

# Action 17

## Our Mission

Action for Eastern Montana is committed to strengthening and enhancing the quality of life within the communities we serve by promoting education, advocacy and dignity for achieving self reliance.

## SEE YOU LATER

Well as some of you may have heard I will be 'retiring' from Action at the beginning of 2016 due to the fact that I have accepted a job as the CEO of the YMCA in Missoula. I can't appropriately express how tough this decision was. Action has shaped my life in ways that I would have never dreamed possible when I started in 2004. The work that I have done here, the mentors that I've had and the experiences that I have gone through have molded me in significant ways.

One thing that I hope each of you know is that Action is a great organization. There is no organization like it in Eastern Montana. No single company has as much presence in each of the counties. The 'finger on the pulse of Eastern Montana' that Action has is unmatched. I love the work of Action and I love working with you. When I first started working at Action I had no idea what Action actually did. I started as their Marketing Director and it took me several months to understand the

details of how each of the Departments worked and who did what tasks.

My original plan was to come to Action and stay for a couple years so that I could get enough work experience to qualify for my MBA application. However, I quickly learned to love the work that Action did and to love the people I work with. I hope that each of you know and understand that you all play an important part in making Action truly great.

People sometimes look at a CEO and think they are responsible for the success of an organization, but that is not true. The success of Action comes when Weatherization guys put on a Tyvek suit and climb under a trailer house to blow in insulation on a freezing January day. It comes when a teacher has been emotionally exhausted after a long and patient-trying day; yet, still has the love to help a child feel like the most important person in the world (especially in a world that often if very hard on many of the children). Action's success comes when a lonely home-bound senior is listened to,

respected and reminded of the invaluable person that they are. Success comes when a youth has a mentor sit down with them and perhaps for the first time in their life provide a caring voice of guidance and hope. Success comes when a single parent with young children achieves the ability to safely and appropriately house their vulnerable family. Success comes when the most vulnerable among us (the elderly and disabled) has someone come to their aid to champion their rights and to give them the hope that someone cares about them. In essence, success comes every day in simple ways. You are the success of Action and it is because of each of you that lives are blessed, hope is restored and burdens are lifted.

It has been an honor to be your friend over these past many years. I hope that you always remember that in my eyes you are some of the best people in the world and some of the noblest souls I've ever been around. I love you and I will miss you.

**Brian**

## GOOD BYE FROM RON

I did not think that this letter would be so hard to write! I guess I have been putting off 'grieving my leaving' the Director's position after 18 years at the helm! (I have always been a big believer in grieving as you go along.....so then it is easier when you turn in your keys and drive away!)

Time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I started here at AEM Head Start... I wonder where all the 18 years went?!

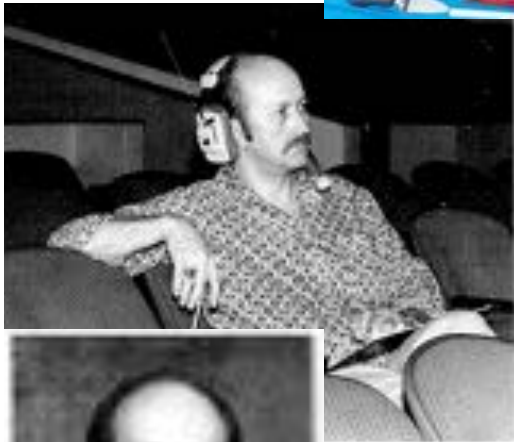
There are some things I wish I hadn't done...and things I should have done; however, there are many things I'm happy I did do. (*Working at Head Start is one of the best things I've ever done.*)

Please do whatever you want 'to accomplish' in your life and please do it quickly. Life goes by quickly. Don't put things off too long! You have no promise of a long life! ...**SO LIVE FOR TODAY AND SAY ALL THE THINGS THAT YOU WANT YOUR LOVED ONES TO REMEMBER...I HOPE THAT THEY APPRECIATE AND LOVE YOU FOR IT!**

I especially want to apologize to you if I have ever made you feel uncomfortable or to feel less than you are! Please realize that I know that you are so talented and have so many abilities that helped to make you the BEST staff anywhere.

God Bless the Children and God Bless you for your dedication to the clients and families at Action for Eastern Montana. You are all doing fantastic work!

Thank You for your friendship over the years that I have shared with you.



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Farewell to You	2
Governing Board & Staff	3
Note from CEO	4
Upcoming Events	5

***Farewell, you both will be missed***

**MEET YOUR GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER**



**Janet Wolff**

Favorite Quote?

