



Group Home Gazette

Fremont County Group Homes

January/February

Hello

January

Hot Tea Month
National Oatmeal Month
17th—Ditch New Years
Resolution Day!

February

Great American Pie Month
National Grapefruit Month
13th-Get a Different Name Day
14th-Valentines Day
16th-Do a Grouch a Favor Day
28th-Public Sleeping Day

It has been an exciting and challenging beginning as the new Executive Director at the Group Home. I am honored to be part of an organization that has steadfastly provided quality care for at risk youth in Fremont County. The dedication and commitment of the people who have made this possible throughout the years—board members, management, staff, and a generous community of supporters—is astounding and inspiring.

As the Group Homes begins to implement a philosophy called trauma informed care—more about that in the next issue—we will be thinking outside the box to enhance and build upon the strong foundation of our existing services. I look forward to working together in order to promote the well-being and safety of at risk youth and their families in our community.

Sincerely,

I hope to bring a fresh perspective and new ideas to an already great organiza-

Shelly Wolfe

At Work

Our kids and staff enjoyed baking and delivering cookies over the holidays to give to the great agencies and people we work with year round. We caught our Lander staff taking a break and the girls as they headed out to deliver the cookies to all the special people in their lives.



The boys have been giving one room in the Riverton Home a new paint job—thanks for the donated paint from Ace Hardware in Riverton!



Reflections on 30 Years of Service

The Board of Directors would like to thank Stacey for all that she has done for us, the Community and the Children of Fremont County to develop a safe place for children, a respected program, not just in Riverton, but throughout the State. She had the foresight to provide services to our children and to continually provide a voice in the legislature. She will be missed in this Arena of her Life, but we wish her God's speed as she moves into the next phase of her journey”.

Elissa Burlison, Board Director



Stacey wanted things to be better for youth and families in Fremont County. She really dedicated herself to be an advocate for troubled youth and she faced all the obstacles with humor and hard work. She always was able to push us through the hard times and see a way to be optimistic about the future. She made the Group Homes what they are today, and I miss her calls to ask, “what are you doing?” She was a great leader”.

Shannon Horton, Associate Director

Goodbye to Sandy and Dave

Almost exactly 27 years ago, Dave and I came to the Group Home, with our family, packed like sardines into our Plymouth Volare Station Wagon. We moved in and began . . . or we thought we were going to begin . . . teaching the kids who came to live with us about life and loss and problems and blessings. We believed we were going to be giving these young men memories and enriching their lives. We thought we might make them laugh once in awhile, and even hoped that we would be able to change who they wanted to be. We honestly felt we could give them hope where none existed.

That was then.

Today, I type this knowing that my last day at the group home is only a

“They made us laugh nearly every day”

day and a half away. It's time for me to move forward. Dave left a few weeks ago and is still looking for the new niche he will fill. We are excited. We are content. But something has become crystal clear to us during this time of change. Something we want to share.

When we thought we were going to teach....we learned. We learned about problems and blessings and life and loss from the kids who

crossed our threshold. They gave us memories, pictures and events forever etched in our minds and in our hearts. They made us laugh nearly every day and they even changed who we wanted to be. They gave us hope, hope for a future where relationships and trust make a difference.

And this is now.

Thanks boys. It's been amazing

Thank You Sandy and Dave for your care, dedication and years of working to making a difference in kids lives. Best of luck on your new adventures.

New Staff

Thomas Lucas joins our team at the Group Home in Riverton. Thomas brings compassion, patience, enthusiasm, and will have the opportunity to apply his experience working with foster children as well as the chance to utilize his extensive organizational and coordination skills. Welcome!

Thank You

Once again, our communities have shown their generosity and how much they care about our kids. We have received many gifts over the Christmas season: games, cash donations, passes for bowling, swimming, movies and ice-skating, food and goodies, clothing—and much more. The boys and girls enjoyed the extra goodies and activities and we all appreciate your continued support!

