

Alpha House  
3109 1st Avenue North  
Billings, MT 59101  
406-259-9695

Passages  
1001 South 27th Street  
Billings, MT 59101  
406-294-9609

Misdemeanor Probation /  
Beta Jail Alternatives  
17 North 31st Street  
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Carbon Beta Jail Alternatives  
PO Box 1652  
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PO Box 1050  
Columbus, MT 59019

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"Alternatives to the Corrections System"

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# Alternatives, Inc. Quarterly Newsletter

Summer, 2016

**MISSION STATEMENT:** We promote public safety and challenge offenders to become responsible productive citizens through firm, fair, consistent supervision, treatment, and education.

## Passages Celebrates Alumni -

*Kelly Mortensen, Lead Case Manager for Pre-release*

Passages recently held their 7th Annual Alumni Celebration.

On 4/1/16, we gathered for fabulous food courtesy of the Culinary Arts Program, and inspiration courtesy of 25 alumni in attendance.

Awards were given for "Makin' the Bacon" (employment longevity), "Keep on Truckin' (effort), "Jumping the Hurdles" (overcoming obstacles), and "Paying it Forward" (community service).

After last year's celebration, we implemented an Alumni of the Quarter award and recognized all of those ladies as well as the Alumni of the Year. In addition, we welcomed Tara Walker-Lyons who has worked with our Victim Impact Panel as our keynote speaker, and Michelle Lott from the Crowne Plaza as our Employment Support of the Year.

Our Alumni celebration continues to grow each year and we look forward to holding the 8th annual celebration in 2017!



Passages Staff and Alumni celebrate Passages' 7th Annual Alumni Celebration at the Valley Federal Credit Union building downtown on April 1st.



# TOTAL OFFENDER MANAGEMENT

Shannon Breipohl, IT Trainer

## *Barcodes:*

- ♦ Clients (and staff) have a recorded (legible) signature that is assigned a barcode. When the barcode is scanned, it records the saved signature.
- ♦ With a 2D barcode scanner, the ability to scan a drivers license is now possible. It will auto-fill demographic information for a new visitor or driver for a client.

## What Else??

Walkthrough paths can be defined by adding specific locations throughout a building. A walkthrough can be performed on a tablet and recorded in TOM. Soon, QR codes (similar to barcodes) will document and verify the route, time, and date taken by staff and allow notes to be added. For more information contact Shannon Breipohl.

## What's New??

### *Calendaring and Meeting Scheduler:*

- ♦ Assign meeting times for clients with staff;
- ♦ Schedule time frames that Detention clients will serve detention or sanction days;
- ♦ Individual staff schedules.

All these calendar items can be stored in TOM and used to track and remind.

### *Example:*

Resident: I would like to leave on pass.

Staff: I see you have a meeting scheduled with your Case Manager now. Come back afterward.

A “Happy Birthday” image is now displayed above the client photo on the sidebar, on the client’s birthday.

## Team Building: Improving Morale and Team Performance - Yolawnda Henry, Director of Human Resources

Team members who work well together usually produce positive business results and enjoy themselves at work. Team building facilitates this by helping a work group evolve into a cohesive unit. Team members are encouraged to share expectations for accomplishing group tasks, trust one another, and to respect one another's individual differences. Examples of the different types of team building are:

- \* Personality-based teambuilding
- \* Activity-based teambuilding
- \* Skills-based teambuilding
- \* Problem solving-based teambuilding

Depicted below are several recent team building activities that Alternatives staff have participated in.



