

Church Impact Report

2015



intermountain

Caring Solutions ■ Strong Families ■ Healthy Communities

www.intermountain.org | 500 S. Lamborn St. Helena, MT 59601

Radical Hospitality

In Africa, the Masai are known as the fiercest of warriors. Interestingly, though, they greet each other not with, “Hello, how are you?” nor with, “How goes the life of a warrior?” They greet each other with, “How are the children?” The Masai warriors know the well-being of the community’s children means prosperity of the whole tribe.

Some 2000 years ago, in a remote region called Galilee, there was a teacher named Jesus. His teaching was difficult and puzzling for most. “Blessed are the poor,” he said. And he fed the poor and the hungry, healed the sick, and ministered to women, outcasts, and children in the community. Children in Jesus’ day were not like Gerber babies – cute, cuddly symbols of future promise. Among the Jews – oppressed people living in poverty – they were often a liability and the first to suffer from famine, war, disease, and dislocation.



One day, Jesus placed a child before his disciples and said, “...whoever embraces one of these children as I do embraces me, and far more than me – God who sent me.”

Jesus’ purpose in focusing attention to this child was to call for a re-focusing of values. With that simple act, Jesus actually startled those around him to a radical hospitality toward the most vulnerable. How are we making our world more hospitable for the littlest, the last, the least and the lost?

The wisdom is ancient and cuts across cultural and religious boundaries. Whether from Jesus or from the Masai, we hear that we will know best how we are doing in the important things of life by how we are doing with our children.

The mission of Intermountain embodies that wisdom. Today, far too many children begin their lives without a positive adult relationship. Too many children are still living on the ‘edge,’ in ‘relational poverty,’ without the ability to connect or bond, even with people who do care for them. Intermountain exists for them, to embrace them as Jesus did.

For the children in Intermountain’s residential program, the treatment is intensive and takes almost two years. It is expensive and exhausting - for the children, their families, and the staff alike. As phenomenal as the residential program is, though, it is not for everyone.

That’s why Intermountain now provides a whole array of services for children and families who are struggling with addictions and mental health issues. What began as a rather small home for children suffering from the ravages of poverty in a gold mining town is now a resource to more than 1,500 children and families throughout Montana each year. Intermountain continues to be a place that ensures that children are taken seriously, loved unconditionally, and equipped for a fruitful and faithful life.

On behalf of the children, youth, families, staff and Board of Directors of Intermountain, I would like to thank you for your partnership in our mission. This Impact Report highlights some of your efforts, and we are blessed by every gift and prayer you have sent our way.

With sincere gratitude,

Marianne Niesen

Rev. Marianne Niesen
President – Intermountain Board of Directors

A Day of Recreation and Fellowship

Two dozen members of Helena First Assembly of God came to the Helena campus and led the children and staff in several “get to know you” games, a rousing softball game, and treated the whole campus to an amazing BBQ dinner. As if that weren’t enough, the church also purchased a 6-burner gas grill for our Therapeutic Afterschool and Summer Support program!



Our day of recreation and fellowship was an encouragement to both the members of the church and the children, staff, and families of Intermountain. We look forward to more opportunities like this as we continue to grow in relationship with one another.

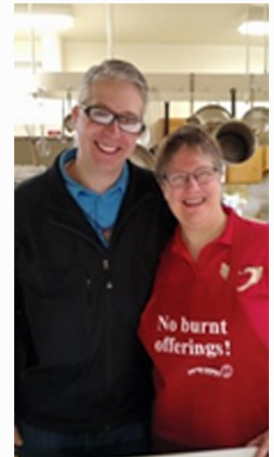
Perhaps your church or small group is interested in volunteering or coming up to Intermountain for a day of recreation, service, or fellowship? We would be more than happy to talk about the possibilities with you!

Book Sale Benefit

With retirement on the horizon, Pastors Dick Weaver and Cathy Barker of Plymouth United Church of Christ in Helena needed to cull books from their personal library. Other members at Plymouth UCC nodded sympathetically and the idea was forged to have a used book sale! The proceeds were designated for Plymouth and Intermountain.



The date was set well in advance so people from around the community had plenty of time to gather books and music to donate. After the sale, remaining books were distributed among helping agencies and the public library. The dozen volunteers who made it happen all had a great time, and went home with piles of new reading material!



At Intermountain, we appreciate our many supporting churches for the creativity in how they go about raising awareness and support. Each approach fits the needs of the individual church and its congregation and we are blessed by your efforts!

