

FineGold

Spring 2018

Rachel's Resilience

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**Intermountain
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500 S. Lamborn Street
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Jim FitzGerald (center) visits with Olive and Don Passmore. Don is a former Intermountain resident.

Blessings from our CEO, Jim

We were excited by the turnout of Board, Board Emeritus, members of our Intermountain President's Council, church folk, donors, and friends from all over the state who came for the dedication of our new chapel, Van Orsdel Commons, on the residential campus in Helena.

Among our guests were Don and Olive Passmore from Chouteau. Don related an interesting story about his connection to Intermountain, one that I don't recall ever hearing before. Don was born in 1928 and is 90 years old. From the best that Don can piece together, both his mom and dad died in a flu epidemic soon after his birth, and he was placed at Intermountain (Montana Deaconess Children's Home in those days.) Soon after his placement at Intermountain, Don was adopted by the Passmore family in Chouteau. Don still lives and farms on the same farm where he grew up. In 1963, Don and his wife Olive adopted their daughter, Cecile, from Intermountain, and they subsequently adopted three other children. Today, Don and Olive have 7 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren!

As you look through this issue of Fine Gold, you will see how Intermountain has expanded and diversified its services over the years. The circumstances that result in children needing our services have changed dramatically, but the goals remain the same – caring solutions, strong families, and healthy communities. As friends and supporters, you have richly blessed this work, and the Passmore family are among the many living testaments of the generational impact of your investment in this ministry. Thank You!

Sincerely,

Jim FitzGerald -- Jim FitzGerald, Intermountain CEO

Rachel's Resilience: When Happy Birthday Triggers Despair



Rachel was a quiet girl. She always got her work done and was never any trouble in class. On her birthday, Mrs. Williams, her 2nd grade teacher, asked everyone to sing "Happy Birthday." As the class started singing, Rachel began screaming for everyone to stop. She ran out of the classroom and into the bathroom, sobbing uncontrollably. Mrs. Williams was very confused. What on earth was going on and why did Rachel get so upset about a happy birthday song?

Rachel hated her birthday. It brought nothing but sadness and bad memories. Shortly after her first birthday, Rachel's dad was laid off. Stress mounted and he turned to alcohol and drugs to cope. He soon became physically violent towards Rachel's mom and her older brother. They lost their home and, for nearly three years, Rachel's life was filled with domestic violence, homelessness, and neglect.

On Rachel's fourth birthday, her mom took her and her siblings to a restaurant to celebrate. While there, they ran into a friend of her mom who questioned Rachel's brother about bruising on his face and neck. He was too scared to answer, but Rachel's mom burst into tears as she described the violent attack by Rachel's dad. Overwhelmed by guilt and fear, Rachel's mom said she was going to the bathroom and left the restaurant through the back door. The servers were delivering Rachel's dessert and singing "Happy Birthday" when a police officer showed up.

Rachel and her siblings were placed in foster care alongside other Montana children. Her brother was six, she was four, and her sister was not quite two. The caseworkers were unable to place all the children together so they were split up. Their parents were given a court ordered treatment plan to address their substance abuse and mental health needs. For the next three years, Rachel moved in and out of foster families.

Finally, at age seven, Rachel and her siblings moved back in with their mom. Although life was better, Rachel still feared being abandoned again. At school Rachel snuck food from the garbage during lunch. She never made eye contact with adults and did everything she could to stay under the radar . . . that is until her birthday in 2nd grade. Rachel's outburst prompted Mrs. Williams to seek the help of Intermountain's School Based Services.

With the help of the Intermountain team, Rachel and her family began to find hope. Life is still difficult but Rachel's mom is receiving the support she needs to work through the feelings of guilt, fear, and depression. Rachel, who still suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), is slowly learning how to feel her anger, worry, and sadness without being consumed by those feelings. And now, Rachel can also feel the joy of learning to ride her new bike!

Thank
You!

Your *Honor Gift* helps Intermountain
restore hope to over 2,300 children and
their families each year!

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Members of the Sunrise Presbyterian Festival of Trees Committee are shown decorating at the 2014 Festival of Trees. This tree (and the 1927 Mercedes replica) won Best of Show and brought one of the highest prices ever at the Festival. The Sunrise Presbyterian Church has provided a tree every year for the last 7 years.

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“As former school teachers, and as parents of a daughter who is a teacher, we have a special interest in the wellbeing of children.”
-- Lanell and Kelly Ashley
Ashley Quarter Horses

Donor Spotlight: Lanell and Kelly Ashley, Belt, MT

Legend holds that when the idea of a home for wayward children was first proposed to Reverend Van Orsdel early in the 20th century, he enthusiastically responded, “We can’t allow the suffering of children to go unchallenged.” For almost 110 years, Intermountain has depended on the generosity of Montanans all across the state to fulfill Brother Van’s conviction. The Ashleys are an example of so many who have done what they can, where they are, to restore hope for suffering children.

