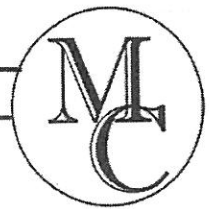




MISSOULA CITY OF MISSOULA

MISSOULA COUNTY



October 22, 2012

Dear Fellow Missoulians:

In the winter of 2011, a study we commissioned told us in numbers what we knew in our hearts: Too many people in Missoula are without housing, and too many people are in danger of losing the housing they have. The people we serve care deeply about this tragedy, and so do we.

During the last decade, about 350 American communities have engaged in plans that reflect a new way of thinking about and solving the problem of homelessness. Ten-year plans make a radical shift from easing the suffering of homelessness to ending homelessness itself. That means creating housing for people of all income levels and all states of need. And it means fine-tuning services that help people stay in their homes and quickly re-house people if they become homeless. The State of Montana created its 10-year plan in 2006; Billings completed one in 2009. Now it's our turn.

In April 2011, we asked a dozen people with experience, insight and community involvement to engage a broad group of stakeholders to further define Missoula County's homelessness problem and craft the 10-year plan to address it. We asked United Way of Missoula County CEO Susan Hay Patrick and City Councilman Jason Wiener to co-chair the working group. After 18 months of diligent effort spent in hundreds of hours of collaborative work across the community in public meetings and focus groups, we're proud to present Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

As we asked, the plan focuses on a coordinated approach that works to prevent homelessness and to put housing first for all Missoula residents. We think that it charts a new course for people who are looking for a way to reach home. We hope that you will be inspired to help us bring the plan to life and put it to work.

Respectfully,

John Engen  
Mayor

Jean Curtiss  
Missoula Board of County Commissioners