

Success Stories



A collaborative partnership Between the Montana Department of Corrections and Community, Counseling & Correctional Services, Inc. (CCCS)



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May 20, 2014

Bismarck Transition Center
Kevin Arthaud, Adm.
2001 Lee Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-222-3440 Fax 701-222-3599

Butte Pre-Release Center:
Women's Transitional Center
Jay Grant, Adm.
58-68 W. Broadway
Butte, MT 59701
BPRC 406-782-2316
WTC 406-782-6446 Fax 406-723-1170

Connections Corrections Program
Dave Boyd, Adm.
111 W. Broadway
Butte, MT 59701
406-782-6626 Fax 406-782-6676

Discovery House
Carole Kovacich, Adm.
65 Sheep Gulch Road
Anaconda, MT 59711
406-563-3842 Fax 406-563-2451

Re-Entry Facility
Ma Kelly, Adm.
675 S. 16 Street
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-994-0300 Fax 406-994-0306

Martin Hall Juvenile Detention Facility
Robert Palmquist, Adm.
P.O. Box 670
Medical Lake, WA 99022
509-299-7733 Fax 509-299-1447

Nexus Program
Marcie Conmy Adm.
P.O. Box 1200
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-535-6660 Fax 406-535-6665

RYO Correctional Facility
Travis Hettick, Adm.
360 Galen Street
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
406-693-9975 Fax 406-693-9988

START Program
George Strutzel, Adm.
801 MT Hwy 48
Anaconda, MT 59711
406-563-7002 Fax 406-563-5069

WATCH Program
Alex Vukovich, Adm.
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Warm Springs, MT 59756
406-693-2272 Fax 406-693-2276

East
on, Adm.
700 Little Street
Glendive, MT 59330
406-377-6001 Fax 406-377-6004

Mike Batista, Director
Montana Department of Corrections
5 South Last Chance Gulch
P.O. Box 201301
Helena, MT 59620-1301

RE: "What Works" Correctional / Treatment Programming
CCCS, Inc Program Operations - Success Stories

Dear Director ^{Mike} Batista:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of Community, Counseling and Correctional Services, Incorporated (CCCS), I am writing in order to provide you with correspondence that the respective CCCS Program Administrators obtained from a number of our former clients (offenders). These former clients (offenders) who have successfully completed their programming at the Butte Pre-Release Center Men's Program, Women's Transitional Center, WATCH Programs (West & East), Connections Corrections Programs, Gallatin County Re-Entry Facility, Nexus Treatment Facility, etc.

Over the past year, I have observed and attended several hearings and have been engaged in numerous discussions with representatives from law enforcement, legislators, MDOC staff, etc, relative to "What Works" in correctional treatment programming and how do we measure success. Over the last forty (40) years, we have seen an incredible amount of growth relative to the "What Works" literature and more recently, a greater emphasis has been placed on evidenced-based practices. It is important to note that program evaluation research is critical in the use of evidence-based practices, which dictate a correctional agency's employee interventions which have shown to be effective with offenders. Therefore, I made the decision, in lieu of talking about our evidence-based practices that we utilize in our CCCS programs, to have our staff reach out to some of our former clients (offenders) and give them the opportunity to provide their own personal success story to you, your staff, Legislators, the Executive Branch, the County Attorney Association, District Court Judges, etc.

During the four (4) decades since the claim "Nothing Works" was made, a body of researchers have developed the "What Works" literature supporting that there are effective interventions that can be used with offenders.

For better or worse, recidivism is considered the “Gold Standard” by which to measure the effectiveness of programs. The correctional programs that CCCS operates have demonstrated they reduce costs in several ways. Most notably, CCCS’ programs have demonstrated that lower recidivism will reduce costs by decreasing associated victims’ costs, avoiding criminal justice costs (police officers, courts, prisons) and avoiding lost productivity of incarcerated offenders. Clearly, CCCS has demonstrated that quality programs improve offender employment incomes and can create a benefit by increasing income taxes paid by employed offenders, who are housed in community programs. CCCS programs additionally reduce costs by providing successful graduates with an early release to community supervision. We believe our programs have yielded the greatest benefit in having achieved positive recidivism / employment outcomes, while delivering relatively low-cost programming to a large number of offenders. Providing a continuum of care from prison to the community increases offenders’ chances of success, when evidence-based programming is provided to participants, while they are incarcerated, but also in the community following their release from prison and/or community programs. CCCS supports the “What Works” literature and our correctional interventions are used most-effectively when targeting the risk, needs, responsibility of offenders (clients).

I also submit this correspondence being concerned that in personal discussions, as well as during recent presentations attended I observed that tremendous opportunity and consideration was afforded to former offenders, who have failed in previous community-based residential placements including treatment facilities, presenting their story. It is my observation that some of the former offenders and their families, who have voiced their criticisms of community correctional treatment programs, specifically pre-release centers or treatment programs throughout Montana, and who subsequently failed while on parole or probation supervision, may have not told “the rest of the story” as the late Paul Harvey would say.

In my opinion, there have been many misstatements and insufficient amounts of information provided in some of the stories that were presented by former clients (offenders). In some instances, I believe the respective audiences were unaware of each offender’s current conviction, criminal history, institutional adjustment, technical violation history, etc while under supervision and the circumstances of their failure in release to the community. In order to mitigate these concerns, CCCS Staff has reached out to many of our former successful clients (offenders), through our Program Administrators, having them provide written testimony. This testimony conveys their personal story, relative to why they have successfully completed the requirements and conditions of their pre-release and/or prior treatment placements, as well as why they were successful while on probation and/or parole supervision.

My concern is that the consistent focus on program failures may be used to inaccurately gauge and measure what is “not working” in the Montana Correctional System. I feel it is imperative to point out that during my approximate thirty-three (33) years of working in corrections, including 2+ years at the Montana State Prison as a Correctional Officer and Correctional Counselor, only a fraction of our criminal justice problems are solved by continuing to chronically incarcerate people. Those states who have endorsed the “*trail’em, nail’em, jail’em*” model and have changed sentencing practices or made policy decisions, such as eliminating parole, mandatory minimum sentencing, etc have seen their nearsighted decisions result in the escalation in overall prison populations. This has produced burgeoning expenses that are passed on to the taxpayers.

For example, the State of Virginia, which abolished parole, watched their prison populations increase to dangerous levels and they subsequently reinstated parole in order to reduce this growth and decrease operating costs in their prison system. These policy decisions have been directly related to the ever-increasing costs of prisons. It has been unfortunate that some of these states' correctional systems have digressed and frankly diminished the incredible progress, previously made. My correctional experience leads me to believe Montana has been extremely fortunate continuing to evolve our corrections practices, placing a premium on providing quality programs and services positively affecting success in the community re-entry process.

For the past thirty (30) years, CCCS has been engaged in an excellent public / private partnership with the MDOC. I believe the attached personal stories provide a mixed sample of our former clients, who have successfully reintegrated back into the community, validate the premise that the majority of offenders, participating in community-based programs, complete their respective community-based treatment program placements successfully. I have grave concerns that if we consider making wholesale changes in our community programs and treatment milieus having a long, successful history this will diminish treatment services and contemporary programming. This will allow for release of offenders who are ill-prepared to productively transition back into the societal mainstream. Straying too far from what has been demonstrated to work will significantly enhance the probability that these individuals *will* recycle through the system. Failure to address their criminal thinking, associated behaviors, addictions and those chronic deficit areas that initially brought them into the system, places a significant fiscal cost on the taxpayers of Montana.

Sustainable correctional policies and practices should continue to emphasize reducing the use of across-the-board incarceration. Responsible parties agree that prison bed expansion is expensive and should continue to be reserved for the most dangerous, violent offenders – those who are at risk of repeating their crimes. An investment in continuing the eighty-twenty (80/20) model / concept which has its origins during the Schwinden Administration and has been supported by bipartisan Executive and Legislative Branches, during the past thirty (30) years supports this. This model demonstrates that we should move forward by expanding and enhancing cost-effective, community-based treatment programs and services while placing greater emphasis on “What Works” and how we measure success within our respective programs.

Having experienced and participated in fifteen (15) and soon to be sixteen (16) Legislative Sessions, I believe that there is a sustained and common goal, amongst the Legislative and Executive Branches, to continue searching for those additional cost-effective alternatives to incarceration and to build upon and expand the treatment philosophies currently in place at WATCH, Connections, Nexus, Elkhorn, Passages, etc. CCCS' Board of Directors and staff's position is that any potential cuts and/or reductions to community-based correctional and residential treatment programs will inevitably lead to significant spikes in prison populations and will produce significant operational deficits for the MDOC. Focusing on a few failures and reducing (or even eliminating) programs that have demonstrated their efficacy, we are regressing and will certainly revert Montana back to the archaic and punitive measures of simply placing offenders in housing populations, rather than preparing them for release back into their communities.

I commend you and your staff in your efforts to expand on the re-entry concept. I have always been a strong supporter and advocate of this dynamic. I believe there are numerous concepts, such as community resource facilities, that could supplement existing transition facilities throughout Montana and prove to be cost-effective. The economic benefits generated to taxpayers, from usage of a \$49+/day bed in the Butte Pre-Release Center or a \$58+/day bed in the Women's Transitional Center compared to a costly \$100+/day secure prison bed certainly makes sound economic sense. Importantly, programs currently provided by Montana-based, not-for-profit agencies hold offenders accountable, require them to seek and hold employment and become taxpaying citizens and to pay room and board, restitution, family support, etc., while receiving the highest of professional services in substance abuse, mental health, vocational and employment opportunities. This process makes as much sense today in Montana as it did in the early 1980's when these programs were initially implemented.

The implementation of short-sighted, short-term solutions today will create difficult, long-term problems in the future. There are many lessons to be learned from the past, inclusive of Executive and Legislative decisions implemented to control growth, while concurrently placing a premium on the effectiveness of public safety. Developed and proven "Smart Policies" save taxpayers' money and have had a significant impact in controlling our future population growth. I mention these points because I believe there is a wealth of invaluable information and knowledge, relative to "What Works" in both the public and private correctional systems included. I strongly advocate and encourage you and your staff to continue examining all cost-effective, viable community-based programming and treatment options that will ease population growth and reduce costs.

CCCS supports the development of a combination of both front and back-end policies and practices that will positively affect growth and spending during the short and long-term. Many of these practices are currently in place and have had a significant impact on Montana's correctional system. I suggest that further consideration be given to the possible expansion of non-residential services, such as Enhanced Supervision and Transitional Living Programs. Other options that could be discussed are activating Resident Resource Centers for parolees and probationers accessing the services offered at both the front and back-end of their sentences, which is consistent with the current MDOC's re-entry philosophy.

I have digressed from the original intent of this letter, specific to "What Works" in corrections and allowing many of our successful clients to tell their stories. I would ask that you please take the time to review the attached variety of personal stories from those clients (offenders). These clients (offenders) unfortunately have not been given the opportunity to tell "their" story. These clients (offenders) are willing to relate their compelling stories and what has worked for them and how they completed various programming opportunities throughout the Montana system. These stories tell about successfully returning to their communities, fulfilling the roles of husband, wife, father, mother, brother, sister, employee, community volunteer, etc. I encourage you to closely examine these letters, which were *voluntarily submitted*. I believe the incredible number of success stories will most definitely mitigate the small number of failures that have been garnering much attention. These letters demonstrate that our programs are effective and people released can perform exceptionally well in society. It is important to remember that there is a face and history associated with each of these letters. Their individual experiences are profound and often times tragic, but it

reaffirms for us who work in corrections why we show up for work on a daily basis and try to assist in the process of changing lives “one-life-at-a-time,” “one-day-at-a-time.

I ask that individuals copied on this correspondence take the time, even though a substantial number of letters are attached, to read these individual stories, prior to any deliberations and possible decisions are made, regarding the future of community corrections. A number of the former clients (offenders), providing correspondence, have indicated they would be amenable, if work schedules allow, to attend and provide feedback for any sub-committees during the upcoming Legislative Session, the current Re-Entry Task Force and attend and participate in any judicial meetings, etc, regarding their stories.

I want to state that a number of the clients, who have completed CCCS treatment programs also went on to become gainfully employed, by our agency and other agencies in capacities, including but not limited to Licensed Addictions Counselors, Counselor Technicians, Maintenance Technicians, etc. Each of these successful graduates of our programs has their own story and each of them deserves the support and resources to maintain quality sobriety in their lives and to pursue a life of happiness.

Words can never express how grateful I am personally to have been given the opportunity to spend the past thirty plus (30+) years working in a profession that is often times demanding, alarming, fatiguing and more times than not, rewarding. I speak for all of the staff who chose to work in this profession in that each of us, in our own small ways, do in fact become involved in offenders’ lives albeit to provide resources, direction, support, constructive feedback, accountability, etc. This provides them with the tools to make those decisions that will afford them the opportunity to return to their communities and engage in a sober, criminal-free lifestyle. In most cases, when individual behaviors demonstrate that offenders are not ready for the privilege, challenge and opportunity to change their lives, decisions will be made to place them within a higher custody level. Ascertaining their suitability and appropriateness for community programs or supervision is a profound responsibility that is not taken lightly by anyone who works within the Montana Correctional System.

In closing, I am proud to say that Montana’s Correctional System employs “the best of the best.” Those independent research entities such as the Pew Group that have completed cursory reviews of the Montana System, I believe would relate that the MDOC and the State of Montana have one of the most progressive, farsighted correctional systems in the nation. I attribute this to both past and present leadership, inclusive of Governor Bullock, you, and the respective leaders within the various Executive, Legislative and Departmental levels. I thank you for allowing me to provide you with these former program clients (offenders) personal success stories. I would be happy to arrange for any personal interviews and/or telephone conversations if you or any of your staff would like to obtain any additional feedback. If you desire any additional correspondence from some of our successful clients (offenders), I would be more than happy to reach out to additional former clients (offenders). I believe we would be able to engage a number of clients who have been out of the system for many years and also ask them to submit letters to your attention, relative to their progression and success through our community-based programs and in many cases supervision while on probation and/or parole and afford them the opportunity to expand in

greater detail on "What Works". Thank you for your time and keep up the great work. I look forward to visiting with you in the very near future.

Sincerely,



MIKE THATCHER
Chief Executive Officer
CCCS, Inc.
MT / mh

cc: Governor Steve Bullock
Lieutenant Governor Angela McLean
Chief of Staff Tim Burton
MDOC Budget Director Dan Villa
Governor's Policy Advisor, Siri Smillie
MDOC Deputy Director Loraine Wodnik
MDOC Administrator Pam Bunke
MDOC Bureau Chief Kelly Speer
MDOC Treatment Contract Program Manager Rick Deady
State Representative Steve Gibson, Chair Appropriations Sub-Committee on Corrections
State Representative Margie MacDonald, Chair Law & Justice Interim Committee and Committee Members
Southwest Montana Legislators
Supreme Court Administrator, Beth McLaughlin
CCCS Program Administrators
CCCS Board of Directors

WATCh

Programs

To: Governor Steve Bullock

From: Derek Gibbs

Ref: Community Corrections

Governor Bullock

Greetings from Lewistown, Mt.

