

THE SUMMIT INDEPENDENT

AN ADVOCACY AND RESOURCE CENTER

FOR MONTANANS WITH DISABILITIES

WESTERN MONTANA DISABILITY NEWS AND VIEWS

Summit Independent Living Center, Inc. 700 SW Higgins Ave., Suite 101, Missoula, MT 59803

July 2008

Nothing About Us Without US!

By Travis Hoffman

We know we will always run into people who believe they know what is best for us and others who will want to make our decisions for us. There will also be those situations where people have already made decisions for us, good or bad, without asking what we wanted/needed to begin with. NOW is the time for us to stand up, stand strong, and say NO MORE! It is no longer acceptable to be shut out of the decision-making process when the decisions that are being made have a profound and direct implication on our lives.

“Some paradigms shift, some don’t. The past generation has seen a major paradigm shift in popular understanding of disability. Once seen as a medical problem to be treated by health care providers, disability is now seen as a social problem to be addressed by legislators, judges, urban planners, designers, and so on (Gerry Hendershot, University Park MD).”

Unfortunately, many legislators, judges, urban planners, designers, community organizers, state employees, etc., etc., etc. still see disability, as far as I can tell, as a barrier to competency and believe that it is their duty to be “do-gooders” and make decisions or form programs in ways that they think are in the “best interests” people with disabilities instead of giving people with disabilities a chance to make their own decisions or to be meaningfully and directly involved in strategizing, planning, or implementing programs/services that are directly related to our lives.

Nothing About Us Without Us!

is a slogan used to communicate the idea that no policy or programs should be decided, planned, or implemented by any representative, group, department, or organization without the full and direct participation of members of the group/s directly affected by that policy and/or program.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nothing_About_Us_Without_Us).

We constantly hear those who are in positions of authority preach an understanding of the concept of nothing about us without us only to be continually denied direct and meaningful participation by people further along down the chain of command. All too often, instead of forming partnerships, many issues that could be addressed with a concern of the whole of society turns into an “us against them” fiasco as has recently been evidenced in the issues surrounding initiative 159 and

less recently, the Montana Medicaid Infrastructure Grant.

People with disabilities have and always will be their own best experts. We know what our dreams and hopes and challenges are. Now is the time to use our collective voice to let others know these are our lives, and we have a right to give input on the decisions that concern us and our lives.

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!

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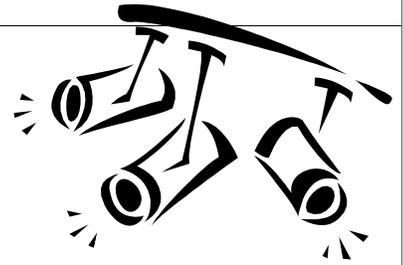
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Spotlight On...



Heather Stone - Summit Peer Advocate

Over the past year, I have partaken in several trainings. I traveled to Boring, Oregon to train for & receive my guide dog, Chateau, from Guide Dogs for the Blind. She is absolutely a fantastic addition to my life. I also attended Leader Dogs for the Blind's campus in Rochester Michigan three times for the technology classes that they offer. Thanks to their training, I am able to use Trekker (a talking GPS system) a lot more efficiently as I get around Missoula. I also have been asked to demonstrate it to other visually impaired/blind individuals in the area. Leader Dog's computer classes have helped me tremendously in becoming a lot more efficient in using Jaws (text to speech software) with Microsoft Word, Outlook, Excel & PowerPoint.

This past winter, I became a board member of the Montana Radio Reading Service. I also serve on their Personnel Committee. I am very impressed with the amount of

effort the director, Kate Cotnoir, puts into trying to promote the service & secure funding for it through donations, grants & fundraising. I am doing my best to come up with possible ideas & places to assist her with this endeavor.

