

The SUMMIT INDEPENDENT

Building Awareness & Advocating Change for People with Disabilities

Caravan for Disability Justice and Freedom 2024

Our mission is to build community and coalition through education, awareness, and empowerment.

Beginning in March 2024, a collective of people with disabilities are driving across America visiting a number of cities including many that are important to the history of disability in America. Along the way, they will honor and celebrate people and places significant to the 100+ years of struggle for freedom and justice for people with disabilities. They will share stories, raise awareness of current issues, and build a national coalition to address these issues.

Their goals are to shine a light on issues of the past as well as on current issues Americans with disabilities are facing. They want to connect people to the rich history of activism and advocacy with current national, regional, and local issues. Also to share with them success stories and tools necessary to create positive change.

The caravan will be in Helena on Thursday, April 11 for Montana's Olmstead planning kickoff meeting.

For more information reach out to Summit Missoula at 406-728-1630 or visit <https://thedisabilitycaravan.com>



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ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Election season is upon us once again so it is important to make sure you have all of your ducks in a row to ensure that your vote counts and your voice is heard. It is always a good idea to verify that your voter registration is active, make sure you know where your polling location is at, or if you are active on the absentee ballot list make sure you receive your ballot. The 2024 federal primary election will be held on Tuesday, June 4 and the federal general election will be held on Tuesday, November 5 so be sure you are an active voter.

Voting is not only a civic duty but also a fundamental right in any democratic society. By registering to vote, you play a crucial role in shaping the future of your community, state, and nation.

Confirm voter registration

Check the "My Voting Information" page at <https://prodvoterportal.mt.gov/WhereToVote.aspx> to verify your current registration status, ensure that your address is correct, and to see where your polling place is located.

Voter registration & late registration

If you are not registered to vote or if you need to change your voter registration, visit your county election office Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and complete a registration form or download a registration form at <https://votemt.gov/> and print, complete and return it to your county election office up until May 6, 2024, OR

Late register begins on May 7, 2024 at your county election office or the designated location up to and including on election day. Montana's late registration period allows voters to register or update their voter registration information. [Contact your county election administrator](#) for more information.

SUMMIT STAFF

Missoula County

- Executive Director
Tami Hoar
- Policy Director
Travis Hoffman
- SD-CFC/PAS Program Manager
Carrie Dyrud
- SD-CFC/PAS Coordinator
Patti Montgomery-Stewart
- SD-CFC/PAS Coordinator
Devon Harris
- SD-CFC/PAS Administrative Assistant
Jessica Workman
- Missoula County Coordinator
Alyssa Coty
- IL Specialist & Peer Coordinator
Tyler Stosich
- Program Support Specialist
Theresa Martinosky
- IL & Recreation Specialist
Brenden Dalin
- Public Health Outreach Coordinator
Mary Willard
- Communications Director
Blake de Pastino
- BASE Coordinator
John Howard
- Youth Transitions Coordinator
Gavin Workman
- Youth IL Specialist
Ryan Kellan Jean
- BASE Advisor
Michael Beers
- Administrative Assistant
Laurie Swanson
- Financial Officer
Scott Fels
- Accounting Assistant
Kellie Morrison



Flathead County

- County Coordinator
Dianna Kintzler
- Independent Living Specialist
Vacant
- SD-CFC/PAS Specialist
Aleyna Raymond

Ravalli County

- Deputy Director
Alan Fugleberg
- Independent Living Specialist
Alice Mainwaring
- Peer Support Specialist
Mary Millin

Lake County

- Deputy Director
Alan Fugleberg
- Independent Living Specialist
Susan Morris
- Independent Living Specialist
Carol Madden

New Summit Staff

Ryan Kellan Jean Youth Independent Living Specialist - Missoula



Ryan Kellan Jean was born in Missoula and enjoys going on hikes, watching horror movies, listening to CDs, and spending time with their partner and 3 cats; Malulu, Ona Bean, and Chalupa.

Ryan went to the University of Montana and completed a degree in Women & Gender Studies as well as minors in Media Arts and Psychology. In college, Ryan gained experience working for and with people who have disabilities, primarily in group home or institutional settings.

After school, Ryan pursued a degree in Mortuary Science and worked as a funeral director before coming to Summit. Ryan is very excited to be working with Summit and BASE to help advocate for those who have disabilities and looks forward to continuing to work already being done.

Mary Willard Public Health Outreach Coordinator - Missoula



Mary Willard (She/Her) is the new Public Health Outreach Coordinator at Summit. She has been working in the field of Independent Living for about 16 years in a variety of roles, including a previous position at Summit ILC working with Peer and Youth Programs, the Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities as a Research Assistant while attaining her Masters in Social Work, and almost ten years working as the Director of Training for the Association of Programs for

Rural Independent Living. Mary is excited to come back to Summit and apply her national Independent Living experiences and connections in her local community. When not working, she enjoys spending time with her two young children and husband, getting outside as often as she can, learning new recipes, and exploring as many Montana lakes as possible in the summer.

