

Fine Gold

FALL 2021

New Leadership

A letter from our
Board President

**“The more you
give, the more
it comes back”**

Pat and Charles Floyd –
influencers for good

Intermountain is Always There

What happens when
school is out?

Reflections

Parents share
their stories

Making a Difference

Our honor and
memorial gifts



Intermountain Development

500 S. Lamborn ■ Helena, MT 59601
(406) 457-4804 ■ intermountain.org



intermountain

Caring Solutions ■ Strong Families ■ Healthy Communities

A Letter from Our Board President

Friends,

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Bob Lopp, and I have just begun my first term as Board President. I have been on Intermountain's Board for eight years and am deeply honored to serve this wonderful organization. Intermountain first came into our family's life over 40 years ago when my father and mother made their first financial contribution to Intermountain, and I expect that commitment to continue with the next generation, as well!

Serving on Intermountain's Board is one of the highlights of my life. I have been involved in philanthropic work since my youth and have volunteered for many great organizations and causes, but Intermountain stands apart. At Intermountain, we have a critical mission to support the children in our communities and our society. This difficult work requires a special team with dedication and personal commitment and the skills and professional pride to deliver the highest quality care. It also demands the quality of leadership that Jim FitzGerald has provided for so many years.

As you may be aware, we have been planning for Jim's transition for some time. After a thorough and careful search effort, it is with great pleasure that I can announce that Intermountain's Board has selected Laura Weiss Smith to be its next CEO. Laura has many professional qualifications that equip her to be a great leader for Intermountain. She is an attorney and has served as a Department of Health and Human Services senior manager since 2016. She has experience overseeing large programs, budgets, and six divisions with over 1,300 staff. By all accounts, she is a respected, energetic, and empathetic leader.

In her experience, Laura had direct interactions with the Medicaid system, both recent Governors, and key public health and child welfare personnel across the state, as well as those in the justice system. She has skillfully worked with media, politicians, reporters, and the public. Most importantly, Laura's career has been dedicated to fighting for children and developing programs that improve their lives – the core of our mission.

For those of you who know Intermountain's current CEO, Jim FitzGerald, let me also reassure you that his commitment to the organization remains as high as it's ever been. His tenure is the foundation upon which Laura's will be built. And unsurprisingly, Jim has committed to us that his support will be steadfast throughout the leadership transition and beyond.

Intermountain staff members are incredible and remain tireless in their efforts to do the hard work of meeting children and families where they are. The stories contained within the following pages demonstrate that this is not only true today, but has been true across generations of work.

Thank you for your continued support of Intermountain's work. The needs grow ever greater, and we are privileged to be able to count on our many friends and supporters.

Please enjoy the contents of this issue, and if you have any questions for me, please reach out to Leah Brown at leahb@intermountain.org.



Bob Lopp, Intermountain Board President



Intermountain's Wish List

When you purchase an item from our Wish List, you give a gift that makes a direct and tangible difference for our kids. Here are few ways you can help:

A bean bag chair with a washable cover makes a comfy spot for a child during a session with their therapist.



Activity passes to the movie theatre, bowling alley, trampoline park, or climbing gym provide a cottage with a fun indoor activity through the especially cold winter days.



A selection of new toys on hand in our Treasure Chest allows our staff and kids to choose gifts for others on their special days.



Stress balls, hand fidgets, and oral sensory chews help the children in our therapeutic education programs remain calm and focused on the task at hand.



Items like board games, craft supplies, individually wrapped snacks, and gift cards are always in high demand!

For the full list of items, please visit intermountain.org/waystogive/wishlist.

With Christmas around the corner, you might be interested in providing gifts for a child or even a cottage. Please contact Teresa at (406) 457-4804 or teresam@intermountain.org if you would like to make that happen.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Support our children with Amazon.smile.com!

Select Intermountain Children's Home as your favorite charity and AmazonSmile Foundation will donate .5% of your purchase price back to Intermountain. It's so easy and adds up quickly!