The Montana Radio Reading Service is a non-profit organization that recognizes information is necessary for successful daily living. Our mission is to empower the lives of those who cannot read because of a visual loss, physical disability or perceptual deficiency; to decrease their sense of isolation; to increase their independence; and to foster their connectedness with their individual communities.

Our motto is: Giving the gift of sight through sound. We have been serving blind, sight-impaired and physically print impaired Montanans since 1979. For more information on the Montana Radio Reading Service please call 721-1998 or 1-800-942-7323 .

Summit Independent Living Center, Inc.
An Advocacy and Resource Center
for Montanans with Disabilities
Serving Western Montana Since 1981

Summit Independent Living Center, Inc. is a non-profit, non-residential program serving people with mobility, neurological, hearing, visual, and other disabilities. Summit's mission is to promote community awareness, equal access, and the independence of people with disabilities through advocacy, education, and the advancement of civil rights.

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Jim Ward from ADA Watch visits with a local reporter in front of the Road to Freedom RV at Caras Park during the Road Tour's visit to Missoula in June of 2007.

Services are available to residents of Missoula, Ravalli, Mineral, Lake, Sanders, Flathead, and Lincoln Counties.

If you have any comments or suggestions about our website, please contact [Travis Hoffman](mailto:Travis.Hoffman@summitilc.org).
This page was last updated on June 27, 2008

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Ravalli County Caregiver Conference

“Celebrating You - The Riches of Giving”

Thursday, September 18, 2008
Bitterroot River Inn, Hamilton MT

TENTATIVE AGENDA

8:00 – 8:30 Sign-in / Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 “Hypnotherapy”

Presenter: Roberta Schwartz, CHT

9:30 – 9:45 Break

9:45 – 11:00 “Physical Therapy”

Presenter: Mary O’Connell, PT

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 11:45 “Storykeeper”

Presenter: Susie Risho

11:45 – 12:15 “Memory Books”

Presenter: Katelyn Andersen

12:15 – 1:00 Lunch provided by Progressive Personal Care

Legislative Issues presented by Summit ILC

1:00 – 2:00 *Consumer/Caregiver Panel*

2:00 – 2:15 Break

2:15 – 3:15 “How to Work with Aging”

Presenter: Susan Allen, MSW,
Partners in Home Care

3:15 – 3:30 Break

3:30 – 4:30 “Consumer Fraud”

Presenter: Katelyn Andersen, M.S.
MSU/Rav Co Extension Agent

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hospice Education Institute.

Check Us Out on the Web

If you have recently looked at our website you’ve probably noticed something different. The Summit website, at www.summitilc.org, has currently undertaken a new look, as can be seen on the bottom of page 2, and over the next few months will continue to undergo a much-needed renovation.

So what can you do at the Summit website?

Some of the new features that have already been incorporated into the new website include a community calendar, action alert system, and blog.

The calendar is where you can view upcoming events not only at Summit but also other upcoming community events. To view the calendar simply click on the calendar button on the left side of the website. The calendar can be viewed in agenda, week, and monthly formats.

The action alert system feature of the Summit website is the addition of the Montana Independent Living Action Alert System. On the action alert system page you can read a list of current and past action alerts, download a Montana Independent Living Action Alert Widget for your own website, and independently subscribe yourself to the Montana Independent Living Action Alert System Listserv.

The blog addition to our website serves as a place where we can post stories of interest and you, the reader, can have ongoing discussions with one another centered around current events in the disability movement.

Please keep an eye on the website as there are sure to be more additions and improvements throughout the coming months. Also, if you have an idea for how to further improve the website please do not hesitate to contact Travis Hoffman and let him know.

2009 Legislative Priorities

The next legislative session is getting even closer. That is why Summit Independent Living Center is continuing to work with the Statewide Independent Living Council as well as the other Independent Living Centers in being proactive and preparing for the 2009 legislature now. The following is a list of legislative priorities that have been identified and that we will be focusing on throughout the year and into the legislative session.