A mutual interest in serving children is actually what brought Lanell and Kelly together; they met at MSU where they were both working on degrees in education. After they married, they taught school in both Geyser and Augusta. Lanell did his student teaching in Lewistown. They enjoyed the work, but decided to make a change when they were presented the unique opportunity to join the family business to raise quarter horses and beef cattle on a ranch south of Belt.

As you might imagine, it takes a special disposition to do what they do. The days are long, and the work is unrelenting. There are no weekends off, nor winter respites to Arizona or Hawaii. The location and elevation of their property can make for winters that are “rough” even by Montana standards. They contend with mountains of snow in the winter, flooding in the spring, and the threat of fires in the summer.

But the work has truly been a labor of love. Lanell says he will sometimes go a month of Sundays without leaving the Ranch (Belt or Great Falls), and that suits him just fine. It doesn’t hurt that the view - in any direction from their property - is simply breathtaking. The business has been a resounding success. Their special bloodlines of versatile, performance horses have attracted buyers from as far away as France! They have raised two daughters on the ranch, and now there are grandkids - Hailey and Yukon - whose visits to the Ranch are frequent and always fulfilling.

The Ashleys learned about Intermountain through their church, and some years later, they had an opportunity to tour the Intermountain residential campus when they were in the Helena area. “As former school teachers, and as parents of a daughter who is a teacher, we have a special interest in the wellbeing of children,” says Kelly. “We were really impressed with the exceptional work that Intermountain is doing on behalf of kids who have had a rough go early in life.”

Last year, the Ashleys decided to donate to charity the proceeds from the sale of one of their colts. They chose Intermountain for one half of the considerable proceeds from the sale. “We were delighted to do it,” says Lanell, “because we know that it is an investment that yields good return for struggling children.”

Intermountain Programs and Services

- Intensive Residential Treatment
- Day Treatment and School
- Youth Case Management
- Individual and Family Therapy
- Therapeutic After School & Summer Support
- Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Services
- Pediatric Neuropsychological Evaluations
- Co-occurring Substance Use and Emotional Distress Therapy
- Adolescent Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment
- Minors In Possession Program
- Occupational Therapy
- Therapeutic Educational School-Based Services
- Therapeutic Foster Care and Adoption Services
- Parents and Professionals Training and Seminars
- ChildWise — Intermountain's educational and advocacy organization
- ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Training
- Elevate Montana
- Trauma-informed Ministries
- Complete Your Dreams Scholarship Program

For more information,
please visit us at:
www.intermountain.org

Because You Give...

Intermountain Provides Tools for Mental Fitness:

Client-centered treatment solutions, screening, assessment, treatment, and education. We provide therapy for co-occurring emotional distress and substance use, neuropsychological evaluations, and psychiatric medication management. We help children, adolescents, and families assess cognitive, emotional, interpersonal functioning, and psycho-educational needs in order to comprehensively develop a treatment plan which will have long-lasting benefit.

Intermountain Tackles Opioid Use:

Misuse of and addiction to opioids - including pain relievers, heroin, and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl - has become a national crisis that affects public health as well as social and economic welfare. The economic burden in the U.S. from opioid use is more than \$78 billion per year. We know that substance use is a symptom of a problem. Our skilled professionals provide transformative services to treat addictions, while at the same time getting to the core issues. Treatment is 60 to 80% effective. In addition, we provide education and supplies to properly dispose of unused medications to keep them out of the hands of children and teens.

Intermountain Builds Family Resilience:

Loss of a loved one, divorce, terminal illness, loss of a job or a home, financial despair, loneliness, are all challenges that often lead to substance use, neglect, abuse, incarceration, depression, and unhealthy families. We help children and families develop the skills needed to overcome adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats and difficulties life throws our way – skills that are especially necessary for children who have experienced early childhood trauma, or adverse childhood experiences (ACE's).

Intermountain Heals Toxic Stress:

When a child experiences repetitive physical or emotional neglect, substance abuse, exposure to violence (even through TV and other electronic devices), it can trigger a mental health disease called "toxic stress." Evidence shows the disruptive impacts of toxic stress include effects on learning, behavior, and physical health. Our highly skilled therapists work with children using proven strategies to uncover the toxic stress, provide healing through healthy relationships, and re-train the brain to respond in healthier ways.

Intermountain Integrates Behavioral and Primary Health:

Intermountain has partnered with PureView Health and St. Peter's Health to provide a licensed therapist to address mental health concerns for children at the same location and time as addressing physical health concerns. We know that mental and physical health are both important. That is why we work to heal the whole person. Integration of care to address both mental and physical health will result in healthier children, healthier families, healthier schools, and healthier communities.

Intermountain Keeps Kids Safe at School:

Through advocacy efforts we are linking law enforcement with schools so kids will have compassionate care when dealing with traumatic situations. We have 19 therapist teams in 14 schools in 6 school districts providing specialized mental health support during the school day.


