What if there were no Summit?

Missoula Gives is just around the corner, and it’s more important than ever to get involved and spread the word. In case you did not know, Missoula Gives (also in conjunction with Bitterroot Gives) is a great opportunity for the local community to give to nonprofits in the area. Any nonprofit can sign up and can benefit from the generosity of Missoula.

This year, in preparation for the big event, happening May 5 and 6, Summit has hired Gravity Media Productions to help film and create an ad that highlights the questions “What if there were no Summit?” We’ve already had Samantha Chase and Leanne Beers graciously offer to share their stories in front of the camera and emphasize the impact Summit has made on not only the local disability community, but throughout Western Montana. If you are interested in telling your story, and helping us to answer the above question, please reach out to Travis Hoffman (thoffman@summitilc.org) or Madison Morgan (mmorgan@summitilc.org).

Summit is also encouraging everyone to help us spread the word and create your own fundraising campaign to help Summit raise funds. If you head over to Summit’s page on the Missoula Gives website, you can click the “Fundraise” button at the top of the page. There you can fill out your information and set a goal for yourself on how much you’d like to raise on behalf of Summit. Tell your story and encourage your family and friends to donate. Every dollar helps us get one step closer to our new building at 145 S. Russell Street. Be sure to check out the campaigns created by others for inspiration, or email Madison Morgan if you have questions or need help.

Through Park Side Credit Union, there will be up to $5,000 in matching funds for Summit Independent Living, which means your donations will have an even greater impact. Our goal this year will be to double this amount at $10,000. We are also working toward partnering with other businesses and organizations to increase our matching fund pool. To double your impact be sure you are the first to donate on May 5.

Thank you all to your continued support of our efforts. We look forward to seeing the impact you all can make this Missoula Gives.

Madison Morgan
We invite all blind and low vision individuals to join our monthly support group meeting. Join our discussions on navigating daily life with little to no vision. We cover topics such as meeting daily challenges, finding possible solutions, and growing from our shared experiences.

For more information contact:
Coreen Faulkner
Phone: 406-370-9305
Email: coreen.faulkner@gmail.com
Senior Companions Volunteer Opportunity

Do you enjoy giving back to your community?

Do you enjoy spending time with people and have a passion for walking alongside someone in the journey of life?

If you answered “yes” to those questions, then you could be a great fit for the Senior Companions program. If you are 55 or older and want to work with senior citizens in the community by providing companionship by doing daily activities like grocery shopping or you just enjoy activities like bowling, then this is the right volunteer opportunity for you. This opportunity will provide assistance and friendship to seniors in your community that have some difficulty with daily living tasks to provide them the opportunity to live independently longer.

Senior Companion volunteers must be 55 or older, and be income eligible. Senior Companions are required to volunteer at least 9 hours a week and will receive a small hourly stipend for the hours that they volunteer.

If you want more information on the Senior Companions program or are interested in volunteering, please contact Alyssa at 406-728-1630 ex. 116.

Summit Independent Living selected as Park Side Credit Union Partner

Summit Independent Living is one of six western Montana nonprofit organizations selected by Park Side Credit Union to participate in the 2022 Park Side Partner Program.

This program provides Park Side partners with a $5,000 donation, Park Side volunteer employees to work with partners in support of specific projects and activities, cross-promotion, and shared advertising allowing partners to increase their visibility in the community.

Three non-profit organizations in Missoula, and three in the Flathead Valley were selected for as Park Side partners.
New Summit Staff

Alyssa Judd
Independent Living Specialist, Missoula

Alyssa is Summit’s new Independent Living Specialist in Missoula. Alyssa grew up in a small town surrounded by farmland outside of Great Falls. After she graduated High School she moved to Missoula to attend the University of Montana. She showed great interest in communication and helping others so she went into the field of psychology. Alyssa greatly enjoys working with people and shows great compassion in her work.

Alyssa enjoys spending time with family and friends. She also enjoys going for long drives, singing at the top of her lungs and dancing. Alyssa leads a Bible study group at her church for people with disabilities and enjoys spending some downtime reading scriptures. She has two cats, Luna and Misty, and she is currently engaged to be married in a couple of months.

Alan Fugleberg
Community Living Specialist, Missoula

Alan joined Summit as part-time Grants Coordinator and Community Living Specialist. Alan has personal experience with disability after sustaining a traumatic brain injury nearly 30 years ago. He served as a Summit peer advocate before beginning his vocational rehabilitation program.

During his vocational rehabilitation, Alan earned three degrees from the University of Montana in Missoula (UM) including Master of Public Administration. He completed additional graduate course work in political science at UM, and community and rural development at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Alan served in several positions at UM including Associate Dean for Missoula College; and Assistant Director for Academic Affairs / Assistant Professor for Kodiak College, a community campus of the University of Alaska Anchorage. In 2018, he retired as Campus Director/Senior Administrative Officer for Kodiak College.

