

In 2002, I was in my senior year at the University of Montana taking a full course-load, working part-time at a work-study position, raising three children on my own without the benefit of child support, and had just been diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Working part-time as I was, I couldn't make ends meet for my family and was profoundly grateful for the assistance I received through the Food Stamps, Medicaid, and TANF programs. Thanks to the Medicaid program I was able to receive the needed cancer treatment that I would not have otherwise been able to afford. During that difficult time when I was undergoing cancer treatment, working, attending classes, and parenting my children, TANF paid our rent.

In June 2003, I finished college and my part-time work-study job ended. The month of June was spent looking for a new job, looking for affordable housing, and undergoing radiation treatment for my cancer. Fair market rent for a three-bedroom apartment in Missoula is \$730 per month. In July I found that our monthly TANF benefit would be cut to \$375. I'm not sure I can describe the level of panic I felt when faced with the prospect of being homeless with my young children. We were already on the waiting lists for Public Housing and Section 8 but had been told to expect at least a two-year wait. Our name has still not come to the top of that list. We were very lucky. We were fortunate enough to get into the YWCA's Transitional Housing program for homeless women and children. If not for that, my children and I would have been living out of our vehicle.

DU survivor

Katrina
Dalrymple

472

WORD Board Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2004

MOTIONS

Submitted for approval:

- November minutes
- Grant Requests: None

ATTENDANCE

Board Present: Stacey Ryan, Diana Garrett, Jessie Lundberg, Lin Smith
Board Absent: Darcy Olson, Heidi Wallace
Staff Present: Cris Mulvey, Naomi Thornton

MINUTES

- Minutes. Diana moved to approve November minutes, seconded and approved.
- Special Announcement. Naomi reported that WORD received the Harry Chapin Award which includes a \$5000 award and ongoing development support.
- Health Insurance. Naomi and Cris reported on health insurance options and there were still concerns that the proposed new package would not be affordable and/or meet the needs of some staff. Cris will have WORD's insurance agent look at other options including New West. Decision postponed until next board meeting.
- Financials.
 - Reports – Reviewed, will look at in detail at next board meeting.
 - Line of Credit – Full line of credit is out at \$60,000 for AmeriCorps payroll. WORD is at the end of the quarter and will be able to immediately pay that amount down.
 - Audit – The audit has been pushed back again so accounting can catch up after Randy being out for an extended period of time. WORD has also hired a bookkeeper at 10 – 20 hours a week to help out.
 - Approve Cris Mulvey as Check Signatory and Authorized Signer on Accounts – After discussion by the Board, Lin moved that Cris Mulvey shall become a check signatory and authorized signer on WORD accounts. Diana seconded, so approved.
 - Many Faces of Women budget report – higher proceeds are expected from this fundraiser this year.