- Establish a **Medicaid buy-in** option in Montana so consumers have an avenue for maintaining Medicaid coverage after employment
- Secure additional state funding to equalize the core funding of Montana's CILs and to expand IL services across the state
- Change state law in Medically Needy program to tie **spend down limit** to annual SSI level
- Secure additional funding for youth programs including transition services and services that foster independent living and leadership skills

If you are interested in becoming involved in any of these topics or if you are interested in sharing your story about the need to pass items by the legislature, please let Travis Hoffman know by e-mailing him at thoffman@summitilc.org.

You can also join the **Montana Independent Living Action Alert System** and be kept up to date on local, state, and national issues that affect people with disabilities by sending an e-mail to:

montana-il-action-alert-subscribe@googlegroups.com

or by letting Travis Hoffman know you would like to be added to the Action Alert System.

New Missoula Staff

My name is Mary Olson, and I am the newest Summit addition as the Peer Advocacy Coordinator. I grew up on a farm in Northeastern Montana (or as we like to call it, Mon-Dak).

I moved to Missoula in 2002 to attend the University. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Economics and Psychology in 06' and just kind of forgot to leave my college town that I fell in love with. I worked as a preschool teacher at ASUM for about 4 or 5 years and then stumbled onto a fabulous job where I get to combine my passion of

working with people with my love of learning new things.

In my free time I am playing with my spunky Corgie puppy, Dante, or hitting up some karaoke or tennis. If you see me, be sure to say hello, and don't be alarmed at all the scrapes and bruises, they are just a product of my attempt at being in a softball league. My nickname is the River Rat, and my favorite season hands down is summer!

I am so excited to be here and appreciate all of the consumers that I have met so far welcoming me with open arms. I am learning something new every day

and I am ready to submerge myself in the disability movement.



Missoula County Update

By Jude Monson

Welcome to Mary Olson! The Missoula staff and peers are excited to get to know Mary, as our new Peer Advocacy Coordinator. She is energetic, a great listener, an outstanding organizer and has a lighthearted sense of humor. Please take time to read her introduction of herself in this newsletter.

Classes

This spring we finished up communication, living well and working well classes. We will complete the pilot "A Safety Awareness Program" and our annual Beginning Peer Training in July. We are taking August off! Look at the list of classes below and think about your fall schedule starting the week after Labor Day. Would you be interested in Living Well, Assertiveness, or Disability Awareness? Please contact Jude with your name, phone and address if one or more of these classes interest you!

2009 Legislative Session preparation

Summit and the Statewide Independent Living Council's legislative goals are in areas of:

- Medicaid buy –in or working and keeping health benefits
- Increasing dollars for the Independent Living Centers in Montana
- Increasing dollars for youth programs and
- Medically Needy Medicaid Eligibility Spend Down Threshold

In preparation for the 2009 legislative session, we would like to hear about your experiences in these areas and will be collecting stories about how any one of these issues has affected your life. If you would like to write down and share your story, we could collect these stories and both share them with the 2009 legislature as well as post them on the legislative priority website we are currently developing. Please contact Travis, Andrea, Darren or Mary if you need assistance with writing about one of these topics. If you are interested in attending the upcoming candidate's forum contact Travis. A Missoula County legislative candidate forum is currently being planned for October of 2008 but a date definitive has not yet been finalized. If you are interested in learning more and/or attending, please contact Travis at the Missoula office. Legislative candidate forums are also being tentatively planned for Ravalli and Flathead County's.

Celebration - Initiative 159 retracted!

Thank you to all the people from the disability community who worked so hard to give the public the real story about how Montana continues to work in partnership to get our personal care and community service needs met. Initiative 159 and their out of state multi million dollar sponsor SEIU did not include Montanans with disabilities, providers, State Senior and Long Term Care employees or Montana legislators when they decided to push through what they, for their own personal gains, believed to be a better option than the ones our ongoing co-aligned groups have been working together on for over 25 years. If you have read the front page article and would like to get involved in personal care health care benefits Montana style; contact Lorna Palin.