Alan is excited to join Summit: “Summit provided me excellent services when I was a consumer in the 1990s. This opportunity makes life in retirement more meaningful through the opportunity to help Summit deliver critical services across our service area.”
RONAN
South of Summit’s Ronan branch office resides the National Bison Range. During the 1870’s, a tribal member from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes named Atatice crossed the continental divide and brought bison calves back with him. This was the one of the last small herds during this time in history to roam the reservation. These efforts would later lead to the formation of the National Bison Range. The actions he took is a lesson that the actions we take today benefit the communities of the future.

Ronan Office offers a Virtual Art Day on Zoom every Thursday from 1pm-3pm everyone is encouraged to bring a craft and come join the fun! For more information contact (866) 830-6936

KALISPELL
Summit in Kalispell is looking for new members for YODA (Youth Opening Doors Through Advocacy) group. Groups include independent living, advocacy, social events, and trainings. This is a great way to make friends and to learn how to advocate for yourself and others.

Two to three peers are needed to provide community outreach and to participate in community awareness activities. This is a paid position through Summit.

If you are interested in participating in one of Kalispell Summit’s classes or if you are interested in becoming a peer please contact Lynae at (406) 257-0048 ext. 2

HAMILTON
We are currently looking to fill our County Coordinator and our Independent Living Specialist positions in our Hamilton office. For more information about these open positions and to download application materials, please visit our Employment Opportunities page.

We sincerely apologize the gap in our services as we look to fill these positions.

If you live in Hamilton or the surrounding area and are looking for services from Summit, please call our Hamilton number, 406-363-5242, and select 0 from the menu to be transferred to our Missoula office or you may contact the Missoula office directly at 406-728-1630.
PROMOTING FUN AND FRIENDSHIP IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 2022

All-Abilities Yoga
Mondays 1pm-2pm, Tuesdays 2pm-3pm, Wednesdays 4pm-5pm

Role Playing Games
Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm, Thursdays 1:30pm-2:30pm

Audiobook Club
Mondays 5pm-7pm

C.H.E.W. Cooking Class
Tuesdays 11:30am-1pm
Starting April 5

FriendZone
Fridays 1pm-2pm

All programs are FREE and available VIRTUALLY*

For additional information, visit: basemissoula.org

To Sign Up, Contact John Howard at: jhoward@summitilc.org or Call: 406-728-1630
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.

### BASE Virtual Activities

**YODA (You Opening Doors through Advocacy)**
Tuesdays 4-6pm on Zoom

**All Abilities Yoga**
Wednesdays 4-5pm on Zoom

**BASE Wrestling Foundation BWF**
1st and 3rd Wednesdays monthly 5-6pm
On Zoom

**Virtual Photography Group**
2nd and 4th Wednesday monthly 5-6pm on ZOOM

**BASE Virtual Game Night**
Thursdays from 1-4 pm (call for dates and times)

**BASEment Improv**
Thursdays BASEment Improv 5:30pm-7pm.
Join us for Improv, games, and laughs.

For BASE schedule updates and additional events go to [www.summitilc.org/calendar](http://www.summitilc.org/calendar)
or check the BASE Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/base725](https://www.facebook.com/base725).

To get involved or to share ideas of new BASE programs, contact BASE
jhoward@summitilc.org or mbeers@summitilc.org.

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### BASE Events

725 West Alder, #4 Missoula, MT

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### Classified Ads

**Symmetry Standers, Quickie Powerchair, Invacare Powerbed, Hoyer lift**
Comfortable, easy-to-use seat stander Call/leave message: Tejeanne (406) 865-0221

**Power Scooter**
$500 obo. Please contact Adrian: (406) 263-8650

**Adult Tricycle**
Schwinn 26” tricycle, bike pump included. $500obo (406) 721-1698

**Wheelchair Lift**
Ricon wheelchair lift model #S1231 G00100100. $400obo.
Contact: Cory (406) 471-3314

**Silver Spring wheelchair ramp 10’ L x 36” W**
Made of high-strength light weight aluminum. $297obo. Contact: tamera144@gmail.com or 406-363-4898

**Smart Talker text scanner**
Slightly used, $700. Contact Larry at 406-633-4036 or ketch1969@gmail.com

**Nova Walker, Quontum 600 power wheelchair, Commode, 2 Transfer Benches, Beezy Manual Wheelchair.**
Call Gary (406) 224-5527 or garylee032051@gmail.com

**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. $300 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/](http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/mtdb/)
Fresh Food Box

Summit Independent Living and Missoula Food Bank & Community Center are working collaboratively to make the Fresh Food Box program available to more people with disabilities.

Eligibility requirements:

- must have a physical or mental disability that impacts your ability to live independently;
- live in Missoula
- sign up for Summit service;
- be experiencing challenges to your health, safety, ability to live independently, receive vital services, gain or continue employment, or participate in community activities due to COVID-19;
- be experiencing food insecurity due to lack of income, and
- need home delivery of food due to sheltering in place or lack of transportation/assistance to obtain food in the community.

For more information or to apply please call the Summit office at 406-728-1630 or send an email to missoula@summitilc.org.

You can always sign up to get this newsletter by email by visiting www.summitilc.org and signing up.