Change Cans, Tours & Festival of Trees

As Pastor Tim Lanham shared, “Change for Children represented the starting point for our involvement with supporting Intermountain. That has resulted in a relationship that has been a blessing to the members of Sunrise as well as Intermountain. Over the years we have brought lots of different groups to visit Intermountain for a tour and this fall we brought another group of our Sunday school students.” It probably doesn’t hurt that Pastor Tim includes pizza and a trip to the Carousel for ice cream as a part of the outing!



After attending the Festival of Trees in Helena, Pastor Tim and some of the Sunrise members left wondering “What if we put a group together and entered a tree in next year’s festival?” Well, they did and over the years they have found that the value of participating in the Festival of Trees is that it has allowed a broad spectrum of people in their church to participate and become more informed about Intermountain’s mission.

The tree package the Sunrise folks created for the 2014 Festival was the highest selling tree at the live auction, resulting in needed funding for the care we provide to children, youth and families as well as a shared feeling of community.

“Our commitment to Intermountain brings our congregation a wealth which cannot be measured in dollars or cents.”

-Pastor Tim Lanham



Children at Providence Home Receive Blankets

The Blessed John Paul II – Council of Catholic Women in Bigfork created and donated 24 handmade fleece blankets for the children in residential care at Providence Home in the Flathead Valley. The Council was aware that Intermountain was expanding Providence Home and they wanted to make sure that each child had a blanket that they could keep forever.

One of the blanket creators shared:

“We want the children to know that they are in our prayers and our hearts.”



Spreading Love, Sharing Hope

The children in residential care participated in Operation Christmas Child with the help of some very special guests from Laurel United Methodist Church. Intermountain children had the opportunity to put together gift boxes for children in various places around the world.

Our friends from Laurel UMC helped sort the donations, and we were able to assemble 37 boxes! Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church received the boxes and helped with the cost of shipping.

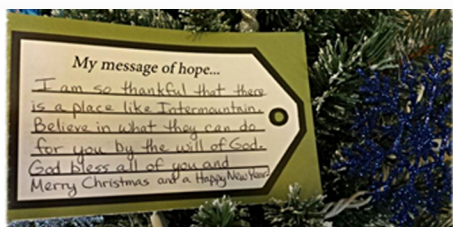


While some of our younger children struggled with the concept of assembling a gift for someone they didn't know, and not getting a gift themselves, most of the children were able to get into the spirit of giving. We prayed for the children that would be receiving our gifts and each child took time to write a note of encouragement and friendship to the young person they assembled a gift for.

It is great to be reminded that even in the midst of very difficult circumstances, we can learn to be grateful and give to others something that might be an encouragement to them. Our children are an encouragement to our staff daily and we hope to carry ourselves with the same attitude of selflessness and love that they are learning to express during their time at Intermountain.

Thank you for helping us provide these opportunities.

Message of Hope



We asked you to provide a "Message of Hope" and you responded to that request with beautiful messages filled with love, goodwill and scripture. Many of you brought tears to our eyes as you shared personal stories, thoughts and hopes for futures filled with healing and peace.

Thank you for those messages. Our children, families and staff all benefited from your reminder that they are loved and prayed for.

Be on the lookout for your 2015 blank message tags right before Thanksgiving!

Ladies Spring Tea a Resounding Success!

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Helena wanted to have a fun and festive event that could benefit Intermountain's children in residential care. Thrivent Financial graciously stepped forward with the financial support needed to offset the costs incurred. So, with the excitement and enthusiasm of nearly two dozen table designers, and with the blessing of Pastor Kendra Wilde, the project was under way.

Guests to the Tea all brought gifts for the children from the Spring and Summer "Wish List", as well as very generous cash donations. We, at Intermountain, continue to be awed by the amazing creativity and generosity of our supporting churches. Thank you!



A Message from Chaplain Chris Haughee

The work that Intermountain does with severely emotionally disturbed children requires a supernatural love—a love that is both tender and tough. Tenderness is required to enter into the tremendous pain our children feel. It is a love that is tough, because we do not only enter into a child's pain, but skillfully guide them into a healthier, full expression of who they are as God's children.

This is a love that says,

"I see you. I love you. We've got this together."

I can help keep you safe. This love reflects the very heart of God! Through word and deed, our children grow to understand that God loves them no matter what. They see confirmation of that truth through the modeling our staff provides every single day. It's hard and often exhausting work, but the end result is a greater sense of hope and a fuller sense of joy—experienced by our children, parents, and staff.