Intermountain is Always There

A lot of people ask the staff of Intermountain's School Based programs, "What happens to the kids when school is out?"

We work hard at Intermountain to make sure the children we work with are taken care of year-round. It's why we created our "Summer Program," as it ensures a stable continuum of care.

And it's why Ray, our staff member highlighted on the next page, sat down to talk with our team – read on to learn how your dollars help fund this extra support.

QUESTION: So, Ray, what's a day in Summer Program like?

RAY: Well, our staff start by picking up kids around the school district they work in. In some cases, if we don't provide transportation, the children we work with won't be able to come, so this is a critical part of the day. In fact, it might be the most critical! If the kids aren't there, we can't really do much!

Once we have them at school, though, we start with a nutritious breakfast to make sure they have the energy and focus needed to do therapeutic work. We then do a group check-in to make sure they learn proper social skills, like being part of a group, learning how to listen, and learning how to relate to and manage relationships with adults.

THERAPEUTIC EDUCATION SERVICES –

431 students have been
served in schools.

EMPLOYEE COUNT –

206 (more than 10% of staff have
been here more than 10 years)

We then do some form of play activity or group activity that aims to get every child involved. This is usually the more "play focused" part of the day to make sure they have a normal experience for their age group. By this point they can be pretty tired, so we try to let them wind down over lunch and get recharged for the remaining activities.

After lunch we do one more group activity and then we drop them off for the day.

QUESTION: Wow, that seems like a full day! Is there anything our donors might find interesting about any particular part of the day?

RAY: One completely underrated aspect of the Summer Program is the transition from an individual setting to a group setting. During the school year, our therapists work with kids one on one, and the key relationship is between the staff and the student. Having the group setting, it is as much about the relationships between students, as it is between the staff.

Oh, and one other thing, people underestimate the value of providing transportation. It allows our staff to get a really candid look into what is going on in a child's homelife. This allows for more in-depth sessions with the kids, when needed.

QUESTION: OK, that makes sense! Do you have any stories of kids you have worked with over the years?

RAY: Oh, definitely. Too many to tell, actually. But I can give you a good one for this.

We worked with a high schooler named Jeremy who was kind of your typical stubborn sophomore. As a supervisor, I'm not there every day since I bounce around to a lot of schools, but when I was around, Jeremy would do everything he could to get under my skin. He one time got angry with me and exclaimed, "You aren't here every day, so I don't have to listen to you!" One time he even asked me "Why are you even here?" Clearly, Jeremy didn't trust adults. But, like happens with so many kids, something changed.

One day we were doing a group activity to explore vulnerabilities. We identified and discussed situations that make us uncomfortable, like speaking in front of a group or transferring to a school where you don't know anyone. Jeremy, being the hyper-visual teenager that he is, really got into the exercise.

The next day, my team went to the lake for a field trip. Jeremy had not communicated to us the day before that one of his greatest fears is water. But once at the lake, that fear became very obvious. He was visibly uncomfortable whenever he was near the water without an adult. Over the course of the day, Jeremy took baby steps in confronting his fear of the lake. I was alongside him each step of the way. By the end of our day, Jeremy made it all the way out to the end of the dock. From his perspective, it was a huge step and one that made him proud. And Jeremy's attitude towards me went from, "Who are you, why are you here?" to "I'm not going anywhere without you."

The situations our kids get put into, whatever the program, always have the goal of restoring a healthy relationship with adults. Jeremy trusted me that day, and while he still has work to do, it was nice to see him lean on a safe and stable support.

