



November—Continuum of Care (COC)

What is the COC?

A continuum of care is an organization made up of key partners responsible for local, regional, or statewide coordination of housing and services for families and individuals experiencing homelessness. For Montana, the COC is statewide. Key COC partners include Alternatives Inc., Besaw Integrity Consulting, Billings Clinic, Housing Authority of Billings, City of Billings, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Community Crisis Center, District 7 HRDC, Mental Health Center, MT Department of Corrections—Probation and Parole Division, Montana Rescue Mission, Rimrock Foundation, Riverstone Health, St. Vincent Healthcare, Tumbleweed, Volunteers of America (VOA), YWCA, St. Vincent DePaul, Yellowstone County, and United Way of Yellowstone County serving as the backbone.

The goal of the our COC is to make homelessness brief, rare and non-recurring in Yellowstone County. The Continuum of Care leaders have joined forces in collaborative effort to:

- * **Change the Status Quo** of how we address homelessness from isolated and competitive to coordinated and effective.
- * **Assess and Plan** together to create effective and efficient action that combines their strengths and impact. A robust assessment is currently in progress with a collaborative plan scheduled for December 2019.
- * **Share Data** in meaningful ways to guide action. Current data sharing includes a Data Dashboard and use of the Pathways system.
- * **Optimize Efforts** by working together in a manner that combines their strengths, reaches more people, and saves more money.

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November Quote: "Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself." — Leo Tolstoy

Club
President:

Rene Critelli

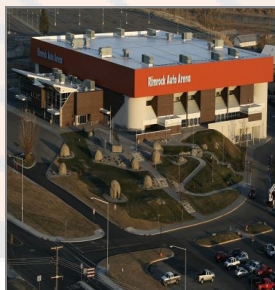


November Volunteer Opportunities:

November 6—Rocky vs. MSU Basketball
November 22—Slayer
November 23—Rocky vs. MSU Basketball
November 26—Cirque Dreams Holiday

Future Volunteer Opportunities:

December 5—Festival of Trees Gala
December 8—Kenny G
December 21—Chase Hawks Rodeo
December 28—Rocky Basketball
December 29—Rocky Basketball



Come weekly at 7:00 a.m. on Friday to the Yellowstone Room and get to know your fellow Exchangites!



EXCHANGE

BREAKFAST EXCHANGE CLUB OF BILLINGS, MT

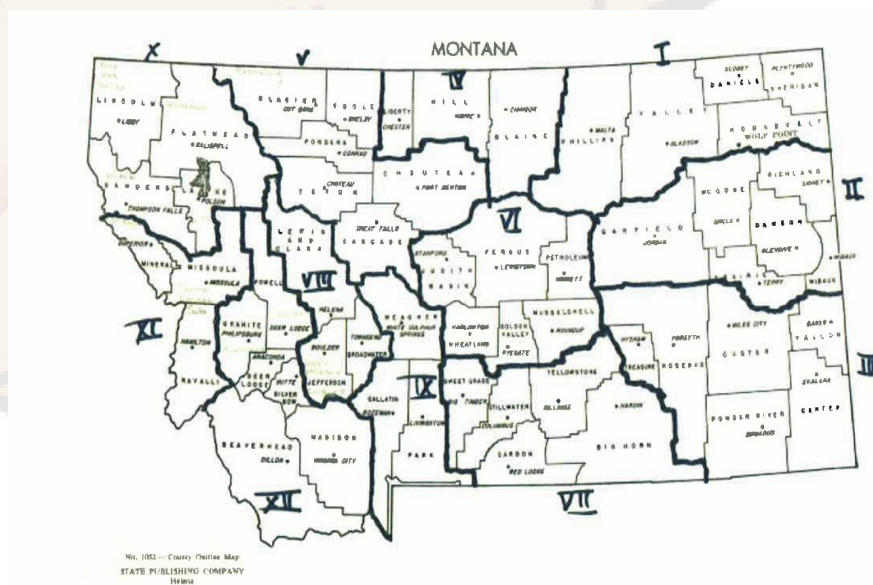
Our COC has implemented coordinated entry.