This is YOUR ministry. Every gift you give, every prayer you utter, every conversation you have that shares the mission and ministry of Intermountain is an expression of the love of God extended to vulnerable and hurting children. You are accomplishing the miraculous every day—redeeming the hearts and souls of children one relationship at a time. You bear the good news with us that hope has come and that light is breaking into their darkness. Thank you for your ministry and for the opportunity you give us to express it every day.

Chaplain Chris Haughee



Church and Church Group

Giving Since January 2014

Aldersgate United Methodist Church	Butte, MT
Bethel United Methodist Women	Sheridan, MT
Blessed John Paul II Council of Catholic Women	Bigfork, MT
Bozeman United Methodist Church	Bozeman, MT
Bozeman United Methodist Men	Bozeman, MT
Bozeman United Methodist Youth Group	Bozeman, MT
Brady United Methodist Church	Brady, MT
Calvary Community Church of Stanford	Stanford, MT
Cascade United Methodist Church	Cascade, MT
Chester United Methodist Church	Chester, MT
Chinook United Methodist Church	Chinook, MT
Choteau United Methodist Church	Choteau, MT
Christ United Methodist Women	Great Falls, MT
Community Congregational Church	Absarokee, MT
Community Presbyterian Church	Jordan, MT
Community Protestant Church	West Yellowstone, MT
Community United Methodist Church	Shelby, MT
Community United Methodist Church	Geraldine, MT
Corvallis United Methodist Church	Corvallis, MT
Corvallis United Methodist Men's Group	Corvallis, MT
Covenant United Methodist Church	Helena, MT
Crossroads Christian Fellowship	Bigfork, MT
Dayton Ladies Aid Society - Presbyterian Church	Big Arm, MT
Denton Community United Methodist Church	Denton, MT
Dutton United Methodist Church	Dutton, MT
Epworth United Methodist Church	Kalispell, MT
Epworth United Methodist Women	Kalispell, MT
Evangelical Lutheran Church Women	Big Timber, MT
Federated Ladies Aid	Harlowton, MT
First Assembly of God Church	Helena, MT
First Church of Christ Scientist	Helena, MT
First Congregational UCC	Great Falls, MT
First Congregational UCC Homeland Circle	Big Timber, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Hamilton, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Polson, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Whitefish, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Harlem, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Helena, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Havre, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Great Falls, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Bozeman, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Butte, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Stanford, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Conrad, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Kalispell, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Sheridan, WY
First United Methodist Church	Missoula, MT
First United Methodist Church	Great Falls, MT
First United Methodist Church	Glasgow, MT
First United Methodist Church	Miles City, MT
First United Methodist Church	Billings, MT
First United Methodist Church Women	Great Falls, MT
First United Methodist Church Women	Missoula, MT
First United Methodist Women	Billings, MT

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Fromberg United Methodist Church	Fromberg, MT
Glendive United Methodist Church	Glendive, MT
Golden West Lutheran Church	Conrad, MT
Golden West Lutheran Church Women	Brady, MT
Grace Community Fellowship	Helena, MT
Grace Lutheran Church	Big Sandy, MT
Grace United Methodist Church	Dillon, MT
Grace United Methodist Church	Livingston, MT
Grace United Methodist Church	Billings, MT
Grace United Methodist Women	Billings, MT
Grass Range United Methodist Church	Grass Range, MT
H.U. Club of Trinity Church	Butte, MT
Harlem Yoked Parish	Harlem, MT
Harlowton Federated Church	Harlowton, MT
Headwaters Covenant Church	Helena, MT
Hobson United Methodist Church	Hobson, MT
Hope Lutheran Church	Anaconda, MT
Hope United Methodist Church	Billings, MT
Huntley United Methodist Church	Huntley, MT
Lewistown United Methodist Church	Lewistown, MT
Lewistown United Methodist Women	Lewistown, MT
Libby United Methodist Church	Libby, MT
Life Covenant Church	Helena, MT
Lonsdale United Methodist Church	Sidney, MT
Lonsdale United Methodist Church Youth Group	Sidney, MT
Lonsdale United Methodist Women	Sidney, MT
Missoula First United Methodist Foundation	Missoula, MT
Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference UCC	Billings, MT
Montclair United Methodist Church	Belt, MT
Mountain View Trinity United Methodist Women	Butte, MT
North Bethesda United Methodist Church	Bethesda, MD
Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church	Helena, MT
Our Savior's Lutheran Church	Broadus, MT
Pilgrim Congregational UCC	Billings, MT
Pine Creek United Methodist Women	Livingston, MT
Pleasant Prairie Lutheran Women	Flaxville, MT
Plentywood United Methodist Church	Plentywood, MT
Plymouth Congregational UCC	Helena, MT
Polson Community Church	Polson, MT
Powell United Methodist Church	Powell, WY
Powell United Methodist Women	Powell, WY
Presbyterian Church	Roy, MT
Presbyterian Church Deacons Fund	Havre, MT
Presbyterian Foundation	Jeffersonville, IN
Presbyterian Women	Chinook, MT
Presbyterian Women Madison Valley	Ennis, MT
Presbyterian Women of Hot Springs	Hot Springs, MT
Presbyterian Womens Association	Gordon, NE
Presbyterian Women's Association	Wolf Point, MT
Presbyterian Women's Association	Whitefish, MT
Presbytery of Glacier	Kalispell, MT
Presbytery of Yellowstone	Bozeman, MT
Redstone United Methodist Church	Plentywood, MT
Roberts United Methodist Church	Roberts, MT
St Francis Parish Council of Catholic Women	Valier, MT
St Paul's United Methodist Church	Helena, MT
St Paul's United Methodist Women	Helena, MT
St Peter Episcopal Church	Helena, MT
Steamboat Springs United Methodist Church	Steamboat Springs, CO
Sunrise Presbyterian Church	Great Falls, MT

