A common theme throughout Summit’s entire 38-year history has been the tireless energy and enthusiasm for independent living that Jude Monson brought to work every day. We have missed that energy the past couple of months since Jude retired at the end of April to focus on rehabilitation following a severe stroke earlier this year.

We are happy to report, however, that she is doing well and still making progress with recovery. She is still as enthusiastic as ever about independent living, now with a focus inward and on regaining her own independence, drawing on a career’s worth of experience assisting others in similar circumstances.

Jude’s contributions to Summit over her nearly four decades-long career are many. She was one of the original staff when Summit was established in October 1981 as a department of Community Rehabilitation Center in Missoula and first started operating as a non-profit out of a duplex on Clark Street in early 1982.

In the early years, Jude’s main focus was teaching independent living skills to people with spinal cord injury, brain injury and other severe disabilities as they transitioned from the rehabilitation center into the community.

That role expanded as Summit extended services to people with other types of disabilities and expanded geographically outside of Missoula – first to the Bitterroot Valley, then later to Lake and Flathead Counties. Jude was extensively involved with community outreach and public education efforts to spread the word about Summit’s services. She has been a strong advocate for increased affordable and accessible housing options, accessible public transportation, personal assistance services, and other community resources critical for living independently.

Jude was instrumental in Summit’s advocacy efforts in support of the Americans with Disabilities Act in the late 1980s as the bill moved through Congress and was finally signed into law on July 26, 1990 by President George H. W. Bush. Her organizational skills and ability to motivate people about self and systems advocacy was effective in Summit’s grassroots advocacy work to help people describe their needs and share their first-hand experience with discrimination. This was part of a national effort spearheaded by Justin Dart to present Congress with the collective experience of people with disabilities in all 50 states and the need for the ADA to prohibit discrimination based on disability.

Jude’s role at Summit expanded again in the early 1990s when Summit was awarded a grant through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which allowed us to establish small branch offices in Kalispell, Ronan and Hamilton to provide more comprehensive independent living services and have a physical presence in more Western Montana communities. Jude played an instrumental role with the planning and implementation of activities that led to the establishment of the branch offices, and she provided oversight of those offices in their first two or three years of operation. Her organizational skills and ability to garner support for Summit and the independent living movement in these outlying communities and rural areas were essential in getting the branch offices off the ground and running smoothly.

Jude has also been a longtime champion of independent living services for young people with disabilities. Summit services for youth have expanded tremendously since she first taught a limited summer class in one Missoula high school in the early 2000s.

Continued on Page 2...
Today we routinely teach Building Advocacy and Learning Leadership Skills classes to high school students with disabilities in schools across western Montana.

Jude has worked under various titles over the years, most recently as Independent Living Program Manager since 2012, supervising several Missoula independent living and front office staff and coordinating Summit’s ongoing community outreach, networking and public education efforts in the Missoula area. She helped teach new staff independent living history and philosophy and instilled in them the importance of staying in touch with independent living’s roots, which are grounded in the civil and disability rights movements of the 1950s and 60s.

It’s hard to summarize a career’s worth of accomplishments in a few short paragraphs, but it’s easy to say that Jude has been a constant source of energy and enthusiasm for Summit’s mission and programs as well as the independent living and disability rights movements. We will miss her sense of humor, dedication to IL philosophy, and her long-time commitment to help make independent living a reality for many people with disabilities.

This year Summit’s annual ADA picnic, in conjunction with the annual adaptive recreation clinic with other community programs, will serve as an opportunity to celebrate Jude’s years of service and her contributions to all of our lives. Please join us and Jude on Tuesday, July 9 at Fort Missoula Regional Park’s Meadowlark Shelter. The adaptive recreation clinic goes from 8 AM-5 PM and the ADA picnic is from 12 PM-3 PM. Chicken, potato & macaroni salads, and bottled water are provided but anyone is welcome to bring a side dish or something to share.
Looking for Summit Events?
To make it easier to find Summit events that are being held throughout Western Montana, we are now listing all of our events on our website. To find a Summit event or class happening near you please go to: www.summitilc.org/calendar

All of Us Journey Bus

The All of Us Journey Research Bus is coming to Caras Park in Missoula!

July 16, 17, and 18

Bus Hours: 7/16 & 7/17: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
7/18: 12 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

For the first time, Montanans have the opportunity to participate!

What is the All of Journey Research Bus?
It’s a medical research effort from the National Institutes of Health. The research collects details from individuals to draw conclusions on specific, individualized health data.

