



# Newsletter

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

## March is Social Work Month



SOCIAL WORK MONTH 2014

The official theme for Social Work Month in 2014 is "All People Matter."

Celebrated each March, National Professional Social Work Month is an opportunity for social workers across the country to turn the spotlight on their profession and highlight the important

contributions they make to society. This year's theme and logo were chosen to help raise awareness about the American social work profession's 116-year commitment to improving social conditions and the quality of life opportunities for everyone.

Here at Sunburst we would like to turn the spotlight on the social workers who make our organization so fantastic! Can you believe that we have fifteen totally awesome social workers on staff? They include: Jenny Burk, Karen Dean, Maya Negron, Patty Murrin, Cori Hembrook, Michelle Hines, Naomi Wood, Mary Olstad, Marcia Tharp, Lisa Orr, Emily Pray, Shirley Butler, Lisa Thiel, Megan Bailey and Julie Fleck. When you see any of these individuals during the month of March, be sure to congratulate them on making a positive difference in the lives that they touch. The American social work profession was established in the late 19th century to ensure that immigrants and other vulnerable people gained tools and skills to escape economic and social poverty. Social workers believe in the importance of human relationships in civil society, and that each person has dignity and worth. We see this daily in the work that the fifteen social workers here at Sunburst do to make this world a better place. To learn more about the history and accomplishments of social workers in the US, visit <http://www.socialworkers.org>.

## New Grant for Sunburst Village!

Montana's Department of Public Health and Human Services has recently awarded Sunburst an 18-month grant to help develop the Sunburst Village. The grant will provide staff and supplies to help the Village offer a wider range of services. Mandy Winegardner will be the supervisor for the project which will include other staff members who are already part of the Kalispell team. A new position for a Peer Specialist will also be developed. As part of the grant, those staff involved in this project will receive additional training in peer support services. The Sunburst Village has been taking shape since last December and currently has Sunny's (a snack bar open Monday – Friday), spaces for reading, games and watching movies as well as an art room, offices and a large meeting room. The dedicated staff to the Village as a result of this grant will help develop more programs integrating a range of services and the larger community.



Mural  
by  
Emily  
Pray

### ***First Class under Washington Grant***

The first class under the grant from the Washington Foundation happened on February 24! Four participants and staff from Polson and four from Kalispell learned how to paint on silk to create beautiful scarves. The teacher for this class was artist (and potter) Sally Steward. Sally was an art teacher in Eureka schools for many years and retired to begin a pottery business. She also now teaches community art classes in Lincoln and Flathead Counties. Besides teaching the eight Sunburst students, Sally outfitted bins with the necessary supplies so those who took her class can continue to make painted scarves. The goal is to sell the scarves along with other artistic creations at Sunburst booths at the farmers markets in Polson and Eureka and through local galleries. This will provide income to the artists who made the pieces as well as give a percentage to Sunburst to maintain the necessary art supplies. The next set of classes, held in March, will be on gardening and take place in Mission, Polson and Kalispell. All classes and registration are arranged in Kalispell by Katrina Arnold and in Polson by Sandy Farrell. Contact them if you want more information on upcoming classes or have ideas for where the art products and plants can be sold. Both Katrina and Sandy are very enthused about the possibilities of having these courses in art and gardening to develop marketable skills for interested consumers. Besides developing skills, the courses also expand knowledge about Sunburst in the communities as we bring professional artists and master gardeners into teach and we have a presence at local farmers markets.



### **Yeah for communication!!**

During a recent 'working retreat', Julie Fleck and Rita Collins came up with the idea to provide an intranet site for Sunburst staff. This is a web-based site that contains information such as all employee contacts, necessary forms, news, a Sunburst calendar, personnel policies, minutes from board meetings and general information. It will be an easy one-stop-shop for staff to go to find out about upcoming events, get necessary forms if they happen to not be at their regular desks and learn about what is happening at other Sunburst locations. The site, "Sunburst Staff", will be up and running by early March. Staff will access it through their Google account. Ideas about what other items would be useful to have on the intranet site can be sent to Rita (mtnsunburst@yahoo.com). Sunburst Staff is not accessible by the public. Refer your consumers, neighbors, friends, etc to our public website so they can get more information about Sunburst (www.sunburstfoundation.org)



### **Shout out to Family Concepts/Families in Partnership**

Karen Dean, supervisor for Sunburst's Family Concepts and Families in Partnership programs gave a shout out to those stars who helped get her staff onboard with Harmony, our new electronic billing system. Kayla Friss, Maya Negrón and Kathy Estes worked together to train FC/FIP staff and help them trouble shoot the new system. FC/FIP staff will all begin using Harmony full time beginning March 1. Way to go! And right on their heels is Sunburst staff in mental health services which plans to be on board with Harmony by the middle of March.