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CLANCY HOPE CENTER PLANS INAUGURAL GALA, CAMPUS EXPANSION

CLANCY, MT— “I was about to die and didn’t know it; Hope Center saved my life,” says Laura Pickett of Helena. “About a week after coming here, I found I was in heart failure. I was completely hopeless.”

The 35-year-old U.S. Navy veteran started her eight-month residential treatment program in July 2020, graduating in April and now interning for the center. “Hope Center gave me the will to live again,” Pickett says.

Pickett will tell her story at the nonprofit’s first-ever Hope Gala, slated Thursday, November 11, at 5:30 p.m., at the Helena Civic Center. The fundraiser will include live and silent auctions and inspirational presentations.

Carolyn Belling, executive director for the center, says, “We want this to be an encouraging night for the attendees. It will be a night of hope.”

The Clancy branch of Hope Center Ministries (HCM)—the organization’s largest campus in the world and Montana’s first—has served more than 60 women in its 8-12-month addiction recovery program since first opening in April 2020. The center places emphasis on restoring families and typically hosts 40 people at weekly family support gatherings, including those who participate remotely.

Due to quick growth, Hope Center is expanding its living areas within the 21,000 square-foot center to better utilize space and more comfortably accommodate residents and interns. Funded in large part by the Gianforte Family Foundation, the remodel will create an additional living room, bedroom, and kitchen. Foundation Executive Director Catherine Koenen says, “Montana has a significant, and growing, number of people suffering from alcohol and drug addiction. We’re pleased to see Hope Center’s success in leading women to new, sober and productive lives.”

HCM residents undergo a three-phase, faith-based experience, using the 12-step “Celebrate Recovery” program combined with church and family time, recreation, community service, and vocational training. Local partners include Mountain Family Fellowship Church, which provided start-up campus funding, as well as vocational training sites, ATC Performance, Great Harvest Bakery, Sodexo, Chadwick’s Nursery, Taco Bell, and 406 Recycling.

Kimberly Smith of Erin, Tennessee, came to the Clancy Hope Center in February for her second time through the program, “Falling does not mean failure. There’s always hope. This Hope Center has people to love you when you can’t love yourself.” The 35-year-old mother of four will graduate this October.

Tickets to the Gala, \$55, are available now at www.hopecm.com. The center also seeks event sponsors; packages range from \$300 for reserved seating for three, to \$10,000 for a Diamond sponsorship.

In addition to its Clancy campus for women, Hope Center Ministries runs a men’s campus in Butte. Residents of all (or no) faiths are welcome. For more information call Belling at 406-461-7443 or visit <https://www.hopecm.com/locations/Helena>.

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