Mary believes that with community, we are stronger, and would love for you to reach out, say hello, talk about what your organization does or what you think our community needs to move towards more positive health outcomes for Montanan's with disabilities.

New Summit Staff

Blake de Pastino Communications Director - Missoula



Blake has more than 20 years of experience in journalism, educational writing, and content strategy. In his 12-year stint in video content, he co-created three of the most watched and trusted educational channels on YouTube (Crash Course, SciShow, and PBS Eons, which he still co-hosts for PBS Digital Studios). Before that, he was executive editor of a nonprofit journalism network in Washington, D.C., and was one of the founding editors of National Geographic News, the daily online news service of the National Geographic Society.

Blake also volunteers as the communications chair of 406 Pride, an LGBTQ+ nonprofit based in Billings, and enjoys film and television acting as a hobby and side hustle.

Blake is excited to become part of the Summit team as communication director.

Hamilton Office Update

The Ravalli County office in Hamilton continues to be busy. Roxanne Fisher, a former peer advocate, was promoted to Program Support Specialist for Summit's Ravalli County office. Activity groups such as Thank Goodness It's Art Friday, The Hero Squad, Aktion Club (People First) and Art Expressions continue to be well attended, especially Art Expressions.

Alice Mainwaring, Independent Living Specialist, is developing a Living Well in the Community Course to be offered in Hamilton beginning in June.

Deputy Director Alan Fugleberg, who serves on the Rocky Mountain ADA Center Advisory Council, authored an article that was published in January. It is titled Digital accessibility in Post-Secondary Education: A critical consideration for executives and senior administrative officers. Alan also presented on this topic during the Advisory Committees meeting in March.

For more information about our classes and workshops please call 406-363-5242.

Ronan Office Update

Carol Madden, Independent Living Specialist, completed the Living Well in the Community Facilitator training in January. In March, she began offering a Living Well in the Community class for consumers in Lake County. Carol has also been teaching weekly Building Advocacy and Learning Leadership Skills (BALLS) classes at the high schools in Polson and Thompson Falls.

The Lake/Sanders County office is receiving a number of Pre-Employment and Transition Services for youth in Lake and Sanders counties. This work is being done under contract with Montana Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Alan Fugleberg, previously County Coordinator for Lake/Sanders, and Ravalli counties, was appointed Deputy Director for Summit. He will continue to work from the offices in Ronan and Hamilton, and will assist in Missoula as needed.

Summit leased new office space in Polson for the Lake/Sanders County office. Remodeling is underway, and the office will move from Ronan to Polson about June 1.

If you have any questions about our classes and workshops, please call 406-215-1604.

Kalispell Office Update

Happy Spring from Kalispell!

Our youth group, YODA, continues to meet twice monthly on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. We continue to promote team building with group activities that focus on collaboration, advocacy, and, of course, fun! Upcoming meetings are April 9th, April 23rd, and May 14th.

We are excited to announce that in partnership with the Whitefish Community Foundation, Our YODA group will be hosting and enjoying a four part series on the topic of Food and Nutrition. The first of the four sessions will be held at the Summit Office in Kalispell from 4-6 p.m. on April 9th. The guest presenter will be Denise White of the Flathead County Health Department. This will be a tasting party with Charcuterie boards. Denise will be teaching us about portion size and introducing some interesting foods! If you are a young person with a disability who is 14-30ish, we invite you to join our YODA group for these and other events. Future sessions will be held at Glacier High School and will include Taco Tuesday and Italian Night. Please RSVP as seating is limited.

Our arts and crafts group, Third Wednesday Crafternoon, meets each month on the third Wednesday from 2-4p.m. Participants can try a provided project or work on something of their own. Abilities of all kinds are welcome to join the fun! In March we created shamrock Art. Upcoming meetings are April 17th, May 15th, and June 19th.

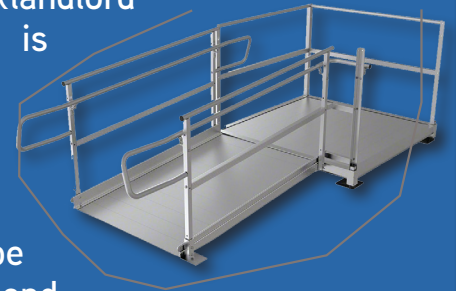
Beginning May 2nd, we are offering a workshop Called Living Well in the Community (LWC). LWC is a ten session workshop within the HCL Program for people who want to set goals to support their overall quality of life and wellbeing. The workshops will be held on Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 p.m

Please contact Dianna at 406-257-0048 ext.3 or dkintzler@summitilc.org if you are interested in joining a class or workshop.



Regional Access and Mobility Program (RAMP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission is to provide dignified self-sufficiency for persons with disabilities and seniors in communities throughout western and central Montana, primarily Missoula County, by providing wheelchair ramps and other accommodations for accessibility.

An agreement between RAMP and the property owner (landlord in some cases) is signed stating that when the ramp is no longer necessary notification will be given to remove and return the ramp.



