

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  
Billings, MT 59101  
406-256-3501

Carbon Beta Jail Alternatives  
PO Box 1652  
Red Lodge, MT 59068

Stillwater Beta Jail Alternatives  
PO Box 1050  
Columbus, MT 59019

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"Alternatives to the Corrections System"

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# Alternatives, Inc.

## Quarterly Newsletter

Summer, 2017

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

### Case Managers: The Unsung (and Sometimes Confused) Heroes of Re-Entry - *David O. Armstrong, CEO*

All residential clients at Alpha House and Passages have one thing in common: they are assigned a Case Manager. The Case Manager role is to help the client navigate through program and legal requirements with the goal that the client successfully complete the program and re-enter the community. This critical, but seemingly straightforward role becomes more complicated when you consider the many different types of clients that Alternatives serves and the different hats worn by Case Managers each day.

#### Even Baskin Robbins only has 31 flavors...

The majority of clients at Alpha House and Passages are referred by the Montana Department of Corrections (90%), with Federal Bureau of Prison referrals a distant second (9%), followed by sanction clients and work release placements. Right there, you have four different types of clients with differing programming requirements, but add to this that each of these client types may be "coming" or "going", that is they may be moving to the center from a prison in preparation for release to the community, or coming from the community to the center in order to participate in treatment or as a consequence of poor performance on supervision (failure to report to supervising authorities or to hold a job, drug or alcohol abuse, or new offense). At Passages, some clients are in a placement for mental health stabilization while others participate in 60 and 90 day drug and alcohol treatment. Client statuses, and therefore case management

practices, can also change while the client is in placement. Some live in apartments or houses at the tail end of their stay in pre-release, some must appear before the Board of Pardons and Parole, others transfer out of Montana through Interstate Compact, and some qualify for "early" or "conditional" release. Case Managers must respond to a varying set of needs.

Once the Case Manager has mastered the differences in resident requirements, he or she must decide which hat to wear and when to wear it. One hat for Pre-release Case Managers is acting as a financial advisor (resident's must save several thousand dollars to set up a home or pay rent). The cheerleader hat is reserved for when the client obtains his/her high school equivalency, finds work, pays off their restitution, or completes community service. There is a



A Case Manager wears more hats...

hat for discipline when program rules are violated. Other hats include goal advisor, crisis counselor, records manager, family counselor, real estate agent, medical appointments clerk, recreation consultant, and others too numerous to mention.

(Case Manager pictures follow on page 2)



Our amazing Pre-release Case Managers



## Zonta - *Diane Fisher, Specialized Mental Health Therapist*

At the beginning of 2016, the local women's service organization, Zonta, was looking for a big project to help and empower women in the Billings community. At the same time, Passages was looking for a group of interested local women for a mentoring project. What resulted was a partnership that lasted through the year and continues to make a difference. A group of eight volunteers from Zonta teamed up with eight Passages Inmate Workers as mentors and mentees that spring. The first task was to work through the new ACCI Cognitive Awareness Lifeskills workbooks, but most of the relationships have outlasted the workbook and have evolved into true mentor/mentee relationships outside of Passages. While our residents treasured the opportunity to be mentored by successful community members who truly wanted to make a difference in their lives, the mentors benefitted from the opportunity to be that empowering positive presence in the life of someone who was ready to make a real change.



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
BILLINGS

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

*The Zonta Club of Billings was honored at the 8th Annual Alumni Celebration for Passages.*



*The Zonta Club of Billings honored five Passages staff members who worked closely with Zonta members to create and support their new Mentoring Project. Staff recognized at the Status of Women luncheon were (left to right) Lacey Stovall, Diane Fisher, Jan Begger, Mindy Brookshire, and Kristin Rude. (Deb Willis of the Zonta Club is also pictures 3rd from the left)*

## Chris Evans: Featured Board Member

*Yolawnda Henry, Human Resource Director*

Many of you may or may not know that Chris Evans has been involved in community corrections in some capacity since 1999. Chris started as a Galatin County Sheriff's Office Detention Officer, then he became a Montana Department of Corrections Probation and Parole Officer. Chris is currently the Deputy Chief of Probation and Parole for Region IV. He is married to a Probation Officer and has two kids.

Here are some fun facts about Chris:

- Tracked down an escapee from Alpha House to a recording studio in Austin, Texas!
- Spent five years on the US Marshals Fugitive Task Force!
- Die hard Tampa Bay Buccaneers fan!
- Rented cars to the following people: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Danny DeVito, and Dennis Quaid!
- Was introduced to his wife by a Beta Alternatives employee!
- Met Ronde Barber, Warren Sapp, John Lynch, and Mike Alstott of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers!
- Was on the field for the 10 year anniversary of the Tampa Bay Bucs Super Bowl celebration!

We are very fortunate to have Chris serve on our Board!

*An All Around  
Great Guy!*



*Chris Evans, Board of Directors  
with Ronde Barber, Retired Defen-  
sive Back of the Tampa Bay  
Buccaneers*

## Jarett Dukart: Featured Resident -

*Tammi Reimer, Alpha Assistant Director*

Mr. Jarett Dukart came to Alpha House as an Inmate Worker from the Montana State Prison in September of 2016. He was assigned to work in the kitchen and from the beginning took the role to heart, earning above standard work evaluations. Mr. Dukart became a leader in the kitchen, providing guidance and support to the newer kitchen workers.

Mr. Dukart entered pre-release in March and immediately found employment with a pipe and precast company in Billings. His employer continues to have positive remarks for Mr. Dukart. In the facility, Mr. Dukart is polite to everyone and has a positive attitude about his program. He is goal-oriented and has an excellent work ethic.



*Jarett Dukart*

As one staff member remarked "One of the reasons for this recommendation is his attitude from the moment he walked in the door – he is always smiling and simply grateful for this opportunity. He also has great aspirations for the future."

Before his acceptance to Alpha House, Mr. Dukart wrote a letter asking for acceptance, stating he wants to get his life together for himself and his family. He wrote of goals including attending MSU Billings to get a degree in Applied Science. After he was accepted to Alpha House, he wrote another letter thanking the agency for accepting him. With his continued efforts, hard work, and positive attitude, Mr. Dukart is likely to succeed in anything he puts his mind to.





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