Plan your next Mountain Line trip ahead of time!

You can now find a Mountain Line bus stop near you and determine what buses you need to get to where you were going ahead of time by visiting www.google.com/transit. It will show a map, explain where you go to get on, your route of travel, if needed what bus you transfer to and where you get off.

Legislative Survey

Earlier this spring Summit Independent Living Center, Inc. teamed up with the Statewide Independent Living Council and the three other independent living centers across Montana to survey all of the House and Senate Legislative Candidates who filed to run for office in the state of Montana. In Summit's service area alone, there were over 100 candidates who filed to run for office and many thanks should be given to those who took the time to read through this survey, fill it out and return it.

The survey that we sent out to these legislative candidates focused primarily on the issues that those of you who attended the legislative planning MetNet's said were important and that are this year's independent living's legislative priorities. They were:

- Would you support legislation establishing a Medicaid buy-in program?
- Would you support legislation to adjust the medically needy income level threshold annually to match the SSI income standard for those who receive SSDI?
- Would you support a change in Medicaid that would support personal care services for a disabled person beyond the basic support in their home?
- Do you believe there should be background checks for taxi drivers?
- Do you believe current access to public transportation meets the needs of our transportation dependent citizens in Montana?
- Are you aware of coordination of publicly funded vehicles and transportation services in your area?
- Do you support coordination of publicly funded vehicles and transportation services in your area?
- Would you support legislation that would strengthen the role of transportation advisory committees and coordination of local transportation resources?
- Were you aware that during the school year 2005-2006 there were 17,334 youth with disabilities between the ages of 6 and 21 in Montana schools?
- Were you aware that youth with disabilities comprise the largest minority population in Montana schools?
- Would you support the allocation of funds for the establishment of "disability education for all?"
- Would you support legislation that would enact statewide policy for students to remain in school until the age of 21 if needed?
- Would you support legislation for funding of a coordinated statewide system for transition?

We did not get a big number of responses but the responses that we did receive from legislative candidates in the Summit service area are located in the table on the next page. There were a few more responses than what are listed, however, I have only included the responses from candidates who made it past the primary election and are in the running for a legislative seat during the general election this November. If you would like to see the full set of responses, including comments, please contact Travis Hoffman.

Please note that we are providing these legislative candidates responses to our questionnaire as information only to help you as you gather information in preparation of voting on November 4th and in no way are we endorsing or denouncing any legislative candidate for their responses.

Our October 2008 newsletter will have more information on all of the legislative candidates in the Summit service area as well as more information about statewide candidates, the presidential race and voting information regarding the election itself.

Legislative Survey Results

Name	Party	District	Support Medicaid Personal Care Beyond Home	Support COLA for Medicaid Spend Down	Support Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities	Support Tax Background Checks	Need for more Public Transport	Aware of Transportation Resources	Support Strengthening Transportation Resources	Aware of Transportation Resources	Knows that People w/ Disabilities make the Largest Minority	Open to Youth with Disabilities	Would Consider Disability Ed for All	Support Transition Coordination	Support Transition Coordination	Support Transition Coordination
Patrick Boylan	Demo	H 88	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	n	y	y	y
Freeman Johnson	Con	H 1	n	n	n			n	y	n	n	n	n	n	n	n
Sue Malek	Demo	H 98	y	y	y					y		n	n	y	y	y
Diane Sands	Demo	H 95	y	y	y			n	y					n	y	y
Dick Barrett	Demo	H 93	y	y	y			n	y	y		n	n	y		
Michele Reinhart	Demo	H 97	y	y	y	y		n	Somewhat	y	y	n	n	y	y	y
Ron Erickson	Demo	S 47	y	y	y	probably		y	n	y	y	n	n	probably	y	y
Scott Wheeler	Demo	H 6	y	y	y	uncertain		n	y	y	probably	n	y	n	y	y
Eileen Carney	Demo	H 1	y	y	y			n	y	y	y	n	n	y		y
Bill Nooney	Rep	H 100								N/A		y	n			
Tim Furey	Demo	H 91	y	y	y	y		n	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	y
Steve Dogiakos	Rep	H 93	y	y	undecided	y		y	y	y		y	n	y	n	y

