

---

**MIC Updates- COVID-19 Response**

Rebecca Pettit <rebecca@micmt.org>  
To: Nancy & Ron Marks <nancy@imluchurch.org>

Tue, Mar 24, 2020 at 4:25 PM

*March 2020 Newsletter*

*Vol. 4 No. 2*



HOUSING ADVOCATE NETWORK • FAMILY PROMISE • MISSOULA WORKS • BUILDING BRIDGES, BUILDING LEADERS

## COVID-19 Impact

### Bridges and Leaders

Core Team Leaders and members within our newly-developing Broad-Based Community Organization have been working around the clock to respond to our altered community landscape. Necessary mandates concerning COVID-19 are placing more people in vulnerable situations by the hour. We're responding together by forming accountable, trusting relationships between each other and leaders throughout our community. We're setting up systems of mutual aid. We're calling each other into action and conversation about the overall health of our families and loved ones. Last night, 115 of us from over 40 community organizations came together for a virtual Action Network Gathering alongside 2 County Commissioners and 4 Missoula City Council Members.

Our goals were to demonstrate our strength, establish working relationships with our elected officials, and offer resources, hope, and aid to each other and those in need throughout Missoula. As of now, we are looking for:

1. Building space to house individuals and families without homes whose health has or will become compromised in the coming months
2. Volunteers to help staff a supply warehouse that will distribute personal needs and toiletry items to those needing these supplies now and onward.
3. People willing to donate funds to MIC so we can continue to do the important work needed to strengthen our base and invoke a sense of power and determination in people's hearts, minds, and communities. [Donate Here](#)
4. People willing to sign up for other needed agency volunteer opportunities via [www.volunteermissoula.org](http://www.volunteermissoula.org).

Please contact Stacey at [stacey@micmt.org](mailto:stacey@micmt.org) if you would like more details about these opportunities for action.

Finally, over the next week, we'll be rolling out a neighborhood engagement plan to connect to neighbors and the most vulnerable within our contexts. If you are a neighbor wanting to check in on your neighbors (via phone/text or digital means), please contact Stacey to be added to your neighborhood's engagement plan. OR, if you're a member of a congregation, union, or community organization wanting to check in on your community members and/or the neighborhood in which your organization is located, please contact Stacey as well to be added to these lists.

Any further questions about broad-based action can be directed to Stacey, our Bridges and Leaders director. Thank you for all you're doing to help our community! Thank you for keeping yourself and others healthy by housing in place as much as possible!

Stacey Siebrasse--Director of Bridges and Leaders

(she/her/hers)

[stacey@micmt.org](mailto:stacey@micmt.org).

## Housing Advocate Network

This virus scare has put a lot of things on hold, but it has not disrupted the basic needs of our community's most vulnerable populations. In fact, **there's never been a more important time for our community to come together to provide basic relational supports** to individuals and families impacted by homelessness.

HAN volunteers are moving into high gear: We are no longer meeting one-on-one with their matches, but are instead connecting via phone. We're not just helping with housing; we're also working to connect this population with information regarding unemployment, childcare, health and mental health and, most important of all,

reminding them that they don't have to manage all of this alone. Some of our volunteers are also engaging with partner agencies and governments to advocate for community-wide efforts that ensure the safety and welfare of this population.

***Are you ready to roll up your sleeves? Let me know and I'll get you on the team!***

Zeke Campfield, Housing Advocate Network Director - 207-8228, ext 5 // [zeke@micmt.org](mailto:zeke@micmt.org)

**Current advocates:** HAN will meet for its regular monthly training this Thursday, March 26, at 5:30pm. If you haven't already received a Zoom link, please let me or your leadership captain know and we'll send it along. **This will be an important meeting as we discuss the changing landscape for housing and other important resources during this current crisis.** Please plan to participate!



This past month has been a challenge in many ways for staff, guests and volunteers at Family Promise. In early March, we were saddened by the loss of one of our guests. Our staff and volunteers came together to celebrate her life and grieve together. Thanks to Courtney Arntzen, Community Chaplain, Becky Bishop and all who led this worship in remembrance of Tana.

Family Promise guests are sheltering in place at the Day Center Daily through dinner time daily.

Families are providing for their breakfast and lunch needs collaboratively via Food Bank and their SNAP benefits. The usual Church rotation remains in place with only dinners being provided by volunteers in

disposable containers delivered to the Day Center front porch. Day Center is staffed in two shifts by volunteers working with Director Becky Bishop who is working full time and on call 24/7 remotely due to her very high risk category. Guests will be staying overnight at Christ the King Parish for four weeks staffed by Virtus trained volunteers in low risk categories. Thanks to all the volunteers in the Family Promise Network who have stepped up to step in and meet the needs of these vulnerable families during this time. This is highlighting the strength of our network!!! We are grateful!



**Looking for a way to give? Gas cards or gift cards for families are always helpful. The Day Center appreciates kitchen and bathroom cleaning supplies, including**

**paper towels.** Thank you! For drop-off information, give us a call at (406) 207-8228.

## See Them Home



At this time, construction of The Meadowlark has not paused. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and update you with any changes to our building project or campaign.

We are now at 91% of our 8 million Goal. Only \$694,700 to go. Thanks to all who gave last month! To check out the up-to-date progress be

sure to visit [www.seethemhome.org](http://www.seethemhome.org) and click on PROGRESS. There are also some great photos on the bottom of that page that show the progress of the construction!



These are crazy times...but,

Missoula Works is the ONLY company in our community that employ our most marginalized citizens. Low-income, homeless, in recovery from drugs and alcohol, single parents and returning citizens. In the past week we have experienced a surge of

layoffs in our staffing department and a significant drop off in jobs for our Get It Done Crew. Please know that we are STILL actively employing our staff on our outdoor projects such as spring cleaning, lawn maintenance, demolition and reconstruction of decks and fencing, junk outs and junk hauling. We are ALSO plugging employees into temporary assignments at essential businesses throughout our community. If you know a job-seeker, send them our way. Fillable job applications are located on our website!

The more of these jobs that we can acquire, the more we can keep people working - keeping them off of unemployment, help them feed their kids, pay the rent. If you have outdoor work that needs to be done and want to support a mission-based organization - call us for a free estimate. Support out local economy by deploying our workforce to start your spring projects. 926-3400



***Every act of your generosity helps us to further our mission. Thank you for making the world a better place. Love from Family Promise, Housing Advocate Network, MIC, Missoula Works, and Recycling Works.***

#### **Our Contact Information**

Missoula Interfaith Collaborative  
[2205 34th Street](#)  
[Missoula, MT 59801](#)  
406-207-8228  
[www.micmt.org](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage email preferences](#)