

Montana Hope Project

Sponsored by the Association of Montana Troopers



Recipient families shown here with Governor Brian Schweitzer.

Front: Stacy Miller, Madison Halland

Second Row: Sharon Miller, David Miller, Barbara Koon, Rachel Kane, Becky Kane, Stephanie Halland, Mark Halland

Third Row: Shana Johnson, Kjesti Walund, Carryn Johnson, Mckensey Johnson

Back: Bret Walund, Sandra Walund, Ken Walund, Governor Brian Schweitzer

Thank you from Jesse Robbins

Dear Montana Hope Project,

I would like to thank you for everything you guys have done for me and my family. You not only helped me through a very tough time, you kept my whole family looking toward the great times to come.



Jesse Robbins in Hawaii

On the day of my first chemo treatment, it was brought to my attention that I was eligible for a wish. From there on I was very excited. It took my fears and put them toward the back of my mind. There were many times when I was feeling very poorly and someone would remind me that I had a trip of my dreams on the way.

Almost immediately I knew that I wanted to go to the Pro Bowl. Not only was I going to see my first live NFL game, I was going to one of the most beautiful places on earth. You guys made the darkest time of my life a lot easier and I have to give you some of the credit for making me healthy.

Thank you and god bless you.

Jesse Robbins

Appreciation from various members of the family of Marissa Rae Mohland

Dear Sergeant Clay Creek; The Montana Hope Project All Santa's

who helped make the wish come true;

I am sure that you grant wishes all the time to many children and are thanked by all who receive from you.

How can anyone tell you how much you are appreciated? I am overwhelmed with gratitude to all of you for making Marissa and her sister Katherine the most amazing Princess Christmas welcome home. Our house was and still is the most beautiful princess-ville ever.

When I contacted Sara Blackburn (Deaconess's Pediatric Social Worker) five weeks before Christmas, I never thought that we would get our wish in time. She contacted Clay and he immediately said whatever it takes we will get it done. It was planned, executed and done by the time we got home for Christmas.



Marissa (right) with sister Katherine (left) enjoys a new princess playhouse.

From the moment we pulled into our driveway, Marissa knew that something was up. She saw the dress-up dresses hanging in the front window. The entire house was so beautiful with the pure white tree and all the decorations. The princess castle was a huge hit and her room is indescribable. Scotta worked so hard on her

mural and it is fantastic. It is like you're living in a dream when you're in there. It is everything a true princess would ever need. Thank you to her husband John the contractor who worked so hard to make their playhouse a castle in such a short time period. Thank you for the donated supplies.

Thank you to Pottery Barn Kids in Settle to help locate the retro kitchen set in Arizona and it here in time. Both of the girls love to make us the fanciest of meals along with all the friends and family. We will always remember our vary magical Christmas and will cherish the memories for a lifetime.

It's with great sadness that we inform you that Marissa passed away on February 13, 2006. We asked people in lieu of flowers to please make contributions to your project. Please accept the enclosed checks in memory of Marissa.

Thank you again.

Gordon, Renee, Marissa and Katherine Mohland

To whom it may concern:

Thank you all on so many levels.

Thank you first and for most for making Marissa feel special and thank you for letting me help make her Christmas an extra special one.

Also, thank you for the checks so quickly. It'll help in my behalf to present with our Visa bill to my husband.

God bless you all and let me know if I can help with any other wishes.

Alicia Hansen
(Marissa Mohland's Aunt)

Thank you from Jacob Frank and his family

Thank you is not enough to be able to express the appreciation we feel for sending us on our Disney Cruise for Justin's wish. It



Jacob (top) Aaron, and Justin (bottom) Frank

was truly the trip of a lifetime and so very special. We all had a wonderful time and it was truly a magical experience for Justin. He had a really great time and his favorite things were the food he and he loved snorkeling! We hope you enjoy the pictures and especially the smiles. We cannot say thank you enough.

Aaron, Paula, Justin & Jacob Frank

Stacy Miller's Nurse Thanks the Hope Project

Richard & Montana Hope Project:

Words cannot express the gratitude I have experienced going on this trip to Tennessee with Stacy, her family, and Mavis. We had an absolute awesome time. Sitting at the outdoor concert in the handicap area and watching the people on stage and around me would be a country song in itself.

We took pictures and Stacy plans on making a scrapbook you will have to see.

Thank you so much for giving and planning the trip. Thanks to the Montana Hope Project and all donors

Lujan Robison

Thank you from Alexa and the Naylor's

Dear Montana Hope Project:



Alexa Naylor in her new wagon provided by Bob & Charlotte Marshall Photo by Creative Vision Photography.

