



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

510 NORTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR, PO BOX 1178
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59103



BILLINGS METRO VISTA PROJECT

CUMULATIVE OUTCOMES AS OF JANUARY 2013

The City of Billings - Community Development Division began working with the AmeriCorps VISTA program in 2007 specifically to assist with the development and implementation of *Welcome Home Billings*, the City's ten-year plan to impact homelessness. The project also meets the City's obligation to spearhead an anti-poverty strategy in order to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The City's efforts generated AmeriCorps VISTA project designation, thus the Billings Metro VISTA Project (MVP) officially began in July 2009.

Since 2007, **59 VISTA members** have served on the MVP specifically for poverty impact and homeless initiatives! These members have generated the following outcomes:

- **\$1,172,425 in financial resources** were generated (cash and in-kind) to combat poverty and homelessness, in addition to **\$462,964 in resources** specific to Project Homeless Connect, **totaling \$1,635,389!**
- **111 capacity-building efforts** were implemented within non-profit organizations and / or the City of Billings to support efforts to impact homelessness and poverty, including community gardens, Spare Change for Real Change, the Purple 5k, etc.
- **6,929 new clients** were provided with services designed to impact poverty and eliminate homelessness.
- **50 services** for the homeless were developed or improved.
- A total of **1,779 new community volunteers** were recruited and trained in homeless impact initiatives.
- **39 community assessments** were completed to better identify issues impacting homelessness.
- **67 strategic plans** impacting homelessness / poverty were implemented!
- **38 homeless families** were housed during the course of service!
- **20 organizations** have participated as Host Sites for the City's VISTA members:

*Family Support Network
United Way Yellowstone County
Second Chance Homes
Mental Health Center - The HUB
Community Housing Resource Board
Billings Area Resource Network
MRM - Women & Family Shelter
Billings Public Schools - Summer Lunch Program
HRDC District 7
Billings Public Schools - Backpack Meals Program*

*Tumbleweed Runaway Program, Inc.
Housing Authority of Billings
Venture Theatre - Youth Conservatory
Boys & Girls Club
The Salvation Army
VOA - Independence Hall
Family Service, Inc.
Head Start
Friendship House
Downtown Billings Association*

Should you have questions regarding this information, CDBG/HOME resources, homeless initiatives or the Billings Metro VISTA Project, please contact Brenda Beckett at 406.657.8286, via email at beckettb@ci.billings.mt.us, or visit our websites:

- www.ci.billings.mt.us/homeless
- www.ci.billings.mt.us/vista