

## LM 38 Bio

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My name is Brandi Baker, I am the Case Manager Director at Winds of Change. I supervise the Case Managers, but I also have other tasks, such as everything involved with accepting and admitting new Group Home residents. I started at Winds of Change just over 6 years ago as a Rehab and Support staff, after a year I then applied for the Case Management position. then did Case Management in the community and in the Group Home. I loved being a Case Manager, however, I wanted to do more, so when the Case Manager Director position opened, I applied and in 2021 I obtained my license as an LBSW. Prior to working for Winds of Change, I had worked for Liberty Mutual as a workers compensation Case Manager. I realized after 8 years that I did not want to do that work anymore, but I did not know what I wanted to do so I went back to college at 34 years old. I spent my first two semesters still not knowing what I wanted to do, but I knew I wanted to do something that made a difference. I spoke to a close friend of mine that was in the Social Work program at the University of Montana. She told me about the program and at that moment that that is what I wanted to do. But, once I graduated, I was back to that same spot of not knowing what field I wanted to work in. I took time off to help my son who was struggling but then it was time to go back to work, so I applied for a job at Winds of Change. At first, I thought it would only be temporary as I did not think I wanted to work in the mental health field but after a little while, I loved what I did. So here I still am, in a career I love.

I was born and raised in California. I moved from California to Idaho in 1995 right after high school and less than a year later moved to Missoula, MT. I did not think I would like Montana and told my dad that I was not going to stay here because I did not like the winters, however, after that first terrible winter, I started to enjoy it here. I have now been a resident of Missoula for 26 years. I have two adult children that were born in Missoula, they are 25 and 22 and I have a wonderful husband that I have been with for 13 years.

In my free time when I am not working, I love spending time with my family and friends. I still stay close to home in the winter months because I still do not like the cold or the snow. But why would I, I grew up in California where its warm. But in the summer, I love being on the lake on our boat, I love to travel and go on road trips, and I love a good game of cornhole with my friends.

Thank you for choosing me for Leadership Missoula. I am a little nervous to be apart of this program because it is out of my comfort zone, but I also find myself excited to see what is out there and get to know other leaders in the Missoula area.