Family Self Sufficiency
Newsletter
Spring Edition

FSS participant has homeownership in her sights
Bronwyn continues working on her final goal of homeownership.

Veteran Graduates from FSS
Former Valor House Resident successfully graduates from FSS.

Community Resources Spotlight
Montana Legal Services
Western Montana Career Fair
Tuesday April 23, 2019
Missoula Hilton Garden Inn
2:30-6pm- Veterans in at 2PM
VETERAN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES FSS

The Valor House Program gave this Navy Veteran the stepping stone he needed for economic stability and safe housing. Stephen had moved into Valor House 5 years ago, homeless, no income, and desperately in need of a fresh start on life. He had learned about The Valor House, homeless housing program for Veterans while staying at The Poverello Center. Stephen was excited to have a fully furnished apartment, with on-site case manager and staff to help him access Veterans Services. He enrolled in FSS and saw the program as a great opportunity to get back on his feet. Stephen utilized the Experience Works Program for subsidized employment at the City of Missoula, and Missoula Housing Authority which gave him the needed local references to fill the gaps in his resume. Stephen finally obtained employment in the food service industry, which provided stable income, so that he could manage his bills and create a budget. During his time in FSS, Stephen was also able to pursue his hobby of fictional writing and volunteering at The Heroes at Home BBQ. Stephen graduated from FSS with a savings of over $20,000.

For more information on Valor House contact; The Poverello Center 406-728-1809, ask for Jill Bonny or Email: Poverello@montana.com

Missoula Housing Authority's Mission: Through creative partnerships and innovative development, the Missoula Housing Authority provides quality housing solutions for low and middle-income households in Missoula and the surrounding area. www.missoulahousing.org

Family Self Sufficiency Program: This is a voluntary program designed to help individuals and families achieve their goals of employment and creating a savings. If you have a Housing Choice Voucher with MHA or live in Public Housing and have goals of employment, please call our office 549-4113 to connect with one of our coordinators today!
**Montana Legal Services Association (MTLSA)** is here for you!! MLSA is a private, non-profit law firm, that provides non-criminal legal information, advice, and representation to Montanans. Their services help “fight scams on seniors, assist veterans who have been denied benefits, help people escape abusive relationships, and represent families living in unsafe housing conditions”. For help: Call 1-800-666-6899 or fill out an online application [www.MTLSA.org](http://www.MTLSA.org) [www.MontanaLawHelp.org](http://www.MontanaLawHelp.org)

**Missoula Job Service** - 539 S 3rd St West
Phone 728-7060

**Offers free classes to help you prepare for the upcoming career fair. Call today to reserve your spot in a class!**

- **Tuesday April 2** at 10am Effective Resumes and Cover Letters
- **Thursday April 4** at 10am Smarter Goals
- **Tuesday April 9** at 10am Interviewing Basics
- **Thursday April 11** at 10am Job Search for Mature Workers
- **Tuesday April 16** at 10am Basic Computer & Online Job Search and [Job Fair Workshop 2:30-4pm](http://www.MontanaLawHelp.org)
- **Thursday April 18** at 10am Applicant Tracking Systems and [Job Fair Workshop 2:30-4pm](http://www.MontanaLawHelp.org)
- **Tuesday April 23** 10am Soft Skills for Job Seekers
- **Thursday April 25** at 10am Employment After A Felony

**JOB FAIR WORKSHOP: LEARN HOW TO TALK WITH AN EMPLOYER ABOUT YOU and what to do before, during and after attending a job fair.**
FSS Participant Continues Path to Homeownership

Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) participant, Bronwyn has been working very hard over the last four years to line her family up for homeownership. She started out in FSS as a new public housing resident and student trying to raise her children. After one year, she was offered a voucher with MHA and continued with the FSS Program. Bronwyn thought FSS could be the ticket to assist her in navigating the multitude of community resources in Missoula. Her long-term goals of completing her master’s in social work and becoming more financially stable kept Bronwyn very focused. Once she obtained her degree and obtained employment, Bronwyn was able to address her credit and improve her credit score. She completed Homeword’s Getting Ready for Homeownership course, where she learned the ins and outs of purchasing a home. Last year Bronwyn learned about the new land trust project through North Missoula Community Development Corporation, Lee Gordon Place. She has been working with Human Resource Council and her lender to qualify for a brand-new condo. Bronwyn’s long-term goal of homeownership is a few months away. With the help of many community resources including FSS and Missoula Housing Authority’s homeownership voucher, Bronwyn will be moving from renting to owning her home.

Community Partners Information:

North Missoula Community Development Center
www.NMCDC.org

Homeword, Inc. www.homeword.org

Human Resource Council
www.humanresourcecouncil.org