Once again, we marvel at your hearts. We had such a nice time at the reunion. Our children felt so special, especially Alexa. We love seeing her receive such love and care. Thank you!

Memories were once again created and we are so thankful. We appreciate all you do and we, without a doubt, are grateful for your hearts.

Please thank for us the lady that made Alexa's blanket and the gentleman who made the wagon she won. We thank those who generously proved all the food and rides and on and on. It was all wonderful!

The Naylor's, especially Alexa

A Special Christmas Card from the Lofthouses

Dear Richard and Tiana ~



Devin Lofthouse (left) and his family swim with the dolphins.

We thought you'd enjoy our Christmas card this year. Our boys so enjoyed and talk nonstop of our amazing adventure! We will hold that special week dear always! Thanks so much!

Ty & Wendy



From the President...

As some of you may or may not know, Mitch Tuttle retired from the Montana Highway Patrol the end of July. The Association of Montana Troopers requires that the President of the Montana Hope Project be a uniformed Trooper. With that being said, it is with great honor that I take over the reins of this organization. I will use my first letter to reintroduce myself to the many volunteers, sponsors and wish families who were here long before I showed up.



Richard Hader with his wife and Missoula Coordinator Tiana, at the 2006 Essex Reunion.

I am a Trooper in Missoula, married to my wife Tiana and we have three children. Many of you met my kids, back when we did not go anywhere without them. Now that they are 13, soon to be 17 and 18 and know it all, they have no time for the parents, as so many of you with teenage kids know so well. I started with the Hope Project in 2000 as the Missoula Area Coordinator. In 2004 I took over the Travel Wish Coordinator spot from Linda Douglas who had done a great job for over 15 years. My wife Tiana

then took over as the Missoula Area Coordinator. I learned very quickly that the Wish Coordinator was an awesome job. Through planning their wishes, I have gotten to know all the families and remain friends to a lot of them today. There are still families out there that I have planned their wishes and have never met. Someday hopefully I will!

2006 has been a busy year and it saw many new things. The Izaak Walton Inn, home to our annual re-union was bought by Brian and Mary Kelly of Chicago. We introduced them to this wonderful family we call the Montana Hope Project and they are excited to continue this tradition.

The Ride for Hope 500 continues to set new records for fundraising bringing in over \$ 93,000.00. None of that would be possible without the unselfishness of the riders. Besides the weekend of the ride, they hit the streets well in advance to raise their money. The dedication of these people is unbelievable. This year we added the 1st annual Yellowstone Club golf tournament and raised \$ 60,000.00. We were joined by five Hope Project families and the Governor for a great day.

Give the gift of HOPE

Help make a wish come true for a critically ill Montana child. Make a donation to the Montana Hope Project in the name of a family member, friend, or recipient.

A donation to the Montana Hope Project directly benefits Montana children.

HOPE — always the perfect gift

It is being given by: _____
Your Name

Send confirmation card to: _____
Name

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If applicable, in whose memory/honor is this a gift? _____
(circle one)

Complete and send to: The Montana Hope Project, P.O. Box 5927, Helena, MT 59604

From the President...continued from pg 4

By the time this news letter hits your mailbox, we will have held our 1st ever winter reunion at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. Check the website for photos of that event and I will also let you know how many hours my youngest stayed in the water, I think he is part fish.

We will finish the year granting 15 wishes and we have 11 pending. At an average cost of around \$6,000.00 one can see how important fundraising is. Once again we will have raised enough money to cover our wishes, only made possible by all the wonderful individuals, businesses and volunteers that make up this organization. We have never turned away a family because of funding and our goal is to never have that happen. I would like to close by thanking the volunteer staff of the Hope Project; it truly is a pleasure to work with all of you. To our families that we have the honor to serve, the courage you show every day is remarkable. I know I can speak for everyone involved with the Hope Project by saying **YOU'RE AWESOME!!!!!!**

Happy Holidays everyone and God Bless.

Richard L Hader



Madison Halland, right, and his brother get to meet Sponge Bob while in Disneyland

Visit Coldstone Creamery in Missoula every second Tuesday from 4-7. They will donate \$.30 of every \$1.00 spent to the Montana Hope Project.