*“Whatever you are, be a good one”*

**1. What do you do during the day? (work or play)**

*I'm a McCone County Commissioner and a farm wife.*

**2. What experience do you have with low Income Individuals and /or Families? Family members who have struggled financially**

**3. How do you feel is the best way for AEMT to reach those in need?**  
*Word of mouth and advertising*

**4. What do you like best about working with AEMT as a Governing Board member? The board members and staff who are concerned, conscientious, and**

*dedicated to AEMT.*

**5. What chore do you absolutely hate doing?**  
*dusting*

**6. What is your favorite time of the year?**  
*Spring*

**7. If you could choose to stay a certain age forever, what would it be and why?**  
*I've enjoyed every age and I'm fine with the age I am now.*

**8. If you could choose anyone, who would you pick as your mentor?**  
*My Mom*

**MEET YOUR AEMT STAFF**

**1. What does a normal day at Action consist of for you?**

*I receive a lot of calls from staff daily. Also there is new regulations daily!!*

**2. If we could have any new program within AEMT, what kind of program would you like to see?**

*A fundraiser program*

**3. What experience do you have with Low Income Individuals and/or families?**

*18 years with the Head Start Children & Families—They have been fantastic!*

**4. What do you like best about working with AEMT?**

*My Head Start staff is fantastic!! They are like my family*

**6. What chore do you absolutely hate doing?**

*Writing the grant—although necessary it is a 'pain.'*

**7. What is your favorite time of year?**

*Christmas*

**8. If you could choose to stay a certain age forever, what age would it be and why?**

*70—That's how old I am now*

**9. If you could choose anyone, who would you pick as your mentor?**

*At my age??? HA*

**10. What would you name the autobiography of your life?**

*“He loved to laugh.”*

**Ron Conrad**

*Most Current Retiree*

*Head Start Director For 18 years*



Favorite Quote?

*They just don't get it!! It is what it is!*



**Senior Tax Info**

We would like to remind seniors, on a fixed income, that they may qualify to get a reduction in their property taxes. You can get a copy of the Property Tax Assistance Application (PTAP) at the Treasures Office in the courthouse. The dead line for filing this form for 2016 is April 15, 2016. To qualify you must own, or currently be under contract to purchase, a home or mobile/manufactured home. You must furnished proof of income. If you are single, your total household annual income can't be greater than \$21,032. If you need help filling out this form, you came call Jodi Berry at the Richland County Commission on Aging 433-3701 or Karen O'Dell at Action for Eastern Montana 433-4967.

We would also like to remind seniors ,that do not file income taxes, that they may apply for the 2015 Montana Elderly Homeowner/renter credit. This is done by filling out a Form 2EC and filing it with the Montana Department of Revenue. If you have questions please call Karen at 433-4967.

***If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich.***

## A NOTE FROM BRIAN STEFFEN, CEO

I always love this time of year. Beginning on November 18<sup>th</sup> my family begins a nearly endless series of celebrations. Over the next several weeks we will celebrate the birthday of two of our children; celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday; celebrate our anniversary; and celebrate Christmas and New Year's Eve. Each of these special events has traditions and memories from past celebrations associated with it. Each family has a wonderful array of traditions that they reenact at this time of year based off of their personal beliefs, habits and philosophies. Part of what makes America great is that we are all allowed to celebrate with freedom and personal fulfillment. Unfortunately, for far too many people this time of year is filled with dread, discouragement and fear. For hundreds of people in Eastern Montana this is a time of year to worry about their ability to keep their family warm in their house. Many parents struggle to appropriately clothe their children in needed winter wear. Many parents worry about providing gifts or meals for their family. Additionally, many lonely hearts may feel weighed down by memories of happy family gatherings that are no longer possible and that are now replaced by solitary celebrations. Whatever our background and whatever our circumstances I hope that one of our traditions at this time of year is the tradition of helping someone in need. Service is one of the great gifts that each of us can give. Service can be so simple and yet leave such a legacy. Every time I celebrate my anniversary I remember my wife and I getting stuck in the snow the night of our wedding reception. There we sat, her in her dress and I in my tux...sitting on the side of the road. After trying in vain to get the car back on the road I finally started opening up our wedding gifts to see if there was anything that could help. Eventually, I came across some cookie sheets. I jumped out of the car and after using one of them to shovel out the snow from underneath the car I still had no hope of getting the car out. Finally, after about 30 minutes of work, a couple young men pulled over and within just a few minutes they helped push the car out and we went on our way. Those few minutes of help in the snow left a real impression on my wife and I; something so simple has stuck with us for years. I encourage all of us to find simple ways to help out at this time of year so that it truly can be a time of celebration for all people; especially those in need.

*Respectfully, Brian, CEO*

### E & T Corner

Wow, what a month. There is a lot of news swirling around Action lately so here is E & T's perspective.

After five years as E & T's Director Clint Wynne has interviewed and accepted the Headstart Director Position. Their esteemed leader Ron Conrad is retiring. Clint is trying to learn as much as he can as quickly as he can because he has also been tagged as the Interim CEO. Clint would also like to let everyone know that the Headstart office will be transforming from a Bronco's office to a Cowboy's office.

Interviews were held for the open E & T Director position and they were fortunate enough to be able to hire Lu Toledo. Lu has been with E & T as a Workforce Specialist and Committee Member Extraordinaire for the last three years. Clint would like to extend a warm welcome to Lu and assure everyone of her ability to do a terrific job.

Have a Merry Christmas everyone and we look forward to seeing you at the Christmas party.