The modular aluminum ramps are purchased by RAMP so therefore all property of RAMP. Ramps are loaned out at no cost to the individual/household for the duration the need exists. Ramps that are no longer required are refit for new qualified households.

For more information: Dial 211, or call 406-549-5555



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



SUMMIT BOARD

Molly Blair
Gabrielle Broere
Peter Drakos
Michelle McLane

Kelly Sellars
Sherene Ricci
Tom Seekins


Independent Living Skills Training Workshop



Elevate Your Skills with Our Skills Training Classes

Designed to enhance personal growth and life skills to promote independence and maximize your potential to lead a fulfilling and productive life, this workshop will focus on teaching a wide range of independent living skills like making appointments and how to accommodate for different conditions for different tasks like chores, shopping, living wills, making appointments, and more.

 **Date: Thursdays, April 4 - June 6, 2024**

 **Time: 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

 **Location: 700 SW Higgins, Suite 101**

Call Alyssa or Theresa to Register - 406-728-1630



DISASTER PLANNING

(by Lily Hartman)

How Do I Stay Informed About Local Disasters and Emergencies?

"There is no harm in hoping for the best as long as you're prepared for the worst." – Stephen King.

Disasters and emergencies happen unexpectedly and without warning. This makes planning and preparation essential. Preparedness can calm feelings of fear, anxiety, and help reduce losses during a disaster. The best guarantee for survival for all Montanans, especially those with disabilities, is to make an individual and/or family emergency preparedness plan.

The first step when planning ahead for emergencies is for you and your family to STAY INFORMED by signing up to receive your local emergency alerts. When you sign up to receive local emergency alerts you stay informed about emergencies happening in your area and get important safety information such as evacuation notices, active shooter alerts, road closures, and weather alerts.

How to sign up to receive local emergency alerts:

- Visit your local county/reservation government website, social media page to find out what emergency alert system is currently being utilized (Rave Alert, CodeRED, Nixle, and Hyper-reach).
- Follow the link on the county website, or if the link is not provided go directly to the emergency alert systems website utilized by your county.
- Once on the emergency alert webpage follow the steps to make a personal account. Make sure to choose your language preference and whether you want to receive alerts on your email or smart phone.
- After making an account be sure to continue to update your information every six months.

People who DON'T have internet/cell service, or live in a county/reservation that don't use a local emergency alert system should make sure to periodically listen to their local radio stations and TV broadcasts.

MORE TO COME, be prepared for the next disaster. The Summit Independent Living Newsletter is running a series of articles that will sequentially provide in depth information on each of the steps on how to best prepare for emergencies and disasters.

Next Article: How do I create an individual and/or family emergency plan?



BASE SCHEDULE

725 West Alder, #4 Missoula, MT

- **All Abilities Yoga on Zoom**
Wednesdays 4pm-5pm
- **Game Night**
Every Thursday (**Call for Details**)
- **Art Group**
Fridays 1pm-3pm
- **Healthy Relationship Class**
(**Call for Details**)
- **Improv Workshop**
Every Thursday (**Call for Details**)
- **BOLD Game Night**
2nd Wednesday monthly 5:00-7:00pm

Workshops Coming Soon:
 -BASE Movie Night
 -Stage Combat
 -Film Workshops

**For BASE Schedule Updates and
 Additional Events go to:**
www.summitilc.org/calendar
 or check the BASE Facebook page at
<https://www.facebook.com/base725>

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

Contact BASE:
www.basemissoula.org
 Phone: 406-215-1080

CLASSIFIED ADS

Jazzy Pride Wheelchair

\$1000 obo, only 2yrs old
 call: Linda 406-531-4938

Shoprider power chair

300lb capacity. Needs battery & charger.
 Free (406) 728-1630

Symmetry Stander, 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

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.umd.edu/mtdb/>

Summit is funded in part under an agreement with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Any statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department.

INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

According to the IRS Tax assistance locator and AARP tax assistance location finder these are four tax assistance locations in or around Summit's four offices located in Missoula, Hamilton, Polson, and Kalispell.

We recommend calling prior to showing up for assistance.

To find other locations near you go to

<https://apps.irs.gov/app/office-locator/>

or

https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/locations/

Hamilton:

Ravalli County FCU
501 N 1st Street
Hamilton, MT 59840
phone: 406-363-4631

Missoula:

The International Rescue
Committee Missoula
3203 S Russell St
Missoula, MT 59801
phone: 406-210-2047

Kalispell:

IRS Tax Assistant Center
275 Corporate Ave.
Suite 120
Kalispell, MT 59901
phone: 844-545-5640

Polson:

Polson Senior Center
504 3rd Ave. E.
Polson, MT 59860
phone: 406-883-4735

BECOME AN ADVOCATE



Scan to sign up for email alerts, view posted alerts, or even see what legislation we are tracking.

The Montana Centers for Independent Living Action Alert system is an email listserv and online portal designed to inform you about current local, state, and national issues that affect the lives of people with disabilities.



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

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