Thank you for making it all possible!



Income For You For Life, A Gift For Intermountain

Tired of fluctuating markets and low return on fixed investments? A life income gift with Intermountain, such as a Charitable Gift Annuity, may be an excellent way to provide the security you need while benefiting Intermountain in perpetuity:

- Receive fixed payments to you or another annuitant you designate for life;
- Receive both a Montana state tax credit (up to \$10,000) and charitable income tax deduction for the charitable gift portion of the annuity;
- Benefit from payments that may be partially tax-free;
- Further the charitable work of Intermountain with your gift.



For more information on how you might benefit from a life income gift, contact Intermountain’s Development Office 406-457-4804, or visit us at intermountain.giftlegacy.com

intermountain

10TH! ANNUAL SUMMER ROUNDUP

NASHVILLE NIGHTS

JOIN US FOR THE 10TH SUMMER ROUNDUP! AND SUPPORT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE FLATHEAD.

Cowboys and cowgirls across the Flathead have been rolling up their sleeves to support Intermountain in helping children and families impacted by abuse, neglect, mental health issues, substance abuse, and suicide. Their backgrounds may vary, but their goal is the same: **make the Flathead a better place now and for generations to come.**

For nine year, Summer Roundup has been the primary fundraiser in support of Intermountain’s top initiatives in the Flathead. That’s right, every dollar raised stays right here. This year, to celebrate ten years of momentum created by Summer Roundup to tackle despair, provide hope, and change lives across generations, Intermountain is throwing the biggest hoedown west of the Mississippi: **Nashville Nights.** It’s an evening you won’t want to miss!

WWW.INTERMOUNTAIN.ORG/FLATHEAD

Intermountain’s 31st Annual FESTIVAL of TREES



COWBOY Christmas

NOVEMBER 28 - TEA IN THE TREES
NOVEMBER 29 - SPECIAL NEEDS DAY
NOVEMBER 29 - EVENING IN THE TREES
NOVEMBER 30 - STARLIGHT DINNER & AUCTION
DECEMBER 1 - JINGLE BELL JAM DANCE
DECEMBER 1-2 FAMILY DAYS

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Intermountain Dedicates New Space for Spiritual and Cultural Care

After almost 50 years at its current location at 500 South Lamborn in Helena, Intermountain dedicated a new space for the spiritual and cultural care of the children in its Residential Services. Named Van Orsdel Commons, it honors of one of Intermountain’s founders, and nearly 100 donors, friends, and ministers joined the Board of Directors in celebrating the new space.

“It is with great joy and no small measure of relief that we conclude the process of dreaming, planning, and creating the Van Orsdel Commons and chapel! It’s an honor to carry on the healing ministry started by Brother Van and the Deaconesses, ably stewarded by so many since, in this beautiful new facility,” commented Intermountain’s Chaplain, Chris Haughee. Haughee was honored with a stole upon which the faces of children form the image of Christ.

Chief Executive Officer, Jim FitzGerald, introduced Robert Eyman, a former member of Intermountain’s Board of Directors who, over 25 years ago, challenged the Board and staff to employ a chaplain and make room for the spiritual and cultural development of Intermountain’s residential children. While Intermountain was able to hire a chaplain and develop a program for the children, no space was available until now. Former chaplain, Dana Holzer, recalled what it was like to provide for the children’s spiritual needs using the gym, a conference room, or other multi-purpose space on campus.

The chaplain’s program offers optional, non-denominational spiritual guidance and activities for all children who wish to participate. No particular religion is emphasized but family tradition and preferences are honored. Intermountain also employs part-time Jewish educators and was honored with the presence of Rabbi Chaim Brook of Bozeman. Rabbi Chaim offered a prayer and provided a mezuzah for the front door so that all who enter will be reminded of God’s presence and be blessed.

The Lamborn campus has recently undergone significant improvements, including the construction of two new cottages two years ago. One of the original cottages was extensively remodeled to provide space for Van Orsdel Commons. The total cost of the renovation was met through the generous support of many individuals as well as 35 different churches, the Gianforte Family Foundation, Treacy Foundation, and Gilhousen Family Foundation.

“We’re thrilled to see the completion of this chapel, and the opportunity it will provide for continued spiritual support for children and families at Intermountain,” said Susan Gianforte of the Gianforte Family Foundation. “It’s the perfect complement to the valuable work they’ve been doing for so many years now.”

Located at the center of the campus, Van Orsdel Commons includes a large and wide-open worship space, music and craft rooms, a café style kitchen, and offices for staff. Intermountain envisions using the space not only for activities for the children, but also as an informal place for staff to meet families when they are on campus, and as a place where visitors can congregate at the beginning of a tour or before participating in an activity.



Thank You!

Your *Memorial Gift* helps
Intermountain serve over 900 children and
their families each day!

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