First off I want to thank you for taking the time to read this letter as I know you are busy man. Most importantly, thank you for the commitment of the State of Montana and the Department of Corrections to provide increased public safety throughout the state by providing alternatives other than incarceration within the State. Community Corrections work

I have had the opportunity and privilege to be a part of a Community Corrections program as an offender; I am a graduate of the WATch Program and am now employed within a Community Based Treatment program as a Licensed Addictions Counselor at the Nexus Program in Lewistown.

I have a long history of drug and alcohol dependency throughout my life, I have been through numerous substance abuse treatment centers and spent many nights in a jail cell in many different states. I am from a town in South Texas along the Gulf of Mexico, close to the Mexican Border, I started drinking at a young age and progressed to using marijuana and other drugs starting at an early age. My addiction continued throughout my adolescences and into my adult hood. I destroyed a military career along the way. I ran to Montana in 1999. The destruction I caused within my family and my community was something I had not even realized. I was headed to prison or the grave, and I knew it. In 2005, I committed my 4th DUI in Fergus County, and for the first time, I was looking at MSP. I was provided an option, I could either go do 13 months at MSP or I could attend the WATch program. If I completed the WATch program, I would still be on supervision for the remaining 7 months and then go on a 5 year suspended sentence. I pleaded for the WATch program after a year of delays (on my part), I was sentenced in May 2006 to the WATch program in Warm Springs. My eyes began to open. Having gone through many substance abuse treatments in the past, this was different. Not only did my substance abuse get addressed, but my criminality and my behaviors were focused on as well. This was the difference. I graduated WATch in Nov. 2006 and hit the community running. I found a passion for helping others and not being a threat to my neighbors, my family, or my community any longer. I became actively involved in my recovery,, for once in my life I wanted to do what was right. I did not realize what I had become and I despised that person. WATch taught me, that I didn't have to continue my life the way it was headed, and the program taught me that I have a choice in the matter and the direction of my life. I have taken my life back and it's because of the knowledge and tools I found at the WATch program that has inspired me.

It's hard to put in writing all the things that have happened to me, my family and my community since my release from the WATch in 2006. Some of the actions I have taken include enrolling in college, I graduated High school in 1976 and had never considered going to college since, this was a challenge while working a full time job and having 2 teenage kids still at home at the time, but I completed an AS degree in Addiction Studies from the University of Great Falls. During this time I became involved at the

Nexus Treatment Program when that program opened as a volunteer and started the AA/NA framework there. I was soon offered a paid position with Nexus. I accepted and have been there since 2007. I went on to become licensed as a Licensed Addiction Counselor. In April of 2009, I received a phone call from my supervising probation officer informing me he was terminating my sentence, I did not know what this meant and he informed me that I am terminated from all of my remaining sentence. This happened without any request from me to do so. I have continued my college and have since received my Bachelor's Degree (the first Degree for anyone in my family) in Behavioral Science. I have received Certification as an Anger Resolution Therapist and am currently in Graduate School seeking a Masters in Clinical Counseling. My passion for change drives me, as it works, I am living it today.

The quality of life that I live today puts me in awe and continues to inspire me to give back. I have remained sober since my last arrest on Friday the 13th of May 2005. Some of the things that have come about in my life thus far have been the honor of walking my daughter down the aisle at her wedding and being there with her during the birth of our first grandchild. Celebrating 27 years of marriage to an amazing woman, a marriage that has true meaning today, and has become stronger than ever. I was able to pay off debts that had my credit score in the dumps, by doing so, I was able to pay back what I owe and was able to purchase our first home and have the freedom it brings knowing you have paid back people you owe. My son and I have rebuilt a hot rod, a dream I have had forever, but always allowed my addiction to take priority, today we are proud of our muscle car that we built together.. My daughter allows me to be a part of my granddaughter's life every Monday by watching her while my daughter and son-in-law work. I cannot describe the feeling I had when my daughter says that she has no worries when her daughter is in my care. My bride of 27 years truly trusts me, and I value her trust as it took time to build. My life today involves making hers and everyone else's better as I have taken her and others for granted my entire life. I am actively involved in the Lewistown community and provide Chemical Dependency Services and Anger Management in a group setting outside my employment at the Nexus Facility. My colleague and I have just recently returned from training in Dallas Texas pertaining to Batterers Intervention and are in the process of implementing the first services of this type in our area. Our first group starts April 1st. Many of the clients I work with are under supervision or involved with Child and Family Services or the Probation Department. I actively work with the courts and county attorneys to provide services to those in need within my community, and the need is great. I could go on for hours about the change of my life, but the bottom line is that without the opportunity for a Community Corrections facility such as the WATch program, and the passion of those that work there, I would have never learned that I was the problem, not the system, not the courts, not my family or the community I was living in, it was me. I was also able to learn that I too, am the solution and have a choice in the direction of my life, today I live in the solution and to me that is being responsible to my recovery, my family and my community. This sir, is a direct result of my placement in a community corrections facility. There is not a person on this planet that can tell me it doesn't work. There is not a single day that passes that I am not grateful for the opportunity I was provided by going through the WATch Program. The dedication, commitment and passion of those employed in that program has had a tremendous effect on myself personally, as well as those I come in contact with. Today, I am no longer a threat to my loved ones or any of my neighbors.

Today, I don't work any more, I just happen to be paid to watch miracles happen everyday in my place of employment and be part of something that does make a difference in peoples lives, and for that, I am grateful. As I mentioned earlier in this letter Governor, it is hard to put into writing all the positive things

that have happened in my life and the ripple effect it has on my community and members of my family but the bottom line is, Change happens and programs such as WATCH and other Community Correctional Facilities WORK

If I can help in anyway, I am there.

Respectfully

Derek Gibbs, LAC, CART

March 21, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter as a testament towards the success of the W.A.T.Ch program. By the age of 24 I had been convicted of 4 DUI's. My addiction to alcohol and drugs left me with feelings of hopelessness and despair. My future was bleak, seeing the only possible outcomes to be incarcerated or death. I was at a loss for a solution to my problems.

Furtunately for me, I was in Montana at this time in my life and was sentenced to the W.A.T.Ch program. I do believe that this program saved my life. Through this program I learned about myself and my addiction. Most importantly, I learned what steps I need to take on a daily basis in order to stay sober and to remain and active and productive member of society.

I do believe that if I had not been sentenced to this program that I would still be in the revolving door of the department of corrections. I am nearly 9 years sober. I have a successful career, participate in my community, and am able to help others in similar situations. I can honestly say that I am a happy individual today. I am convinced that I could not be where I am today if I had not had the experience of going through the W.A.T.Ch program. Many states simply incarcerate criminals with addictions. I feel blessed that I had the opportunity to live in a state that believes in rehabilitating individuals. Incarceration had never helped me in the past. I needed and intensive rehabilitation program to help get my life back on track.

Thank you,

Nicholas Garbiel

To: Director Mike Batista, and Governor Steve Bullock

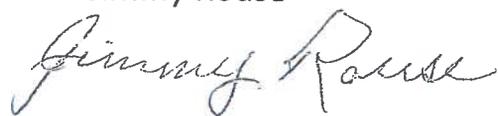
Re: Community Corrections and Treatment

Date: 3/26/14

My name is Jimmy Rouse; I have been sober since July 2006. I entered the WATCH Program in 2006 after a fifth felony DUI. I wanted to sign out because I did not think I could complete the program. It was overwhelming and I had never truly had to accept accountability and be confronted. I had never finished anything and like the typical alcoholic, I wanted to quit because it was easier to do time than get sober. Prior to the WATCH Program, I had been in treatment 10 times with little to no sustained sobriety. The 6 months gave me more time to allow my thinking to clear up and learn. I had been in prison, lost relationships due to hurting my family, and my own grand-children were afraid of me. Completing the WATCH Program has given me my life back. I would be dead today without sobriety. I ended up having triple bypass shortly after completing the WATCH Program. Had I not been sober I would have died from a massive heart attack. I have been able to start a vibrant community A.A. program in the Anaconda area and continue to pay it forward. I go to the WATCH program weekly to help give courage, strength and hope to those in the program and let them know no matter how much treatment they have had, the WATCH program will save their life, I am living proof. I am forever grateful for the WATCH Program and all the people that work and help people like me take their life back. The only way to repay society is to remain sober.

Sincerely and forever grateful

Jimmy Rouse

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmy Rouse". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name.

Mike Thatcher

From: Donna Benson
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 7:39 AM
To: mthatcher@cccscorp.com
Cc: mhamblin@cccscorp.com
Subject: RE:

Mike, here is another letter for your trip tomorrow. Will also be forwarding another one. Have a great day
Mike. Donna Benson

Mr. Babtista and Governor Bullock

I am writing to you about the WATCH West Program in Mt and I also would like include the WATCH East Program. Gentlemen these two programs are a necessity not only to the state of Montana but to the People and the men and women that participate in the Programs. I was a second WATCH gentlemen...oh!!! You say it did not work the first time.....YES it did!!! I had nearly seven years of recovery....I failed. THE PROGRAM did not!!! Any "reason" I would give to you for this occurring would be an EXCUSE and a "self centered" one at that. I chose to ignore the signs.....I chose to disregard the words of my sponsor or family that I needed counseling. Research the Pricket Lane Fire in Billings...I was in the paper several times as a spokesman for the families. I had the tools to deal with this...I chose not to use them...and slowly directed my path towards the loss of my recovery.

I could stretch this letter out into a life story but I wont I am a repeat DUI Offender...I am telling you now the WATCH PROGRAM saved my life and thank GOD gentleman I never took one behind the wheel....I chose to drink. That is the bottom Line.....This also brings me to the "Knight" Program which also is essential. I was asked by Ms. Benson to go over the work of the Knights...it was shaking to see the enormity of guilt that pervades them. The Knights Program is their only hope!!!! I was privileged to be Second Watch. I facilitated nearly the complete 6 months I was there. I primarily facilitated CPnR and Victims. Does everyone deserve to be Second Watch, NO!! I had in excess of 6 years in recovery. I would say that if someone leaves Watch and does not maintain a minimum of 7 years then its for you gentleman to decide. I would be very acceptable to speaking at the legislature regarding the necessity of WATCH. Gentleman I drank on time in the last 10 years...I had nearly 2 years in recovery before I was sentenced. I celebrated 1003 Days of Sobriety as of the date of this letter. I was taught to count the days not the years cause only have 1 day at a time....plus it sounds like more to throw away 1003 days than 3 years. I know the recovery percentages are poor...no matter what Program you attend...Alcoholism pervades our society....I firmly believe that harsher sentences flood the prison systems already....

At this time I would also like to advocate for expanding the WATCH East program to have Lady Knights. Why should men be afforded a chance that a woman is not...a question to ponder...

Mellissa Kelley and Merele Yellow Kidney where my original counselors and Mellissa Kelley greeted me at the JCRP when I arrived. I facilitated the CPnR Program and also designed a Comprehensive CPnR "test out test" for gentleman leaving Nexus Start and Watch.....funny statistics on who retained the information and those that complained about the difficulty...it wasn't WATCH.

Thank you Gentlemen.... 2nd WATCH, Kurt Prowell

I

Director Mike Batista
Montana Department of Corrections
Helena, Mt. 59601

Dear Director:

I graduated from WATCH East on December 28 because I was given the opportunity to get help for my addiction rather than going to prison and not addressing my alcoholism and its underlying causes. This opportunity was an amazing gift and a pivotal experience in my life.

WATCH is a program without equal in the United States. I have been to other treatment centers and got nothing from them. It took 4 DUIs and sentencing to 6 months treatment to get me the help I needed. I am forever indebted to the taxpayers of the State of Montana for probably saving my life and possibly the lives of others. This program is unique, special, and ingenious.

At WATCH we learn to take accountability for the decisions we've been making our whole lives. We learn from each other how to change our core beliefs-sometimes everything about ourselves-so that we can turn our lives around and be respectable, empathetic, and moral members of our families and our communities. At times it is grueling-and if you really want the help, you have to bare your soul and make yourself completely vulnerable. It's not an easy program to complete.

I know that the residents of WATCH are felons. It's a label we have earned and deserve-but we aren't proud of it. We are good people. Good people who have made huge mistakes. But good people just the same. I never thought I'd be friends with a felon-now some of the best human beings I know are felons.

I am a graduate of Montana State University and am getting a Master's in Social Work. Up until 6 years ago, I was very successful and had a normal, happy life. When alcohol entered the picture it began as very light, casual use. I never dreamed it would ever be a problem. A year later, I was dependent and was losing everything due to my drinking. I went to treatment for the first time, got home, and started binge drinking. I thought that since I wasn't drinking every day it was alright. It wasn't. My life continued to spin out of control for the next 5 years. When my husband had finally had enough, I lost it. I got all my DUI's in the 9 months before WATCH. I finally let alcohol have everything, even my freedom. My life was not worth saving. I attempted suicide and was heartbroken when I woke up in the hospital still alive.

I directed my attorney expressly to keep me out of WATCH. I told him that I would do anything except attend this program. I had been told that with my emotional, sensitive personality I would never make it. I was very upset when I was sentenced to 6 months in this very program. Then there were funding problems and I couldn't get a bed at WATCH. I had to be in jail for 4 months until a bed was available. Me! In Jail! Yes. And it feels even worse if you truly realize it is all your fault. It isn't the fault of your upbringing, of society, of bad luck, of mental illness. Everyone, EVERYONE can make decisions to do the right thing. This realization was hard to swallow but also very freeing.

When considering funding for drug and alcohol treatment for offenders, please take the time to talk to some of the graduates of this program and others like it in the state. They can share their incredible stories of lives salvaged and saved, of hope renewed, of families reunited. It's amazing.

My family and I send our unending appreciation and indebtedness to this program, the State of Montana, and to District Judge Reynolds who sentenced me. I will always struggle with addiction but have learned now how to win that struggle. This is one life saved and I WILL pay it forward. I WILL help others save their own lives too. Thank you-and please support WATCH.

Please feel free to contact me should I be able to answer any questions or speak on behalf of my fellow graduates. I support funding for Watch 100%. Your consideration is appreciated.