Ray Sebestyen Highlights:

- **Time with Intermountain:** almost 8 years total. 3 ½ years with residential and after a 5 year hiatus, becoming a repeat performer with currently 4 years and change with Therapeutic Education.
- **Positions Held:** Residential Counselor, Mental Health Specialist, and TES Staff Developer.
- **From:** San Diego, CA, but have lived in Montana for the last 21 years.
- **Favorite Place to Travel to:** Spring break is usually family vacation time. We recently traveled to St. Croix located in the Caribbean islands this past break.
- **Education:** Montana State University - Bozeman, BS Sociology. Currently attending MSU-Northern for a Master's in school counseling.
- **Favorite Hobbies:** Boating activities, golfing with friends.
- **Favorite Sports Team:** Montana State Bobcats and Denver Broncos.
- **Any Kids?:** Two amazing and very active boys! Tytan is 13 and Reece is 10.
- **Favorite Food:** A juicy ribeye steak.
- **Other Tidbits:** I am a blessed man, married to an amazing woman. Her name is Kelli, and we will be celebrating 14 amazing years of marriage at the end of September, with many more to come.



Influencers for Good: Past, Present, and Future

*We make a living by what
we get, we make a life by
what we give.*

~ Winston Churchill

While Pat and Charles Floyd were born and raised in the deep south, they spent the lion's share of their lives on the Hi-Line of Montana. They began dating while attending Furman University in South Carolina, and married in 1961. In 1962, Charles, Pat, and their one year old daughter, Penny, made the long trek to Havre, MT, where Charles had accepted a job with the Border Patrol.

"When Charlie's feet hit Montana soil, he was home," recalls Pat. "It took me a little longer to settle in... I really thought we would be here a few years and then move back south. But Montana – and Havre in particular – grew on me over the years. It was the relationships with so many wonderful people that rooted us so deeply."

The Floyds rounded out their family with the addition of two more daughters – Nancy and Janet - in their first four years in Montana. Every year or so, they made trips back south to stay in touch with family and to sharpen their southern dialect.

Pat and Charles Floyd connected with Intermountain over two decades ago through their church, Van Orsdel United Methodist Church. Like many of Intermountain's most fervent advocates and generous supporters, Pat was a school teacher for over 20 years; she had long been aware of the significance and relevance of Intermountain in providing hope and healing for struggling children.

The level of the Floyd's engagement with Intermountain went to a much higher level in 2009 when Pat, and later Charles, agreed to serve on the Intermountain President's Council.

The Floyds served as model ambassadors for Intermountain, sharing the good news about the organization whenever and wherever they had opportunity. Because of their many relationships and connections to individuals and organizations, there were an abundance of opportunities! They frequently hosted Intermountain at their church and, on numerous occasions, their home, as well, to better inform their friends, church family, former work colleagues, and neighbors about Intermountain's mission and its importance to struggling children and families. Over the years, they traveled literally across the state to support various Intermountain events and programs and to keep abreast of the work. This continued even after Charles' mobility was impaired with Pulmonary Fibrosis. Sadly, Charles passed away in 2016 at the age of 81. It was a tremendous loss, especially for the community of Havre, his adopted home for over 50 years.

Before Charles died, Charles and Pat retained an experienced attorney to help them with their estate plans. They also made sure that their children were involved and informed as to their plans. Pat describes the experience as one that gave them peace of mind. Included in the estate are bequests to Intermountain and their church.

“My dad used to always say, we can’t outgive God,” explains Pat. “The more you give, the more it comes back to you in blessings. Charles and I experienced that throughout our lives; spiritual blessings that always seemed to flow in the wake of our giving. We always strived to be good stewards during our lives... we wanted to do the same with respect to any financial resources that might survive us.”

In 2019, Pat made one of the most difficult decisions of her life; she decided to leave her beloved home and community of 53 years, in order to be closer to family in Missoula. And even that has turned out to be a rich blessing.

“I’ve been able to stay in touch with my friends in Havre; some have even traveled with me back to South Carolina on visits! And I’ve gotten to make new friends in Missoula and tell them about the good work of Intermountain.”

Intermountain has been greatly honored to be the recipients of the many gifts – time, talent, and treasure – that the Floyds have bestowed over the years. Their collective impact is immeasurable and timeless!



