



SESSION DAY PRESENTERS

Human Needs Session Day

January 11, 2023

Thank you to our speakers for generously donating their time and expertise to support Leadership Missoula

Amy Allison Tompson – Executive Director, Missoula Food Bank & Community Center

Email: athompson@missoulafoodbank.org

Amy grew up in Havre and is the Executive Director at Missoula Food Bank and Community Center. Amy cares deeply about social justice and making the world a little bit kinder. She graduated from the University of Montana, with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in social work. Previously, she served as the Executive Director of the Poverello Center and the National Association of Social Workers Montana Chapter. She also worked as a psychotherapist and specializes in issues related to domestic violence, LGBTQIA+ issues, and homelessness. In addition, she served on the board of directors for the YWCA of Great Falls. She was instrumental in the creation and development of the Great Falls LGBTQ Center. Amy loves to adventure with her 6 year old son, Porter, and mountain bike, hike, run, ski, and play hockey.

What speaker(s) inspire you? Barach Obama

What Podcasts are you currently listening to? You're wrong about

What book(s) are you currently reading? On our Best Behavior

What is your 'why' and how does that relate to your leadership style? Everyone deserves to have their needs met. I care about my team & strive for excellence.

Please list any volunteer opportunities within your organization or those you serve that may be available.

Empower pack build

Resource assisting

Sorting

Stocking

Samantha "Sam" Hilliard, Coordinated Entry Specialist, City of Missoula

Email: hilliards@ci.missoula.mt.us

I've worked in housing/houselessness in Missoula for the past 10 years. My experience ranges from direct service and outreach at the Poverello Center to co-running a regional rental assistance/case management program for those living with HIV/AIDs at Open Aid Alliance to now providing system-level

support/leadership with the City for the past 4 years. I've received a Masters in Social Work and Masters in Public Administration from the U of Montana.

What speaker(s) inspire you? Sonya Renee Taylor, Jonathan Van Ness, Anne Helen Petersen

What Podcasts are you currently listening to? All My Relations - Matika, Desi, Adrienne; That's Spooky - Tyler + Johnny

What book(s) are you currently reading? Never Whistle at Night - compilation, various authors

What is your 'why' and how does that relate to your leadership style? My 'why' is grounded in values of acceptance, social love, and equity. I want to help create a future where everyone in our community has access to services and support they need, while also being honored and respected exactly where they are today. My leadership style recognizes that a "leader" can look a lot of different ways and I strive to empower those around me to find their niche while being humble, creative, and consistent. If I had to label my style - "transformative/participative" - I'm a dreamer, and I want to get there in community.

Please list any volunteer opportunities within your organization or those you serve that may be available.

Any number of Missoula Coordinated Entry Systems' partners have volunteer opportunities

If you are interested in a City-based project related to houselessness, please don't hesitate to reach out Missoula Interfaith Collaborative's Housing Advocate Network

Clair Bopp, Director of Shelter Services – Poverello Center

Email: cbopp@thepoverellocenter.org

Clair Bopp is a dedicated professional with a passion for making a difference in the lives of others. Having earned her undergraduate degree in History at Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, MI, Clair's journey led her to Montana in pursuit of trail work, a decision that would ultimately shape her career. She went on to complete her Masters in Social Work at the University of Montana in 2016, solidifying her commitment to community service. Her international experience as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant in Austria broadened her horizons, and upon returning, she began her journey at the Poverello Center in 2015 as a practicum student and is currently the Director of Shelter Services. Clair is committed to the organization's mission of providing food, shelter, help, and hope to all who ask.

Dori Gilels, Member of the Capital Campaign Committee – Mountain Home Montana

Email: dorigilels@gmail.com

Cori Gilels is a seasoned entrepreneur worth over two decades of leadership experience in the public and private sectors. She currently serves on the capital campaign committee for Mountain Home Montana to support the acquisition and remodeling of a second location for transitional housing and wrap around services for young moms and moms-to-be.

What speaker(s) inspire you? Monica Tranel, Montana candidate for Congress

What Podcasts are you currently listening to? The Daily by NYTimes.

What book(s) are you currently reading? Han the Moon, Jeannette Walls & The Lost Journals of Sacajawea, Debra Magpie Earling.

What is your 'why' and how does that relate to your leadership style? I want to become the best version of myself by being of service to others. I want to protect and improve the health and welfare of my community, support women's leadership and set a good example for my children.

Please list any volunteer opportunities within your organization or those you serve that may be available.

Educate others about the work of Mountain Home Montana

Participate in the Open Table Mentoring Program

Donate and encourage your business organization to support Mountain Home Montana

Offer services/donate goods to the clients of Mountain Home Montana. <https://mountainhomemt.org/donate-items/>

Jim Hicks, Executive Director, Hope Rescue Mission

Email: info@hopemontana.org

Hope Rescue Mission: Executive Director 2020 to Present
Christian Life Center, Missoula: Senior Assoc Pastor 2008-2009
New Life Community Church, Walla Walla, WA Lead Pastor 1983-2008
Custer County Assembly, Church, Challis, ID Lead Pastor 1980-1983

What speaker(s) inspire you? Carey Nieuwhof,

What Podcasts are you currently listening to? Bible Project, Gospel In Life, Hold On: How Therapists see the mental health Crisis, Leadership Daily, Truth over Tribe, King of the Ride, etc...