Respectfully,

Christie Messer
2111 Grizzly Gulch
Helena, MT 59601
4064433688



Mike Thatcher

From: Donna Benson
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 7:39 AM
To: mthatcher@cccscorp.com
Cc: mhamblin@cccscorp.com
Subject: FW: 2006 WATCh grad

Another Success story. Thanks

Donna Benson, LAC, Assistant Clinical Supervisor WATCh Program PO Box G Warm Springs, MT 59746
406-693-2272 ext. 1015

donna_benson@cccscorp.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Cutler [<mailto:billcutler2006@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 6:29 AM
To: billcutler2006@yahoo.com
Subject: 2006 WATCh grad

To: Director of Corrections Mike Bastista
Governor Steve Bullock

My name is Bill Cutler and I'm a graduate of the Warm Springs WATCh program. I completed the program in March of 2006 with every intention of using the knowledge I had instilled in me to stay on the right road to sobriety. It's been just over 8 years and I'm still here, still sober, and dam proud to. I had been wanting to kick my drinking habit for quite a few years but didn't seem to have enough will power to do it on my own. After a number of D.U.'s I'm going to say I drew the lucky straw and was sent to the WATCh program. I was angry at myself for getting locked up again but I also knew that if I didn't get some help I wouldn't make it much longer or even worse I might kill someone. I didn't care about me when I was drinking or any one else. It was, just stay out of my way and everything will be all right kind of trap I was in.

After finding out that I was going to the WATCh I couldn't wait. (Had to though) It seemed to be the longest 7 months of my life waiting for a bed to open up for me, and going to jail seemed to be so routine for me, ending up locked up once or twice a year for the same thing. I was a functioning alcoholic and hid it rather well for years. This time I had the will to change. The will to live. When I first arrived at the WATCh I dint like it I'll admit that much, but I knew I needed to be there and I was determined to take all I needed to take with me to to live again. And I did. It wasn't an easy program by no means. And it shouldn't be. I was ridiculed, told I wasn't being honest when telling my life story and even lost what I thought where friends in there. But it didn't matter because I knew I was being honest with myself. I like to say I have been sober for 9 years because I started sobering up while I was in jail, yet my real start date is March 15th 2006. I'm proud again. Home again. No more running from my own stupid

self.

I am doing something I never ever thought I would be doing. I'm involved with the Special Olympics in Idaho. WOW what an eye opener. I also married my grade school sweetheart Paula, that has 2 special needs boys that I love as my own. I'm a happy man. Only wish I would have taken this rode many years ago.

I would be honored to come back to the WATCH program and tell my story or life's challenges and success.

I must thank my counselor Donna Benson and all the others that helped me find the road I'm on.

Thanks, Bill Cutler

3719 E 100 N

Rigby, Idaho 83442

208-403-9389

Donna Benson

From: Ed Morris <bigedmorrised@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 3:23 PM
To: dbenson@cccscorp.com

Governor Steve Bullock and Director Batista,

I am writing this letter in support of long term treatment for addictions, such as I received at the W.A.T.C.H. program in 2013. My life was in a total self destruction mode. It was then I drove in a total blackout wrecking my truck on HWY 1. I got my 4th DUI felony). The court offered me a chance to go to W.A.T.C.H. in a 6 month treatment. I accepted their offer. This turned out to be the best decision of my life. For 40 years I worked hard in construction as a boilermaker. Along with hard work I also drank hard in those years, leaving a trail of destruction in my path, not only for myself but everyone else along my way. In the wreck that got me my 3rd DUI, I was severely injured and lost my right eye. This event didn't slow me down, it only drove me deeper into my addiction . I reached a point that I was drinking 1 liter of brandy and an 18 pack of beer daily, sometimes more. This went on for six and one half years until I got my 4th DUI. In W.A.T.C.H . they gave me all of the necessary tools I needed to live a sober and productive life. Towards the of my 6 month stay I thought I new it all, but with five days left two counselors saw I was complacent and had stopped learning and changing. I received a 30 day extention. I was mad at the system for 2 days and then it hit me hard, they were just doing their job, trying to save my life. It was at that point I took full responsibility for my actions, and new that I needed more help. That thirty day extention literally saved my life. The extra work they gave me opened my closed mind and I finally surrendered to the fact that my life was unmanageable and that I couldn't do it alone. I thank my higher power ,who I call God, and W.A.T.C.H. for all of the help they gave and never gave up on me. This is why I believe at least a six month program is necessary to turn ones life around. In closing I would also like to say, that W.A.T.C.H. also taught me the importance of A.A. I know in my mind that A.A is the aftercare of treatment. Without both of them I would not be alive today writing this letter. Thank you very much for giving me my life back.

Sincerely, Edward Morris

Governor Bullock and Mr. Mike Bistia

I graduated from the second WATCH program in January of 20013. My family and I are eternally grateful for the treatment and tools I received to work a program and live a life no longer creating victims through alcohol abuse. I learned what it means to be a man of courage facing my problems and character defects instead of hiding from my emotions in a bottle. I have made amends to my family members for the emotional, physical, and financial abuse I put them through when I was drinking. When I ask them is there anything I can do to make things right, they tell me to keep doing what I'm doing and they're proud of me. Without the treatment I received at the WATCH program I would have never been able to admit my wrongs because I blamed others for my problems.

Gentleman I and other alcoholics have a disease that convinces us we do not have a disease it is cunning baffling and powerful. It aims to steal kill and destroy not only the alcoholic but also everyone the alcoholic comes in contact with and sadly enough especially the loved ones of the alcoholic. However I have found through treatment and working the steps of Alcoholics Anonymous no matter how far down the scale we go we can turn our lives around become great Daddies sons and husbands. I'm living proof! My family loves to be around me now, I make quality time for my children & cherish the fact that as long as I don't drink I will be a positive loving caring force in their lives and will not have to watch them group through letters and visits behind glass. I have a good job and am a great employee because I show up every day with a good attitude because the WATCH program gave me a second chance at life, a chance I did not deserve. Without The treatment I received at WATCH I would be sitting in a cell full of hate and discontent and blaming others for the mistakes I had made, learning only how to be a better criminal.

I am not saying my life is perfect there are still struggles, but I view them now as challenges not hopeless defeats where my only solution was to drink so I could forget about them. Through the treatment of WATCH I've meet many others like me who were hopeless empty souls hurting the ones around them only caring about their next drink. We have a new force driving us now a higher power that directs us away from serving ourselves and our addictions thinking of others before we act and speak. We are a great group of people and I am proud to be a member where the only requirement for this new way of life is a desire to stop drinking. Without the WATCH program I would not have that desire because it gave me the courage to look in the mirror and admit I was the problem, therefore giving me the tools to become a better man a sober man of courage.

Sincerely

Kyle Michael Segmiller I

Kyle Michael Segmiller I Second WATCH graduate

(406) 589-5806

51 Mayflower Rd. Whitehall MT. 59759

1123 Gov. Bullock &
D. RECTOR Batista,

My name is Patrick Edwards and I am an alcoholic, and a sincerely grateful graduate of The Watch Program. I feel it an obligation to share my story and experience with you. I came from generations of bar owners. In my teens I used my position as a bar owners son to steal alcohol from my fathers bar and contribute it to the underaged and unlicensed drivers in the community of Anaconda. From my late teens to early 30's I used my position as a bar owner to allow tens of thousands of impaired customers^{to} walk out the door of my bar and get behind the wheel of a deadly weapon, not to mention the thousands of time I got behind the wheel of my own car, caring not for a second about the lives I put in danger on the streets and highways of Montana. Despite the hundreds of feeble attempts made to cut down, control or quit this arrogant, selfcentered behavior this insanity went on for a total of 35 years, until Aug. 4, 2012 when I was arrested for a 4th DUI, a felony. In short gentlemen I was a huge part of the epidemical problem of Driving Under the Influence. At sentencing I was blessed with the opportunity to attend Watch. I arrived there on July 5, 2013.

I was scarred to death when I got to Watch, and with good reason. It was the most difficult, emotionally and physically draining experience I had ever gone through. I wanted to sign out and sit my time in prison on a daily basis.

Even though it would have been taking the easy way out I KNEW I would learn nothing, and my INSANE behavior would have continued. Watch was, by far, the hardest thing I have ever completed.

The things I learned, and the tools I gained at The Watch Program are priceless. I learned that alcoholism is an incurable, but manageable, deadly disease, and not just a weakness in my character. That in itself gave me hope. I suffer from epilepsy, another deadly but manageable disease that is not curable. I will die an epileptic, but I do not have to pass because of epilepsy. All I have to do is follow Dr.'s orders. I will die an alcoholic, but do not have to die because of alcoholism as long as I follow the road map to a sober responsible life, I can do that now by using the tools gained from my stay at Watch.

Watch taught me to face my past, share my story and hopefully save others from living the destructive, victimizing life that until Watch I had led. I learned that I do not have to run from the guilt of my past in a never-ending cycle of use and abuse.

I learned how irrational my thinking was, and taught how to recognize those thoughts and change them. I learned that abstinence is the only way to manage my disease of alcoholism. I learned that my mistaken beliefs drive my irrational thoughts and that I can have new core beliefs with practice.

I learned how to establish a daily structure that, for me, includes, stress management and regular contact and self disclosure in self help groups. This is but a small part of the wealth of knowledge I gained at Watch. Watch also helped me to re-establish and nurture a relationship with my Higher Power, God. A relationship I walked away from long ago. I thank God for Sister Linn's guidance every day.

Since leaving Watch I have felt a peace I had never known. I was able to have the tough conversations with family and friends about issues never before talked about. On March 16, 2014 I turned 53 yrs. old. When asked what I would like to do that day by my Son Mark, I found myself grabbing two garbage bags. Mark on one side of the street, me on the other we walked the ~~the~~ route of the very parade that you yourself Mr Governor walked the following day. We picked up glass from broken bottles, bottle tops, and other trash from the streets and sidewalks that would soon be lined with children scrambling and scraping for every piece of candy thrown. I never did that before Watch, heck I never even thought about it, nor did I care, before Watch. That evening I was invited to dinner at my daughter Katie's house. It turned out to be a surprise party, a completely Alcohol free surprise party. The 1st party ever thrown by an Edwards that was

100% free of alcohol and full of sober family members and friends that I can REMEMBER.

THESE things may seem small, but to ME they ARE huge EVENTS that ARE proof that I can be a part of the solution, EVEN if just a part, AND EVEN if only in my little corner of the world. THERE WERE dozens of people that drove sober that night that otherwise most certainly would NOT have.

I look so forward to giving back to the community I ONCE TERRORIZED with my self serving, self indulgent behavior. To face the challenge of making a positive difference in the lives of those I care in the state that I SO LOVE AND the country that I PLEDGE my ALLEGIANCE.

FOR ME, Watch is a Program that COMES along ONCE in a lifetime and has the power to change LIVES FOREVER.

My heart is so full ~~for the~~ ^{with of} gratitude AND LOVE ^{that} I FEEL FOR EVERY single staff MEMBER, COUNSELORS, SECURITY, NUTRITION AND spiritual, that EVERY so often it has to RELIEVE itself in the form of TEARS of joy that flow unimpeded down the cheeks of a THANKFUL soul. They loved me when I could not and cared enough to be hard on me. YOURS TRULY:


AO# 3011700

Molina Hamblin

From: Donna Benson
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 3:52 PM
To: mthatcher@cccscorp.com
Cc: mhamblin@cccscorp.com
Subject: FW: Letter

Another success story. Thanks

Donna Benson, LAC, Assistant Clinical Supervisor

WATCh Program

PO Box G

Warm Springs, MT 59746

406-693-2272 ext. 1015

dbenson@cccscorp.com

From: Mike Patch [<mailto:mikeapatch79@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 2:50 PM
To: dbenson@cccscorp.com
Subject: Letter

Director Batista

Hi my name is Mike Patch and on Nov. 13th 2004, I chose to get drunk and race my truck down a street in Great Falls MT. I slammed head on into Michael Moore, brutally taking his life and causing irreparable injury to his passenger Joesph .

I went to prison for about 7 years then was given the opportunity to go to the WATCh program (as a Knight) in Warm Springs. This great program helped me to see so much of what I had chosen not to look at. I found while I was at WATCh that I had suppressed my truth so much that I believed in my own lies, to protect myself from pain. I feel that if I had not been given the opportunity to go to WATCh I would not still be out in the community today.

I have been out for about 2 years now, I am not going to say it has been easy because that would be a lie. I have maintained full time employment, go to the gym 5 days a week, and take care of my family. I still have a long way to go in life as a sober man but am confident that as long as I choose to do the next right thing day to day and continue to use the tools I learned at WATCh I will succeed. And I also know that if life starts weighing down on me too much all I have to do is ask my parole officer for help or call one of the strong counselors at WATCh and help is always there for me.

I love being sober, strong, and confident. I am more than grateful for all the hard work that the employees at WATCh invested in me. From the bottom of my heart I thank all of you for your hard work and guiding me into a healthy lifestyle. Your work does not go unnoticed!!

THANK YOU,
Michael A Patch

Mike Thatcher

From: Dave Boyd
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 12:41 PM
To: Mike Thatcher; Molina Hamblin
Subject: WATCh East Graduate

Mike (Nephew), I was not sure who to send this to so hopefully it gets through. I'm not sure if you remember me but I graduated from Watch on December 4th, 2012. I am a different person since going through the Watch system. Once I returned to Billings, I enrolled into MSU-Billings. I am now about a Junior with a Psych Rehab major emphasizing in Addiction Counseling. I would not have been able to do ANY of this without your program. In addition to my Psych Rehab major, I am minoring in Native American studies, in part due to the smudging I took part of at Watch. I made the Dean's List last quarter with a perfect 4.0 gpa. I have never had a 4.0 in anything in my life, it is truly amazing. I have so many people in your organization to thank, You, Deb, Marie, Gina, Kathy, Larry, Vaughn, Arnell, Sara..... and list goes on. Please share this with them all as each and every one of the Watch program has impacted my life. As far as the current family members, just let them know that they can get so much out of the program as long as they are willing to work at it. It certainly didn't come easy for me, but it sooo well worth it. I am not done, but can see my progress as a motivation to me and possibly others in the program. I will never forget the people that have truly impacted me and will do my very best to pay it forward.

Thank you all so much and God Bless!!

David Kobold

To whom it may concern,

My name is Glen Chad Schipman. I received my 4th offense DUI on October 29th, 2011. I was sentenced to thirteen months DOC supervision. Six months were to be spent at WATCH East in Glendive Montana. The remaining seven months were spent under probation.

On September 6th 2012 I entered the WATH East treatment center. I walked through the doors with every intention of just playing their game for the next six months. I had no intentions what-so-ever of changing my ways. In fact, in my mind, I didn't have a problem and my life was just fine. I had a good job, my own house and vehicles and my family and friends were all supporting me. In my mind alcoholics were drunk every day, homeless and living in the gutter drinking their booze from brown paper bags.

Well it didn't take very long to realize how wrong I was!

After a very short period, sometime during the "Phase I" period at WATCH East, I had the realization that my life was heading down a very dark path. I may not have hit "rock bottom" yet, but it was not too far in my future. As I listened to the life stories of the "family members", and how they too felt their lives were just fine until the world collapsed around them due to their addictions, I saw myself in their tales and came to the conclusion my life was not so different. The reality of this scared me. The thought of my world crumbling and my wife and two wonderful children giving up on me was more than I could handle.

