

HOPE CENTER PLANS MONTANA EXPANSION, ANNUAL GALA

CLANCY, MT— Just two years after opening its first Montana addiction recovery home for women in Clancy, Hope Center Ministries is expanding efforts throughout the state. The nonprofit opened a men’s facility near Butte in 2021 and a new Montana admissions coordinator, Lutisha McFarland, came on board in August to recruit additional residents.

Based in Helena, McFarland also connects with churches and nonprofits statewide to identify ways HCM can expand its reach. “I’ve been to Great Falls, Butte, Ravalli County, and Billings, and look forward to visiting the rest of the state in the coming months,” she notes. McFarland has lived in Montana since 1993 and has experience in substance abuse, marketing, and public relations.

Carolyn Belling, executive director for the center, would like to see additional Hope Center Ministry homes throughout Montana to help the many individuals and families plagued by addiction. “We’re working hard with churches and possible coalitions to find where the need, and support, is greatest.”

The nonprofit’s successes will be celebrated at its second annual Hope Gala, Thursday, October 13, at 5 p.m., at the Helena Civic Center. The fundraiser will include live and silent auctions and inspirational presentations from residents and program graduates. Presentations will highlight the importance of family involvement in recovery, Belling says. “Through family visits and weekly family support gatherings, our women are reconnecting with their loved ones and are able to overcome some of the most difficult problems created by their addictions.”

The Clancy branch of Hope Center Ministries (HCM)—the organization’s largest campus in the world and Montana’s first—has served 100 women in its 8-12-month addiction recovery program since opening in April 2020. Due to quick growth, the center expanded its living areas last year to better accommodate residents and interns. This year a new septic system was installed to serve additional residents.

The renovations were funded in large part by the Gianforte Family Foundation. Foundation Executive Director Catherine Koenen says, “Sadly, the number of Montana individuals enduring alcohol and drug addictions has increased significantly over recent years. We’re pleased to support Hope Center’s work leading women to new, sober and healthy lives, and restoring them to their families and friends.”

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 in the Greater Helena area.

Tickets to the Gala, \$65, are available at www.hopecm.com. The center also welcomes event sponsors; packages range from \$500 for a reserved table, to \$15,000 for a Diamond sponsorship.

Hope Center Ministries serves residents of all (or no) faiths. For more information call Belling at 406.461.7443 or visit <https://www.hopecm.com/locations/Helena>. Potential residents should reach out to McFarland: Montanaadmissions@hopecm.com or 406.459.0162.

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