

MISSOULA  
INTERFAITH  
COLLABORATIVE

Bridging Faith Communities & Social Organizations



## November Newsletter

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### MIC, Family Promise, and Missoula Works News and Upcoming Events!

If you have an event you would like us to highlight, please let us know by emailing [liliana@micmt.org](mailto:liliana@micmt.org).

We are also in the process of finding out how YOU can share our newsletter. Until then, if you have someone interested in receiving the MIC newsletter please have them email us: [liliana@micmt.org](mailto:liliana@micmt.org) and we will add them!

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### Please help us by taking a brief survey

We need your input! Together with YWCA Missoula we have developed a brief survey about issues and services in Missoula.

Please take 4-5 minutes now to complete the survey, which you can access by clicking here: [MIC Survey](#)

Your answers to the questions are confidential, and will help shape the future of how we work together to serve our community. At the end of the survey you will have the option to be entered to win one of three \$50 gift cards.

Please complete the survey no later than **November 22**. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful participation!



### MIC Tours

We're starting something new here at MIC, to spread the word about our work and help get more people involved! Please come yourself, and bring a friend, to a tour of the Family Promise Day Center, and learn more about all of our programs! The tours will happen once a month on the 3rd Thursday, from 12pm-1pm.

The next open tour will be Thursday, November 16th, from 12pm-1pm at the Day Center. A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Rebecca at MIC (207-8228 or [rebecca@micmt.org](mailto:rebecca@micmt.org)) so we can get an accurate count for food :) The following tour is Thursday, December 21st.

If November doesn't work, let us know if a future tour will work!



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### Family Promise Update and Needs

Gloves, hats, socks (kids 1-16 years and adult sizes)

Gas cards

Haircut certificates

Snowblower

**\*Desperate Need:** We are in desperate need of GAS CARDS! All four of our adults are now working. We simply cannot accommodate getting everyone to work

## Missoula Works Update

Cheri is back and we are excited!

We will be conducting snow removal this winter. If folks would like to be added to the list, please have them call Missoula Works!

### GET IT DONE CREW!

If you need the crew please call us: 926-3400

What It Is:

Missoula Works is an organization started by MIC with a mission to employ anyone committed to work. To do this, Missoula Works runs a staffing agency and the newest edition is the "GET IT DONE" Crew. This crew does lawn service, building or house maintenance or most anything a person wants off their fall/winter project list.



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## Story of Action: Missoula Housing Advocate Travels to Chicago

When Miclan received a phone call from a pen-pal friend in need, he took the extra steps to be a fearless Housing Advocate. He traveled by bus from Missoula to Chicago to help a friend find housing. Way to go, Miclan!

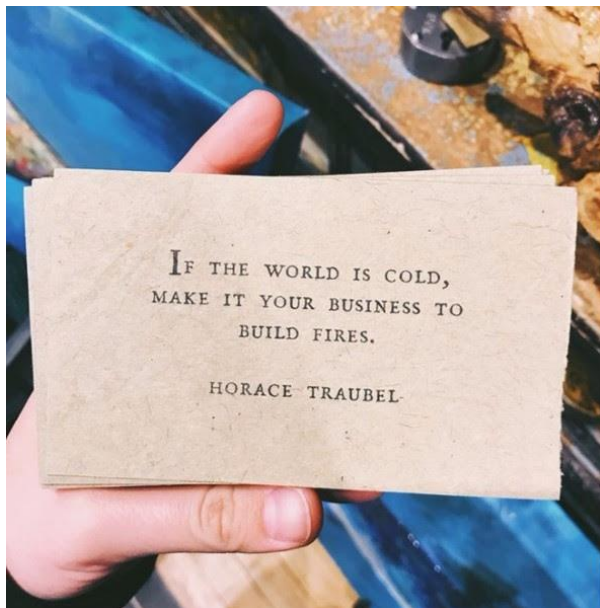
If you'd like to become an advocate in the city of Missoula for the Housing Advocate Network (HAN), please contact **Miclan** at **406-207-8228** or email [miclan@micmt.org](mailto:miclan@micmt.org).

\*\* Miclan took this picture at a meeting of the minds- sometimes it takes a table of people to brainstorm how one person can get into housing.

and school on time in the morning in the van. All of our guests have access to people who can give them rides in exchange for gas money. Given that we are trying to help everyone save as much of their income right now as they can, it would be wonderful to be able to periodically help them getting to work. For our working dad in particular, the bus is not an option so these gas cards are crucial!

