

PARENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

https://www.bps.k12.mt.us/programs_departments/parent_community_outreach

T: (406)338-5025~ Nikki Hannon, Director

REFLECTING ON 2019-2020

CHILD CARE

During the 2019-2020 Academic Year, the BPS Early Childhood Education & Teen Parent Resource Center provided childcare to a total of #17 children. We ended the year in March due to COVID-19. At that time, we had #12 children enrolled; of those, #1 child's teen parent graduated, #1 child's parent no longer works for the district, #1 child will transition to kindergarten, and #1 child will transition to the 4 year old program. We anticipate the remaining #8 children will return to our care in Fall 2020. This will leave us with #5 openings for infant (ages 0-2 years) care and an additional #9 openings for toddler (ages 2-5) care. This is assuming that we will be allowed to re-open maintaining our current staff to child ratios. Over the course of the year, we were supported by Blackfeet Manpower, Family Connections and Hopa Mountain's StoryMakers.



TEEN PARENT PROGRAM

During the 2019-2020 Academic Year, BPS Early Childhood Education & Teen Parent Resource Center identified #19 teen parents. We provided services and child care to #5 teen parents and other resources and services to an additional #9 teen parents. These resources included diapers and other hygiene supplies, food boxes, children's clothing/shoes, children's books, Mother's Day care packages and COVID-19 care packages.

Resources we received to support these efforts included:

*\$500 donation from the Indigenous Adolescent Girls' Empowerment Network (IMAGEN) COVID-19 relief funding

*\$200 donation from private individual

*\$500 donation from Soroptomist of Whitefish

*Diapers and hygiene care packages from Family Connections

We were also supported by the Blackfeet Manpower Pregnant and Parenting Teen Coalition over the course of the year.

HI-SET & ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

During the 2019-2020 Academic Year, the Hi-Set and Adult Basic Education program served #25 students of which #11 were new referrals and #14 continued from previous years. We had #0 students take the Hi-Set test. We assisted #1 student in receiving an Honorary High School Diploma for Montana Veterans.

We partnered with Blackfeet Community College, Crystal Creek Treatment Lodge, Blackfeet Family Court, Opportunities, Inc. and Blackfeet Transit to recruit and retain Hi-Set students.



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Addressing Homelessness

We are excited to announce that our proposal for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project has been accepted and is under review for award. We are currently entering our application into HUD's e-snaps system. We will be officially notified of acceptance in July 2020. The Montana CoC will release a press statement once everything is finalized.

Clothing Closets~

Face Masks~ #1500+ masks received from Florida, Maryland, New York, Louisiana, Idaho, California, New Jersey, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Oregon and Bozeman/Missoula/Lakeside, MT

- #250 disposable masks donated to Blackfeet Community Hospital
- #200 manufactured cloth masks donated to Oyop Food Pantry
- #1100 cloth masks distributed to school personnel and students



Clothing Donations~ The Heart Locker in Kalispell continues to keep our clothing closets stocked with gently used items. The Columbia Falls Lutheran Church continues to deliver all of these wonderful donations. We often receive clothing more suitable for an adult population, so we have shared these with the Medicine Bear, Mormon Church and Blackfeet Care Center. We also shared clothing with the Nurturing Center, and Blackfeet Head Start to support their efforts in establishing a Clothing Closet. Our wonderful volunteer, Sue Cox (West Glacier), continues to assist us in organizing these closets.



Shoes~ Between the McKinney Vento grant providing funds for PE shoes, and the AASA grant providing funds for other FIT students, our program was able to assist #129 students with a new pair of shoes. We were also able to purchase #394 pairs of socks thanks to a grant from the Sons of Norway.



Coats~ Rather than having a one-day coat giveaway, this academic year we had a Coat Store set up through the winter months to allow students to walk in and select a coat or other winter apparel as it was needed. We shared #70 coats with the School-Based Clothing Closets and another #43 coats were shared with Head Start, in addition to providing: #91 coats, #89 hats, #78 gloves, #25 pairs of snow boots, #30 pairs of snow pants to classrooms. These donations were received from Coats for Kids (Kalispell), Heart Locker (Kalispell), Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, Scheels (Great Falls), Faughts, and community individuals.



Food Pantries ~

Thanks to the Town Pump Charitable grant, we were able to stock the School-Based pantries for the third year in a row. Using the food pantries, and through our partnerships with FAST Blackfeet and Nourish the Blackfeet, we were able to provide the following:

#86 Thanksgiving food baskets (also in partnership with Siyeh, BES and BHS)

#30 Christmas food baskets (also in partnership with BHS Senior Toy Drive)

#104 pulled pork to BPS Staff and FIT families (thanks to FAST Blackfeet)

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 related school closure, we were not able to provide Easter dinner baskets. However, we did provide #16 care packages and food boxes to Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and teen parents.

Thanks to the Montana Food Bank Network, we were able to provide an average of #300 weekend backpack meals to students each Friday.



Other highlights ~

September~ Back to School “Store” Every student in grades PreK-6th received a backpack with school supplies



Senior Toy Drive~ Served #36 families and #156 children

Christmas Care Packages~ provided to #17 Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

BES/Napi Christmas program~ provided holiday attire

During the COVID-19 school closure, the *āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p* program received support from Hopa Mountain (Bozeman) in the form of feminine hygiene products, wipes, and 1000 children's books!

Toys for Tots Book Donation during COVID-19



During 2019-2020, BPS identified #242 students as experiencing homelessness; #185 students being raised by grandparents; and #31* students in foster care.

In addition to the services provided (as listed above), the āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō • p̄ program fulfilled #205 other requests for supportive services.

*This number is under-reported due to lack of verification