What book(s) are you currently reading? Suffering and the Heart of God. The Sun is my Compass, The Reason For God, Unearthing Leadership.

What is your 'why' and how does that relate to your leadership style? My what is Walking with the poor, which means walking into trauma, this is the call for the twenty first century to serve, rescue and transform those in need.

Please list any volunteer opportunities within your organization or those you serve that may be available.

Outreach to unhoused
Housing navigation
Coach approach to counseling
Poverello Center's Homeless Outreach Team

Theresa Williams, Crisis Intervention Team Program Manager – City of Missoula Police Department

Email: williamst@ci.missoula.mt.us

Theresa Williams has worked in the behavioral health, criminal justice and housing/houselessness arenas for over 20 years. She initially became interested in pursuing social work when she accepted a part-time position at the Poverello Center in 2003 while attending college at the University of Montana.

She has experience in providing direct service (e.g., street outreach, supportive housing service coordinator, therapist in a jail setting) and community and systems level service through the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and the Crisis Intervention Team Program.

She is a licensed clinical social worker, certified mental health professional person, has a master's degree in social work from Portland State University and an undergraduate degree in social work from the University of Montana.

She is an active member of the National Association of Social Workers - MT Chapter, where she volunteers on the social policy committee. She is presenting on the panel for Human Needs' Day.

What speaker(s) inspire you? Brene Brown's perspective and research around Leadership; Former Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts (she was involved in my Master's Program); close friends and colleagues in the field of Social Work, like Amy Allison Thompson.

What Podcasts are you currently listening to? I haven't been able to listen to any recently.

What book(s) are you currently reading? The last book I read, outside of numerous children's books because I am a parent, was Trevor Noah's "Born a Crime"

What is your 'why' and how does that relate to your leadership style? My 'why' revolves around creating lasting societal change by fostering collaborative relationships across disciplines to tackle complex public

health issues like homelessness and behavioral health jail diversion. This commitment to partnership and equity centered approaches forms the bedrock of my leadership, emphasizing deliberate, inclusive strategies that prioritize learning and sustainable solutions.

Ben Davis, Executive Director - Friends of the Children

Email: bdavis@friendsmontana.org

Ben Davis serves as executive director of Friends of the Children in western Montana.

Prior to launching Friends of the Children in Montana in 2021, Davis co-founded and served as chief research officer of a groundbreaking research and data analytics company, Kharon. Davis previously worked as a district attorney for a number of years prosecuting family violence and child abuse cases. It was during this period when he became deeply involved in volunteering his time to mentor children and work on social equity issues impacting youth and their families.

Earlier in his career, Ben served as an advisor in the U.S. Department of the Treasury Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence and represented the Department of the Treasury as an attaché in the Middle East. He was awarded the Secretary of the Treasury's Honor Award for his service.

Ben is a member of the Montana Child Welfare Advisory Council and incoming member of the Providence Hospital Community Mission Board.

Ben is a graduate of Georgetown University, BS; University of Chicago, MA; and Catholic University of America, JD.

We invite volunteers to host fun youth activities and work site visits for our youth to expand their horizons and help them to find their spark

Serve as a host for a community conversation at our Clubhouse for your friends and colleagues to learn first-hand about our mission and model at Friends of the Children

Donate new or gently used clothing, toys, games, sports equipment and learning materials, as well as cleaning supplies, gas and gas grocery cards for caregivers.

Help prepare a meal for families for a family dinner and game night delivered to each family's home.

Arlene Walker-Andrews – Retired, formerly Professor and Associate Provost, University of Montana

Email: a.walkerandews@gmail.com

I graduated from the University of Texas with a B.A. in Psychology and then completed a Ph.D. at Cornell University in 1981. My research focused on infants' perceptual and cognitive development. I taught at Rutgers University for 22 years before coming to the University of Montana as Associate Provost. I now serve on the Missoula County Schools Board of Trustees as the high school Vice Chair and as a Director for the Montana School Boards Association. Before moving to Montana, I served two terms on the Cranbury Board of Education in Cranbury, NJ.

What book(s) are you currently reading? Mean Spirits; Tabula Rasa by John McFee

Kate Morris, Development Manager – CASA of Missoula

Email: date@casamissoula.org

Kate Morris joined CASA of Missoula in August of 2022 as the volunteer coordinator of ICWA Court. Since then she's moved into the position of development Manager. Morris has 10+ years of nonprofit experience, having worked at the Zootown Arts Community Center, the Poverello Center, and child Care Resources, and has also worked as an educator. Before coming to CASA of Missoula, Morris taught at the American Foundation School in Guadalajara, Jalisco.

What speaker(s) inspire you? Honestly? I don't watch speeches; I listen to in views on podcasts

What Podcasts are you currently listening to? Vibe check, Up First, The Daily, Pivot, On with Kara Swisher, Maintenance Phase, If books could Kill, On being, + a handful of history, society and politics podcasts.