### Do you know of an affordable apartment for rent for a single mother of three?

One of our families **STILL** needs help with finding housing due to a low credit score. She is an excellent candidate as a tenant! Despite being a high achieving, single mom with three kids, she needs help finding a landlord. She has been homeless on and off for the past year, and previously participated in the YWCA's Gateway Program at Hogan House. Thanks to her CCA mentors at Hogan House, she got connected with us. She is currently employed. She has been an amazing employee over at the Doubletree, and was recently promoted (with a \$2/hr raise!) So great news for her! Due to her work hours and lack of a vehicle, transportation is sometimes a challenge for her. She hopes to buy a vehicle with her 2016 tax return. Please reach out to Jen at (406) 529-4671 or [jencerta@micmt.org](mailto:jencerta@micmt.org) if you know of affordable, safe housing for a hard-working mother of three.



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## Volunteer Spotlight: Marcie

Marcie is our wonderful volunteer that helps with Family Promise. She engineered a bonfire outside where the families made s'mores and sang. The next morning, she gave two of the Family Promise kids the job of helping cook the eggs, which established them as great chefs of the future!



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## Meaningful Change Leadership Intensive

We hosted our Meaningful Change Leadership Intensive. Many of our community members are developing leaders--40 people from 9 different congregations attended! The next training will be January 10 and 11 from 4:30 - 9:00pm, both days. At the training you will learn:

Organizing for Change: How to inspire and mobilize people for meaningful community change.

Engaging Political Leaders: Skills and practices for effectively influencing policy makers.

Crafting Effective Communication: Crafting your powerful story for media, face to face meetings, giving testimony.

Email [casey@micmt.org](mailto:casey@micmt.org) to register.

Requested Donation-\$35

(We never let finances get in the way of participation)



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## Interfaith Collaboration: Lutherans and Catholics Come Together to Show Unity On the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Two of our MIC folks, Lili and Spencer, attended a vesper service at Cathedral of St. Helena that marked the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The service included music, singing, and encouraging sermons from Lutheran and Catholic clergy. Among those that spoke to the congregation were Bishop George Leo Thomas of the Catholic Diocese of Helena, Bishop Michael Warfel of the Catholic Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, Bishop Jessica Crist, and Bishop Mark Ramseth of the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

\*Photo by John R.



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**\*\*\* Fundraisers benefiting Family Promise and/or MIC\*\*\***  
**Save the dates!**

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## Blessed Trinity Catholic Community Presents:

### *No Room at the Inn: A Festival of Crèches*

1475 Eaton Street ~ Missoula

December 8-10, 2017

for the benefit of Habitat for Humanity, Missoula Interfaith Collaborative, and Family Promise of Missoula



## No Room at the Inn

### What is a crèche?

Crèche is the French word for crib or manger. A crèche or nativity is a display of the figures of Joseph, Mary, and infant Jesus, sometimes surrounded by shepherds, kings, an angel, and farm animals. St. Francis created the first crèche in order to inspire devotion for the impoverished Holy Family.

### Why a crèche display?

Family Promise and Habitat for Humanity are both projects to benefit the homeless. Into a homeless family, the "Holy Family", the Son of God was born. For them there was "no room at the inn."



Blessed Trinity  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
Spirit of Christ Mission



### Gala Opening and first viewing of crèches

6:00--9:00 pm, Friday, Dec. 8:

Hors d'oeuvres, beverages  
No-host wine and beer  
Music featuring The Jim Driscoll Trio.  
Reservations preferred.

### Voices of Faith

Saturday, Dec. 9, 10:00 am--4:00 pm

Music/stories for the season featuring  
Missoula faith communities  
Festive foods of Mexico all day.  
Viewing of crèche exhibit.

### Christmas Tea

Sunday, Dec. 10, 1:00 pm

Story hour with seasonal music  
Light meal, viewing of the crèche display  
Reservations preferred.

### Crèche exhibits

Continuing throughout the event

Fair Trade coffee, chocolate and gift items for purchase.  
Raffles for goods and services donated by the  
Missoula community.

