



# THRIVE

Healthy Families, Strong Communities at Mountain Home

## In this Issue:

### Program Updates

Hear from one of our clients about their exciting successes, and catch up on Mountain Home updates.

### Holiday Gratitude

Help us finish out the year strong. Support families this holiday season and see how your gift makes and impact.

### Staff Celebrations

Learn more about our staff and celebrate our birthdays, & work-aversaries with us

## Safety, Stability, & Hope for the Holidays

Dear Friends of Mountain Home,

My name is Sam, and this holiday season I just wanted to share a little bit about what Mountain Home has meant for my two kids and me. If my story reaches even one mom who feels scared, tired, and unsure where to turn, as I did, then it's worth telling.

When I first arrived at Mountain Home with my seven-month-old daughter, I was exhausted in every way. I didn't know where we were going to sleep, and I didn't have anyone I could count on. The moment I walked through Mountain Home's doors, something inside me finally let go.

For the first time in a long time, I felt safe.



**"I didn't have to be on alert," I remember thinking. "I could just be myself."**

That feeling of safety was the start of everything. Since then, so much has changed. I've opened a small business, welcomed my son Easton, and started pursuing my goal of becoming a nurse practitioner. Both of my kids are now in Mountain Home's trauma-informed childcare program, and they're thriving in ways I never imagined. They're curious, confident, and safe, and that means the world to me. When people ask me what Mountain Home has been for my family, the answer always comes out the same:

**"It was life-changing. Without Mountain Home, I don't think I'd be okay."**

As Mountain Home settles into the new campus on 23rd Avenue, I hope you know how much your support matters. You didn't just help build a beautiful home. You helped build a place where families like mine get a real chance to heal, learn, and grow.

Thank you for believing in us. Thank you for believing in young moms like me who are trying every day to build better lives for our kids. Your kindness shows up in our futures.

With gratitude,  
Sam, Small Business Owner, Student, and Proud Mountain Home Mom



# Our Supporters Bring the Holiday Cheer

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, this holiday season has been filled with warmth, joy, and support for the young families at Mountain Home. Your financial gifts have helped ensure moms and children have a safe, stable place to celebrate the season. Local businesses, schools, and community groups stepped up in a big way to host winter clothing drives that stocked our closets with coats, boots, and cold-weather essentials, and our dedicated volunteers brought the magic to life, helping decorate, wrap gifts, and create festive moments that made the holidays feel truly special.

We are deeply grateful for every donation, every hour given, and every act of kindness that helped make this a happy holiday for our families. Thank you for showing up so beautifully for Mountain Home.



The Missoula Business Women's Network poses after volunteering at Mountain Home this November.

## Thank You

- **Missoula Business Women's Network** for cleaning our space and for sponsoring moms this holiday season.
- **The HUB International** for beautifying our space before winter.
- **First Presbyterian Church** for helping our residential families clean and organize their shared living spaces.
- **Loyola Sacred Heart** students for hosting a winter clothing drive and helping sponsor meals for families this holiday season.
- **Anne Remien** for the generous gift to purchase gifts for moms and children at this special time of the year.
- **All of our Generous Donors** for supporting moms and kiddos this holiday season. It's never too late to give to make an impact. Learn about options to give on the last page of this newsletter or donate now at <https://mountainhomemt.org/donate/>



# Baby Boutique Updates



Childcare Manager, Toni hugs a kiddo.

Did you know that Mountain Home still takes gently used donations on a case-by-case basis? We provide them to our families through our on-site Baby Boutique. Keep connected by following us on social media (Facebook and Instagram) to see what our families currently need. We're on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/mountainhomemt> and Instagram @mountain\_home\_mt.

Have something you want to donate? Just check in and see if we have an interest by emailing Laura at [boutique@mountainhomemt.org](mailto:boutique@mountainhomemt.org).

## List of current Boutique needs:

- Baby Walkers.
- Snow Boots.
- A Toddler Bed.
- Twin Sheets and Pillow Cases.
- Small Christmas Tree.
- Self-care Treats for Moms . (Little lotions, body spray, shower steamers, cute pen packs, adult coloring books and markers, press-on nail sets, journals, calendars, planners, candy bars, room spray, essential oils, etc...)

## Additional Children's Services needs:

- Snacks for kids. (Chips variety pack, pretzels, juice boxes, hot cocoa packets, popcorn, granola bars, goldfish crackers, animal; crackers, Veggie Straws, mini cookies, fruit snacks, small bottle water bottles).
- 100-300 Piece Puzzles.
- Games for All Ages. (Monopoly, Life, Go Fish, Checkers, Uno, Don't Rock the Croc).
- Washable Markers.
- Child Easel.

## Save the Date: Mother's Day Tea 2026

Mark your calendars! Our **20th annual Mother's Day Tea** Fundraiser will be held on **Friday, May 8th**, from **noon to 1 PM** at the **Home Arts Building at the Missoula Fairgrounds**. Join us for an elegant lunchtime gathering celebrating the strength and resilience of young moms while raising essential funds for Mountain Home's programs.

More details—and sponsor and ticket information—will be coming Spring 2026. We hope you'll join us for this special tradition!