It was time to remove the blinders and make the commitment to change. It was time to be honest with myself. I looked to the "2nd and 3rd phasers"; I saw the glow in their eyes and decided that is what I wanted, what I needed. I knuckled down and put my heart into the work I was assigned. I listened attentively with an open mind to all the advice the counselors and "family members" were offering. I found that telling my story not only helped me, but may also help someone else. I can honestly say, by the time I reached "3rd phase", I was a new man.

In conclusion,

I was discharged on March 5TH 2013. I have found the world to be a new and exciting place. I have not touched a drop of alcohol. Thanks to WATCH East I have the tools I need to live my life to the fullest extent without the need of alcohol.

WATCH East saved my life. The program they follow, the close interaction with people that share the same problems as I do and the amazing staff all combine to make six months life changing. I cannot imagine getting the same results from a jail cell.

Sincerely,

Glen Chad Schipman

Dear Batista

My name is Shawn Wallace. I don't know if you recall me, but I met you at Watch treatment in Warm Springs. The again on the MSP Fire Crew when we helped moved Furniture at the Doe in Helena.

I wanted to exsprise how grateful I am for Programs like Watch and the Billings Pre-lease, as hard as they are. They have helped me become a better man.

But I have too say Watch was one of my Biggest Challenges, only because they helped me face my past and the flawed thinking that came from my choices.

One way my thinkings was flawed, was I was a double mind person. Saying one thing and doing another.

One example was in my Kight group at Watch. Donna my counselor just as me if I Loved my son. Then in a matter o fa minute another guy said something I didn't like. I got up and was ready to leave and go back to prison. Then Donna yelled and said Shawn dont you walk out that

door. I then realized the bad choice I was about to make. I then sat down. Donna let me cold down for a few. Then ask me if I wanted my son to go to prison and if I loved him. I said no I dont want him to go to prison and yes I love him.

She said that is not what your action showed, because I was ready to go to prison and not fight for me or my son. She said what you just did was hand your son a snake disguised as a candy bar. I understood this, because I said I loved my son but was will to go back to prison, How double minded is that. She showed me the message I would be sending me son, I dont want you to do it, but I can. Or I love you put rather go the prison.

Another way it help me is. (I will keep this short because I know you to be a bussey man). When I got to Watch I was asked how did you murder. I can't say I agreed with this at first, but what it did is help me be accountable for taking Priscilla life. I was told to that I may run into my victams this could help me with the hard things the may say. Well unfortunately why I have ran into

my victims and was told thank you for killing my Grandmother. I just said sorry as they continued to tell me I ruined their life. I believe if I wasn't challenged at Watch with this. I would of handled this in a destructive manner.

I could write a book on how Watch and Pre-lease have helped me with empathy, patience, victimstance but don't want to keep you held up. I just wanted you to know the gratitude I have for DOC. It's crazy you know the paradox. I had to get locked up to be free. Well I believe it.

Thanks for your time. I hope this has shown the good in backed DOC has been for my family and society and myself.

If you would like more details you may call me at (545-8887)

Thank for your time
God Bless
Shawn Wallace

To Watch EAST

The six months I was at
Watch East has saved my life.
I'm now a confident sober man

a Benefite to Society. The
Therapeutic Community help me get
back on track and realize the
problems I had in my past.

With those out in the open and
advice from people of my own
kind I can be free from the
pent up emotions. I've battled
with alcohol all my life - when ever
if ever I get the urge to have
a drink, I know how to stop it
now! Thanks to this unique program

Thanks again
William C. Kruger
graduated March 15, 2014

**Butte Pre-
Release Center**

**Women's
Transitional
Center**

Dear Mr. Mike Batista,

This letter to your office as Director of W.V. Correction is in regard to the Putte Pre-Release Center, primarily its programs & staff. I included accompanying this info is a copy of a previous letter that I wrote upon completion of the Pre-Release Center including the APC program. It would be greatly appreciated if you would please read or review this former letter carefully and know it was written solely by myself and purely voluntarily. At this point I will assure you that the letter was highly complimentary, unprejudiced, practical, or imaginary or exaggerated in any possible form or way. My comments & opinions were based upon pure simple fact & truth and I can assure you as well that my opinion back then was accurate and my opinion not changed or diminished in the slightest except to say I have only given higher regards to the entire program and staff members. As well I would like to add that there are indeed staff members who voluntarily go to great efforts and lengths to attempt to help others with very serious personal problems. Problems that if individuals do not or had not received this type of professional, compassionate outreach would certainly have only ended in personal, societal and less destructive results. Including criminal behavior and chaotic lifestyles with far reaching depths of tragic proportions. There is absolutely no dramatization

(cont.)

involved here in these comments and again based upon simple fact and pure unbiased truth matters.

When people go to such trouble, lengths and sacrifices & reach out to others who yet are not even residents, inmates or in or out patients who are involved in such things as drug, alcohol use & abuse etc. we can easily see what a huge difference these efforts can make in just one persons life, an entire family or society as a whole. The center has worked very hard and dedicated & help or assist thousands of souls over the years & better pre-prepare them & be successfully re-introduced as a responsible, respectful and law abiding honorable citizen and who can possibly even begin to say or calculate what that is truly worth & these individuals, their family, friends, etc. law-enforcement, corrections, tax payers and even and especially God Himself.

In conclusion whatever help, support, assistance, budget should be unanimously & most generously be given approval and granted to this extremely important and effective organization in every conceivable way including a new or more modernized facility itself. With my most deepest and sincerest regards & yourself & all others here A-Z who serve our nation & state in these capacities & agencies. God bless you all!

Sincerely, Monty L. Field April 21, 2014

August 2, 2003

Dear

First and foremost let me emphasize that it is my great honor and pleasure to communicate this information to yourself and other concerned parties.

On December the 24, 2002 I became a resident of the Butte Pre-Release Center at 62 W. Broadway and left on June 27, 2003. My primary and main purpose for writing and forwarding this letter is to express my sincerest heartfelt appreciation to each and every person both staff and administration of this Center and CCC (Connections Corrections Center). Without going into great detail allow me to say that I was provided some of the finest directive and assistance in my efforts to successfully and satisfactorily complete the programs and directly due to this outstanding professional, dedicated team of personnel it has not only taught me many good things, but has made my transition from incarceration to community and social life much smoother, organized and likely to succeed in every appreciable respect.

My experiences with this center and the general community and citizens of Butte have been especially favorable and positive. The Center faces many daily challenges and difficulties in countless ways, but manages extremely well to provide safe, complete, workable, fair and helpful solutions or answers to each and every participant. So long as a person examples a decent attitude, willingness to learn and adjust or make necessary personal character changes if appropriate and offer reasonable cooperation and general acceptable behavioral practices. The program is not easy or leisurely and requires commitment and focus but anyone who is sincere can achieve full success in and throughout its design and purpose. And like most things in this world it is not perfect I personally experienced or witnessed no incompetence, confusion or lack of effort on professional address to all pertinent issues or concerns There was and is a noticeable consistency in their approach and conclusions to every or potential problem that might exist or arise. This applies to both the men's and women's Centers as well as C.C.C.

In short these people know their business and capably perform it very well, you learn good things in life from good people and Butte, Montana has no shortage of them. I will do my best to remember and carry out these things in the extended future with new hope and confidence largely due to the people at the Centers and this community.

(cont. on back)

~~Confidential - largely due to the support of the Centers and the community.~~
All of my observations, opinions or comments are strictly volunteer, non-professional or without any bias, prejudice, favoritism, flattery, prescribed or influenced by another.

In closing please give full and every consideration to continued or increased endorsement and support to their existence, efforts, needs, cause and purpose, including the possibility of a new or more modern facility. They deserve the best this state has to offer.

May God bless.

Sincerely,



Monty L. Field 38893

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monty L. Field".

Footnote: Because I have decided to parole to the Butte area I am currently participating in the Centers ARC program which is facilitated by the competent Mrs. Meg Bristol. Typical of the entire staff worthy of much honorable mention.

A Helping Hand

Michael J. Byers

A Helping Hand

My life and career of destructive behavior began at a very young age. I was brought up in an environment where drugs, alcohol, violence, and un-lawful behavior were all of the norm. I started getting in trouble at a young age in school with my teachers and began drinking at about the age of 13. From there things began to progressively get worse. My first time ever going to jail was for a possession charge. I was 15 years old and in possession of drug paraphernalia. This was the beginning of my slide downhill.

Today, I have found myself in a position of having things in my life falling into place. I have had a rough go at it for a number of years. Through all of the drinking, drug induced episodes that I have had, I have been given the help that I needed, even when I didn't think that I needed it or wanted it. There were always people who would not give up on me, even when I wanted to give up on myself.

In consideration of time, I am going to fast forward through a lot of the bad things, and get strait to the things that helped me get to where I am at today. I finally hit my rock bottom in 2010. I was in a world of hurt, and nothing I was doing was making the pain go away. This was also a time in my life when I had no control over whether or not I picked up a drink. I ended up being chased through the town by the police while I was driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol. By the grace of God, I was arrested at my place of residence after I burned a good man's hand with a cigarette.

After that, I was given yet another opportunity to get the help that I needed. This time something was different. I wanted a change. I went to the WATCH program with an open mind and an open heart. In treatment I picked up some really great tools that will more than likely, in one way or another, be with me for the rest of my life. But the real transformation began when I

got back into society and started living my life with the struggles that are an everyday ordinary. I was accepted into the Butte Pre Release and started doing just that. In the Pre-Release, I was given more tools that I can use in my life such as developing a sense of responsibility and accountability. I was given the opportunity to continue my life of recovery by going to AA meetings and doing fun recreational things not only with the others from the Pre-Release, but from my recovery group as well. I was allowed to go out and go to work and show my responsibility. I was allowed to go and give back to my community in many ways which was very rewarding.

The staff at the center, including, but not limited to, my case manager Mike, were all influential in my transition. I was told that I could go to my case manager with anything that was on my mind for help, and that the door would be open. It was. I brought things up to him that I was not sure if I could talk to anyone else about because they might have been either too small or too big.

The setting of the Pre-Release center is a great place. There is a great deal of help offered to those who really want it and are willing to work for it. I, for one, am very grateful that nobody turned their back on me early on and gave me the chances that I did get. I have a beautiful life today and would not change it for the world. My number one priority today is my sobriety and recovery. In order to ensure that, I help others where ever possible. I have been able to go to the treatment centers here in Butte and speak to deliver the message. All of these things are a direct result of doing what has been taught to me thru going through the Pre-Release and being an offender of the Department of Correction. If I am nothing else, I am grateful for the programs available.

Michael Byers

COPPER CITY GARAGE DOORS
224 WEST ALUMINUM ST
BUTTE, MT 59703
406-723-3490



Att: Mike Batista, Jay Grant

Hello gentleman my name is Larry Kiner, Im writing this letter in regards to my experience at the Butte Pre release. I went through the program in 2013 . Im a butte native and I apriciate my community and the services th are available here in butte. The Butte pre release is a good asset to our community. I feel fortunate to have been able to attend that facility. The services offered and the program structure is very professional. The staff was respectful and helpful in many matters. Being from butte and being able to work in my community to keep my business running was a positive thing that helped me achieve my goals with recovery. I know most of the staff there personally, and even though I felt very humble to be there I never was treated differently or judged in a negative manner. I thank the whole crew for that. I realize that their jobs are not always easy. The population a the pre release is a very diverse one, and personalities of the clients can make the job hectic to say the least. But what I found was a very respectful and helpful staff that truly do care about the well being of others. And I found some clients taking advantage of the good nature of the staff. The living conditions were problely better than most of the clientele were ever used to. And most of us knew that . Just a given few that always seem to stress their " rights" were the ones that don't seem to do well in that monitored society. Their loss.

The pre release gives an individual the opportunity to better themselves if they choose to do so. The tools and the services are there if one is willing to make a life change and commitment. I was fortunate to be able to be given the opportunity to do so , and with the help of the Butte Pre release I continue to work on myself and stay a productive member of this great community. I thank you for that. So if anyone has a bad word to say about the butte pre release , well im not the person they should be talking to.

Thank you for the oppportunity to stress my thoughts . The butte pre release and the staff were a positive experience for me. Thank you once again.

Sincerely; Larry Kiner

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry Kiner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Box 152
Loma, MT 59460
April 16, 2014

~~Mike Batista, Director~~
Montana Department of Corrections
Helena, Montana

Dear Mr. Batista:

I am writing this letter to encourage the State of Montana to continue funding rehabilitation programs such as pre-release as an alternative to sending low level, non-violent offenders to prison.

Some offenders' crimes do not warrant incarceration and they need structure to get them back on the right track. Too often the human factor is taken out of the equation. In my particular case, I am thankful that I came before Judge Larson when I offended. He took into account my history, family and the severity of the offense. The Judge ordered that I go to pre-release for six months and then be on probation with a scam bracelet for six months.

After spending several months in jail feeling like a trapped animal and getting more and more emotionally wrought, a bed opened up in the Butte Pre-release. There I was assigned to a counselor who helped me focus on getting back on track. Pre-release helped me work on my alcohol issues in a structured environment and encouraged me to focus on my goal of college Spring quarter.

I completed all the programs at Pre-release and am now on probation with a scam bracelet which will come off the 1st of May. Incidentally, I pay \$300.00 a month for the scam bracelet and \$21.00 a month for monitoring. I am currently taking classes and right now have a 4.0 GPA for the semester. I am starting my own business and this is going well. I am a productive member of society. Had I had been incarcerated, I would be nothing more than a burden on the State's coffers.

If the issue is really about money and budgets, I would think that when everything is considered it is less expensive to send a person to a pre-release program. In prison there are costs for security personnel, administration, building maintenance, food, board, medical, clothing, etc., all of which the prisoner cannot contribute to. In a pre-release system the inmate is expected to work, pay for board and room and his personal needs. The inmate who has been in pre-release is already working upon release. Employers are willing to work with the Pre-release because they know that the employee faces repercussions if they are not dependable.

Both the Scram Monitor and my Probation Officer are in my corner helping me to succeed. They work with me and not against me. Their faith in me makes me want to succeed even more. When incarcerated no one really cared. In fact, I believe that incarceration compounds any problems an individual may have. People in a correction setting are concerned with punishment and power. I doubt that anyone has ever been rehabilitated by going to prison.

Sincerely,

Shawn Barnier

A.O. # 28397

To who it may concern,

323-14

I'm writing in regards concerning Butte pre-release. Butte pre-release has been beneficial to me to have the responsibilities to rewrite back in to society. It has help me by providing groups, cog, application, job training, to make responsible decisions. Learning how to become a productive member of society. And from what I have witnessed here has helped a lot of people in the society and community up here in to provide there needs. I think it would be a bad choice to shut down pre-release because they provide valuable resource for people in need.

