals and Christmas presents.

WORD  
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Let's keep  
in touch!

Do you feel like you're missing out on all the exciting things going on here at WORD? Well here's your chance to sign up for news, updates, and events by sharing your email address with us! We will send you occasional updates but we promise we won't overdo it. Email Erin at [enuzzo@wordinc.org](mailto:enuzzo@wordinc.org) and we'll be sure to add you to our mailing list. Thanks for staying in touch!

#### Contact Us

Please call for more info about our services and programs.

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