*Sponsorships available.*

*Crèche submissions welcome.*

*Information/tickets:*

406-721-2405

[www.blessedtrinitymissoula.org](http://www.blessedtrinitymissoula.org)

*Online purchases at [mcmf.org](http://mcmf.org).*

*\*Individual Event Pass Donation: \$40.00 in advance.*

*\*Family Event Pass Donation: \$100.00 in advance  
(includes 2 adults tickets to Gala).*

*\*Friday Gala Donation: \$30/person in advance,  
\$40/person at the door.*

*\*Saturday Voices Faith Donation: \$10/adult, \$5/child.*

*\*Sunday Christmas Tea Donation: \$10/adult, \$5/child,  
\$30/family of five or more (family=2 adults+children).*

## The John Floridis Family Promise Benefit Concert:

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, December 17th, 7:00pm**

With spellbinding guitar work, singer, song writer, John Floridis will lift your spirits and amaze you. Though he usually performs his magic for this benefit concert in the sanctuary at First United Methodist Church, they are in the midst of a renovation. Thanks to the generosity of St. Paul's Lutheran, the show will still go on, performed in St. Paul's sanctuary at 202 Brooks.

The concert is FREE!

All donations collected at the door will go to Family Promise of Missoula.



**\*\*\*MIC has a diverse group of partners. Below are the programs, projects, and opportunities from our partner organizations. MIC does not necessarily endorse any of the following projects.\*\*\***

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## **Passionate About the Environment? Help St. Paul Luthern Church with their Solar Project.**

St. Paul Lutheran Church, the site of MIC's offices, is raising funds to install a 26.2 kW solar array! St. Paul's church is passionate about care of creation and wants to invest in renewable energy. They are reaching out to friends of St. Paul – like you!—to help them reach their goal of raising \$33,814 or 50% of the projected installation cost. They are seeking grants for the remaining 50% of the funding. As part of their mission, they provide reduced rent or rent-free space for numerous organizations, including MIC. As a result, they are humbled that their facility has been considered by many Missoula-based groups to be a center for community action, education, and outreach. We hope that with your support they can further this mission to continue to offer free or affordable spaces for community use and become a leader in sustainability, conservation, and stewardship of resources.

You can make a gift to these efforts by sending a check to "St. Paul Lutheran Church" with the memo "solar project." If you'd prefer to donate by credit/debit card or ACH, simply text "splcmt" to the number 77977. Please call us if you have any questions (406) 549-4141! Thank you for your support!



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## **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints presents**

### **An Evening of Christmas Music**

Sunday, December 17, 2017

6:00p.m.

Missoula L.D.S. Stake Center

3201 Bancroft St, Missoula, MT

Featuring Christmas music performed by local musicians\*



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## Interested in volunteering or finding volunteers for a project?

**JustServe.org** is a website where the volunteer needs of organizations may be posted and volunteers may search for places to serve in the community.

JustServe provides opportunities to relieve suffering, care for the poor and needy, and enhance the quality of life in the community. JustServe is not for proselytizing or publicity—it is simply a service to help link community volunteer needs with volunteers.

Neither The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints nor its website JustServe.org discriminates based on race, gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation to screen projects for posting or volunteers who may sign up to serve.

How it works



### SIGN UP

Sign up today to start making a difference in the community. You'll get email notifications when new projects are posted in your area.

<https://www.justserve.org/account>

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# Love Heart Butte

is a program of



Essential Eats Distributors: Serving hard-to-reach populations facing food insecurity



The Blackfeet Food Pantry

*Heart Butte, Montana is located in a remote area of the Blackfeet tribal land. The community has little if any emergency services, and has no food resources in the way of grocery stores. The goal of Love Heart Butte is to provide 100 pantry boxes, once a month, to the families of the Heart Butte School during the school year.*

*By fostering food partnerships with Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; local ranchers and meat processors, grocery stores, the Blackfeet Food Pantry, and other wholesalers, we are able to provide a high-quality, traditional pantry box at a cost that is economical for us and our donors.*



- The life expectancy of a Native American in Montana is similar to that of someone in Sudan, Haiti, or Ethiopia.
- 100% of students enrolled in public school are eligible for free and reduced lunch, the federal guideline for food insecurity
- The closest grocery store to Heart Butte is nearly 30 miles away
- 44% of Heart Butte's population is 18 or younger

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## Please consider giving.

*100% of donations will be spent on food for school families. All donations are tax deductible.*

### Donate or organize your group and pledge:

- \$50 pays for 100 lbs of dried beans
- \$500 pays for 500 lbs of game to be processed
- \$1,500 covers the cost of a month's worth of pantry boxes



Send donations to:

Love Heart Butte: 1139 Harrison, Missoula, MT 59802

Visit us at: [essentialeats@aol.com](mailto:essentialeats@aol.com) (406)829-6348 [EssentialEats.org](http://EssentialEats.org)



## Our Contact Information

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