Thank you for your time.
Max Duane Azual, Sr.
Butte Pre-release Resident

MR. Batista:

3-25-14

I am writing to give my opinion & experience at the Butte Pre Release. The release is definitely not a fun place, nor would I wish to ever revisit one. That being said I gained so much from my experience that it has influenced my life in many positive ways. I started off on a rough road, thinking that some of the rules & expectations were "stupid" & on more than one occasion, tried to push the boundaries on them. I learned quickly to accept & take accountability for my negative & self defeating behaviors. I also learned to be more independent & that I can't & shouldn't have to look to others for financial support. I learned to work for the simple reward of being proud of MYSELF. I gained self-confidence & a new appreciation for things I once took for granted especially my family. Overall it helped me prepare for the challenges ahead even though I fought it tooth & nail. I think if someone has the honest want of bettering themselves pre-release is a much needed helping hand.

Kristal
Jeri
AO# 3005117

March 24, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express the impact Pre-release has had and continues to have in my life and recovery.

I am currently in the Butte Women's Transitional Center for Fraudulently Obtaining Dangerous Drugs. I have fulfilled the obligations regarding this conviction and have successfully completed an intensive inpatient treatment program made available to me through the Pre-release. This program provides endless programs and support to help residents gain their independence & transition back into the community. Prison and treatment do not prepare you for living in society; their purpose is dealing with your addiction and conviction. Eventually most people convicted of a crime will be back in society. It only makes sense that there are programs available to help us do so in a productive way.

Since arriving on Sept. 6, 2013 I have had many positive experiences. I am disabled and unable to work full-time, while I was waiting for my Social Security hearing the employment recruiter, Scott Harding, at the Pre-release found me spot jobs to do in the community so I could pay my room and board. I was allowed to do community service by preparing meals for the homeless, working at the Rescue Mission and helping out at our Civic Center. It was fun and made me feel good about myself. The center also provided transportation to and from work and community service. I also became involved in an NA program and was able to build a strong support system. I am deeply grateful to my case manager, Mike Bauer, for his support and encouragement through this process. He has been available to listen anytime I felt frustrated or just needed someone to talk to. When my Social Security hearing was scheduled not only did the Pre-release provide my transportation my case manager came with me and testified on my behalf. The director, Jay Grant, has advocated and been supportive through this process by writing letters on my behalf and allowing me to continue in the program while I was waiting for my disability payments. I have been able to reunite with my family through monitored passes & have begun to build a healthy relationship with my children.

On March 18, 2014 I was released from the Pre-release and allowed to participate in the transitional living program. I am required to check-in each day, provide UA's & BA's and be accountable for all my actions. I am receiving disability, working part-time, doing community service, and still attending NA. I am focused on my sobriety and becoming a productive member of my community. I am excited about my future and what it has to offer. This experience has allowed me the opportunity to look at my life, to examine my mistakes & to contemplate my poor choices. As a result of this process I have made profound commitments to myself; my community & my family. I am committed to making a positive impact in whatever situation I find myself; to live with absolute integrity knowing my word is my most valued possession, and to build the trust and confidence of everyone who is brought in and out of my life.

I am dedicated to being consistent in my children's lives, to going above and beyond what is expected and to being the mother they deserve.

The Butte Pre-release has given me a 2nd chance to prove myself.

It is imperative this program continues to be available to people released from correctional facilities. I truly believe my recovery was made stronger because of the structure and support from the Pre-release program.

Thank-you

Sincere Regards,

Carissa Ruff

At the darkest time of my life, prison, the only light that I worked toward was the prospect of getting into a prerelease. From the point of view of someone who has been on the other side of the fence, prerelease is, in a word: hope.

To begin with, prerelease has a positive ripple effect that reverberates through prison walls even before an inmate ever leaves. Clear conduct must be maintained and sets the tone for behavior becoming of a law-abiding citizen. Once I hit prerelease it felt like being free but it still provided the umbrella under which I was allowed to succeed and, moreover, to prove myself worthy. Work is the focus and also the reward of the resident. And from work all else sprouts; we are able to make child support payments, pay restitution and aim for the eventual path of making our own homes.

There will always be those who would like to keep felons in prison and turn a deaf ear to the social ills that persist, but I believe in the old adage "it takes a village."

I know that Butte prerelease focuses on sobriety and goes to great lengths to change criminal thinking at its root. It has an open-door policy that results in real friendships made between staff and residents and that translates to me wanting them to see me succeed.

I have discharged prison with no prerelease with a chip on my shoulder and I returned to prison. I have left prison via prerelease and I remain sober 5 years now.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Quinn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.

JUSTIN
Bergeson
3-24-14

While being at Nexus I able to take a deep look at myself and really work on me and learn who I am because during my addiction I forgot who I was. I have gained a sense of self worth and pride it has helped by allowing me to be who I am. I take full responsibility for my actions and for the pain I have cause others. I gained my empathy so that I could actually feel the pain that I put the ones I love through. I have learned to accept the fact that I am a addict for the rest of my life, since being in the BPRC I have ^{learned} how to be a product member of society, how to manage and Budget my money properly. one of the biggest things I have learned is that it is alot easier to just goto work everyday and Do what I'm suppose to. I feel good about who I am when I do it, it gives me a sense of accomplishment wh. I see others look up to me and

how proud of me my family is of me
I have learned that by working hard
and putting myself out ^{there} and being open
to always learn new things I have
gained credibility. I have learned that
no matter what I don't know what
tomorrow is going to bring and I
have to work on myself one day
at a time. I will continually ~~to~~ re-
myself to be careful in dangerous
situations. I will continue to follow
directions and live in recovery.
Just for today.

Sincerely
Justin Bergeson

I'm writing this letter to explain how I feel that Connections and Pre-release has been a benefit in my life. The biggest and most important thing is that I have been clean and sober for the longest period ever in my life. Being sober has enabled me to see and recognize how my actions and drug use have affected everyone in my life. I have learned that my use has caused me to neglect my daughter and all of my other responsibilities. I have thrown away many good opportunities because of my use. I've learned that my rebellious attitude has had a very negative effect on me. I have become able to recognize and somewhat cope with my feelings. This is still a work in progress, but I feel I have made huge steps in a positive way with this. I have made many steps and changes that are beneficial to me throughout this experience. I feel that I've been given a chance at being a good, functioning member of society, and if I can continue to move in this direction, I can have a good life. / / /

Dear: Mike Batista:

To: Whom it may concern:

THE Pre-Release Transitional Center has help benefit me in many ways. I got accepted into the program as a inmate worker and it helped me to slowly adapt into a community of small surroundings. During that six month period, I learned to adjust and communicate with people day in and day out because of my community services. I was providing to others residing in the transitional center both male and females. Please, excuse me and thank you are three words learnt to help me be accepted and become a better man in today's society and my everyday surroundings. The Transitional Center has also taught me the differences between needs, wants, budgeting my money and most importantly, how to save money. It has also gave me strong hope to believe in myself strongly and gave me another chance to do right. By giving that opportunity to go look for employment and finding a job, feels much better than getting straight out to nothing with a high chance of relapsing back into some criminal activity.

I've done 5 1/2 yrs. inside the prison walls and this transitional center gave me the chance to make the right decisions

Ison-Sparks



744 Empire St., Butte, Montana 59701
406.593.6996
isonsparks@gmail.com

April 17, 2014

Dear Jay,

Life presented me with the task of being a resident of the Butte Women's Transitional Center for eleven months in 2008. Recently, I was asked what benefits I received from the WTC. I found it difficult to express the answer to this question in short form. I received so many benefits and owe any success I may have not only to the WTC but to the entire system Montana has created for rehabilitation purposes. I truly believe everyone I came in contact with, had my best interest in mind as well as completing your program successfully. Yes, I have had a few bumps in the past and staff was present helping me to get back up, brush me off and get me back to my path. I believe with all my being, Montana has saved my life and the WTC helped tremendously in the big picture ... that is me. Understanding where I came from and where I am today needs a brief explanation. I left Texas Christmas morning 2006 with a bigger than life cocaine and methamphetamine habit. By January 07, 2007 I had been arrested in Montana. I spent about two years in the system, including the eleven months at the WTC. After completing your program my life changed. I began working with Montana Mental Health Center, both as a consumer and then an employee. I maintained employment at Hays Morris Crisis House, for approximately three years, assisting others in crisis stabilization. I have maintained a position on the Board of Directors at Community Health Center, Butte, Sheridan and Dillon facilities for about three years. My husband and my elderly mother relocated to Butte and we live in a beautiful home. I drive a nice vehicle that is well maintained with insurance coverage. I try to walk the walk and help where ever is possible in our community. The point to my explanation is this ... Without a solid foundation none of this, my life, would be possible. The WTC gave me that foundation and the motivation I needed to succeed. I am very proud to be part of the Butte Community. I look forward in discharging my eight year sentence on February 15, 2015. Once I am discharged, I hope more doors will open the opportunity for me to increase my assistance even further. My gratitude to your program is endless.

Respectfully, Sincerely, and Thankfully,


Karen R. Ison-Sparks



Instead of going to "Prison" I was given a chance to change my life

04/17/20

To: Mike Batista

Hello, my name is Jeremy. I was in the prerelease about one year ago. The prerelease was helpful because I didn't have a home to go back to. The center gave me a place to live and encouraged me to get a job. They fed me clothed me and put a roof over my head. If these very basic living conditions weren't available to me when I got out of treatment, it's very possible I would have broken the law again just trying to survive.

Another way the prerelease center helped me was, slowly making me a positive and productive member of our community. By giving me community service hours. This helped me meet other positive people in our community. Being around positive non-drug and or alcohol using people, definatly helps a struggling addict stay sober.

The center was helpful in many ways. Instead of just throwing me back to the streets with nothing, the prerelease center was there to help me. They provided drug and alcohol classes, parenting classes, anger management classes, Cognitive thinking classes, and more. Thank you for all the help
e Jeremy N'areah

From Ken Howell

Butte Prerelease was a great program for me to get started back into the community. My case worker Mark Dennehy helped me with money management, after care, and job placement. The program taught me a better sense of responsibility and family values, and how to better support my community. I was thankful for the opportunity.

Thank You
Ken Howell

Linda Sommer

From: jworth36 <jworth36@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2014 9:05 AM
To: lsommer@cccscorp.com
Subject: CCCS help with success

The CCCS has had a tremendous effect on my life and was a great influence as to where I am today. Twelve years ago I was going no where in life, I had a lengthy criminal record and a habit I thought I would never kick. Facing prison time I turned to CCCS and Butte Silver Bow Chemical Dependency for help. After enrolling in several groups and with the support of CCCS councilors I was able to get my presentence recommendation changed from 10 years in prison to three years DOC with the recommendation I go through the prerelease program. In the prerelease program I was able to continue my counseling and groups such as anger management and cognitive thinking. Along with being involved in several different groups I was allowed to continue my employment as a carpenter and function as a member of society. The groups I took in the prerelease helped me to change the way I was thinking and gave me the tools I needed to be successful and upon my release I took those tools and never looked back. Eight years later I continue to use those tools. I have been absent of substance abuse for eight years. I have been awarded custody of my four beautiful children and have thrived in the construction industry. So Thank You CCCS for all your help.

4-16-14

My name is Jamie Cunningham.

I am an ex-parolee who was accepted to Butte Pre-Release after serving 4 years in prison.

I was very fortunate to benefit from the services that were offered to me. I was able to adapt back into the community, get a job, and save money to go back home. Being able to participate in programs and events really helps to feel accepted and stay positive in the future.

Dan J. J. Kim

At the darkest time of my life, prison, the only light that I worked toward was the prospect of getting into a prerelease. From the point of view of someone who has been the other side of the fence, prerelease is, in a word: hope.

To begin with, prerelease has a positive ripple effect that reverberates through prison walls even before an inmate ever leaves. Clear conduct must be maintained and sets the tone for behavior becoming of a law-abiding citizen. Once I hit prerelease it felt like being free but it still provided the umbrella under which I was allowed to succeed and, moreover, to prove myself worthy. Work is the focus and also the reward of the resident. And from work all else sprouts; we are able to make child support payments, pay restitution and aim for the eventual path of making our own homes.

There will always be those who would like to keep felons in prison and turn a deaf ear to the social ills that persist, but I believe in the old adage "it takes a village."

I know that Butte prerelease focuses on sobriety and goes to great lengths to change criminal thinking at its root. It has an open-door policy that results in real friendships made between staff and residents and that translates to me wanting them to see me succeed.

I have discharged prison with no prerelease with a chip on my shoulder and I returned to prison. I have left prison via prerelease and I remain sober 5 years now.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Quisenberry", with a horizontal line underneath it.

To:
Mike Batista
MTT DAC Director

My Name is Jeremiah Marray
I Successfully Completed the Butte
Pre-Release Program in 2010 and I
have now been out for over
3 yrs and still work the same
job. The Pre-Release helped me
in many ways to succeed. After
taking everything in for consideration
with what they helped me it all
came down to making my own
Decisions with staying out of trouble.

Thanks to the People that I
work with and especially ~~my~~ my
loving family. It was a great
opportunity to experience ^{with} the
struggles and help from the Butte
Pre-Release Center.

✓

4-16-14

Offender: Jeremiah Marray
AO # 217037
Sentence Expired

To whom it may concern:

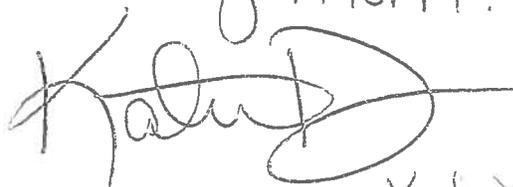
This is to inform anyone on how I feel about the pre-release program and TLP.

When I was sentenced to treatment and pre-release I was very angry and annoyed, thinking "its all about making money for DOC" Of course that was before I had been to any program. Now that I am on TLP living with my family out in the Butte community, I realize just how much help I have received and I have become a successful member of society.

If I would have been released into the community after treatment I don't believe that I would where I am today. I was still thinking like an addict who wanted to be healthy.

The pre-release helped me to be reliable to my employer honest and patient. I have learned how to budget money to create a schedule and follow it. I have learned now to follow rules no matter how big or small they may be. I know there are others out there who feel the same way and are there when I need someone to talk to. If I would not have had the opportunity to go to pre-release prior to having my family back into my life I would have failed in my recovery.

Thank you to all of those at the Butte Pre-release WTC for helping me become a happy, healthy mom.