Interesting Tid-Bits

Catch a Movie

The movie, "Music Within," can be viewed in On Demand through Bresnan. It's the story of Richard Pimentel; who wrote the first manuals on why employees should hire people with disabilities. He was also instrumental in the passing of the ADA. For more information on the movie, please visit <http://www.musicwithinmovie.com/>.

Fun Facts

- The typewriter was invented as a private writing device for a blind member of a royal family. Other developers of early typewriters also designed them for use by individuals who were blind.
- In 1776, Stephen Hopkins referred to his Cerebral Palsy when he signed the US Declaration of Independence saying, "my hands tremble, but my heart does not."
- People's negative reactions to disability — ranging from outright pity and lurid fascination to doubts about a disabled person's ability to lead a productive life — often stem from a combination of ignorance about disability and fear that they may have of becoming disabled themselves. These reactions have had a huge impact on public policy.

Ravalli County

By Joanne Verwolf

You may want to mark on your calendar a couple of annual events coming up in September; one being the *Veterans Stand-Down*, where veterans may receive free haircuts, lunch, blood pressure monitoring, counseling and benefits assistance, and free military surplus clothing, sleeping bags, duffle bags, etc. It's a great resource for veterans and Summit will be there to provide information on disability benefits and other community resources. Also in September is the *Ravalli County Caregivers Conference* to be held on September 18th at the Bitterroot River Inn. If you have any questions regarding either of these events, give us a call at 363-5242.

Mary Millin, People First Advisor, and the members of the Bitterroot Valley People First, were thrilled as Kiwanis of Hamilton formerly presented them with the Bitterroot People First Aktion Club charter, membership handbooks, certificates

and pins at a Chartering Banquet held on June 23rd at *A Place to Ponder*. Many congratulations to a great group and a great alliance!

The City of Hamilton is updating their Growth Policy and will be holding focus groups over the next few months. I encourage you to get involved and advocate for your vision of the future, such as increased public transit, affordable housing, accessible public facilities, accessible sidewalks with curb cuts, accessible parks, pathways, and recreational areas, etc. Now is the time to let your voice be heard.

Serenity remains committed to her outreach to youth, facilitating the strategic committee meetings throughout the summer months to determine how to better serve and prepare students with disabilities in transitioning from school to community. In prioritizing goals, the committee's main focus will be planning for the fall parent-

teacher-student transition nights in each of the Ravalli County high schools. With extensive outreach, networking, and coordination they hope these transition forums will be all inclusive and well attended. They plan to have a comprehensive service directory and extensive information on the transition process that will be beneficial to both the students and their families and the school staff. The second priority will be to explore the options available in developing a self-advocacy/self-determination training to be incorporated into school curriculums.

We are very pleased that four individuals from Ravalli County have signed up to attend the beginning peer training. We look forward to having them on board!

Enjoy the summer and stay cool...

Joanne Verwolf
Ravalli County Coordinator



Photo: Summit's Ravalli County Office's Spring Fair 2008 Booth entitled "Recreation for All." This year's booth was centered on accessible recreation and assistive technology that allows people with disabilities to access several different recreational activities including hunting, fishing, and camping.

Lake & Sanders County's

By Gary Stevens

In April I attended two workshops. The first one was an all day conference at KwaTaqNuk Resort in Polson, MT which was called "Empowerment of Native Americans with Disabilities." It was well attended by people from various agencies throughout the state of Montana. The conference addressed issues from the Social Security webpage to collaborative efforts that are under way to assist rural households during times of an emergency such as wild fires, floods or a severe winter storm.