Why enroll?
You’ll better understand your unique health profile and help change the future of medicine by informing medical research and helping create more precise medicine.
Visit JoinAllofUs.org/together #JoinAllofUs
New Summit Staff

Jamie Baszler, Independent Living Specialist, Ronan

Jamie is the newest addition to Summit Independent Living in our Ronan office. Prior to joining Summit, Ms. Baszler graduated from Salish Kootenai College with degrees in Psychology and Dental Assistance and a Certificate of Completion in Office Professions. She has applied to earn a Master’s degree in Counseling online through Northwestern Family Institute in Evanston, IL. Thereafter, Jamie plans to achieve Montana licensure in counseling and specialize in mental health disorders and chemical dependency.

Jamie enjoys long walks on the beach and with a good book, sunsets, and birds chirping... No, she’s JOKING! Actually, she loves to cook, clean, and spend time with her two children and puppy companion, Aries, doing whatever comes to mind – outdoors in the sun and indoors watching movies or playing board games.

Although busy working two jobs and with family obligations, Jamie enjoys community involvement and helping others improve their well-being. She values humility, accountability, culture, integrity, compassion, and genuine individual qualities. She is grateful for this new career advancement opportunity and excited to be part of the Summit team.

Jessica Workman, SD-CFC/PAS Administrative Assistant, Missoula

Hi! My name is Jessica Workman. Most people would describe me as a strange mix of redneck, tomboy, artist, and hippie. I’m the proud and loving mother of two children, two dogs, and two rats, and have been married to the love of my life since 2012. In my free time I enjoy collecting hobbies, spending time with my family, and attending concerts, among other things. Originally from Idaho, I moved to Missoula with my family a year and a half ago to start a new adventure and seek better opportunities. I’ve done administration work in a variety of fields and am excited to join Summit as the SD-CFC/PAS Administrative Assistant.
Montana’s Centers for Independent Living have a New Action Alert System

The Action Alert System is a statewide portal administered by Montana’s Centers for Independent Living. Its purpose is to inform you about current local, state, and national issues and legislation that affect the lives of people with disabilities.

On the site you will find many opportunities for you to get involved, follow our advocacy efforts, as well as to look up and contact your elected officials.

This portal also serves as a way for us to keep you informed and updated of what is going on during Montana’s Legislative Sessions and to let you know of opportunities to contact your Senator and/or Representative.

Remember, democracy is a “participatory sport.” We all have tremendous power to bring about positive change, but only if we get involved, speak out and demand that our elected officials do the right thing.

Visit www.summitilc.org and click the “Become an Advocate” button midway down the home page or go to www.mtcil.org.

BECOME AN ADVOCATE

Steve Hackler
Molly Blair
Jenny Montgomery
Mark Cash

Peter Drakos
Meg Whicher
Susanne Meikle
Visiting Vietnam

By Bronwyn Troutman, Community Living Specialist

My colleague, Dr. Anna-Margaret Goldman, and I recently spent two weeks visiting and presenting workshops at several disability organizations in Hanoi, Vietnam. A trip made possible by the University of Montana, Mansfield Center professional fellowship program. Most notably, we had the opportunity to spend time with our hosts and exchange partners, Ms. Nguyen Thi Van and Ms. Ngo Thi Huyen Minh, to observe the amazing work they are doing as directors of the Will to Live Center and Imagtor Company. I had the opportunity to apply to go to Vietnam this spring, after Van and Minh visited Missoula last fall and were hosted by the Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities at the University of Montana and Summit Independent Living.

The non-profit Will to Live Center in Hanoi provides vocational training for students with disabilities, who not only learn computer skills but also learn essential independent living skills through real life experience. The center accepts 60 students with a wide range of physical disabilities, 17-35 years of age, from all across Vietnam at a time. For most of the students, this is the first time leaving their families, where many of them spent most of their time at home. At the center, they live together in nearby dormitory style apartments for 6 months while studying employment skills and learning to manage their own lives through hands on experience. While living together and pooling their financial resources, students must learn how to support each other and work together to manage all of their own activities of daily living such as: personal assistance, shopping for groceries, cooking, cleaning and doing laundry. The success of this program is high, with 80% of the students finding integrated and competitive employment upon completion.