Parents' Reflections

Recently, we reached out to a number of parents that had a child in intensive residential care so we could glean their feedback on the subject of “stability” and how Intermountain helped their children and their families towards healing and wholeness through healthy relationships. *(Note: IM is the Intermountain interviewer and the parents have been given fictitious names. This is a narrative drawn from five video conversations done between August 24-28, 2021.)*

IM: First off, thank you for agreeing to talk with us and share about your experiences. I think we can all agree that the last eighteen months or so have been very chaotic and trying for everyone, let alone those families who have had a child in Intermountain's care or have had a child transition home after being in an intensive therapeutic environment. Who wants to go first in terms of diving into the subject of stability and where you were at before coming to Intermountain as a family?

DENNIS: I'll go first! Our son, now twelve, was just ten years old when we came to

Intermountain. Intermountain was a godsend. Our family, especially my wife Elaine, was totally enmeshed with our son's emotional disturbance. We all walked on eggshells waiting for the next eruption. Getting Alex, our son, to Intermountain, gave us a chance to breathe... then see where we had enabled bad behaviors based on our anxieties.

IM: I see some heads nodding... I take it that this sounds familiar?

SUSAN: Absolutely. That was my situation. I like to think of myself as a very capable, intelligent woman. I am a strong, independent single parent, right? And, suddenly, it seems, my cute little girl is this holy terror—and my confidence is totally shattered. She feels like a failure, I feel like a failure. All the books and therapies and advice from family, friends, and teachers. That just made it all feel even more overwhelming! Alaina has been home for three months now... we just celebrated her ninth birthday... and though I am still uncomfortable setting the boundaries and enforcing the limits we established while she was at Intermountain, it is SO much better.

IM: Cathy, you are awfully quiet... what are you thinking?

CATHY: I am just reflecting on how unstable our household was before Justin left for

1,535 CLIENTS SERVED
(1,088 unduplicated)
to date in 2021.

RESIDENTIAL –
45 children were residents of
Intermountain's Residential
Campuses to date in 2021.

WE PROVIDE SERVICES
in 25 cities & towns.

Intermountain. We had been sucked down—all of us—into a deep well of depression. We had all gone through the same tragedy of losing someone close to us all, and we were spinning apart. Intermountain gave us the stability we needed so I could do my own work, find my own therapist, and dig down into how shame-based I was. Losing Justin's older brother just popped a lid off of a lot of unhealthy thinking, attitudes, and parenting I was doing because I was not in a healthy place.

IM: Thank you all for sharing. Besides Intermountain giving you, as parents, a space to find healing and a sense of boundaries or stability, what are you most grateful for?

SUSAN: My connection to Intermountain is so important. It's been four years, and I am grateful for those relationships and lessons learned every day. It was a life-changing experience in so many ways... all the things we worked on and learned. It saved our family, 100%! It was so traumatic getting Alaina there and then letting go... it was a real journey that started with a lot of trauma.

DENNIS: I'll say that I am grateful for the opportunity to reassess my priorities as a parent. I was raised that the father was the breadwinner, and I had all my identity tied up into providing financially for my family, for Alex. But he was struggling, and I could see it. I tried to solve problems with material gifts and now I have learned that love is not indulgence. Alex needs me to be both strong and gentle, and I am still learning about empathy. I am grateful to Intermountain for teaching me that.

CATHY: Justin, his dad, and I still have our hard days. We are far from perfect. However,

Justin said something the other day that made me both sad and happy. He said, "Mom, I wish David (his older brother) had been able to

go to a place like Intermountain. I think he really needed it." It made me sad because we won't have that opportunity with David, but it made me so happy to see that Justin realized the difference Intermountain made in his life and how he is now able to talk about his feelings. This is the stability our family needed. I am not sure we would have survived without it.

IM: That is incredibly touching, all of you. Thank you for sharing. We know it will continue to be a journey with various ups and downs along the way, but thank you for allowing Intermountain to be a part of that journey.