Katrina Desbains

U-614

Director Mike Batista, MDOC

I have gotten a lot out of having
the opportunity ~~to~~ ^{to} be at ^{base} pre-release center
to be able to save money. Instead of just
leaving prison with nothing. to be able to
work on relationship with wife with more
communication than what I had at prison,
ability to work more with public. and being
in public surroundings than being just dropped
into society without nothing

Allen Kimball

A.O.# 2138623

Nexus

April 9, 2014

Director Batista:

I am writing this to convey how important and life changing treatment has been for this addict/alcoholic. Unfortunately, I did not recover overnight or even in a few years. I have learned that addicts/alcoholics can only hear when we are ready to hear and can only see when we are ready to see. That has been very true for this addict. It took 4 DUI's, 3 felony possessions of dangerous drugs, numerous relapses, jail stays, prison terms, loss of friends, sharing dirty needles, and disownment from my family until I was finally ready to surrender to the facts and allow people to lead me in a new direction. I attended the nine-month NEXUS program in Lewistown when it first opened and was introduced to my counselor, Terri. She was willing to show me a new way, and I was beat up just enough to finally listen. I truly have been given a new lease on life, and for that I have dedicated a large portion of my time to doing what treatment and Terri did for me.

I attend a lot of AA meetings so I can carry this message to the newcomers. I do and have sponsored many people who are, and were, as helpless and hopeless as me. Unfortunately, most have not recovered, and I have lost a few to suicide.

I carry my story into other programs such as WATCh, Connections, and MCDC. I sit on the district board for AA in the chair of treatment. I have my own business, and will be finishing my probation next month, which I am proud to say I have completed without one mark against me. I am a father to my children, pay taxes, and do everything that a responsible person should do.

Had I not been offered an opportunity to go to NEXUS, I know I would still be that hopeless addict I was before the program. I know because I have experienced almost every negative consequence a guy can and was never able to change.

Like I said in the beginning, I couldn't hear until I could hear and couldn't see until I could see. I thank God every day that I was constantly given opportunities throughout my addiction to grab this life line. I know there are addicts and alcoholics just like me out there. I carry my story to them in hopes that this may be the time that they are ready to hear, and I will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

Brent Lawrence

Sobriety date of Nov. 9, 2006

Brandt C. Vogt
1306 20th Street South
Great Falls, MT 59405
April 6, 2014

Director Mike Batista
Montana Department of Corrections

Dear Mr. Batista:

It was a pleasure meeting you at the Great Falls Transition Center Anniversary. I wanted to take an opportunity to not only thank you for your support of community based placement for the addicted offender, but to also appreciate the Department for the opportunity I was given to return to my community as a citizen, through the NEXUS Treatment Facility.

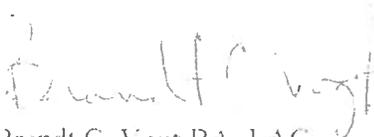
No one could tell me I didn't get a chance. Opportunity after opportunity, I chose my addiction over being a citizen. Finally, left with no other option, the Honorable Mike Salvagni sentenced me to the Department of Corrections.

Waking up in jail yet again, I had enough. I wanted something different. I was given this opportunity when you supported the joint venture with CCCS and opened the NEXUS Treatment Facility. After 9 months of challenging old destructive beliefs, the NEXUS Therapeutic Community gave my choices back and helped me find my way back to *our* community. There was nothing easy about my experience at NEXUS. I had to face my criminal thinking, unhealthy beliefs and my addiction. NEXUS not only helped me address these negative behaviors and thinking but allowed me to realize my potential and later supported my realized potential.

After NEXUS, I went to the Great Falls Transitional Center and was further assisted in retaining my choices. Specifically, the choice to be part of the solution. I was encouraged to return to school where I received a Bachelors degree in Counseling. When I needed a chance to complete an internship to become a Licensed Addiction Counselor, again, NEXUS was there to support my goal. I was given an opportunity to not only learn from the professionals at NEXUS but I was able to demonstrate to the men in treatment a greater perspective. The greater message is that when we embrace the life the Department of Corrections and programs like NEXUS offer us, anything is possible.

Today, I am the Adolescent Program Counselor for Gateway Community services and am making a difference with the recovery and life I was helped by you, through NEXUS to earn back. The addicted offender is going to be our neighbor, these programs are in the best interest of our entire community.

Sincerely,


Brandt C. Vogt BA, LAC
Gateway Community Services

Director Mike Batista

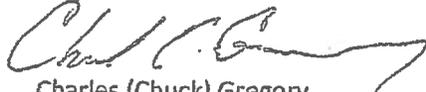
Montana Department of Corrections

Mr. Batista

My name is Charles (Chuck) Gregory I am a 49 year old male and I am a addict and I'm ok with that because, at one time in my life I would not have admitted that. At one time in my life I would have said that the only people that said I had a problem with drugs had a problem themselves. I was asked to write you and tell you a little about myself before Nexus, after Nexus and what my future is or should I say what I would like it to be. So let's start at the beginning. I started using drugs at the age of 14 or should I say that is far back as I can remember, as I can remember I didn't only use but I also sold to every one of my high school friends that I could to support my own use. I guess I should say that my drug of choice was anything that made me go fast or make me feel like I had control of the world. I started out using speed then moved on to Myth. When I discovered Myth my life changed forever. I was able to control and hide it from a lot of people for a lot of years. At the age of 32 I went over the edge with it, although it would still be quite a few year before I got into any real trouble because. I cause my own pain with it. I lost my first wife, my house and my business. I carried on going through several relationships using threw them all and using with them all. God only knows how many good jobs I had that I just blew off or I would work long enough to get a couple of checks and be off selling dope again. I'm going to cut threw a lot of years that would just end up being a lot of war stories and I'm sure you have heard your share of them. In 2008 I was finally arrested in Flathead County. I had several charges and I was sentence to 15 years with the recommendations of Connections and the Prerelease. So I figured I would be back out on the street in about nine months. I made the Montana tour of county jails and it took me about six months to make it to M.A.S.K. then it was the wait to go in front of the board it took another three months to get in front of the board when I saw them they said they wanted me to go to Nexus and at the time I can say that I was none to happy. So the wait started to go to Nexus, I spent three more months there. And then I was transported to Shelby spent six months there and then finally shipped to Nexus. So as you can see I had already spent twice the time down then I thought I was going don't get me wrong I'm not saying that I didn't need it or I didn't deserve it. Now let's try to talk about Nexus, I can't begin to say everything about Nexus that I would like to say, because if I did I would have to write a book and I'm sure you don't have time to read a book. Let me start out by saying that I had made up my mind that I was through with drugs, but I had been using and selling for 30 plus years and did not know how I was going to break this life style. First I got the chance at Nexus to learn about myself and believe me there was a lot I didn't want to know. Then I learned about the people that I hurt along the way even about the people that I never met. Then the healing and the coping came into place. And the finally how to start a normal life on the outside and making myself someone who would fit in. I graduate Nexus in September of 2009 and this program saved my life. I have been able to turn my life completely around. My wife and I are still together she waited for me the whole time I was locked up. I have five wonderful step kids that at one time didn't want anything to do with me that now adore me. I have 22 Grandkids that I get to enjoy. And going on 7 Great Grandbabies 2 of them live with me. I do a volunteer group up at Nexus on Saturday night and do a Bible study at Nexus on Sunday. I have a great job that I have been at almost four years and I have returned back to

school to get my degree in Social Service and my L.A.C. My paper work has been submitted for early release. And the best thing of it all is I was able to celebrate 6 years clean and sober in January. I hope to get my degree and someday get to work someplace like Nexus to help other addicts find what I have found. And I can honestly say I owe this all to Nexus and what I learned there. Because now I know now that it is all a proses and it is all About Choices.

Thank You



Charles (Chuck) Gregory

Mike Thatcher

From: chad kingery
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 9:07 AM
To: mthatcher@cccscorp.com
Subject: Employment possibilities

Mr. Thatcher,

My name is Chad Kingery and I am hoping that I may explain a few things to you as well as personally thank you for all the help you have given me even though you may not be aware that you have done so. I was one of the second groups to ever go through the Nexus facility in Lewistown back in 2009. It saved my life. I developed a passion for recovery and since graduating from Nexus, I have obtained a Bachelors Degree in Psychiatric Rehabilitation, obtained my LAC, and am in my second semester of Graduate school at MSUB for Master of Mental Health and Addictions Counseling. Since graduating from college I have been employed with Rimrock Foundation in Billings as the level II.5 Jail based addictions counselor for the Billings Drug court and I work with offenders ever day. Amazing Job!

The reason that I am contacting you is that Rimrock has struggled for the last year to keep the grant that funds the Jail Based Program and at the end of the month we will no longer have the grant. The clients I have now will finish their treatment here over the next 90 days, but after that, I have no idea what my future holds. I am aware of the tremendous opportunities that CCCS has available, and after speaking to a fellow classmate (Derek Hendrickson one of your LAC's) I would be excited to hear if you have any positions available that I might fit into? My wife and I have 5 children that live in Salt Lake City and one of the places we are looking into to be closer in driving distance, is Butte. I would really like the opportunity to thank you personally and possibly visit with you. My phone number is 406-794-9515. Thank You.

Chad D. Kingery, BS, LAC
Jail Based Addictions Counselor
Silver Leaf Center
406-869-6863 (Direct)
kingery@rimrock.org

"Anything is impossible, the word itself says I'm possible!"

This information may be disclosed to you from records protected by Federal Law. This is not a submission from any other location of the information unless such disclosure is expressly permitted by the owner of the personal information or otherwise permitted by 49 CFR Part 16. If you have received this information in error please let us know the sender of the error either by e-mail or phone at 406-248-3175.

3-30-14

Dear Nexus staff,

Hello! My name is Jeremy Feistner and I was a client at Nexus from Dec. 2011 to Nov. 2012. I am sure most of you will remember me because I was a pain in the ass and almost got thrown out! I am writing to say THANK YOU!! for all of your help! I have continued to stay clean and sober since leaving Nexus and am very involved in A.A. in the Bozeman area. I have been given the opportunity to be The Bridging The Gap Coordinator for Dist. 72 and will be coming in April to talk to everyone about what Bridging the Gap is and how it helps people in recovery. My time at Nexus was very difficult (for my counselors!) as well as for me! I wouldn't take it back for anything I am so very grateful for what Nexus has done for me! You taught me how to surrender and be my own counselor. I learned to look at myself and my disease and let other people take care of themselves. I have slowly but surely been working on becoming the badass that Deck always talked about. I have been given the opportunity to be a good father, brother, son, employee and friend. Thanks for not giving up on me & all your hard work!

Very Sincerely
Jeremy Feistner

Carol, Jim ... NEWS

March 20.

Yes, I miss NEWS, and yes I'm still a Nexus cheerleader. It's been awhile since I've had time to say thank you, but I say it every day. Not a day goes by that I don't recognize the tools I'm using, that I learned there, I followed Jim's advice in regards to relationships, I left one that I knew was un-healthy, and it was like a weight off my shoulders. I did meet a gal I like and once I get out of pre release I'm gonna ask her out, we'll have known each other 6 months before I finally do it. I could of never done that before. I use the new core's McKenna helped come up with daily, and I'm still amazed at the power they have in my life. Slowly but surely, people that don't need to be in my life are falling to the wayside, and new healthy people are finding their way into it. I'm now full time front desk at the hotel. I've met Sen Testor, Rep. Steve Dains, The Republican Chairman. I interact with people in politics, The collage system, Secretaries, people from ~~the~~^{XEROX} successful people from a different level of life, on a daily basis. Visitor's Ed gave me the courage, and NEWS gave me the tools to keep this life. I owe so much to all of you. It's a pretty neat feeling to be on a first name basis with Testor's Secretary, even if he is a democrat. Please encourage everyone to get all they can from NEWS, STAFF, family members, absorb it all, because it all plays a crucial role in a successful life, and life is great.

I've had some emotional turmoil, but I handled it the way a healthy person should. My relationship with my mom is continuing to thrive. Michealin is letting me talk to Skyla again. There isn't enough time to say how great life is. "Life's made of choices, not chances". There couldn't be a more true saying. Thank you again to everyone that had a part in helping me ~~to~~ become the man I am today. Life is so much more happier and drama free with a tool box full of Nexws. Thank you.

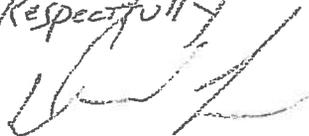
With great Appreciation

A stylized handwritten signature, possibly initials, consisting of a large 'M' and a smaller 'h' or similar character.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

MY NAME IS DAVID LOVE
AND I'M A RECENT GRADUATE OF THE
NEXUS PROGRAM. (8/9/13) WELL, I SHOULD
SAY GRATEFUL AND PROUD GRADUATE.
LIKE MOST ADDICTS MY LIFE BEFORE
NEXUS WAS FULL OF DESPAIR, SELF PITY
AND VICTIMSTANCE. NOW IT'S FULL OF HOPE
ACCOUNTABILITY AND EMPATHY. I DON'T
NEED TO GO ON AND ON ABOUT HOW
NEXUS CHANGES LIFE'S FOR PEOPLE WHO TRULY
WANT CHANGE. THERE'S NOT A DAY THAT
GOES BY THAT I DON'T USE SOMETHING I
LEARNED FROM NEXUS. I'M DOING BETTER
THAN I EVER HAVE, AND A LOT OF THAT
HAS TO DO WITH THE FOUNDATION I BUILT
AT NEXUS. I CAN'T SAY ENOUGH ABOUT YOUR
PROGRAM AND NEITHER CAN MY FAMILY.
THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME TO READ THIS.

P.S. I KNOW MORE GUYS WHO GRADUATED
NEXUS ARE DOING GOOD THAN BAD. IT'S SAID
THAT THE NEGATIVE IS BROUGHT TO LIGHT
MORE THAN THE POSITIVE

Respectfully


From 13 to 30 I was active in my addiction. During this time I couldn't keep a job, moved from place to place seeming to always wear out my welcome. I put using above everything, I dropped out of school at 16, got kicked out of Job Corps for using. This doesn't include all the lives I affected in my addiction. I assaulted my father and brother numerous times. Verbally and physically abused the wonderful women in my life whom only wanted to be loved and to come before my use. In my addiction I lied, stole, manipulated and ultimately resorted to extreme violence to get what I wanted. I would run my life into the ground, be truly remorseful about it, tell myself lesson learned but almost immediately do it again. I went from drug to drug trying to find one that I can use responsibly. In the end I was down to alcohol. I thought I had it figured out, good job, Girl I adored, a little boy that loved me dearly. One day I gave it all away. I came close to taking a mans life. He will never completely recover Mentally or physically from what I've done to him and his family.