2024 Mother's Day Tea Staff Photo

# Happy Holidays from Mountain Home

## A Note from Our CEO,

As we close out the year, I've been reflecting on what an extraordinary first year it's been at Mountain Home. When I joined last winter, I knew I was stepping into an organization with deep roots and a powerful mission, but I couldn't have imagined how much we would accomplish together in twelve months.

The biggest milestone was our move to a larger, more functional facility on the hillside. This new space is already transforming how we serve young moms and children through our ever-expanding programs, strengthened supports, and the addition of rooms for families to thrive. I'm deeply grateful to our staff, who carried this transition with resilience and unwavering commitment.

This year, we also partnered with local consultants who helped us prepare for thoughtful, long-term growth. With their guidance and the dedication of our staff and board, we strengthened our organizational culture and developed a strategic plan to move forward with clarity and purpose. We also welcomed new board members whose passion and expertise will support us in the exciting work ahead, and we extend heartfelt gratitude to those rotating off after years of service.

As I wrap up my first year, I feel immense gratitude for the work we've done and for the community that makes it possible. Thank you for believing in Mountain Home and for walking alongside us as we build brighter futures for young families in Montana.

Warmly,  
**Caitlin Borgmann**  
Mountain Home Montana, CEO



## Staff Celebrations

### December

-  Birthdays
  - Courtney C.
  - Shelley G.
  - Nani H.
  - Nikki S.
-  Work-aversaries
  - December 2<sup>nd</sup> - Wendy W. (1-year)
  - December 4<sup>th</sup> - Muriel D. (1-year)
  - December 13<sup>th</sup> - Amy R. (4-years)
  - December 29<sup>th</sup> - Kelsie S. (4-years)

### February

-  Birthdays
  - Elena S.
  - Wendy W.
  - Stephanie G.
  - Erin S.
-  Work-aversaries
  - February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Mary G. (7-years)
  - February 16<sup>th</sup> - Mataiya B. (1-year)
  - February 19<sup>th</sup> - Jen M. (6-years)
  - February 14<sup>th</sup> - Tempeste L. (3-years)

### January

-  Birthdays
  - Maggie S.
  - Greta J.
  - Heather N.
-  Work-aversaries
  - January 5<sup>th</sup> - Brooke D. (1-year)
  - January 14<sup>th</sup> - Stephanie G. (4-years)
  - January 29<sup>th</sup> - Shawna T. (2-years)

### March

-  Birthdays
  - Toni A.
  - Kay S.
  - Mary G.
-  Work-aversaries
  - March 16<sup>th</sup> - Whitney B. (4-years)
  - March 25<sup>th</sup> - Shelley G. (2-years)

# Season of Support: Holiday Giving Options

As 2025 comes to a close, your generosity can help moms and children at Mountain Home find stability and new beginnings. In addition to cash gifts, donating non-cash assets—like stock or retirement funds—can create a lasting impact while offering you financial benefits. Every gift matters. Thank you for standing with young families. Make your gift today: [www.mountainhomemt.org/donate](http://www.mountainhomemt.org/donate).



A photo of the recent Aurora Borealis from Mountain Home.

## Other Ways to Give

### Donate Stock

When you donate stock that has grown in value since purchase, you receive a charitable deduction for the current value and eliminate capital gains tax.

### Give through an IRA

IRA gifts can be a powerful way to save while you give. A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) can be applied to satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). You can direct a QCD of up to \$108,000 from your IRA to Mountain Home. Even if you are not required to draw a distribution from your IRA, a QCD is a tax-smart way to make charitable gifts.

### Bequests

The simplest way to leave a planned gift is through your will or trust. To help you get started, you can use FreeWill online, or consult a tax professional.

### Montana Endowment Tax Credit

The Montana Endowment Tax Credit offers a unique way to donate while reducing your Montana state income tax. By making a planned gift to a permanent endowment, individuals can receive a credit for 40% of the qualifying charitable portion of their gift (20% for businesses), up to an annual maximum of \$15,000 per individual/business or \$30,000 for a couple.

### Cryptocurrency

We accept Cryptocurrency donations. Go to our website at <https://mountainhomemt.org/donate-crypto/> or follow this QR Code:



For more details on planned giving or to access these tax-smart giving options, please contact **Allison Strekal**, Chief Development Officer, at **406-203-1676** or [allison@mountainhomemt.org](mailto:allison@mountainhomemt.org).



# Save the Date: The PEAK's 2026 Hollywood Nights Prom A Fundraiser for Mountain Home

Get ready to walk the red carpet! Join us for an unforgettable evening of dancing, drinks, and fun at PEAK Blue Mountain as we raise funds to support Mountain Home Montana. With DJ Sam Dasios spinning the hits, you'll dance the night away—all for a great cause.

- Friday, January 31 | 6–10 PM**
  - PEAK Blue Mountain Basketball Court**
  - Tickets on sale Now**
- Sponsorships still available.

Dust off your best Hollywood glam and help us kick off 2026 in style—this is a night you won't want to miss! Buy your ticket today at the PEAK Health & Wellness Center or <https://mountainhomemt.org/peakpromfundraiser2026/>

Buy your tickets today at the "Early Bird" Price before prices increase on January 1st, 2026.



## A Huge Thank You to Our Sponsors