Ten Sleep United Methodist Women
Terry Community Presbyterian Church
Townsend United Methodist Church
Townsend United Methodist Women
Troy United Methodist Church
Union Presbyterian Church
United Church of Christ, Congregational Women's Fellowship
United Community Church
United Methodist - American Baptist Church
United Methodist - American Baptist Women
United Methodist Church
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United Presbyterian Church
United Presbyterian Women
Valier Methodist Women
Van Orsdel United Methodist Church
Van Orsdel United Methodist Women
Waynesville United Methodist Church
West Side United Methodist Church
West Side United Methodist Women
White Pine Community United Methodist Church
Whitefish United Methodist Church
Winnett United Methodist Church
Yellowstone Conference UMC
Yellowstone Conference United Methodist Women

Ten Sleep, WY
Terry, MT
Townsend, MT
Townsend, MT
Troy, MT
Powell, WY
Fairfield, MT
Colstrip, MT
Hamilton, MT
Hamilton, MT
Superior, MT
Harlem, MT
Sunburst, MT
Sun River, MT
Scobey, MT
Richey, MT
Pine Bluffs, WY
Stevensville, MT
Havre, MT
Stevensville, MT
Bozeman, MT
Fort Benton, MT
Roundup, MT
Shelby, MT
Big Sandy, MT
Carmen, ID
Columbia Falls, MT
Riverton, WY
Saint Ignatius, MT
Sun River, MT
Chinook, MT
Stanford, MT
Valier, MT
Havre, MT
Havre, MT
Waynesville, OH
Great Falls, MT
Great Falls, MT
Trout Creek, MT
Whitefish, MT
Winnett, MT
Billings, MT
Missoula, MT

In-Kind Gifts

Aldersgate United Methodist Church	Butte, MT
Bethel United Methodist Women	Sheridan, MT
Blessed John Paul II Council of Catholic Women	Bigfork, MT
Bozeman United Methodist Church	Bozeman, MT
Brady United Methodist Church	Brady, MT
Calvary Community Church of Stanford	Stanford, MT
Cascade United Methodist Church	Cascade, MT
Chester United Methodist Church	Chester, MT
Chinook United Methodist Church	Chinook, MT
Choteau United Methodist Church	Choteau, MT
Christ United Methodist Women	Great Falls, MT

Church congregations from across Montana provide Intermountain children with a huge variety of in-kind gifts. Everything from new towels and bedding, to art supplies, books, and outdoor recreation equipment finds its way to our doors in Helena and Kalispell. You have helped us create birthday, Christmas and Easter celebrations, as well as supplying kitchenware and new clothing. On behalf of the children and their direct care staff – thank you. If we missed you in this list from 2014, please know how much we appreciate your gifts.

In-Kind Gifts Continued....

