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Billings, MT 59101

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Serving & caring for our local senior citizens to help them remain living in their homes independent, safe and free from abuse.

Fall 2011

Quarterly Newsletter

Board of Directors

President,
Jo Lamey
JL Market Research

Vice President,
Terry McCarthy
Guild Mortgage

Treasurer,
Robin Grinsteiner
Billings Community Cntr

Secretary,
Dianne Lehm
Big Sky EDA

Libby Laird
Cooper Creative

*Welcome to the following
new Board members:*

Tracey Kragt,
Valley Federal Credit
Union

William Mercer
Holland & Hart, LLP

Jeff Reiter
Rocky Mountain Bank

**Big Sky Senior
Services Program
Managers**

Denise Armstrong
Executive Director

Pam Lorash
Operations Director

Jan Smith
Volunteer Coordinator

Nikki Nielsen
Social Workers

Becky Stanek
Community Outreach
PEP Coordinator

United Way Day of Caring- helped in many ways

"It isn't just cutting weeds and covering the area that you do. You give hope to lives, cut thru isolation & improve outlook."

It was a wonderful day. The weather was warm and sunny. And the volunteers who shared their time and enthusiasm brought warmth and sunshine to our usually isolated homebound senior clients.



Twenty two PPL Montana volunteers provided mowing, trimming, pruning, and window washing to the yards and homes of 22 clients. The seniors are so appreciative.



A second Day of Caring Project provided 8 seniors with a very memorable afternoon at Zoo Montana. Ten volunteers from First Interstate Bank escorted the seniors, some in wheelchairs or using walkers, on a leisurely stroll through the zoo.

Thank you to the businesses who allow their employees time off to make a difference in the community!

"Thank you for the lovely afternoon at the zoo - so enjoyable to have someone who knew their way around the grounds." "We had a wonderful time, at it was so much fun."



Thank you to Western Security Bank who donated \$10,000 towards the purchase of several portable magnifiers and large screen monitors to provide assistance to our clients.

There are a growing number of senior citizens in Yellowstone County who live alone and are experiencing a decline in their vision which prevents them from keeping up with mail and other written correspondence including utility, health and other miscellaneous bills.

Employees and volunteers are utilizing the monitors to assist seniors in reading their mail.



Thank you for your support!
Over 1000 people enjoyed a day of sunshine, activities and helped to raise over \$18,000 for the Prevention of Elder Abuse program.



TITLE SPONSOR:
Midland Empire's Chapter of Credit Unions



Homestead Federal Credit Union

MAJOR SPONSORS:



Thank you to the 57 Volunteers including:
Big Sky Senior Services, Inc. Staff, Family and Friends
Local Credit Union Staff & Family
Westend Wal-Mart Volunteers and Flo McMasters
Boy Scout Troup #12
Yellowstone County Sheriff's Detention Facility, John Rogers

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS:
Area II Agency on Aging - Guild Mortgage
Billings Clinic Foundation - Wells Fargo Bank

SUPPORTING SPONSORS:
ConocoPhillips Refinery - Heenan Law
Stockman Bank - Crowley Fleck PLLP
Guild Mortgage - First Interstate Bank

IN KIND:
Cooper Creative - Cabella's - Evergreen IGA
Pepsi - Billings Gazette - Allegra Marketing
Vietnam Vets- Good Earth Works - Grill Photo.



Partnerships Elder Protection

An extension of the Prevention of Elder Abuse, PEP meets monthly to discuss and implement ideas increase awareness and education about elder abuse. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, or to get involved, visit the website at mtelderabuseprevention.org or contact Becky at 259-3111.

PEP Coalition Chair:
Wm. (Bill) Mercer

Committee Chairs
Shred A Thon:
Jessica Fehr &
Gaye Gauthier

Education/Outreach:
Sue Bailey & Al Ward

Conferences – Public:
Terry McCarthy &
Rosemary Nichols

Law Enforcement:
Jessica Fehr & Al Ward

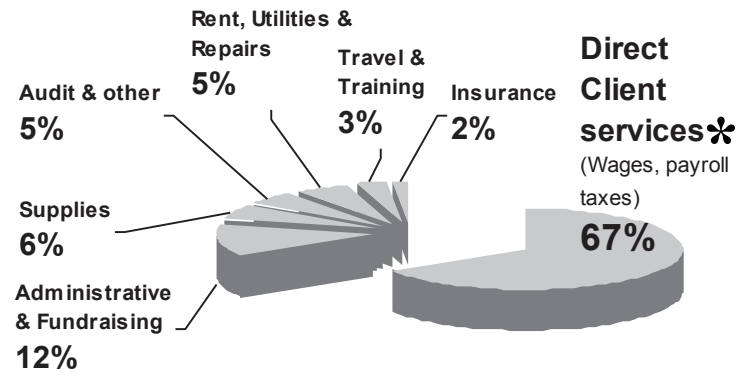
Mark your Calendars!