MONTANA HOPE PROJECT
PO Box 5927
Helena, MT 59604

www.montanahope.org

Volunteer Staff:

Richard Hader, President
Perry Brown, Vice-President/Treasurer
Cinda Bourgeau, Media Coordinator
Clay Creek, Ride for Hope & Billings Coordinator
Dennis Delaittre, Bear Sales/Distribution
Tiana Hader, Missoula Coordinator
Alice O'Donnell, Anaconda/Butte Coordinator
Jerril Ren, Kalispell Coordinator
Tom Taylor, Great Falls Coordinator

**Association of Montana Highway Patrol
Board of Director Officers:**

Brad Sangray, President
Tom Butler, Vice-President
Bryan Adams, Secretary
Keith Edgell, Treasurer

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Visit: www.jimsbarbutte.com for information about their biker event for the Montana Hope Project.

Good News!

At the 21st annual reunion this year, good news was the order of the day. In a timid voice, BrieAna Miller stood up and told the group that the blood tests were in, and that her cancer is gone. Her mother was quick to explain that this isn't remission, but that BrieAna was completely cancer free.



BrieAna jumps into her mother's arms as reunion attendees applaud her good news. Photo by Creative Vision Photography.



Anna Benjamin accepts her wish of an Alaskan cruise from Kalispell coordinator Trooper Jerril Ren (left), as family and officers look on.



Upcoming Events for 2007

Jan 27	Poker Tournament Anaconda
March 24	Bowl for Hope Anaconda
April	Silent Auction/Dinner Billings
June 1-3	Annual Reunion Izaak Walton Inn, Essex
July 28	Ride for Hope Lewistown
August	Golf Tournament Yellowstone
August	Fun Run/Walk for Hope Anaconda

The 2006 Children of Hope

JON-WYATT OLSON	Disneyworld	Ulm
JESSE ROBBINS	ProBowl 2006	Missoula
ABIGAIL REIMANN	Motel with swimming pool	Missoula
MADISON HALLAND	Disney World	Missoula
HUNTER ALTMILLER	Disneyworld	Plains
JESSICA BEERS	Disney World	Missoula
MICHAEL WILKE	Disney World	Columbia Falls
STACY MILLER	Country Music Fan Fare	Billings
ANNA BENJAMIN	Alaska Cruise	Kila
NADINE LONG	Alaska Trip	Marysville
SHELBY DESJARLAIS	Disney World	Kalispell
CARRYN JOHNSON	DW-Jim Carrey	Bozeman
JACOB JORGENSON	Disneyworld	Bozeman
ALAN LOOMIS	Alaska Cruise	Billings
JOSHUA SABA	Disneyworld	Deerlodge
COLTON MYERS	Disneyworld	Bonner
JENESSA LEVANEN	Disneyworld	Kalispell
BETHANY STAHLBERG	Disneyworld	Milltown
FRANK JUSTIN	Disney Cruise	Glendive
MOLLY CHRISTIAENS	Disneyworld	Great Falls
JAZMYN MORGAN	See the Doodlebops	Columbia Falls
SHAYNE WALSTED	Disneyworld	Deerlodge

Ride For Hope Makes Record Amount for the Project

This year the Ride for Hope brought in more than \$92,000 to benefit the children of Montana, \$9,000 more than last year. Top pledge bringers were Royce Bird (first with \$17,244.00), David McCormack (second with \$13,525.00) and Wes Matson (third with \$8,890).



Thanks to all of the riders, this event continues to generate more income for the Hope Project every year. This in turn helps us to grant more wishes for the critically and terminally ill children here in Montana.

2006 Ride for Hope Group photo (left). Photo courtesy of Creative Vision Photography

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.MONTANAHOPE.ORG



Ways to Contact Area Coordinators

Area coordinators have cell phones and email addresses designed to make it easier to get in touch with them when you need to.

Area Coordinators

Anaconda/Butte	Alice O'Donnell	aodonnell@montanahope.org	406-560-1340
Billings	Clay Creek	ccreek@montanahope.org	406-698-5821
Great Falls	Tom Taylor	ttaylor@montanahope.org	406-868-1493
Kalispell	Jerril Ren	jren@montanahope.org	406-270-0696
Missoula	Tiana Hader	thader@montanahope.org	406-531-1531

Other Coordinators/Officers

Bears	Dennis Delaittre	dndelaittre@montanahope.org	
Media	Cinda Bourgeau	cbourgeau@montanahope.org	406-431-8650
Ride	Cal Janes	cjanes@montanahope.org	
President	Richard Hader	rhader@montanahope.org	406-949-4673
Vice-President	Perry Brown	pbrown@montanahope.org	406-949-7433

News from Around the State

Missoula

Tiana Hader

thader@montanahope.org

406-531-1531

Griz Kids are donating Griz tickets throughout the season for the Montana Hope Project recipients and families to go to the football games. Additionally, the Hope Project



Left to Right, Jake Cochran, Steve-Jo Cantrell, Austin Weaver, Tiana Hader, Montana Grizzlies Quarterback Jason Washington, Magen Morrison with the Mon-

sponsored a float in the UM Homecoming parade this year.