Church of the Nazarene	Helena, MT
Community Congregational Church	Absarokee, MT
Community Protestant Church	West Yellowstone, MT
Community United Methodist Church	Shelby, MT
Community United Methodist Church	Geraldine, MT
Corvallis United Methodist Church	Corvallis, MT
Covenant United Methodist Church	Helena, MT
Denton Community United Methodist Church	Denton, MT
Dutton United Methodist Church	Dutton, MT
Epworth United Methodist Church	Kalispell, MT
Epworth United Methodist Women	Kalispell, MT
Federated Ladies Aid	Harlowton, MT
First Assembly of God Church	Helena, MT
First Church of Christ Scientist	Helena, MT
First Congregational UCC	Great Falls, MT
First Congregational UCC Homeland Circle	Big Timber, MT
First Lutheran Church	Glasgow, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Hamilton, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Polson, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Whitefish, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Helena, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Havre, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Great Falls, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Bozeman, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Butte, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Conrad, MT
First Presbyterian Church	Kalispell, MT
First Presbyterian Church Deacons	Polson, MT
First United Methodist Church	Missoula, MT
First United Methodist Church	Great Falls, MT
First United Methodist Church	Glasgow, MT
First United Methodist Church	Miles City, MT
First United Methodist Church	Billings, MT
First United Methodist Church Women	Great Falls, MT
First United Methodist Women	Billings, MT
Glendive United Methodist Church	Glendive, MT
Grace Community Fellowship	Helena, MT
Grace United Methodist Church	Dillon, MT
Grace United Methodist Church	Livingston, MT
Grace United Methodist Church	Billings, MT
Grass Range United Methodist Church	Grass Range, MT
Harlem Yoked Parish	Harlem, MT
Hobson United Methodist Church	Hobson, MT
Huntley United Methodist Church	Huntley, MT
Lewistown United Methodist Church	Lewistown, MT
Lewistown United Methodist Women	Lewistown, MT
Libby United Methodist Church	Libby, MT
Lonsdale United Methodist Church	Sidney, MT
Lonsdale United Methodist Women	Sidney, MT
Montclair United Methodist Church	Belt, MT
Mountain View Trinity United Methodist Women	Butte, MT
North Bethesda United Methodist Church	Bethesda, MD
Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church	Helena, MT
Pilgrim Congregational UCC	Billings, MT
Pine Creek United Methodist Women	Livingston, MT
Plentywood United Methodist Church	Plentywood, MT
Plymouth Congregational UCC	Helena, MT
Polson Community Church	Polson, MT

In-Kind Gifts Continued....

Powell United Methodist Church	Powell, WY
Powell United Methodist Women	Powell, WY
Presbyterian Church	Roy, MT
Presbyterian Women Madison Valley	Ennis, MT
Redstone United Methodist Church	Plentywood, MT
Roberts United Methodist Church	Roberts, MT
St Paul's United Methodist Church	Helena, MT
St Paul's United Methodist Women	Helena, MT
St Peter Episcopal Church	Helena, MT
Steamboat Springs United Methodist Church	Steamboat Springs, CO
Sunrise Presbyterian Church	Great Falls, MT
Townsend United Methodist Church	Townsend, MT
Townsend United Methodist Women	Townsend, MT
Troy United Methodist Church	Troy, MT
United Church of Christ, Congregational Women's Fellowship	Fairfield, MT
United Community Church	Colstrip, MT
United Methodist - American Baptist Church	Hamilton, MT
United Methodist - American Baptist Women	Hamilton, MT
United Methodist Church	Superior, MT
United Methodist Church	Harlem, MT
United Methodist Church	Sunburst, MT
United Methodist Church	Sun River, MT
United Methodist Church	Scobey, MT
United Methodist Church	Stevensville, MT
United Methodist Women	Stevensville, MT
United Methodist Women	Fort Benton, MT
United Methodist Women	Roundup, MT
United Methodist Women	Shelby, MT
United Methodist Women	Big Sandy, MT
United Methodist Women	Carmen, ID
United Methodist Women	Columbia Falls, MT
United Methodist Women	Riverton, WY
United Methodist Youth	Roberts, MT
United Presbyterian Church	Chinook, MT
Van Orsdel United Methodist Church	Havre, MT
Van Orsdel United Methodist Women	Havre, MT
West Side United Methodist Church	Great Falls, MT
White Pine Community United Methodist Church	Trout Creek, MT
Whitefish United Methodist Church	Whitefish, MT
Yellowstone Conference United Methodist Women	Missoula, MT

Breaking Records with Change for Children

For the nearly ten years that Intermountain has been conducting the Change for Children change can program, Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Butte has participated during the Lenten season.

This past year they collected 72 change cans and raised a record breaking amount of money for the children and families we serve! We greatly appreciate their impressive efforts and are grateful for their partnership in our mission of hope.



Feeling "Inside Out"

Our therapists were blessed with a special gift—all the “feelings” characters from the Disney film, “Inside Out.”

Pictured is Jesse, one of our amazing therapists, with her impression of the feelings each doll represents. These dolls will be a special tool in helping our children continue to work through the difficult emotions they are struggling to make sense of so they can have healthier relationships.

We are “feeling” thankful for the partnership of Roberts United Methodist Church and their youth for making this thoughtful gift!