The other conference was from April 8th to the 11th at the Presbyterian Church of Polson which held a SHIP/I & A Certification Training. SHIP is the "State Health Insurance Assistance Program" and I & A is "Information & Assistance Program."

Some of the topics of this conference included Legal & Advocacy information, some information on Social Security-eligibility-enrollment, benefits and options and SSA online. Some information was given on Medicare & Medicaid in regards to eligibility and benefits. Other topics included Community Service Bureau, Big Sky Rx, Veteran's Administration/Tricare, Ombudsman program overview, Indian Health Services, Adult Protection Services, and some information on "Reverse Annuity Mortgages" from the Montana Board of Housing. Those two workshops were very informative plus very enjoyable.

During the month of May I assisted in conducting a demonstration research survey for the Rural Institute on Disabilities at the University of Montana. Its intention is to see and measuring the progress in achieving accessibility in rural and small towns in Montana.

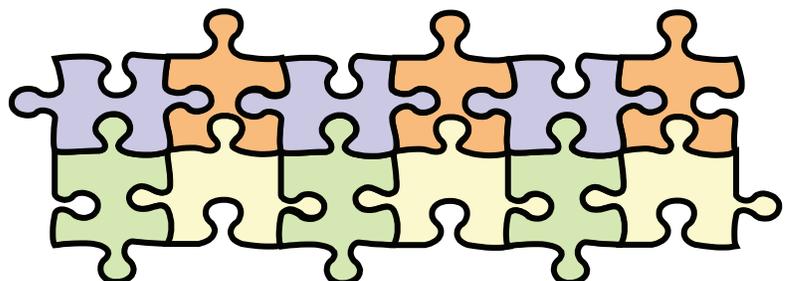
One goal of this project is to develop, evaluate and demonstration a model for applying methods to monitoring the implementation of the ADA in rural communities. A random of samples of business was pre-selected in each of the communities. The communities I conducted the surveys were Polson, Columbia Falls, Whitefish and Libby. A very basic survey form was utilized to access the elements of the physical accessibility in the selected business. The process of evaluating was based on one's personal judgment based upon the criteria that was being used and plus how one interprets the given check list. For all of the businesses, each was evaluated on the parking/signage; observing the designated accessible parking spaces; the primary entrance: pathway, gravel surface, or paved route to the entry; the door itself; hand knob, L-shape handle or (an automatic door scored the highest) and the

door threshold ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch or less), plus seeing if the door was too narrow. Finally, once inside the survey scored the accessibility of the businesses interior as it related to the ease to which a person could use a walker, wheelchair or scooter in the building. Overall this project gave me more of a basic knowledge to promote more community awareness for equal access for people with disabilities.

During the month of June we hosted a picnic for people with disabilities, their families, and for other Sanders County Service Providers in order for people to become more acquainted with Summit staff and Peer Advocates. The gathering was held at the Montana Power Park in Thompson Falls; there were twelve individuals who were able to join us for a wonderful picnic. Hopefully next time around you can come join us so we can meet in person.

I hope this summer you have a joyful time with your loved ones and utilize the services we have to offer you.

Please call me at my office in Ronan - (676-0190 or 1-866-230-6936) be well – be safe and take care...thanks Gary



Flathead County By Flo Kiewel

The Kalispell office has been experiencing some staffing turmoil. Unfortunately, Deanna Shepard was unable to continue as IL Specialist due to health concerns. After once again re-opening the position we have hired a new Independent Living Specialist and she will start at the end of August. Look for an introduction in our next newsletter. Through the rest of the summer, Flo will be staffing the office alone, with occasional assistance from the Peers and office temps.