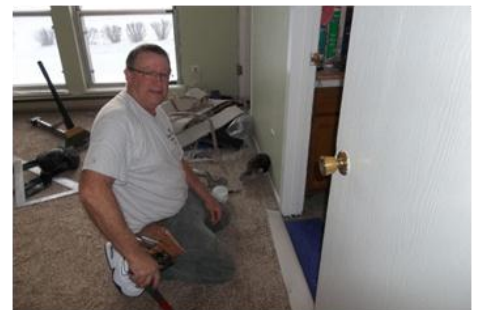
Mark & Lori Kohler	John & Carolyn Dent	Olivet Chapter No, 3
Harold & Dorothy York	Evie Barnes	Lander Kiwanis Club
Pavillion United Methodist Church	Jerry & Shirley Heckart	Lights On in Lander
Maureen Weyrich	Paige, Doug & Jackson Hughes	Otto & Chris Uecker
Mr. & Mrs. Renner	Lander Valley High School Staff	Carol Wright, Marge, Ginny, Beth, Myrt & Mary
United Methodist Church ,Riverton	The Garden Club	The Davis Funeral Home
William & Elissa Burleson	Ron & Patricia Kopriva	Trinity Episcopal Church
Knights of Columbus – Riverton	Kister Eyecare	Susan Weideman
Wyoming Financial Insurance	Lance & Misti Bolte	Mary Haper
Margaret Reynolds	B.P.O. Does – No 48	Delta Power and Automation, Inc.
Tweed's Wholesale	No Hatters	United Methodist Church
Audrey Ross	Brenda Flodin	United Presbyterian Church-Chili Dinner
John & Gretchen Vincent	Women of St. James Episcopal Church	Ace Hardware Riverton
Rocky Mountain Gals	LeeAnn McClung	
Ron & Margie Metcalf	Jim Logan	
Lander Dental Group	Frank & Patty Petek	
Joan Gunner	First United Methodist Church	
Jean Eichler	Bob Funk	
	Edwin & Diane Hudson	

A special thanks to Knights of Columbus—Lander for \$1000 donation to the Girls Group Home in Lander

New Carpet



Misti and Craig Haase of **Craig's Floor and Window Coverings**, 546 Main Street in Lander donated carpet and vinyl flooring for the Resident Manager's office and bathroom at the Lander Group Home. We are so appreciative of this!! The carpet in that room was over 30 years old and the bathroom had mix and match repairs. Now we are "classy" and loving it!!



Dan installing carpet

Executive Director: Shelly Wolfe
11 Minter Lane
Riverton, WY 82501
(307) 856-2643

Associate Director: Shannon Horton
2228 N. 2nd St.
Lander, WY 82520
(307)332-5490

Reuniting families and to give youth
every opportunity to become healthy
and productive.

www.fremontcountygrouphomes.com

WISH LIST:

New Vacuum for Boys Group Home
New Mattresses for Boys Group Home
New Carpet/Flooring in living room for
Boys Group Home.



The Boy's solution to a well-used vacuum

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

Fremont County Group Homes are excited to be a part of the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) in Fremont County. A little over a year ago agencies around the county began working together in order to create alternatives for youth who would have in the past gone to the Juvenile Detention Center.

As a part of these efforts, the Group Homes have been providing Non Secure Detention since about March of 2012. Non Secure Detention provides a safe and supervised place to hold youth who are charged with committing less serious crimes. They are normally held until they can be seen in Court or other arrangements are made. Since July 2012 when the Juvenile Detention Center closed we have housed 18 youth in Non Secure Detention.

Also as a part of JDAI, the Group Homes are providing space temporarily for a program called

the Day Reporting Center—you may have seen recent media articles about this program that involves the collaboration of most of the School Districts in Fremont County. Day Reporting offers an option for youth who would otherwise be suspended from school.

Melinda Cox has been hired to coordinate this program and Sylvia Rotroff is the new teacher. We are still working out the bumps and kinks to these programs but it is exciting to be providing services to more youth!

To learn more about the Juvenile Alternatives Initiative designed by the Annie E Casey Foundation to reduce the unnecessary confinement of youth in our country go to www.acef and click on Major Initiatives.