I am just reflecting on how unstable our household was before Justin left for Intermountain. We had been sucked down—all of us—into a deep well of depression.



Memorial

Gifts received between
April 1st, 2021 & August 31st, 2021

Tim Alzheimer
Donna B. Alzheimer

Phil Archer
Donna B. Alzheimer

Leonard Atkinson
Delia Atkinson

Norris Bjork
Doris Bjork

Don Black and Patricia Scott Black
Henry and Erma Badt

Katharyn Bolland
Denis Bolland

Gregg R. Carlson
Ruth Carlson

Theone "Toni" Christman
Donna B. Alzheimer
Eva Anseth
Barbara Arensmeyer
Henry and Erma Badt
Connie Bradley
John and Danetta Christman
Marilyn Christman
John and Sydney Clark
Cecil Cole
Rodney and Caroline Cole
Jonnie Conatser
Jack and Audrey Cospers
Charles Crane
Zales and Judy Davidson
Ross and Lorrain Depner
Lila Dunn
Carol Ekegren
Bob and Coy Gray
Norman and Sharon Haug
Richard and Yvonne Jacobson
Maisie Johnson
June Jordan
Norm and Judy Kamrud
Roger and Carol Kelly
Ross and Susan Kesler and Family
Gary and Barbara McManus
Randy and Jerri Morris
John and Karen Peebles
Phyllis Perkins
J. D. and Linda Rice
Dorothy Skelton
Geraldine Smith
Benna Stansberry
Jane Weber
Arlene Woodahl
Ardene Zion

Fred and Mary Collins
Lois Droegemeier
Richard and Ruth Johnson

Gina Eland
Roger and Judi Hall

Trysten Fellers
Connie Bradley

Aubrey and Nancy Fussell
Niels and Alice Lium

Kevin Gordon
Anonymous

Dr. Donald and Dr. Jane Gumprecht
Ruth Carlson

Rev. Lyle Hamilton
Carl Krueger and Kathie Niesen
Ankit, Sharon, and Riaan Shah

George and Dorothy Harper
Brian and Sharon Roat

Barbara Hernandez
Mary Ann Alexander

Jayma Taylor Hines
Rita A. Williams

Clinton Hugh Jenks
Murrill and Lana Finch

Michael Heath Johnson
Michael and Sharon Johnson

Michael William Johnson
Michael and Sharon Johnson

Richard "Dick" Juvik
Rita A. Williams

Ray Konkle
Suzie Judge

Robert Lamphere
Joyce Enlow-Lamphere

Marie Lanford
Shirley Hall and Tabby Morley

Orville and Sylvia Lanham
Tim and Gigi Lanham

Gail Lewis
Frank Bedey Family
Helen Buker

Christine Lindstrand
Anonymous

Ken Lindstrand
Anonymous

Lillian Lund
Reed and Elaine Howald
Helen Sheperd

Carol Ann Moody
Rita A. Williams

Dick Moos
Harold and Jo Ann Farris

Jim Niesen
Lyle Hamilton* and Marianne Niesen

Jack Sr. and Carol Oberweiser
Jack Oberweiser

Duane Darrell Parr
Robin Anlian
Judykay Schofield
Kris Sveinson
Linda Wulf

Marlys Yvonne Paugh
Christopher and Joan Miller

Members of the Pemble Family
Fay Pemble

Lori Paul Pyeatt
Fred Chaney

Ruth Reiquam
Connie Bradley
John and Sydney Clark
Norman and Sharon Haug
Pierce and Margie Mullen

Joanne Reynolds
Paul and Susan Ballinger

Dr. William "Bill" Reynolds
American College of Physicians
Martha Anderson
Tom and Kathy Anderson
Anonymous
Greg and Doreen Beach
Rebecca Bynum
Edwin and Joyce Eck
Gary and Becky Gollehon
Richard and Ruth Johnson
Steve and Autumn Keller
Winton and Catherine Kemmis
Paul and Susan Lauren
Earl Reinsel
John and Sharon Reiter
Marvin and Sharon Reynolds
William Schwanke
George Sherry
Allen and Rebecca Slater
Dean and Eddy Lou Stanchfield
Stephen and Joanne Tanner
Corinne Tribe
Louis and Phyllis Whitsell
Joyce Woods

