



# MONTANA YOUTH HOMES

## Fall Newsletter 2009

On July 1, 2009, Montana Youth Homes shared a very proud moment with the Helena Community as they opened the doors to the brand new Jan Shaw Youth Home. The building of the new home was such a great community effort and was a wonderful success. The home is beautiful, spacious, and comfortable for the residents. The Jan Shaw Youth Home has eight beds for girls, each room painted and decorated in a unique way. Since the girls have made the move to their new home, they have been enjoying activities such as cooking, baking, doing arts and crafts, working out at the YMCA and much more. While all of these changes took place for the girls, the Margaret Stuart Youth Home also saw some adjustments. The house is no longer shared by both boys and girls, but is now a home for eight boys. Thanks to hard working staff and a great group of volunteers from Headwaters Community Church, the boys home is on its way to meeting the high standards of the girls brand new home. The boys enjoy playing foosball, board games, going on hikes, foofing, playing basketball, and what they like to call "experimental cooking".

While the dynamics of the two houses are quite different, they do share a number of things in common. Both homes have study hours each week night during which the youth must work on homework, study, fill out job applications, or read a book. Volunteer tutors are available during this time to assist anyone who may need help as well as provide encouragement for the youth in their school work. House meetings are also held multiple times a week by the case managers. This provides an opportunity for the youth and staff to discuss current issues, house expectations, group dynamics, rule changes, or anything else that needs to be addressed as a group. Most of the youth are either in school or working. Both homes enjoyed a fun Halloween with pumpkins, candy, and scary movies, and are looking forward to the upcoming holiday season.

### Wish List

Vacuum Cleaner  
Art Supplies  
School Supplies  
Winter Clothing for teenagers  
Underwear and socks  
Standard Toilet  
BBQ Grill  
Shelving or Shelf Units  
Couch/Loveseat  
Toiletries and Cleaning Supplies  
Musical Instruments

### Thank You!

All Jan Shaw Donors  
All Experience Christmas Auction Donors  
A-1 Rentals  
East Helena Valley Rodeo Association  
Galusha, Higgins & Galusha, PC  
Headwaters Covenant Church  
Home Depot  
Maurice's  
Salon Off Broadway



MYH is a program of  
Rocky Mountain  
Development Council





MYH is a  
United Way Agency

## Upcoming Events!

\* **Experience Christmas** with Montana Youth Homes' first on-line auction fundraiser. Visit <http://MontanaYouthHomes.cmarket.com> to make your bid on fantastic holiday experiences to share with your friends and family. Auction items include ski packages, dinners, theater tickets, a dog sledding experience, spa packages and many other fun ways to *Experience Christmas*. The auction will be open from **Dec 1-Dec 14**. Tell your friends and good luck!

\* **Wrapping Booth**- Once again we will be wrapping gifts for the Holidays! Come see us at our 2009 location at 2650 North Montana or call 449-3038 for details.

The mission of Montana Youth Homes is to enhance the quality of life by expanding opportunities for our youth in a secure, family environment. We wish to empower, encourage and support our youth in change in order to become effective, contributing adults.

### Youth Stories

Trisha has lived at MYH for over 6 months now. She was one of our first girls to move over to the new Jan Shaw Youth Home. Trisha immediately fell in love with her room and quickly made herself at home. Since her arrival at MYH Trisha has enrolled and is successfully completeing her Senior year in high school, she has a part time job and is aggressively working on her Independent Living Skill training program. Trisha is well on her way to becoming a wonderfully successful young woman!

One of our past clients Thomas won a local art award in October for his wonderful grafftti art project he completed through one of his after school programs. Congratulations Thomas!

### Independent Living Volunteers

Since the volunteer program began at the start of this year, it has continued to grow due to the Helena community's great commitment to youth. Thank you to all of our past and current volunteers for all of your hard work and dedication to our program.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with our Independent Living Programs. If you, or someone you know, are passionate about cooking, car maintenance, carpentry, landscaping, banking, interview skills, or anything else that could help our youth succeed as independent adults, please consider sharing your skills. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Claire or John, 449-3038.



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