A Working Well with a Disability workshop was completed June 17th and it was a great success. Attendees formed strong bonds through the ten week

workshop and have decided to start up a continuing support group. The group will be open to anyone with a disability and will meet the second Tuesday afternoon of each month. The location is still undetermined. This group promises to have a strong ongoing presence, offering support and varied educational opportunities to consumers. If you are interested in joining this group, call 257-0048 for more information.



Come to the Picnic!

Flathead Peer Advocates have decided to use their special activity fund this year to present a community picnic. It will take place on August 9th from 1:00 to 4:00 at the Lagoon Pavilion in Woodland Park. There will be activities, socializing and great food. Everyone is welcome to come! We hope to have a great turnout. Bring a salad to share and also a dessert if you like. Summit Peers will provide the BBQ and drinks. We ask that you please call to let us know you are coming so that we can plan how much BBQ we will need. For more information or to RSVP call 257-0048.

Bitterroot People First Aktion Club

CHARTERING BANQUET

The Bitterroot People First Aktion Club was formally chartered on Monday, June 23, 2008, at a banquet held at A Place to Ponder in Hamilton. Attending the ceremony were: Kiwanis members Jenny Howard; President; Andy Hughson, Vice President, Al Hill, Secretary; and Rob Johnson; Summit staff Joanne Verwolf, Ravalli County Coordinator; Mary Millin, Bitterroot People First Advisor; Andrea Dahl, Missoula People First Aktion Club Advisor; I Serenity, Independent Living Specialist; and the current members of the Bitterroot Valley People First, Lisa Howard, President; Michelle Heikkila, Vice President; Olivia Kincaid, Secretary; Anthony Hoilien, Treasurer; Randy Cook, Sergeant at Arms; Patsy Cook; Camron Bailey; and Jim Weir.

After a delicious lasagna dinner, the program began with words of welcome and introductions by Jenny Howard, Kiwanis President, followed by opening remarks by Joanne Verwolf, Summit's Ravalli County Coordinator. The Kiwanis Vice President and Aktion Club Advisor, Andy Hughson, presented the Aktion Club Charter, banner, bell and gavel to Lisa Howard, President of Bitterroot People First. Once the charter was formally presented, the Aktion Club officers were officially installed by Kiwanis members Andy Hughson and Al Hill. Mary Millin, Bitterroot People First Aktion Club Advisor presented each member of the newly formed group with their official membership certificate, handbook, and membership pins. The program's closing remarks were delivered by Nancy Maxson from the Rural Institute. The ceremony concluded with the serving of a scrumptious cake to celebrate the very special and momentous occasion.