Hope Project Float preceded by a Highway Patrol vehicle.

Coldstone has agreed to donate \$.30 of every \$1.00 spent between the hours of 4 and 7 on the second Tuesday of every month.

Washington Corporation will be funding our first annual Christmas party to be held at the Fairmont Hot Springs December 2-3, 2006.

The first annual Montana Hope Project Golf Tournament was held at the Yellowstone Club on August 29, 2006. Seventy-three golfers enjoyed golfing on Montana's pre-



Winners of the first annual Montana Hope/Yellowstone golf tournament

mier golf course, raising over \$60,000 for the Montana Hope Project.

The Montana Tow Truck Association held their annual meeting. They adopted the Montana Hope Project as their charity this year, and made a donation of over \$1000.00 thus far. This money will be used toward meals for the Christmas reunion at the Fairmont Hot Springs.

Anaconda/Butte

Alice O'Donnell

aodonnell@montanahope.org

406-560-1340

This year started out with a Texas Hold Em tournament in January for three charities: The Hope Project, the Anaconda Legion "A's" & the Anaconda Deer Lodge County Restoration Project. The tournament was quite successful & each charity received four thousand dollars.

Three weeks later, the annual "Bowl for Hope" was held in February. We did well on our tournament even though we competed against a Copperhead tournament basketball game. No one could have predicted this, All had a good

time and the top team was from Anaconda. Next year's Bowl for Hope is scheduled for March 24, 2007

On August 5, 2006, the annual "Fun Run/Walk for Hope" was held at Washoe Park in Anaconda. This was a great day and it truly was fun!! Following lunch Josh Saba

of Deer Lodge had his wish granted. After the wish was granted, a balloon lift off was held to honor past, present

and future recipients and MHP officers in the service of our country, especially our own local officer Joe Wyant, MHP 315 who was always a part of this event. Special thanks go to the Pintler Search & Rescue, Sara & Rodger Kenney, & our lunch & break sponsors: Safeway stores of Anaconda, Albertson's bakery, Summit Beverage, Pepsi Cola of Butte, Skakkles & Gallagher Law firm, Subway sandwiches & salads of Anaconda, Western Wishes, Copper King Express, Beyond Necessity Gifts Thrifty Drug Stores, Lutey Furniture/Radio Shack, and Osco Drug

Winners of the 2K race were Kori Smith, 1st, Michael Monaco 2nd &

John Monaco third. Winners of the 5K race were Dan Murphy, 1st, Tyler Kenney 2nd & Angela Kenney 3rd. The last place finisher was our own Cal Janes, MHP 244. Top Pledge



Josh Saba (center) is joined by two past recipients Jordan Allen and Josh Miller.



Kori Smith (left), Tyler Kenney, and Angela Kenney.

Around the State, continued from page 8

winners were Tyler Kenney, 1st, Kyle Klapan 2nd & Jacqueline Philpot 3rd.

On August 12, 2006, the Town Pump Miller Late golf tournament was held at the Old Works Golf Course. The recipients of the money raised will be The Montana Hope Project, Pathways to Independence & Casa. Each group should benefit quite well as the tournament was a huge success & a lot of money was raised.

On behalf of District 3 (Butte/Anaconda) I wish all of you a Blessed and Happy Holiday season. We look forward to seeing all of you in 2007.



Lori, Marwan, and Joss Saba, with MPH 190 Rodger Kenney, Coordinator Alice O'Donnell, and past recipients Josh Miller and Jordan Allen.

Kalispell
Jerril Ren
jren@montanahope.org
406-270-0696

This year we held a Texas Hold Em in Kalispell, raising more than \$4500 for the Project. Spe-



Winner XXXXX accepts his check from coordinator Jerril Ren

cial thanks goes out to the Kalispell Eagles who donated the building and supplies needed to do this tournament. Other large sponsors included Flathead Beverage, Backyard Tees, the Montana Poker Room, Pepsi Distributing of Kalispell, Glass Doctor, Able Auto Body, Flathead Valley Alliance and Aids, Bulldog Card Room, and I Hear Audio. I would also like to thank several other people as if they did not help I would not have been able to pull this event off. Tracy Fin Flathead County Sheriff's Office Dispatch, MPH Trooper Dustin LeRette of Kalispell, MHP Sergeant Steve Lavin of Kalispell, Flathead County Sheriff's Deputy's Aaron Westfall, and Ray Young.