Most of the graduates from the center are hired at the partner, for-profit Imagtor Company, which is a photo editing company serving international real estate companies. Imagtor Company employs 75 individuals, the majority with disabilities. Forty percent of the proceeds from the self-sustaining company go back into the center, and both the center and company are led and staffed by people with disabilities. While leading workshops, we observed the quick progression of skills, from new students who were a bit shy and quiet, to more experienced students who were about to graduate from the center, to the employees of the company. As students and staff progressed we saw tangible results in gained confidence and success. Additionally, we saw happiness, as individuals gained employment, found friendship, love, marriage and new families and found belonging through fully participating in their community.

I had the opportunity to share my professional experience as a Community Living Specialist at Summit Independent Living by leading Community Living Skills: an Introduction to Living Well and Working Well with a Disability workshops to staff and students. My workshops included information and discussions on Independent Living philosophy, Self-Advocacy and Self-Determination. Dr. Goldman and I jointly presented on Assistive Technology for People with Disabilities, sharing her expertise as director of MonTECH at University of Montana. Assistive technology was of special interest to people with disabilities in Vietnam, as the economy there is quickly developing and just beginning to open up to allow access to many basic assistive technologies, essential equipment, and integrated employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

The highlight of the trip for me was being able to participate and observe the phenomenal efforts of the staff and students led by Van and Minh, who demonstrated deep friendships and respect among their staff and colleagues, a family-like atmosphere, and the incredible hard work and outcomes with limited financial resources and government support. Although access and civils rights were often quite limited in Vietnam, the individuals we worked with consistently demonstrated strong leadership skills and excellent natural peer supports, a fierce work ethic and a will to live proudly independent and truly integrated lives. We were received with grace and friendliness everywhere we visited and I left with a sense of gratitude for having the opportunity to visit Vietnam, and a deep curiosity and respect of how people with disabilities live and work in Vietnam.
BASE stands for home base, like in hide and go seek. In life, you have to establish a BASE first, that’s where we come in.

Game Night (GN)
- Thursdays weekly, 2 p.m.- 6 p.m.

Youth Opening Doors through Advocacy (YODA)
- 2nd & 4th Tues. monthly, 4p.m. - 6 p.m.

Base Art Group (BAG)
- Fridays weekly, 1p.m. - 5 p.m.

For schedule updates and additional events go to www.summitilc.org/calendar

To donate to BASE go to:
www.basemissoula.org
phone: 406-215-1080

To get involved or to share ideas of new BASE programs, contact BASE jhoward@summitilc.org or by visiting www.basemissoula.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

*2001 VMI Ford Windstar WheelChair Accessible Van
White exterior & grey interior, new alternator and battery, remote start, 2 sets of tires, 109,000 miles. $11,500.00
Call Jessica 406-253-9663

Victory 10 LX scooter
New! $2500, Call or text Nina 880-2855

Smart Talker text scanner
Slightly used, $750. Contact Larry at 406-633-4036 or ketch1969@gmail.com

Nova Walker, Quantum 600 power wheelchair, Hurricane Mobility Scooter, Commode, 2 Transfer Benches, Beezy Manual Wheelchair
call Gary 224-5527

WheelChair Accessible Duplex
For Rent - Brand new, 3 bedroom 2 bath, roll in shower, $1400/mo. Call Glenn 544-1361.

Symmetry Stander
Call Madison (406) 670-9388

Braun Vangater Wheelchair Lift
Almost new wheelchair lift with 600 LB capacity. $2000 OBO. Call or text Tyler 406-925-9846

Garaventa Super-Trac Portable Wheelchair Lift for stairs. Purchased new for $12,000 and used only a few times. Will sell for $2,500 OBO. Contact Jacob Francom, Troy Public Schools, jfrancom@troyk12.org, (406) 295-4520.

Acorn Stair lift
For going up to 6 stairs while seated. $500 OBO. Call John at 546-7003.

To get listed contact Tyler Stosich at (406) 728-1630 or email tstosich@summitilc.org.

Or, list and find items on the MonTECH exchange:
http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/mtdb/

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This publication is available in alternative format on request. Please call 1 (800) 398-9002.

The All of Us Journey Research Bus is coming to Missoula! For the first time, Montanans have the opportunity to participate!

**ADA Community Picnic**

**July 9, 2019**

**Fort Missoula Regional Park**

Meadowlark Shelter

12:00pm to 3:00pm

Join us for a day of fun in the sun!

For more information: (see page 2)

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**All of Us Journey Bus**

**Caras Park**

**July 16, 17, and 18**

For more information: (see page 3)

You can always sign up to get this newsletter by email by visiting [www.summitilc.org](http://www.summitilc.org) and signing up