St. Patrick's Day Parade
Saturday, March 17
11:00 am
Downtown Billings



Use of Funding - FY 2010-2011



*Clients assisted through direct services FY 2010-11

Senior Helping Hands

Average # Clients: **98/month**
Total # Client Hours: **8772**
Homemaking hours: **5614**
Personal Care hours: **1839**
Nursing hours: **1084**
Respite hours: **235**

Average waiting list of clients needing services: **16/month**

Prevention of Elder Abuse

Avg. # Case Management clients: **30/month**
Referrals of suspicion of elder abuse: **350**
Avg. # Representative Payee Accounts: **47/month**
Waiting list of clients needing services: **20**

Friends Volunteer Program

Total # Volunteer hours: **1915**
Average # Clients helped by a volunteer: **24/month**



Help to combat elder abuse with a free training course

As a service to our community and at **no charge** to your organization, **Prevention of Elder Abuse will provide a 30 to 60 minute Gatekeeper training**, consisting of a 12 minute video, handouts and a question and answer session for your employees. This training program will help your employees learn what to look for and how to respond if they suspect abuse or neglect is happening to an elder person.

As our elderly population grows, so do abuse statistics. There were 4000 reports of suspected abuse and exploitation reported last year in Montana. Nationally only 1 in 5 are reported. Why should this be important to you? Not only are these elders your clients, they are someone's parents, neighbors or close friends.

Call Becky at 259-3111 to schedule your training. Visit our website at www.mtelderabuseprevention.org to read more about our program and other efforts to educate the public on elder abuse issues.

Thank you to the following who provide assistance to help us serve the low income elderly



Professional Advisory Committee (PAC)

Meets quarterly to discuss Senior Helping Hands Policies and Procedures, to ensure that the highest level of care is given to our seniors.

Steven Gerstner, MD
Billings Clinic

Marcia Britton, RN
Angie Osborne, RN

Jan Butoravich, OT

Loyce Battin-Peterson,
Social Worker,
Billings Clinic

Linda Shelton, PT
Billings Clinic

Jarrod Willems,
Billings Pharmacy 1

Community Partner with MSU-Billings

This fall, BSSS was a community partner with MSU-Billings in two Service Learning activities for the students. The first was the Montana 9/11 Oral History Project, and the second was with an Ethics Class. In both projects, the students interviewed seniors and gained perspectives on how the older generation developed values and beliefs, and how they were affected by historical events in our country's history.



Visit us on
Facebook!
Like us.



Your time or money is needed this season

Holiday Volunteers needed to brighten the season

The holiday season is fast approaching and this is a time when our home bound seniors can use some extra help. Clients are completing a "wish list" and most want simple items such as blankets, pajamas, toiletries, cleaning supplies, postage stamps and grocery store gift cards.

In addition to filling the wish lists, we are in need of volunteers to help with delivering gifts and holiday meals, addressing clients Christmas cards, setting up/taking down decorations for the seniors.

If you would like to help out this holiday season by volunteering your time or filling a "wish list", please call Brenda or Jan at 406-259-3111.



Volunteers distributed food baskets to home bound Senior Citizens



Tax deductible donations are needed to help more Senior Citizens

During this season of giving, we hope you keep us in mind for a contribution to help us serve our clients. We are supported in part by federal grants, local funding and fundraising efforts, but it's not enough. We rely on donations of both time and money from the community to continue to serve our existing clients and the growing waiting list of seniors needing our services.

Remember, Montana is one of the few states offering a 40% MT state tax credit for certain donations (consult with your tax advisor).

- Save time & donate online www.bigskyseniorservices.org
- I'd like to make a tax deductible donation, a check* is enclosed for
 ___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$100 Other \$ ___
 Please bill me \$ _____ per month or \$ _____ per quarter
A tax deductible receipt will be mailed.

*Make checks payable and mail to:

Big Sky Senior Services, Inc
3 1/2 North 35th St. - Billings, MT 59101

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

My Gift is in memory honor of

Please notify:
Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____