Three wishes were granted in this area this year. Daniel Blixt of Pablo received two remote control cars and accessories. Michael Wilke and his family went to Disneyworld in May. Anna Benjamin and her family went on an Alaskan cruise in July.



Montana Super Troopers raise money for St Baldricks.

Also the men and woman of District 6 of the Montana Highway Patrol shaved their heads for St Baldricks. St Baldricks is an organization that raises money for Childhood Cancer Research, and donations were received for the heads being shaved. For more information about this organization, visit their website at www.stbaldricks.com.

Great Falls
Tom Taylor
ttaylor@montanahope.org
406-868-1493

The Montana Hope Project, in conjunction with the Great Falls Exchange Club, held its annual Texas Hold Em event. The Exchange Club does a great deal of work on this event, and splits the proceeds with us, and we thank them for their generosity and assistance.

Lyle and Joan Sivumaki host a bear sale in front of Wal-Mart every year for the Hope Project. They pitch a white tent and sell Montana Hope Project Merchandise which they then turn over to the Ride Coordinator.



Lyle Sivumaki at the 20th Annual Reunion.

Lyle and his brother Dale also help out at the annual reunion in Essex. Both bring their cycles to the outing and tirelessly give rides to recipients and their siblings all weekend long. We thank the whole family for their dedication to the Montana Hope Project.

Billings
Clay Creek
ccreek@montanahope.org
406-698-5821

The Annual Silent Auction and Dinner was held this year in at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana in Billings, and raised over \$10,000 for the Hope Project. In kind

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donations totaled more than \$12,000, making this year's event one of the most successful in its history. New to the program was karaoke, in addition to dancing. Planning is already in the works for next year's event. Thanks for all the support and we look forward to seeing you at next year's event.

The Jackpot Casino in Billings Heights really came through for the Hope Project this year. They hosted a year long fund raiser which included discounts for donations, a car wash, and picture coloring for kids. All told the Casino donated about \$1200.00 to the Hope Project this year.

Jensen Jewelers chose the Montana Hope Project this year for its annual Kids Helping Kids event in Montana. Kids under the age of twelve in the Billings area could purchase gemstones for \$1 at the Jensen Jewelers there, with all proceeds benefiting the Montana Hope Project, and \$200 was raised.



The license plates are recycled and the Montana hope project received a monetary donation

RIDE FOR HOPE 2007

The 2007 Ride for Hope will be held on July 28, 2007. There will be check-in points in Billings, Missoula, Three Forks, Great Falls, Havre, and Kalispell. Each participant will travel approximately 400 miles before arriving at the end point in Lewistown. The event will culminate with a parade, dinner, prize awards, and a grand prize drawing this year. So start thinking about pledges and make plans to be there.

One thing that we are doing this year involves YOU, the riders. Prior to the event we want feedback from you regarding the proposed routes. So, all you riders, watch the website (www.montanahope.org) and visit the page for the Ride 4 Hope. As usual, you will see the routes mapped out for you. However, if you see a road on one of the routes that is in poor shape, please contact Clay Creek, the new ride coordinator (ccreek@montanahope.org). There is a link on the website that will take you there. If you know of an alternative route, please include that information as well.

Please have all requests in by December 31, 2006 so that new routes can be updated, and we can go to print. Also, please understand if all suggestions are not taken into account.



Riders receive commemorative pins for each year that they participate in the event.. Photo by Creative vision Photography.

This is Clay's first year working on this event solo, so let's help him make it the best ride ever. We look forward to seeing you there.



BUILT FOR BUSINESS®

The Wingate Inn in Missoula hosts our recipients and their families before and after early morning and late-night flights.

Wondering what to do with your old plate?

Turn them into your county treasurer's office when you pick up your new plates or take all those old plates gathering dust in your garage to your local highway patrol office.



In Memorium

Our hearts go out to those
Who have lost a loved one



Lilyann
Christine
Petersen

01/15/2005-
04/01/2006

Lilyann Christine Petersen, 15 months old, died April 1, 2006, of a degenerative neuromuscular disorder.