*The Great Escape: Problem Solving  
Human Resources Staff with Facility Directors:  
Craig Botnen, Amanda Green, Jan Begger, Shannon Breipohl,  
Yolawnda Henry, Tonya Rose, Mandy Hurr, and John Williams.*



*DISC assessment and blindfolded puzzle activity:  
Personality based and problem solving.  
Passages ADT Staff: (Standing): Jen Porter, Karli Henry,  
Mal Tift, Rhonda Stennerson. (Sitting): Joanna Mong, Susy  
Paddock, Kate Calovis, and Vickie Coonfare.*



*Beta Staff: (Top Row L-R): Lamar Clark, Liz Cox, Annette Saylor, Lorena Nealis, Leslie Wright, Dallis Herring, Eric Braun. (Bottom Row L-R): Randy Gowen, Lindsey Olsen, Adeia Thompson, and Magally Lampert-Bringman.*

**When executed properly, team building can improve morale and team performance. Recently, we have had several teams participate in team building and we are looking forward to assisting and supporting future teams build healthy working relationships.**



## Community Service Projects - *Amanda Green, Beta Jail Alternatives Supervisor*

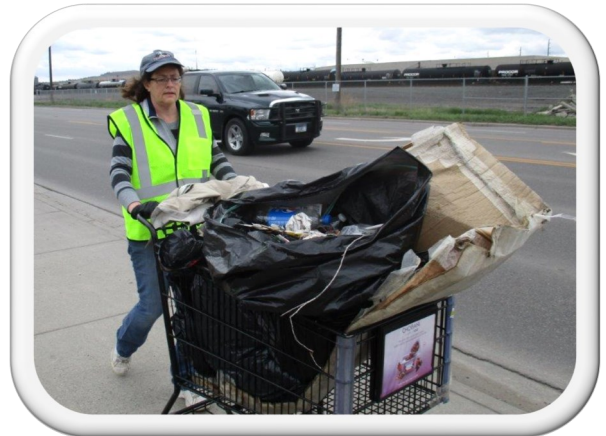
Beta Jail Alternatives had an annual goal this year to give back to the community by completing two community service projects. This year, staff from Beta partnered with the Montana Rescue Mission, Women's Shelter, and the Crisis Center. Seventeen staff from Beta, Alpha, and Passages set up, served the meal, and cleaned up at the local mission.



*Alternatives' staff ready to serve a meal at the "Bring a Meal" event at the local mission.*

The second project was Alternatives' 2nd annual participation in Bright and Beautiful's annual Great American Clean Up. The Alternatives team consisted of a mix of over 35 staff, families, friends, residents, and community service workers. The team spent several hours cleaning up an area in Downtown Billings. They collected over 44 bags of trash for this local event. The hours of service by the Alternatives team will go toward the national average of \$175 million in measurable benefits across the country.

*Alpha Case Manager Jen Bauer and Julie Novosel (Admin Support) take a break from trash pick up to take a photo.*



*Alpha Case Manager Kathy Lindell hauling a load of trash during the annual Bright and Beautiful event.*

## Todd Buchanan: Current Member, Board of Directors - *Gwen Bryant, Executive Assistant*

Todd Buchanan joined the Board in 2014. When asked why, he says that many of the business owners we work with here in Billings have found reliable and qualified help by tapping into the graduates from Alternatives. Todd believes the reputation of the organization was built around the role of helping many who deserve an opportunity to “right” their lives.

After returning from the Peace Corps in 2000, it didn’t take Todd long to realize he’s someone who is defined by place, and his place is Billings, Montana. Having started his career in Financial Planning, it was exciting for Todd to work with his father to map out a future working together in a boutique family owned brokerage business. Buchanan Capital has been serving institutional and individual investors since 2002, and to be able to do it with family and in the place he loves is nothing short of a blessing.

*“The work being done at Alternatives is having an incredible impact in our communities...”*



Todd Buchanan,  
Board of Directors

Congratulations to our recent graduates from MSU-Billings! Chandler earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice, with a minor in Sociology while Shannon Breipohl earned her Associate’s Degree in Rehabilitation and Related Services. We are proud of you!



## What's Happening?



Alternatives’ “TOMcats”.  
Several staff have signed up to play softball this season

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## Board of Directors

If you prefer to receive our publication via email, please contact  
Gwen Bryant at 406-294-9609 ext. 203 or [gbryant@altinc.net](mailto:gbryant@altinc.net)

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Check out our "new"  
website: [www.altinc.net](http://www.altinc.net)