When I got to Nexus I was
looking at 9 months to freedom.
I thought I could fake it right
through the program. A week after
arriving, I did my life line, there
were 30 guys just like me that
been right through my BS. I
thought how dare you say this to
me, don't you know who I am, I
will beat the fxx out of you.
Then I thought how can I be
mad when it's all true. At that
point I was able to become honest
with myself. Right then and there
my program changed. I became
passionate about not going down
that road for another minute.
I became engaged in my program.
Soon I became a pathfinder. Day
after day I walked out of the
phase down room rattled to the
core from the intensity that I
brought with everything I said.
I went to phase down a couple
times myself, learned a lot and
had a chance to reflect and
regroup. The day that I got to
sign mister Gibb's wall as a path
finder, was one of the most
fulfilling days of my life. I ran
12 miles nonstop for Relay for
Life. Nexus I, literally saved my life
and humbled me. I'm still in it.

have ended up taking. It's a fact that I would have had 0% chance of becoming the man I am today without Nexus. I talk at the Teen Recovery Center, I go to NA every other day. I have never missed a day of work. I have changed jobs 4 times but for once in my life I changed them for the right reasons, to move up in the world. I gave 2 weeks notice and am in good standing with all of them. I do concrete during the day and wash dishes at a BBQ place at night. I get along with every one I come in contact with because my attitude has changed. I stay in the center of the road and don't wait til I hit the ditch to correct things.

Nexus saved my life

Ross Habets

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN,

3-26-14

I HAVE BEEN LOCKED UP SINCE MARCH 19TH 2012 AND THROUGH COUNTY AND PRISON I KNEW NOTHING BUT CRIMINALITY AND THE WAY I GREW UP UNTIL I GOT TO NEXUS ON DECEMBER 11TH 2012 DID I EVEN REALIZE I WAS CREATING VICTIMS OR HAD A PROBLEM I THOUGHT WHAT I WAS DOING ONLY AFFECTED ME AND MY CLOSE FAMILY AROUND ME. WHEN I GOT TO NEXUS AND THEY GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE AND GROW ON MY OWN DID I TAKE IN WHAT WRONG IVE DONE AND NEVER WANT TO DO IT EVER AGAIN THEY REALLY WORK ON POSITIVE CHANGE AND ME PERSONALLY IT HELPED ME ALOT. ON SEPTEMBER 10TH 2013 I GOT TO THE BUTTE PRE-RELEASE AND IT HAS ALSO HELPED ME TO TRANSITION BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY WITHOUT BEING OVERWHELMED WITH NORMAL EVERYDAY LIFE STRESSORS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH TO HANDLE OTHERWISE. I WAS ABLE TO SAVE MONEY I NEEDED TO GET MY OWN PLACE AND MOVE MY FAMILY DOWN HERE AND NOW BECAUSE OF MY NEW ATTITUDE AND THE HELP BUDGETING MY MONEY I AM PAYED AHEADS ON MY BILLS. STILL GOT MONEY, AND I WAS ALSO COMPLIMENTED ON THE POSITIVE CHANGE FROM MY STEPPAN WHICH I HAVE NEVER GOT BEFORE IN MY LIFE AND ITS BECAUSE ON NEXUS AND THE PRE-RELEASE AND I THANK THEM FOR WHAT I HAVE AND WHO I AM TODAY.

THANK YOU

JAN VANDRICH #300911
Jan Vandrigh

Connections

Director Batista
Mt. Department of Corrections
5 S. Last Chance Gulch, PO Box 201301
Helena, MT 59620-1301
Ph: 406-444-3430, FAX: 406-444-4920

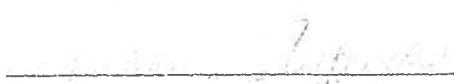
Hello. My name is Roxanna Reynolds and I am a 2003 graduate of the Butte Connections program. My life history is filled with drugs and chaos. In 1996, I was released from federal prison after serving a five year mandatory minimum sentence. After return to Butte, I spent four relatively good years. I went to Montana Tech for environmental engineering for the next four years. During those years of my years of sobriety, I went to school, visited with my parents, felt very alone, and returned to my live-in position at a local domestic violence shelter every day.

In 2000, I relapsed on methamphetamine. Within a short time, I quit my job, quit college, and I rapidly spiraled into my past life. I received two or three state possession charges, which eventually led me to forced inpatient treatment at the Butte Connections program. With God's help, this inpatient program literally saved my life.

If I did not have the benefits of inpatient treatment, I would not be here today. I had no desire and no strength stop IV meth use. When I relapsed, it was as if I never knew abstinence. Once that door opened, I walked into the darkness and never looked back until I was arrested.

Since graduating from the Butte Connections program, I earned a registered nursing degree and then followed my heart of working with other addicts. I have been a registered nurse since 2005 and a licensed addiction counselor since 2007.

I thank God for every day of my life. I have the great honor of being able to work beside with my fellow addicts and to understand the suffering of addiction.



Roxanna Reynolds, LAC, RN

Director Batista
Department of Corrections

My name is Charles Johnson, and I would like to tell you what WATCH, and Connections Corrections Program did to change my life.

I'm a sixty year old male, who recently figured out how different my previous life could have been, with earlier exposure to WATCH and CCP. These treatment programs changed my life! As the ditty goes, 'better late than never.'

I had drank and/or used drugs since I was ten years old. Due to my addiction(s) I have been serially involved with Law Enforcement. Also, I felt it impossible and unrealistic to change my life-long habits. All I could for-see was a very grim future, spending the rest of my life in incarceration, mental institutions, or death.

I spent ten years in prison (1996 – 2006). During these ten years I completed all of the Department of Correction's (addictions) Programs, as required. . . . I got drunk on the day I was released, and drugs came soon after, following the alcohol.

I attended the WATCH Program on my fourth DUI offense. It is a six month program, but due to the severity of my addiction to alcohol, I spent seven months. With the help of the WATCH caring staff, I began my life-changing experience. I took alcohol out of my life forever.

However, when I was released from the WATCH Program, I continued my addiction to prescription narcotics, which propelled me back into trouble with parole and probation. It was here that Missoula's MASC Program (Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center), where I was fortunate to be chosen to go to the Connection Correction Program (CCP), In Butte.

CCP showed me how to LIVE a life in recovery. They taught me not only that I need to deal with life without the use of mind-altering substances, but HOW to do it. Up to this point in time I had 'controlled' and 'managed' any feelings, fears, anger, boredom and of course, 'the good times,' with something / anything chemical. I literally played chemical chaos with my body.

The CCP staff worked with me in a way, that for the first time ever, made me BELIEVE I could, maybe, change my outlook on everything. This was a huge 'leap of faith' on my part, having spent the past fifty years knowing I could not change these habitual patterns of 'balancing' my psyche. CCP gave me the tools I needed to understand my feelings. I learned it was possible to have a real life in recovery, by working with other addicts / alcoholics in aftercare, and in the self-help programs of AA and NA.

Currently, I've been living in Butte for two years, without any probation violations, and I'm in the CCP aftercare program. I go to AA and NA, three to five times a week.

I will help anyone who wants to live a life of recovery. My own life has been totally transformed, due to WATCH, MASC, and CCP. All these programs taught me HOW to live a life in recovery. These programs not only saved my life, they have given me a purpose in helping others.

I wholeheartedly thank WATCH, CCP, and MASC for saving me from my slavery to addiction; there is

no master crueler than a chemical dependency.

CCP taught me there is a life after addiction. Using the CCP aftercare program, AA, and NA, once released into a community, I have found that life can truly be lived happy, joyous and free.

Sincerely;

Charles Johnson

OBSERVATIONS:

People are afraid to be honest about their addictions at the Department of Corrections Programs, because they feel, later on, when on parole and probation, addictions will be used against them.

Following the Department of Corrections addictions Program, the drug offender returns to the general population, where everything is available. Also, the air of negativity, and scorn for the system, not to mention peer-pressure, all serves to negate anything that might have been learned in DOC Program.

Things I learned in CCP, WATCH, MASC, AA & NA:

1. I gained belief in a HIGHER POWER.
2. I learned what to do with RESENTMENTS.
3. I learned how to ASK for help; then LISTEN.
4. Learned how to be open with feelings, and EXPRESS EMOTIONS APPROPRIATELY.
5. I learned ANGER MANAGEMENT.
6. I learned how to MEDITATE.
7. I learned COPING SKILLS for PTSD.
8. I learned to take RESPONSIBILITY, and ACCOUNTABILITY.
9. I learned how to RECONNECT with FAMILY MEMBERS, who had written me off.
10. I learned how to make HONEST and SINCERE connections with other people.

Sincerely;



Charles Johnson

March 19, 2014

To Director Batista,

My name is Jacob Clark and I am 30 years old, but for the first time in my life I am proud of the man I see in the mirror. However the man I see today was not always there, in fact it has been a long time in the making. But I get ahead of myself. Lesson one, to understand the present, we must go back to the beginning. I have always thought a happy life is a successful life, and success was measured in dollar signs and the number of people I can surround myself with. Throughout high school I found myself the odd man out, but this all changed when I learned that people like those who have what they cannot get for themselves, and before I knew it I was "that guy" who could get you marijuana. The more I had the more success I felt I had because not only did this lonely teenager find himself surrounded by people who claimed to be his friend, but I also found my pockets getting filled. Here I learned the next life lesson, that no matter how good life seems to be, it is never enough. I had friends and I had money, but I wanted more. Life lesson number three the law of supply and demand, the less available a product or service, the more people want it and are willing to go to the ends of their worlds to get it. Let me introduce to the worse friend I have ever allowed into my life, cocaine. Not only was this harder to get, but people were willing to risk everything, their money, their relationships, their jobs, their freedom to get it. Boy was I naive, as I was the one that was really risking it all and I lost it all. I have been arrested over ten times, and with each time I felt like I was getting better. But not getting better with becoming a reformed contributing member of society, but rather I was getting better with learning how to get away with it. I learned the rules, I learned the way to hide this side of my life from those around me, my friends, family, employers and even myself. I never knew how far I was falling down this rabbit hole. I was using my family playing on their love for their beloved son, I called in sick to work, and pushed away a woman's love. I was great at what I did, and by my measure of success I was the most successful I have ever been. But every great story has a man with an Achilles heel, and mine was the thought that I could use my product and still maintain rational business interactions, lesson number four, never use what you sell. Here I found myself using more than I was selling, and needing to buy more just to cover lost profit, I was in too deep, but I still did not see it. On February 14, 2010 I was at my friends' house enjoying my days, just like any other day. My girlfriend came over and informed me that she was going to her friend's boyfriend's house, she could sense something was up and begged me to go with her. Reluctantly I agreed. We drove to this house, and as we were crossing the street a cop pulled up and asked us to hold it right there. Confused as we just arrive we waited, the cop got out of his car and asked for our names as he was responding to a reported domestic dispute. We gave our names, as my girlfriend has had minimal legal interactions her name resulted no concern, however my name red flagged. Why you may ask, how did I forget to mention that after my eighth arrest I was placed on probation for possession of dangerous drugs with intent to distribute, given six years but messed that up so then I got eight years with four suspended, but if you have been paying attention I did not think the rules applied to me and despite my probationary status I still drank and was using while selling. And on this night I was drinking, using and lying. The police searched my possessions due to smelling the alcohol, and they found evidence of drug use. I was arrested, again. Lesson number five, no man is invincible to losing everything. My time was revoked and I got another year added to my time, and after a long awaited time I was sent to Butte for treatment, however I still was playing the game I was not in it to change, but to serve my time and go home. After my counselor Lisa called me on my bull, I eventually

opened myself to the process, actually opened myself to change not just learning how to get away with it or serve my time, I worked the program for the better of myself. Time was my worst enemy, being away from my loved ones everything became so much clearer, and the honest truth that a real happy life is a meaningful life, yes money still plays a large part but now the meaningful piece is in the little things in life. After successful completion of treatment I was sent to the Alpha house in Billings, MT were I had to continue to show that what I learned I can use in my daily experiences. I obtained a job, I was alone, and I had to walk miles upon miles in below zero weather to a job just to prove this ability. Finally, it was over I was able to go home, and home I went, but it only lasted for a month. No, I did not mess up in fact the opposite I realized that to succeed I could not stay around the triggers and unhealthy people I spent so much time surrounding myself with over the years, so I moved back to Billings, over four hundred miles away from my safety net, from my family and the life I was so comfortable living. Lesson six, I had so many chances and screwed up more times than I could count I mean I have two felonies now, but no one was going to make me change, and I could not change for anyone else, I had to choose and I had to do it for me. Once this lesson was learned my life changed, and now I have over 4 years of sobriety. I may not be "that guy" anymore that people seek out to get their own end game met with illegal activities, and I may not be going to bars or even drinking a casual beer after dinner, but I am happy. I go to a legit job working over 50 hours a week that provides for me and allows me to come home to my house that I bought last year. I get to this home in a nice BMW car, and when I walk in those doors I find my wonderful girlfriend waiting for me with a homemade dinner. We watch our television shows, we laugh, we smile, we go to bed, and we live a meaningful life. Final lesson, it is not how it started that matters, but how you get there and who was there with you. I was lucky, I had a family, a supportive girlfriend, friends and the people behind the doors of the treatment center, all who did not give up on me, with this I learned to never give up on myself. Now to you, the reader of this rambling, purpose of this letter is to illustrate that before treatment my life revolved around drugs and money, now my life revolves around being the friend/son/boyfriend that others can count on, I am stable, I am secure, and I live a meaningful life.

Sincerely,

Jacob Clark

CONNECTIONS CORRECTIONS WEST

I AM WRITING YOU TO LET YOU KNOW I AM A SOBER MEMBER OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AND PART OF MY RECOVERY INCLUDES MAKING AMENDS FOR HARM I HAVE CAUSED AND SHOWING THANKFUL APPRECIATION FOR THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED.

THE HARM I CAUSED WHILE IN YOUR CARE THAT I AM CURRENTLY AS I DRANK HAND SANITIZER AND NEVER FULLY COMMITED TO MY RECOVERY. IT WASN'T UNTIL FEBRUARY 15th OF 2018 THAT I EVER TOOK HOLD OF RECOVERY. TODAY WORKING THE STEPS I REALIZE MAIN THING YOUR PROGRAM TEACHES AND FOR THAT I AM DEEPLY GREATFUL. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN THE SAVING AND CHANGING OF LIVES.

SINCERELY,

STEPHEN GEIGER

TO: DIRECTOR BATISTA
FR: JUSTUS WHARTON
RE: CONNECTIONS CORRECTIONS PROGRAM
DT: MARCH 20, 2014

DEAR DIRECTOR BATISTA;

MY NAME IS JUSTUS WHARTON, AC#3004358 AND I AM WRITING TO TELL YOU ABOUT MY RECENT "EXPERIENCE" AT THE CONNECTIONS CORRECTIONS PROGRAM IN BUTTE.

