

Parent Community Outreach/Childcare~ Nikki Hannon
Board Meeting: January 8, 2019

November and December were very productive within the Parent Community Outreach Program. Here are a few highlights:

- **Child Care~** Much of November and December was dedicated to the staff acquiring necessary training for our licensure renewal. We invited our resource and referral partner, Family Connections, to provide us training in Early Childhood Education Essentials and to also conduct an Environmental Review for our center. The review was extremely helpful in that it provided best-practices for providing a safe and welcoming childcare center. Based on the feedback we received, we have already begun to re-organize our rooms, eliminate potentially hazardous items (ie. Baby walkers), and provide educationally-rich play centers.

Unfortunately, we had to shut down our center for a day and a half due to our furnace needing repairs, but we used the time for staff to continue their required online-based training through Childcaretraining.org. We owe a huge shout out to the maintenance department for providing us with numerous electric heaters for each of the childcare rooms to maintain a comfortable temperature while our furnace was repaired.

The children had several highlights over the last couple of months. One of them was our family night where we invited parents in to do a fun plaster-hand activity with their child. Another highlight was being invited to KW to pay a visit to Santa before the break.



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Child Care December 2018

- **Hi-Set~** Attendance was pretty sparse during November and December. This has been a recurring pattern due to the holidays and weather during this time of year. We anticipate a “rush” in January as current and former students get re-charged from the break and re-inspired with the incoming New Year.
- **Teen Parent Program~** In November, we invited the teen parents to volunteer at the Childcare Center for community service hours. The students assisted with a fun activity in the toddler room. We continue to meet with teen parents from the William Buffalo Hide Academy in order to provide parenting skills and support. We also continue to provide diapers and wipes in emergency situations to our teen parents. We have an entire coalition of community partners to assist in removing barriers our teen parents may have in attending school and providing positive parenting to their children. In December, our final class of the 2018 year was a celebration where the Blackfeet Teen Parent Coalition provided a gift to each of the teens and our program provided a gift to their children.



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- **Families In Transition**~ The FIT program, now also referred to as **āisspōōmmoōtsiiyō•p̄**, “**we help each other**”, is always extremely busy during the holiday months. In November, we partnered with Blackfeet FAST and Nourish the Blackfeet to provide twenty of our homeless families with a complete turkey dinner. We coordinated this effort with each of the schools to ensure that we did not overlap on referred families. In December, we partnered again with Blackfeet FAST and Nourish the Blackfeet to provide an additional twenty ham or turkey dinners to our homeless families or families hosting our unaccompanied homeless youth. We also provided a holiday care package of hygiene products to 20 unaccompanied homeless high school students. Several of our Back to School Adopt-A-Student sponsor’s wanted to purchase Christmas gifts for their students so the FIT program ensured this occurred as well.
 - **āisspōōmmoōtsiiyō•p̄** continues to receive generous donations from Kalispell Public School’s Heart Locker program. The Lutheran Church out of Columbia Falls is now partnered with us to provide a delivery service from the Heart Locker to the FIT program. Their congregation has also contributed to the donations by providing food and hygiene items.



- **āisspōōmmoōtsiiyō•p̄** met with Heart Butte Public Schools’ Superintendent and Dean of Students to offer assistance in establishing a McKinney Vento program in their district. As a result of this meeting, we have identified a Heart Butte staff person to serve as their homeless liaison and have begun sharing resources that will assist Heart Butte in establishing a student clothing closet and food pantry. The collaboration between Heart Butte and Browning will benefit our Blackfeet students immensely as they transition between our two districts.

The mission of the Parent Community Outreach Program is to serve as a resource to the school district and our community in a collaborative effort to keep our students in school until graduation.