- * Case conferencing meetings are being held. The case conference meetings take place every other week to prioritize our most vulnerable and house them first.
- * A data system has been adopted. A shared database keeps the organizations connected and working together.
- * A housing inventory has been created. A comprehensive list of housing provides a clear view of resources.
- * “Front Door” agencies assess anyone in need (whether it’s their client or not) in order to break down barriers and divert more people.
- * Trainings have been conducted.
- * A Housing Navigator has been secured.

Since October 2018, 597 individuals have gone through Coordinated Entry. Of these, 74 have been housed and 50 are identified by name on the list as priorities.

The COC is also responsible for conducting a Point In Time count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless across the state, along with reporting to HUD on the housing inventory, which is the number of all types of beds in the statewide homeless system. If you ever want to participate/volunteer in a life changing event, consider volunteering to help with the Point In Time count which takes places annually the later part of January during the night. It gives you a better perspective on your life to be out for one night in the freezing cold finding homeless and conducting the surveys!

The 12 local districts in Montana:



montanacoc.org

**THE BREAKFAST
EXCHANGE CLUB OF
BILLINGS, MT**

PO Box 2224
Billings, MT

www.breakfastexchangeclub.org

Exchange, America's Service Club, is a group of men and women working together to make our communities better places to live through programs of service in Americanism, Community Service, Youth Activities, and its national project, the Prevention of Child Abuse.

Looking for something to do and support community organizations at the same time?

11/1—First Fridays
11/1-3—MarketPlace Magic (benefitting Jr. League)
11/2—Festival of Wines (Helena Exchange Club)
11/4-10—Downtown Billings Restaurant Week
11/9—Baby It's Cold Outside Gala (benefits Gratitude In Action)
11/28—Run Turkey Run!

Mondays—Community Monday @ Hooligans (each week benefits different organization)
Tuesdays—Pint night at Last Chance Cider House (each week benefits different organization)
Tuesdays—Bingo Night at 406 Kitchen & Taproom (each week benefits different organization)



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CAP Center Corner

Hungry Kids

Hunger deprives kids of more than just food! Kids who don't get enough to eat, especially during their first three years, begin life at a serious disadvantage. When they're hungry, children are more likely to be hospitalized and they face higher risks of health conditions like anemia and asthma. And as they grow up, kids struggling to get enough to eat are more likely to have problems in school and other social situations such as:

- * Repeat a grade in elementary school
- * Experience developmental impairments in areas like language and motor skills
- * Have more social and behavioral problems.

Children struggling with hunger come from families who are struggling, too. Children facing hunger often grow up in a family where a parent or parents also face hunger.

- * A family of four facing hunger may be in need of 36 additional meals a month simply because they don't have money to buy enough food.
- * 84% of households report buying the cheapest food — instead of healthy food — in order to provide enough to eat.
- * 21% of children in households at risk of hunger may be forced to rely exclusively on charitable organizations to make ends meet.

More than 11 million children in the United States live in "food insecure" homes, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). That means those families don't have enough food for every family member to lead a healthy life. One in seven children may not know where they will get their next meal. For some, it doesn't always mean that there is nothing to eat. But it can mean that children get smaller portions than they need, or parents aren't able to afford nutritious foods.

Getting the energy they need to learn and grow can be a daily challenge, but there is help. We have numerous programs in our community such as the Back Pack Program, Family Services, Food Bank, Boy's and Girl's Club, etc. that help fill the void. However, such programs need the support in the form of food or cash donations from those in our community who can afford to pick up a few extra items at the grocery store or to donate.



www.nokidhungry.org
www.feedingamerica.org



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Committee Happenings:

BECON Committee—Your November BECON Editor is Benette Darling.

Social Committee—Annual Halloween Pub Crawl is scheduled for November 2nd. The holiday party is tentatively scheduled for January 18th.

Patriotism Committee—Chili Cook Off for Veteran's Day on November 9th at the American Legion.

Dress a Child Committee—Committee Chair, Don, has been working with the Salvation Army. We are tentatively scheduled for December 14th and will shop with 70 kiddos.

GET INVOLVED

*** Committee Chairs—Please email your upcoming events to dinaharmon1212@gmail.com to be included in next months newsletter! ***