FIRST OF ALL I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE AT BEING GIVEN THE PRIVILEGE OF GOING TO THIS PROGRAM. YOU SEE, AT 37 YEARS OLD, BEING A 17 TIME CONVICTED FELON, HAVING 4 PRISON NUMBERS IN 3 STATES, AND BEING AN ALCOHOLIC AND DRUG ADDICT, I WAS WHAT SOME WOULD CALL, (INCLUDING MYSELF), A LOST CAUSE. UP UNTIL THIS POINT IN MY LIFE, MY WHOLE EXISTENCE IN LIFE WAS GETTING AND USING DRUGS AND ALCOHOL AND FINDING WHATEVER MEANS TO GET AND USE MORE. ALL THE WHILE CREATING A PATH OF DESTRUCTION AND VICTIMS ALONG THE WAY, INCLUDING NOT LEAST OF ALL, MY OWN CHILDREN AND FAMILY. DURING MY YEARS OF ABUSE, I FATHERED 5 CHILDREN BY 4 DIFFERENT WOMEN AND HAVE 1 DIVORCE UNDER MY BELT. SEE WHAT I MEAN BY VICTIMS? SOME WOULD CONSIDER A LIFE LIKE MINE A

THE DAY I WAS GIVEN ANOTHER CHANCE AT LIFE. YES I HAD BEEN TO OTHER TREATMENT CENTERS IN MY LIFE, AND YES I HAD BEEN FAMILIAR WITH 12 STEP RECOVERY, BUT I WAS TOO STUBBORN AND CAUGHT UP IN MY OWN SELF-PITY TO ACTUALLY DO THE WORK.

UPON ENTERING C.C.P. I WAS FACED WITH WHAT I CAN ONLY DESCRIBE AS A LIFE OR DEATH DECISION. IT WASN'T EASY BELIEVE ME, AND I TRIED TO GIVE UP ALSO, BUT THE STAFF AND COUNSELORS WOULDN'T LET ME GIVE UP ON MYSELF. C.C.P. SHOWED ME HOW TO GET OFF MY "PITY POT", QUIT BLAMING EVERYONE ELSE FOR MY PROBLEMS AND TAKE A GOOD HARD LOOK AT WHAT THE REAL PROBLEM WAS, (ME AND MY ADDICTIONS), AND FROM THERE GAVE ME THE TOOLS AND SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO FIX IT. THEY TAUGHT ME HOW TO ADDRESS MY CO-OCCURRING ISSUES AS WELL AS MY THINKING AND ADDICTIONS, AND HOW TO GO AFTER MY RECOVERY WITH THE SAME TENACIOUSNESS THAT I DID AT DESTROYING MY LIFE AND THE LIVES OF THOSE AROUND ME. I KNOW NOW THAT I DON'T HAVE TO LIVE LIFE THAT WAY. I REMEMBER A TIME NOT TOO LONG AGO WHEN I EXPECTED TO DIE OR BE SPENDING THE REST OF MY LIFE IN PRISON. AND I WAS TOTALLY OKAY WITH THAT BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT I DESERVED. C.C.P. SHOWED ME THAT I DESERVED BETTER THAN THAT AND

DIRECTOR BATISTA, I'M NOT TRYING TO PORTRAY MYSELF AS A SUCCESS STORY BECAUSE I HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO BELIEVE ME. WHAT I AM TRYING TO TELL YOU IS THAT FOR ME AND MANY OTHERS LIKE ME, WITHOUT ~~RE~~ PROGRAMS LIKE C.C.P., SUCCESS WOULDN'T BE AN OPTION. I OWE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO THE STAFF AT C.C.P. THAT I CAN ONLY RE-PAY BY SUCCEEDING AND I DON'T INTEND ON NOT PAYING THAT DEBT.

TODAY I HAVE A SPONSOR, I'M ACTIVELY ~~BE~~ INVOLVED IN A.A. AND SERVICE WORK. I HAVE FAMILY BACK IN MY LIFE THAT I THOUGHT GONE FOREVER. I HAVE MY CHILDREN IN MY LIFE AND A STABLE JOB. I PAY MY CHILD SUPPORT AND HAVE A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WITH B.D. THAT I WALKED AWAY FROM A LONG TIME AGO. I HAVE APPLIED FOR SERVICES WITH VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION TO GET BACK INTO SCHOOL TO GET A DEGREE IN ADDICTIONS COUNSELING. I HAVE APPLIED FOR FINANCIAL AID AND UPON COMPLETION OF PRE-RELEASE, I'LL BE GOING TO MONTANA TECH IN BUTTE TO GET THAT DEGREE.. I CAN ONLY KEEP WHAT I HAVE BY GIVING IT AWAY, AND WHAT BETTER WAY THAN TO HELP THOSE GOING DOWN THE ROAD I PAVED, PLUS NOT ONLY TO GET TO BE HAPPY AND SOBER AND CONTINUE REBUILDING THE WRECKAGE OF MY PAST,

SIR, AS SOMEONE WHO AT ONE TIME HAD LOST ALL HOPE AT LIFE, I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU AND THE DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE TO UTILIZE PROGRAMS LIKE C.C.P., BECAUSE ALTHOUGH EVERY STORY MAY NOT BE A SUCCESS, FOR THE ONES THAT ARE, YOU AND C.C.P. CAN TAKE PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT YOU HELPED GIVE LIFE BACK TO SOMEONE WHO WOULD HAVE LOST IT OTHERWISE, WHAT GREATER REWARD COULD THERE BE?

THANK YOU SIR FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ MY LETTER. I PRAY THAT THE NEXT TIME OUR PATHS CROSS, IT WILL BE ON AN EQUALLY POSITIVE NOTE.
THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS,

SINCERELY,
Justus Wharton
JUSTUS WHARTON

Dear Director Batista

Hi my name is Chad Davison, and I've suffered from the destructive addiction for twelve years. It's driven me to the point of suicide multiple times and before my addiction could take my life, resulting in tons of destruction to all who have known me, I was given the opportunity at Connections Connections East to save my life. I'll tell you my experience with the program!

It was my second time being there and walking through those doors again made me feel like once again I was a disappointment and a failure. Roy, the first one I seen on my return made sure to lift my spirit and was thankful to see me back instead of dead, like my addiction wanted. I'm an addict and one of my character defects is to judge others, and I've become really good at it since I've been doing it my whole life. Why I'm telling you this is because I found it weird that I couldn't find anything bad about any staff member at Connections. Not one single thing. They made me feel like family and I can honestly say I love them with all my heart. I've had a chance to work with all four counselors currently here and they are absolutely amazing. They are the best, I know this because I've worked with numerous counselors, LAC's, you name it and they knew right away my character defects which were holding me back from change.

The cool part was that they made me do the work, giving hints and clues for me to figure out how to solve the problems I was having. It was unbelievable, sometimes still today I think that they had to be angels sent by GOD to help me and others. That program helped me turn my life around. To me it seems like staff is there because it's a passion of theirs to help others. I always think of ways in which I could pay them back, but no words or material possessions could do that honor. But me walking in a program of recovery is what I think is all they want hearing this letter is an honor and that program and working with the staff was also a honor. The first time I went through wasn't a failure but part of my process to recovery. I relapsed because I thought knowledge of addiction was all I needed to stay sober, yet I realized I had to change my thought process and work on myself. They helped me figure these problems out and believed in me when at times I didn't even believe in myself. Today I look in the mirror and like who's staring back, that wasn't the case before I walked through those doors. Recovery is a process and I have bumps in the road of life, but I deal with them better today. I finally realized I needed help cause everyone does and that's just what connections did I couldn't of done it without them!

Sincerely Chad Davison

P.S. some of their material is outdated & they need and deserve far above what they get.

To whom it may concern:

My name is Jeffrey Holm and I am a Butte native. In concern of the allegations told to me about ceep, I have to give is not true. Granted there are failures but also there are success stories. As for myself I am a success story, with the help of ceep and its employees I have been able to become a functioning citizen. It's not easy being an addict and there is times I fall but I can truthfully say that I have been always been able to walk back through the doors of the Butte center and talk about my everyday struggles. I may leave discouraged or I may leave with a good understanding, but the bottom line there is people there I can go talk to. I have great pride in this center and what they stand for. But in the end it is up to me.

Sincerely
Jeffrey Holm

Gallatin County Pre-Release

To: To Whom It May Concern

From: Bruce Shepard

Date: April 16, 2014

Re: Gallatin County Reentry Program

I was a resident of Gallatin County Reentry Program from May 2013 until November 2013. During my stay, I was given treatment for my alcoholism addiction and tools were taught to me in an effort to learn how to successfully live in the community alcohol and crime free. The entire staff of the program were caring in their care of each resident. I truly felt as if they cared about my success. Although my change in choices I made was completely my decision, I felt encouraged daily by the staff to continue to make self-improvement changes. Since my release, my life couldn't be any better. I have a content and full life and am now a co-owner of a (small) business. Without the tools I received from the program, I doubt my choices in my life would be any different. I am grateful everyday for the staff.

2-15-14

To whom it may concern,

Hello my name is Jeremy Faister and I was in the Gallatin County pre-release from ASV 2012 till May 2013. During my time there I was able to set up a routine for my recovery. I still follow this routine and go to the same meetings. I appreciate the opportunity to have been able to spend the time there benefitting my life in a positive direction. I have been gainfully employed, was able to save up and get an apt., and work in my community doing service. I have been able to change my life completely and it is in part to being at BCPR. The staff were very helpful in guiding me and answering questions when needed! Thanks to everyone!

Very Sincerely
Jeremy Faister


TO MIKE BATISTA.

4/16/14

HELLO MY NAME IS EUGENE WIAGER
I WAS RECENTLY A RESIDENT IN THE
GALLATIN COUNTY RE-ENTRY PROGRAM. I
FINISHED THE PROGRAM ~~STAGE~~ ON DEC.
18TH 2013. WHILE IN THE PROGRAM I WAS
GUIDED BY STAFF AND FOLLOW RESIDENTS
TO LEARN HOW TO RE-ENTER BACK INTO
THE COMMUNITY AND BE SUCCESSFUL.
FIRST OFF I ESTABLISHED MYSELF IN
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS PROGRAM THAT IS
OFFERED AS SELF HELP IN THE COMMUNITY.
THIS GROUP HAS BECOME MY LIFELINE. I
RECENTLY CELEBRATED THREE YEARS CLEAN
& SOBER. ON TOP OF SELF HELP I ATTENDED
AND HELPED FACILITATE GROUPS SUCH AS CPR.
THESE GROUPS GAVE ME CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF
TO BECOME A LEADER AND TO LEARN HOW TO
SHARE MY EXPERIENCE WITH OTHERS. I ALSO ESTABLISHED
AND HAVE MAINTAINED FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT
AS A PAINTER. I AM CURRENTLY WORKING TOWARDS
SUB-CONTRACTING FOR MYSELF. THE COMBINATION OF
STAFF ASSISTANCE, SELF HELP, GROUPS AND EMPLOYMENT
WERE EXACTLY WHAT I NEEDED TO MAKE A SUCCESSFUL
AND HONORARY RE-ENTRY BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY.

SINCERELY

Eugene Wiager

Gallatin County Re-Entry Program was a valuable experience for me. GERP helped me to develop my time & money management skills, while instilling a constant attention to detail in all aspects of my life. The Re-Entry program in Bozeman does a good job of meshing treatment, structure, and preparedness all while pushing you toward the end goal of a successful re-entry into the community.

Thanks again to all those who helped me along my path.

Lute Lamphier



ATTN: Chris
Riches

Anthony Pachra
A# 3007225

To whom this concerns:

4-16-14

I was arrested June 3, 2012 for my second felony DUI. I was happy and content with that. That was how unmanageable my life had become at 25 years old. I was certain all was lost for me, my job, my family, as well as my freedom. I knew I would be OK in prison cause I would not have been the only person to go and I realized I had never figured out how to be successful in "sobriety."

Well thank God for unanswered prayers and I have yet to see prison from the inside. I do thank a lot of wonderful people who care enough to help someone find the other end of their rope. I gained plenty of spiritual insight on my life from AA, an amazing old hippy lady, and a group of caring Christians. What I saw was a different design of living that was not involved with alcohol or drugs and it was working for them so why couldn't I begin to practice this style of living if only to get through the jail time?

As time went on I could feel this power in my life I have never had before; this power was "self-worth." I never would have thought being chemically dependent was where I was going wrong, I thought it was

Anthony Pocha

I will continue prayer and meditation as well as working with other addicts. Sobriety is my #1 priority followed by being an honest husband and a responsible father.

The price of freedom is responsibility. I am responsible for my actions, my behavior, my words, my legacy. When I am afraid to do something I know it is okay to ask for help and then I do ask for the help! I alone can do this but I cannot do this alone. I practiced these principles while at CCRR and I have earned many rewards. Those rewards are tallied by each of my new friends of today. My life is not all about me and my next fix. It is about the people in my daily living and how I can benefit their day by being present. I would prefer to add value to their life than to take away. I learned to have God first in my life then AA, also to love God with all my heart, strength, and soul as well as love my neighbor as I love myself. God is love. Know God - know love. No God - no love. Life is about living - living for God and living for others. My needs will then always be met.

A Good day reflects my gratitude, humility, responsibility, A bad day reflects my faith, my strength, my honor, my integrity. A neutral day reflects my complacency,

everyone else's problem. Well it is now
my problem and my doing so I am now
the only one who can change this.

MASC and CCP West were a good place
to practice my new skills and also I
learned much more and had a safe
place to practice these skills with others.

It was no Holiday Inn Express I
was able to see people literally transform
before my very eyes. Their pain was lifted,
or their anger turned into a release of
sadness or hurt and the tears of healing
were beginning. I could not figure out
why these occurrences were so vital
for me to witness during that time
but I yearned to see them more often.

I pondered about this for months before
I realized that with my words, my heart,
my experience, my strength, and my hope,

I could help another addict just the
same as another addict helped me so
long before. This was the vital 12th-step

action I missed over the years that
made my life feel incomplete and worthless,
this is what created my self worth.

→ When I arrived to GCRRP in September
of 2013 I believed that I was
doomed to fail and fail miserably.

All I could do was isolate and pray.
I went to church, NA, as well as AA.

I found a job my first day out looking
and actually still have it, for now. It

has been seven months, the longest I have had one job in years. Today I have 681 day clean, the longest I had in years! I have a host of friends I can barely stay in touch with them all in single day anymore, all of whom support me in a long lasting recovery. I can't say that the GCRP gave me much more than a place to live, eat, sleep, shower; what it gave me was a set structure to follow, a guide line, an outline. I had to do the work. It was anything but easy or fun. It was miserable and depressing which today I understand was all in my own mind, my own choice. What I have gained from the experience is a solid confidence with myself I can do this, I can be successful - Big Truth #5. GCRP was the last step for the addict in me as well as the first step for the recovering me. I have accomplished much since my arrest in 2012, why quit now? I understand relapse/recidivism is always an option but contrary to that idea I have everything to lose. Today I choose to live - live without AOD's and without being an inmate. Today I have my own coffee pot and 5 pillows - gratitude is an attitude and attitude is a choice!