



YOUTH  
HOMELESSNESS  
DEMONSTRATION  
PROJECT

McKinney  
Vento;  
Kinship/  
G.R.G

ĀISSPOŌMMOŌTSHYŌ•P  
“WE HELP EACH OTHER”

## **~PARENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM~**

### **Grandparents Raising Grandkids/Kinship/Aging Mastery Program (a program within āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p)**

#### **Connections-**

Aside from our Secret Santa event, I’ve had in-depth conversations with several of our grandparents and kinship families about their frustrations with the lack of support and communication from various community programs that interact with the children in their care. A common theme has emerged: many caregivers feel unheard and viewed simply as a place to house children rather than as valued partners in their wellbeing.

I will be presenting these concerns and advocating for our families at the next CPT meeting with Child and Family Services.

One request that came up repeatedly was to bring back the kinship support groups. To explore this, I met with Lisa Terry, MSU Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences/4-H. I shared the concerns and requests expressed by our families, and we have scheduled a meeting for the first week of January to discuss bringing parenting classes, cooking classes, and potential caregiver support groups into our community.

***We identified #181 students experiencing homelessness for the current academic year 2025/2026 SY. (Based on the MV definition of homelessness)***

#### **McKinney Vento (MV):**

Over half of our MV students were adopted this holiday season by a Secret Santa! The remaining students received gifts through the Senior Toy Drive and donations from Samaritan’s Purse, delivered by the Methodist Church and Gail Hoyt. I’ve been fortunate to

coordinate this event for the past few years, and each year I'm truly overwhelmed by the generosity of those who participate.

BPS teachers, community members, and even individuals from outside Browning consistently support our mission. Our students and families are incredibly grateful. Thank you to everyone who contributed! Our elves were hard at work wrapping, contacting families, and distributing gifts and holiday meals.

A special thank you as well to the BHS-Senior Toy Drive group, their advisors, Jen, and Rebecca for assisting in ensuring students in need received something for Christmas.

***We've identified #11 students who are unaccompanied and experiencing homelessness for the academic year 2025/2026 SY.***

## **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP)**

Currently preparing to submit our renewal application this month.

Submitted by Tamara: YHDP students had a busy couple of weeks, attending classes and getting work turned in all classes before qtr ended friday. Mostly all showed up and put in the work to pass their classes. Challenges some students have is attending because of social anxiety. All YHDP are referred to mental health support services. Another challenge for students is getting the caregivers affidavit notarized to receive supportive services. We have a student that wants the help/support but family will not sign the CGA. On the positive note, students are showing up and attending classes even when they are having a hard time.

Tam

## **Pregnant & Parenting Teens:**

We currently have 12 pregnant or parenting teens in our district. Our Bi-weekly meetings with the Blackfeet Manpower Teen Pregnancy/Parenting have brought some themes to light and so we are pulling together with the MeadowLark staff to provide more well-rounded care for our teens who are pregnant or parenting.

## **Food Pantry's & Clothing Closets:**

Please share this information with anyone you may know who has young child/young adult clothing in good shape (without stains or rips). They can be delivered to me at the BES storage area (where we were previously located) on Monday's and Thursday's from 12-1pm. My only request is that they be washed in warm/hot water and dried thoroughly prior to being delivered.

We received a large donation from the Butte Central Boys Head Basketball Coach and a few families from the Butte Central Community. We've submitted a formal "Thank You" to those individuals.

Thank you to D.J. Fish for advocating for the PCOP and also to those who offered to haul the donations back home (Jace Racine & Staff, Roxanne BirdRattler, and Makenzie Wellman).

PCOP Support- Extra Help is needed for sorting donations and distributing to the clothing closets. We have two individuals (Grandparents raising grandchildren) who will be completing the volunteer paperwork but, we could utilize the help, now.

Happy New Year to you all!

Best,

Irene