She was born Jan. 5, 2005, and was diagnosed when she was 6 months old. Because of help from the community and family, her mother and grandmother were able to stay home with her.



Michaela
Hoffman

01/15/1992—
05/28/2006

Thank you for the wonderful work you do. Our family was able to travel to Walt Disney World in March of 2005 thanks to your hard work. We will always treasure the memories. It meant so very much to Michaela. At this time we would like to donate the monies we have received in memory of our

daughter to your organization. Thanks so much. Thanks also to the three highway patrolmen who attended her memorial service. That really touched our hearts.

-Tom & Darla Hoffman



Marissa Rae
Mohland

08/05/1999-
02/13/2006

Forever our princess, Marissa Rae Mohland passed away at home in the arms of her loving mother and surrounded by family, on Feb 13, 2006. Throughout her eighteen month battle with neuroblastoma, Marissa Rae had a profound, unforgettable effect on many hearts and souls in every medical facility she attended. Her unbelievable strength and courage will never be equaled.

In her six and a half years, Marissa touched the hearts of countless others with her speedy wit, her unselfish love, and her thoughtful caring demeanor. She loved to model and dance for her family, she loved to play theatre, and dress up and playing princess were her favorite pastimes.

Marissa Rae was also an excellent student and an accomplished crafter. She especially

enjoyed coloring, spin art, jewelry making, scrap booking, and making crafts for all holidays. Marissa always gave her handmade crafts to everyone she loved. She always looked forward to the next family holiday, where she gathered with cousins, aunts and uncles and grandma to work on the latest projects.

Marissa, a self-taught genius, never lost sight of her number one project, her little sister and best friend, Katherine Elizabeth. She mothered, taught, and loved Katherine every day, molding a truly special character.



Jerry L Branch

12/21/1933-
07/08/2006

Jerry was the husband of Cindy Branch, editor and publisher of the **Montana Woman** magazine. Cindy is quite active with the Montana Hope Project annual reunion, held at the Izaak Walton Inn every year, which Jerry often attended with her. Jerry's personality was larger than life to those who loved him. He and his sense of humor will be missed greatly, but we thank the Lord for giving us such a wonderful husband, father, and friend.

You've got to give back'

By JOHN HARRINGTON - Helena
Independent Record Staff Writer -

Employees at the Qwest call center might be forgiven if they turn the other way when Kathi Wenz approaches. The 52-year-old telesales manager never met a cause she didn't like, whether it's raising money for a Helena soldier wounded in Iraq, collecting toilet paper for the YWCA or hosting a baby shower for the teen mothers at the Florence Crittenton Home.

But if donor fatigue has set in, Wenz's colleagues don't show it. Each of the center's teams has chosen a captain to work with Wenz on monthly donor drives, with the result being one of the more actively charitable offices in the company.

Kathi is so great about working with people, she gets them so excited that they want to participate, said Qwest Montana president Rick Hays. Next thing you know, they're helping and they don't even realize it.

For her efforts, Wenz was named to Qwest's Community of Champions as the top volunteer in Montana. The recognition comes with a \$5,000 check that Wenz can give to the group or groups of her chose. She opted to give \$3,000 to the Montana Hope Project, the Montana Highway Patrol charity that grants wishes to ill children, and \$2,000 to the Friendship Center home for battered spouses and children.

It's just something I like to do, Wenz said of the monthly projects she helps organize. I think it's a responsibility. If you live in a community, you've got to give back.

Wenz said it was easy to decide how to divvy up the company's check. She and her husband are motorcycle riders, she said, so the Montana Hope Project was a natural. Each summer she collects pledges and takes part in a 500-mile weekend ride to benefit the Hope Project.



Qwest manager Kathi Wenz, top Montana volunteer, shown with some of her work. Photograph courtesy of Jon Ebel, Helena IR Staff Photographer.

And Wenz's team at Qwest was already at work raising money for a kitchen at the new Friendship Center home, so sending them a portion of the check made sense as well.

We work here and we live here, she said. Whatever we can bring home will be spent here, which is good for all of us.

Wenz deflected praise for her efforts, saying that the call center's other team care captains — JoAnne Baum, Brenda Koch, Rachel Friesz, Sky Schaefer, Toni King and Amber Van Voast — do lots to make the effort work, whether it's raising money for Arbor Day or passing the hat for tsunami or hurricane relief.

In order to get things going and get everyone involved, if we could get a 'care captain' for each team, we could really make things happen, Wenz said. I designed this for employee engagement, and the idea is to set up something each month.