What book(s) are you currently reading? Hospicing Modernity, (about to state bliss Montage and Age of Insecurity)

What is your 'why' and how does that relate to your leadership style? I believe everyone in a society should care for each other until each has an ability to thrive, and I do this work to live those values, using my skills to that end as best I can. In leadership, I focus on compassion and empathy to encourage others to create their own ways of doing community care.

Please list any volunteer opportunities within your organization or those you serve that may be available.

Become a Court appointed Special Advocate

Become an Outreach Advocate with CASA

For those with a background in Public Health or Social Work, please contact me about joining our board

Heather Foster, Chief Financial Officer – The Greater Missoula Family YMCA

Email: hfster@ymcamissoula.org

Heather Foster is the CEO of the Missoula Family YMCA. She first joined the Y in 2014 as its HR director before assuming her current role in 2018. The YMCA is a 501c3 charitable nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the community of Missoula through Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. The YMCA is one of Missoula's oldest and largest nonprofit organizations employing over 325 employees and serving thousands of families and children annually. Under Heather's leadership, the Y has raised over a \$2 million to benefit its financial assistance programs, served more than 450,000 healthy meals and snacks to children, expanded services to become Montana's largest provider of licensed child care, provided health and wellness programs to more than 15,000 Missoulians and most recently has led the organization through transformational changes during the pandemic, ensuring the Y kept its doors open to provide emergency child care to essential employees, worked with local partners on food distribution, supported isolated seniors and innovative wellness programming creating a new virtual Y. In addition to leading the Missoula YMCA, Heather also serves in the following roles supporting YMCA's across the Mountain West Region. Policy and Advocacy Chair- MT Alliance of YMCA's, board member for Mountain State Alliance of YMCA's and committee member for the Regional Advisory Hub- Midwest/Mountain YMCA'S.

Originally from Coram, MT Heather earned her bachelor's in Health and Human Services from MSU–Billings. She spent a decade at Clark Fork Riverside, a HUD subsidized senior living facility as its HR director and service coordinator before joining the Y. In her spare time, Heather enjoys baking, rafting with her family, and volunteering as the Tamarack Grief Resource Center's Board President.

Paige Judnich – Cascadia Management Group

Email: Paige@cascadiamg.com

Paige joined the Cascadia Management team as a Senior Consultant in 2020 to provide ad hoc HR support in partnership with the rest of the Cascadia team. Paige offers almost a decade in corporate Human Resources and Talent Acquisition. Her specialties include HR leadership training, HR infrastructure development and support, employee relations, and culture building.

Starting with her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from the University of Puget Sound, Paige has always had a passion for effective and productive communication in the workplace. She provides expert guidance through difficult situations and offers accessible frameworks for her clients to use for future situations.

Paige has provided HR support to Montana businesses since 2003 and is proud to raise her two daughters with her husband in Missoula.

When Paige isn't supporting clients; she can be found running her two kids around town, substitute teaching, walking her dog around the neighborhood, or coordinating her church's youth group.

Beth Brewer – Beth Brewer, LCSW, Children's Services Director

Email: beth@mountainhomemt.org

Beth is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has worked in Mental Health in the Missoula Community for twelve years. She was the Director of Developmental Disabilities and Home Support Services at Full Circle Mental Health Center, then became the Clinical Director of mental health services when Full Circle became Consumer Direct Behavioral Health. She ran a private practice counseling business, Mend Counseling that focused on the needs of children. She was an Adjunct Professor at the University of Montana teaching a Social Work course called Individuals and Families. She has worked at Mountain Home for the past 4 years in leadership, helping develop and grow their children's services and supervising other clinical staff. She is a mom to two completely wonderful boys and loves to rock out in her band Motorhome whenever she gets the chance. In this panel discussion she hopes to highlight the needs of children and young families in the post covid era.

What speaker(s) inspire you? Maria Bamford

What Podcasts are you currently listening to? On the Media, Maintenance Phase, Through Line

What book(s) are you currently reading? The Heaven and Earth grocery Store, A Fever in the Heartland

What is your 'why' and how does that relate to your leadership style? Everyone needs someone to accompany them through difficult times. I am so grateful to be able to be with people at important moments in their life. As a leader and clinical supervisor for mental health providers, I focus on the privilege we are given by others to walk alongside them when they most need support and are at their most vulnerable. I also focus on our inability as providers to control outcomes for clients and the importance of allowing self-direction for clients and their families.

Please list any volunteer opportunities within your organization or those you serve that may be available.

We accept donations

We do a spring clean-up annually

We always need premade freezer meal donations

Jesse Schrakfnagel – Programs Manager, Montana Food Bank Network

Email: jschraufnagel@mfbn.org

2004 – 2007 Poverello Center, Program Manager. 2017 to present, Montana Food Bank Network, Programs Manger

What speaker(s) inspire you? Robert Egger

What book(s) are you currently reading? Dreamers – On the Trail of the Nez Perce

Please list any volunteer opportunities within your organization or those you serve that may be available.

Food repack

Mail-A-Meal Box Builds

Volunteer at one of our partner Agencies