### Natural Gas Appliances & Heating Safety

*On natural gas appliances and heating systems, the color of flame is a good indicator of the degree of combustion. The flame should always burn blue, not orange or yellow. If the flames is not blue, it may be a sign that the equipment needs adjusting or cleaning.*

*Appliances and heating systems should be checked and adjusted by a qualified service technician.*

- **Water Heaters:** make sure your hot water heater is set to no higher than 120 F to prevent accidental burns.
- **Furnaces:** have a qualified service technician check your heating system annually. Technicians check for proper combustion, carbon monoxide levels, flue gas temperature, burners and the heat exchanger for proper operation.



**Keep Flammables Away From Appliances:** never use or store flammable products such as gasoline, solvents or adhesives near a water heater or any other natural gas or electric appliances because vapors from flammable liquids can ignite.

## Congratulations to Clint Wynne Our new CEO

### COMMUNITY ACTION CODE OF ETHICS

We, as Community Action professionals, dedicate ourselves to eliminating poverty in the midst of plenty in this nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training; the opportunity for work; and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity; and with respect for cultural diversity, commit ourselves to:

- \* Exercise whatever discretionary authority we have under the law to promote the interests of the poor.
- \* Lead the Community Action movement with respect, concern, courtesy, and responsiveness, recognizing that service to the poor is beyond service to oneself.
- \* Demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, honesty, and fortitude in all our Community Action activities in order to inspire confidence and trust in the Community Action movement.

(This is #6, #7 & #8 of the Code of Ethics. Look for the next 2 in the future newsletter.)

**FACTUAL INFO**



**Helping People in a Fix since 1966!**

**ACTION FOR EASTERN MONTANA**

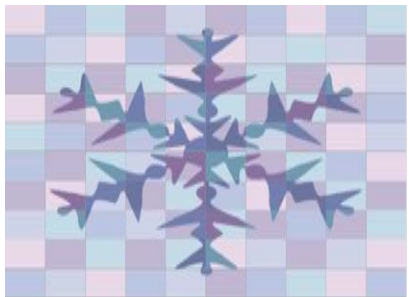
<b>Headquarters</b>	
2030 North Merrill Avenue P.O. Box 1309 Glendive, MT 59330 800.227.0703 or 406.377.3564	
Aging I&A Services in Miles City	234-3935
Aging Fax in Miles City	234-8028
Aging Ombudsman in Miles City	234-3935
Aging Services in Glasgow	2289751
Weatherization in Miles City	234-8027
Senior Companion in Sidney	433-4967
Head Start in Miles City	234-5223
Head Start in Glendive	377-3009
Head Start in Glasgow	228-2404
Head Start in Malta	654-2005

**HOLIDAY WREATH CENTERPIECE**

- 30 marshmallows
- 1/2 c butter
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 tsp. green food color
- 3 1/2 c cornflakes



Combine marshmallows, butter, vanilla and food color in top of double boiler. Heat over water until marshmallows and butter are melted, stirring frequently. Gradually stir in cornflakes. Drop from teaspoon onto wax paper. With hands, shape into a 9-inch wreath. You may decorate with red M&M's or maraschino cherries. You can also shape into small individual wreaths and decorate with little red hot candies.



Montana Delegates Info

Sen. Steve Daines  
320 Hart Senate  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20510  
[www.daines.senate.gov](http://www.daines.senate.gov)  
Phone: 202-224-2651

Sen. Jon Tester  
311 Hart Senate  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20510  
[www.testersenate.gov](http://www.testersenate.gov)  
Phone: 202-224-2644

Rep. Ryan Zinke  
113 Cannon House  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20515  
[www.zinke.house.gov](http://www.zinke.house.gov)  
Phone: 202-225-3211



The Lady's of Energy made 2 wreaths, 1 for fall and 1 for Christmas, and donated them to the Festival of Trees



**A BEAUTIFUL CREATION FOR THE LIGHT PARADE**

**THINGS TO KNOW - THINGS TO SHARE**

- December**  
 17—Ron's Retirement Party  
 18—AEMTs Christmas Party  
 19—Cow Patty Links Winter Wonderland  
 22—Brian's Going Away Party  
 24—Christmas Eve (AEMT Closed)  
 25—Christmas (AEMT Closed)  
 31— New Years Eve (AEMT Closed)
- January**  
 1— Happy New Year!! (AEMT Closed)  
     Brian's last day  
 14—Director's Meeting  
 15—Governing Board

- 18— Martin Luther King Jr Day (AEMT Closed)  
 20—Wz Round Table  
 22—Jordan Health Fair

- February**  
 14— Happy Valentines Day  
 15— Presidents Day (AEMT Closed)

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**Possible Outreach Events for 2016**

Watch out for these and let Lori B. know if you can help out and/or have others ideas:

- Days of Service:** Glasgow, Glendive, Baker, Circle, Hysham, Miles City, Sidney  
**Health Fairs:** Sidney, Wibaux, Glendive, Jordan  
**Veterans Stand-down:** ???  
**Veterans Stockings:** Roosevelt County??