



# Newsletter

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[www.sunburstfoundation.org](http://www.sunburstfoundation.org)

## ***Plum Creek Supports Sunburst Mental Health Expansion***

Plum Creek Foundation recently awarded Sunburst \$5000 to help with the expansion of mental health services into Eureka and Libby. The funds will provide support to the two Lincoln County centers as staff begins preparing new offices, training new hires and getting the word out into the communities about the services that will be available. The support from Plum Creek is greatly appreciated as it eases the financial burden of opening mental health centers in these two rural locations. Kirsten Smith, vice president of the Plum Creek Foundation, wrote in her letter announcing the award, "We are pleased to be able to support your organization and the communities in which Plum Creek employees live and work."

Sunburst staff was very enthused when they got news about the award. As both offices get set up, Lisa Thiel, the mental health program manager, is meeting with community residents and other organizations in both Eureka and Libby to tell them about the new services that will be available through the Sunburst offices.

## **New Art Horizons in Polson**

After an informal meeting between Sunburst Polson staff Sandy Farrell and Sunburst Eureka staff Rita Collins, a plan was hatched to connect Sandy and interested consumers in Polson to Bozeman tile artist Sarah Anderson. Sarah stopped in Polson for an afternoon to work with Sandy and Tira Matt in May, teaching them the fundamentals of mosaics. Sarah also donated materials which will be used to do mosaic projects in Polson. The next time you are down that way, be sure to look at the results.

Mosaic by Sarah Anderson ↓



## ***Circle of Security Grant***

The Montana Children's Trust Fund awarded Sunburst's Family Concepts program grant funds to give Circle of Security classes in six communities including St. Ignatius, Polson, Thompson Falls, Eureka, Libby and Hamilton. These classes have an overall goal to prevent child abuse and neglect by enabling at-risk parents to develop new skills and understanding and, within the classes, to be part of a supportive peer group. Most Sunburst Family Support Workers attended Circle of Security training this last winter. Besides giving Sunburst staff an opportunity to work with parents, another goal of the Children's Trust Fund grant is to increase awareness in our communities about how to raise children in a healthy and supportive way.

## **BIG Sale at Kalispell Sunburst!**

Consumers and staff at the Sunburst Kalispell office have been collecting items during the last month and are going to have an outrageous rummage sale on July 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 4:00. The sale will be held at the Kalispell Sunburst site at 2282 Highway 93 S. For additional information on the sale, call 256-8721. The sale will offer many gently used items including furniture, clothes, books, toys, household items, exercise equipment and tools. Don't miss this opportunity to get some great deals and support Sunburst all at the same time! The money raised at the rummage sale will go towards providing trips for consumers as well as having emergency funds available for individuals in the Kalispell area.

## **Welcome new staff....**

Karen Dean, Family Concepts supervisor, is pleased to announce the recent hire of two new Family Support Workers: Karen Keith in Helena and Jane Conkel in Libby. Karen will be doing her practicum for an MSW degree at Walla Walla with Sunburst. She will be taking over some of Matt and Shari's overflow in our Helena office. Jane is being trained by Kayla White at the Sunburst Libby site in both the UA program and Family Support work. Kayla will transfer some of her caseload to Jane as Kayla is busy overseeing the UA program now for Sunburst sites, helping with intakes for Sunburst mental health services in Libby and still doing many hours of Family Support work.



## ***Bicycles Donated to Sunburst***

Through the help of the Evergreen Lions Club and Sunburst service coordinator Jenny Burk, eight lucky consumers in Kalispell will be riding bicycles this summer. Each year the Kalispell Police give bicycles that they have accumulated over the year to a civic organization to disburse. This year the Lions Club received eight of the bikes and passed them on to Sunburst. It is certainly the perfect time of year to think about going for a ride. Thanks to all the individuals who made this possible.



## **Home Support Services Now Available**

Sunburst now offers Home Support Services! Home Support Services (or HSS) is an in-home therapeutic service for youth ages 4 to 18 years old. Typically youth that benefit from this program are children who have either been placed out of the home recently (in a hospital for psychiatric reasons, a group home, jail, etc.) or are at risk of being placed outside of the home due to clinically significant behaviors.

Home Support Services is an additional support families can use within their own homes to work toward preventing the placement of a child outside of the community. We are very pleased to be offering this service. If it sounds like it might be a good fit for your family or someone you know, please contact the Sunburst Mental Health Services office in your community. Emily Pray, one of our Sunburst therapists, is the coordinator for our Home Support Services.

*We are always looking for ideas or photos for the Sunburst newsletter. Send to [mtsunburst@yahoo.com](mailto:mtsunburst@yahoo.com)*