Reprinted with permission from the Helena Independent Record

Young woman with paralysis given trip to music festival

By Lance Benzel, Billings Gazette Staff



Mavis Redden, LPN, and Stacy Miller talk about the trip to Nashville presented to Stacy, her family and caregivers. Photograph courtesy of Bob Zellar, Billings Gazette staff.

At the age of 11, Stacy Miller was diagnosed with a brain tumor that cost her the use of her arms and legs and left doctors predicting she had only months to live.

When her mother, Sharon, thinks back on that time, her thoughts turn to the hour-long commute from where the fam-

ily stayed in Layton, Utah, to the Salt Lake City hospital where Stacy was treated. The girl tuned the radio to a local country station and sang the whole way there, every day.

"I still remember her little voice," Sharon Miller said Wednesday. "I imagine she was so scared, but she never said a word. She always had a smile on her face."

Eight years later, a breathing tube has silenced Stacy's voice. But soon she will head to Nashville to see some of the same country stars that made those hospital days bearable.

Stacy and her parents will be attending the Country Music Awards Fest 2006 next week courtesy of Montana Hope Project, a nonprofit venture sponsored by the Association of Montana Highway Patrolmen. It has fulfilled wishes for more than 230 critically ill children throughout Montana since 1984.

The 19-year-old received her passes to the four-day music festival during a brief ceremony in her family's West End home. She grinned as state Highway Patrol Sgt. Clay Creek placed a festival pass around her neck while family

members and her two nurses looked on.

"Congratulations, sweetheart," Clay told the girl. "I hope you enjoy yourself."

More than 400 artists will play at CMA Fest 2006, which begins June 8. Stacy had her nurses draw up a calendar counting down the days to the festival, and she mouthed the names of the singers she refuses to miss: Toby Keith, Keith Urban, Dierks Bentley, and her favorite, Tim McGraw.

"She likes all the younger guys," her father, David Miller, said with a laugh.

The seven-day trip package also includes airline tickets, hotel accommodations, a rental van and \$2,000 in spending money. The family will be accompanied by Stacy's nurses, LuJuan Rolison and Mavis Redden, both of Nightingale Nursing and Caregiving in Missoula.

Stacy's paralysis was caused by a benign tumor that crushed her brain stem.

Despite a dire prognosis from doc-

tors in Salt Lake City, the tumor has not grown since 1999, and Stacy has been able to pursue some of the same goals as others her age. After missing nearly two years of school, for example, she graduated from West High in 2004 with a 3.78 grade point average.

"I don't know what to say about it," Sharon Miller said. "It's a miracle."

Her first wish for the Montana Hope Project was to visit Christopher Reeve, whom she describes as a role model. She made her request in 2004, only weeks before Reeve's death of complications from his own quadriplegia, which he suffered after being thrown from a horse in 1995.

More information about the Montana Hope Project is available online at www.montanahope.org. The site includes links to donate to the project or to contact area coordinators with requests.

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Michael Rocky Bailey Named Officer of the Month for June 2006

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) has announced the selection of Patrolman Michael "Rocky" Bailey of the Montana Highway Patrol as Officer of the Month for June 2006.

In presenting Trooper Bailey with the Attorney General's Outstanding Employee Award, Montana Attorney Gen-



Trooper Michael Rocky Bailey after a traffic stop on US93. Photo courtesy of the Ravalli Republic.

eral Michael McGrath, stated that, "Trooper Bailey's caliber of selfless service to the state and his neighbors in the Bitterroot Valley are unparalleled. He truly does 'Do unto others'... in the finest sense." For his unrelenting efforts, dedication to duty, and his willingness to risk his own life to save others, Patrolman Michael "Rocky" Bailey was presented the 2005 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the Victor Masonic Lodge #43. He is a member of the Montana Highway Patrol Officers Association and is a board member of the Montana Hope Project, an organization dedicated to helping terminally ill children.



Izaak Walton Inn Under New Ownership



Winter at the Inn, as seen from a train. Photo courtesy of the Izaak Walton Inn.

Recently there have been changes at the Izaak Walton Inn. On January 3rd, 2006, Brian Kelly purchased the Inn from Larry and Lynda Vielleux. While they have added some new faces to the employment roster, some veterans remain as well. But rest assured, he does not intend to make other changes, especially where the Montana Hope Project is concerned. With one exception that is. He purchased the nearby café as well, and now as a part of the Saturday festivities, recipients, volunteers, and families will be treated to chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry ice cream as well. Having sampled this tasty treat this past summer, I can assure you that it is a scrumptious addition to a wonderful experience.