Mike Rice
Stephen Hanks and Jereen Rice

Mae Ripley
Donna B. Alzheimer

Irene M. Roberts
Rita A. Williams

Maxine Rugg
Tim and Gigi Lanham

Robert L. Sexton
Rita and Janna Williams
Jim and Virginia Simmons
Dean Demott and Bonita Dye-Demott

Memorial

continued

Baby Johnny Simmons
John and Agnes Simmons
Fiddler Smith
Carol Smith

Marcile Trebesch
John Blanchet
Bob Ungaretti
Rita A. Williams

Raymond Watson
Deborah Joy
Susan Watson
David Worley
Judith Worley
Bill Yaeger
Donna Yaeger

Honor

* indicates that donor/honoree is deceased

Linda Bates
Betty Hollowell
Kristi Carlson
Mary Meng
Jessie Covey
Valley Bank of Helena
FM and Nancy Davidson
Randy and Jill Daughtry
Jim FitzGerald
Lyle Hamilton* and Marianne
Niesen
Bill Shupe and Laurie Ekanger
Jim and Joan FitzGerald
Bart and Carole Erickson
Allena Harrington
Valley Bank of Helena
Lynette Howell
Chris and Kim Haughee
Marilyn Hudson
Beverly Ross
Intermountain Children
Jane Phillips
Judy Wade
Intermountain Staff
Rev. Jack and Becky Mattingly
United Methodist Church,
Chinook
Sarah Kelley
Valley Bank of Helena
Dave and Arlene Lindstrand
Anonymous
Frances Lindstrand
Anonymous
Gary Long
Lyle and Laurie Howell
Mark MacMillan
Valley Bank of Helena
Anne Marie Magill
Jim and Martha Haddock
Chaplain Beth Mangold
Gloria Helgeson

Ethan Marsh
Orin and Darlene Marsh
Shellie Mellinger
Steve Mellinger
Danica Meng
Mary Meng
Loretta Meng
Mary Meng
Kiel Midtlyng
Valley Bank of Helena
Nine Mile Creek Staff
Gloria Helgeson
Traci O'Keefe
Valley Bank of Helena
Sami Pack Toner
Rusty Harper and Pat Callbeck
Harper
Art Patera
James Hodgson
Robert and Lela Patera
Debby Joy
Bill Reynolds*
Paul and Susan Ballinger
Pam Schapper
Tom and Christie Long
Schedel Family
Integrity and Impact Realty
Allison Skeels
Valley Bank of Helena
Carly Starke
Valley Bank of Helena
Glen and Ellen Stinar
Danette Sprinkle, Big Sky Brokers
Real Estate
John Watson
Tyler and Crystal Amundson
David and Marsha Anson
Dick Weaver and Cathy Barker
Earl and Linda Bates
Kyle and Leah Brown
Frank Cannon

Terry and Katrina Chaney
Nick and Linda Cladis
Kitty Curtis
Dan and Mary Ann Fiehrer
Lyle Hamilton* and Marianne
Niesen
Harley Harris
Ron and Dee Incoronato
Jason and Stephanie Knapp
Jim and JoAnn Lawrence
Wayne and Rhudi Miller
Don and Mary Patterson
Kathy Rice
Jim and Carrie Reynolds
Bob Rowe and Melanie Reynolds
Thorne and Elizabeth Saylor
Don and Pam Schapper
Trudi Schmidt
George Sherry
Rick and Nancy Trudell
Warren and Betsy Wilcox
John and Ruth Watson
Lou and Cindy Welch

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Join us for the 34th Annual Intermountain Festival of Trees,
December 1-5, 2021. Visit the website for more details:

intermountain.org/fot