
Nurturing Center Newsletter

*Build your relationships on the
foundation of respect, courtesy, and love*
-Susan Christofferson



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES,
SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES

Meet us!!

**THIS IS VAL, OUR
RECEPTIONIST!**



An Agency Update

This summer has been a whirlwind of activity for us at the Nurturing Center. Legislation was approved that increased the income limits and capped co-pays for the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship, which makes our family services team VERY busy. Please remember that there are only a few of us here that work on these applications, so with the increase in people applying (which is great) it is taking a little extra time to process. We appreciate all your patience.

We spent the summer promoting childcare and handing out lots of fun swag at Picnic in the Park with Parks and Rec. This was a great way to see families and watch children have so much fun with our beach balls while dancing along to all the great music. If you didn't get a chance to go this year, make sure you try to make it next summer. It is free entertainment for the whole family!

End of summer means back to school for most children in the valley. We participated in the United Way's Back to School Bash, and provided backpacks with school supplies for Flathead, Lincoln, Lake, and Sanders Counties at a variety of events and schools.

Finally, we began our biggest fundraiser of the year, The Great Fish Community Challenge! This is so important for us to be able to help families in our community pay for summer care, so look at all that information below!

I started with the Nurturing Center in December, 2020 and was officially hired in April, 2021. Because I was hired during the pandemic, I started part-time until NC could reopen to the public and then I went full time! I have been in this role since I started and I wouldn't trade it for anything else. I love what I do. I get to meet new people and be able to help them with some of their needs. There is always something new to learn. I grew up in Montana, graduating from Flathead High School, and moved to Bellingham, WA after I was married. I lived there for 13 years before moving back to Kalispell. I have worked at Fred Meyer and managed a doctor's office for 15+ years. After moving back to Kalispell I worked Medicare claims at Kalispell Regional Hospital for 7 years. I tried retiring in 2019, but retirement is just not for me! I like quilting and Diamond Dots is my way to relax after work. Soon I will have enough to wall paper my house inside and out! I especially love spending time with family and my dog Joey and cat Peaches.



Our Biggest Fundraiser of the Year!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US!

We are incredibly excited to announce that we have raised over \$23,000 so far through the Great Fish Community Challenge! This multi-week fundraising campaign inspires community-wide giving and builds awareness about the critical work of Flathead Valley nonprofits. We are honored to work along side so many other amazing agencies in our community!

We will use our funds for childcare scholarships for working families during out of school times and those who need emergency assistance. Scholarships will prevent parents from having to take out a loan or quit their job to provide care for their children. We also use this funding to purchase essential safety items like car seats, pack and plays, baby gates, and other similar safety items for families in need.



Scan to Donate

Or visit www.whitefishcommunityfoundation.org



**YOU HAVE UNTIL SEPTEMBER
15TH TO HELP US MAKE AN
IMPACT - DONATE TODAY!**



Community Partnerships

LAKE, LINCOLN AND SANDERS COUNTIES



Lincoln County Resource Van – Lincoln County celebrated their new resource van with an unveiling party on July 17th! This van will be able to travel around all of Lincoln County to provide resources to families that may have a difficult time getting to resources. We even took it out to McCormick and Yaak to deliver backpacks to the schools!

Lincoln County Child Care Capacity Cohort – The Zero to Five Collaborative has been approved for a grant to help address the childcare gaps in the community. We are thrilled to be part of this community-led process!

Additional Resource Drop Offs – We made our way around Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, and Sanders Counties to help provide diapers, wipes, formula, backpacks, hygiene kits, and winter kits to agencies and schools. If you have a need for any of these items, give Jennifer a call! (406) 756-1414 *217

After School Program Licensing – One of our Flathead County afterschool programs is currently working on becoming licensed. While this may cause a few pains in the beginning, being licensed means that they will be able to accept the Best Beginnings Childcare Scholarship for children up to 12, creating many more opportunities for families!!!

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Great Fish Fun Run | Sept. 9 from 9am-1pm join us for a family-friendly event that celebrates local nonprofits and our fundraising campaign!

Circle of Security in the Classroom | Oct. 11 – Nov. 8 join us for a FREE 5 week workshop for child care providers & other professionals who would like to gain a deeper understanding of social emotional learning and attachment in children.

Fall Playgroup & Bat Presentation @ Lone Pine State Park | Let's get spooky! Stay tuned for more information on date and time!

Upcoming Partnerships & Opportunities for Parent Connection | We are passionate about creating space for parents to be in community with one another and get a small break from the daily grind of parenting. We are excited to continue to expand our Parent Cafe collaborations so make sure to follow us on social media for updates on our many upcoming meet up groups!



Art in the Park

RED SAND PROJECT

The Red Sand Project is a participatory art installation that is used to raise awareness about the millions of people that are enslaved and trafficked throughout the world. This year we partnered with our community's Flathead Alliance to Stop Trafficking group and the Hockaday Museum of Art to hold our own participatory artwork. People were welcome to pour sand in the cracks at the Hockaday's patio, get information, and take some time to reflect about people that fall through the cracks. We had a Red Marble Art project at Art in the Park to tie the installations together and gain participation in the Red Sand Project.