A native of Chicago, Brian and his wife Mary, who grew up in Boston, moved here soon after with their four children: John, Ryan, McKenna, and Connor. They fell in love with Montana in 2000, and are pleased



Brian Kelly pictured with his wife Mary, and their four children.

that they were finally able to make it their permanent home.

Brian assured me that the Montana Hope Project will still be welcome for their reunions. He believes it is a worthwhile cause, which none could doubt after his exuberant participation this past June. The Hope Project can count him among those we call family, and are sincerely grateful that he will continue to open his heart, and his home, to our organization.

Welcome to Montana, Brian, Mary, and the kids!

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The Izaak Walton Inn has been the site of the Annual Hope Project Reunion since 1984. The Inn itself was built in 1939, for the railway workers. Modern by standards of its heritage, the Inn still prides itself for seemingly to have missed the technical revolution altogether.

Part of the charm of the Izaak Walton Inn is that there are no phones or televisions in any of the rooms. Instead, guests are encouraged to read a book on the veranda, wave to the trains as they pass from the back yard, or simply enjoy the various recreational treasures of the area.

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For more information about the Inn, visit their website at:

www.izaakwaltoninn.com

Montana Hope Project to Sponsor a Specialized License Plate

Watch your local treasurer's office for a new license plate that should be available in 2007. Purchase the Montana Hope specialty license plate for a \$25 donation and show your support for the Hope Project. And don't forget to turn in your old plates too.



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Special thanks to NeoMesh for providing free of charge the software which helped create this newsletter.

Give Kids The World Celebrates 20 Years of Fulfilling Wishes of Children with Life-Threatening Illnesses



Kissimmee, FL. – Give Kids The World will celebrate 20 years of serving children with life-threatening illnesses and their families with a grand celebration on March 6-7, 2006 ... and who better to commemorate the anniversary

of the only resort with a Gingerbread House Restaurant than **the world's largest gingerbread man?**

Universal Orlando chefs will work with Give Kids The World families, volunteers and staff to set a new Guinness World Record at the anniversary celebration, creating a gingerbread man that will beat the existing record of 372.13 pounds.

The organization's 20th birthday will highlight a property expansion project of Give Kids The World Village that will more than double its capacity of family villas from 96 to 240, a major step in achieving its mission to fulfill the wishes of all children with life-threatening illnesses and their families from around the world.

The organization will reach another milestone during its anniversary celebration, welcoming its 75,000th Wish Family to experience the unforgettable Give Kids The World hug.

It will be a record-breaking week for us on many fronts, said Pamela Landwirth, President of Give Kids The World. The fact that we've been able to serve 75,000



House of Hearts, a part of the Give Kids the World Village. Photo courtesy of Give Kids the World.

families in just 20 years is tremendous and could not have been possible without the big-hearted generosity of all of our corporate sponsors and friends ... and with the planned expansion of the Village, we'll surely see that number increase to amazing numbers in the years ahead.

The day will truly be a landmark in the organization's history – a celebration at the unique wonderland that has been able to open its doors and heart to special families for two decades, thanks to support from local and national partners.

We continue to grow because of everyone who works with us. I have a deep admiration and affection for each of our supporters who have donated so much over the years, from landscaping, to construction, to the millions of dollars in services they offer to our children and families, said Henri Landwirth, Founder, Give Kids The World. Without them, ventures such as our property expansion would not be possible. We are grateful for our past, current and future donors who are looking to help, including those who are supporting our current expansion initiative.



Welcome entrance to Give Kids the World (left). Photo courtesy of Give Kids the World.

Jessica Beers enjoys meeting with Cinderella while on her trip to Disneyland, thanks in part to Give Kids the World (right).



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Published annually by the Montana Hope Project. The Montana Hope Project is a non-profit organization registered with the Secretary of State. It is a 501(c)(3) organization and it follows all federal guidelines to maintain its status.

Hope Project Facts

- 90 cents of every dollar raised directly benefits Montana children.
- The Montana Hope Project is NOT affiliated with any national organization. It is funded entirely by your donations and local fund-raising events.
- Every year, wish recipients and their families are invited to spend the weekend at the Izaak Walton Inn, located in Essex, MT at the edge of Glacier Park.
- 2006 marks the first annual recipient Christmas party.
- The Montana Hope Project has granted more than 250 wishes since 1984.

Please send all photos, letters, ideas, information, updates, and articles for the website and future newsletters to the editor at:

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