BULLETIN BOARD

See our website at www.summitilc.org for more ads

- ◆ **'88 Winnebago Superchief 27RQ.** Newer 454, roof A/C, genset, jacks, awning, Superarm wheelchair lift, hand controls, 190 W solar. \$8,000 OBO. (406) 293-7467.
- ◆ **2005 Jazzy 1103 Ultra Power Wheelchair.** Paid \$12,000 asking \$6,000. Call 721-0671
- ◆ **Various Items:** Everest & Jennings wheelchair \$400; Power standing Recliner \$200; 5" elevated toilet set \$15; Bath bench \$30; and many more. Call 406-251-4448.
- ◆ **Free:** 1990's era working wheelchair lift in a Ford Aerostar van. Call Bill 406-444-5340
- ◆ **Quickie V121** power wheelchair. Black, battery cases, headrest, oxygen tank holder, backpack. Rarely used. \$1,000 OBO. 406-531-7662 or 406-543-4521
- ◆ **Electric Hospital** bed \$400; Electric lift chair \$400; Jet 3 power wheelchair \$1250. 406-961-4206
- ◆ **1988 Ford Econoline** w/ Ricon Lift. 108,000 miles. Good condition, excellent tires. \$1750 OBO. 406-676-3186
- ◆ **Quantum 1107** power wheelchair. Brand new, never used. Paid \$6200 for it, will sell for \$2500. Call 406-728-2642.
- ◆ **To Give Away:** 1) Padded Tub Bench, 2) Roho cushion w/various accessories 3) PERS Emergency Phone Dialer, made by Radio Shack (never used). Niki Hm#: (406) 273-9192.
- ◆ **2000 Dodge Grand Caravan** SE "ACCESS VAN" 72,000 miles \$18,800 O.B.O. 406-251-4569; montana.craigslist.org/car/624312387.html
- ◆ **Invacare Storm TDX 3** power wheelchair. Purchased for \$5500 will sell for \$2800 OBO. Seat Size: width 18", depth 16". Delivery negotiable. Call (406) 752-6561.
- ◆ **2002 Dodge Grand Caravan** rear entry wheelchair van, lowered floor conversion with manual rear ramp, all q-straint equipped, silver exterior, gray interior, 74k miles, over 40k new, must sell \$12,900.00 obo. 270 634 1466 or rswilkerson@windstream.net
- ◆ **1990 Jazzy-mini deluxe** (purple) wheelchair. Never used outdoors and in excellent condition. Power elevator, new batteries. \$2200. Call 406-777-3550
- ◆ **Pride Revo 3 wheel scooter** purchased new 10/2004 for \$1951. Has not been used since 9/2006. Adjustable seat, armrests, and steering column. Includes cover, front and rear baskets. Price: \$750.00. Call (406) 544-8534 in the evenings or weekends.
- ◆ **Rascal** with extra batteries, asking \$300. In good shape, batteries all work. You can call (406) 251-3501. Missoula area.
- ◆ **Electric Mobility Scooter** for sale - Four wheel heavy duty model 305, 500 lb. capacity. Excellent condition, comes with trailer hitch mount electric lift. Cost \$ 5000 new, asking \$2000 or best offer. (406) 862-3960 or 862-2345
- ◆ **Redman power standup wheelchair.** Large size 200-250lbs. Used for 4 months. \$15,000 OBO. 903-434-9463
- ◆ **Light weight heavy duty** manual wheelchair. Used 2 months. Holds 425 lb weight. Asking \$500 OBO. Call (406) 270-2203.
- ◆ Have something you want to sell or give away? Are you looking for a hard piece of equipment? If so, list it here by contacting Travis at 406-728-1630 or thoffman@summitilc.org and list it on the Montech item exchange website at <http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/mtdb/>

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YOUTH CORNER

Welcome once again to the Summit youth corner, Summer edition.

During the week of July 14, the Montana Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) will play host to its 9th group of students to go through the program. Each student will be individually shaped and molded into a leader, leaving Helena at the end of the week with a swagger of confidence and that new advocate smell. Attending this year's forum as staff with Michael Beers will be Summit's own Independent Living Specialist Darren Larson and Peer Advocate Sierra Lode.

Another opportunity not only for youth, but also for educators and parents alike, is coming up on September 15-17. We are talking about the first annual Montana Youth in Transitions conference which will be held in Great Falls, Montana at the Holiday Inn. The conference will focus on transition services for youth coming out of high school and entering the wonderful world of adulthood. For more information about this conference as well as other resources for youth in transition please visit the Montana youth

transitions website at www.montanayouthtransitions.org/. During the conference, participants will have the opportunity to learn about many resources as they relate to the transition including Summit's Building Advocacy and Learning Leadership Skills curriculum.

Travis Hoffman and Michael Beers are also involved in planning for this year's APRIL Youth Preconference on October 10, 2008 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The preconference is still in the initial phases of planning but we are optimistic that it will be one of the best ever. One of the topics that will be addressed at this year's APRIL preconference will be the importance of the disability vote but that's not all we'll do...

Just as with other things around Summit, there is never a shortage of things surrounding youth in transition for us to keep busy with. We will continue to do all we can to improve the lives of people with disabilities and to encourage all youth to step to the plate to take charge and control of their own lives and their own goals.