



# MERRY CHRISTMAS!



## Our Mission:

Based on our commitment to Catholic social teaching, Catholic Social Services of Montana provides for works of advocacy, compassion, pastoral outreach, education, and social justice.

## A Look Inside:

- ★ Greetings from our Executive Director
- ★ Our NEW Mental Health Program
- ★ Stories from our Adoption Program
- ★ Helena Baby Boutique Update
- ★ NEW Billings Baby Boutique
- ★ 2023 Golf Tournament
- ★ A Year in Review at CSSM
- ★ How you can Partner with us

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

What a year it has been! Throughout this 70th year since our founding, we have been blessed with many opportunities to continue our mission of serving families. Our adoption program continues to place children with loving families, our Baby Boutique ministry continues to serve families and has expanded to Billings, our disaster relief work has replaced and repaired many items damaged from flooding in Hardin, and now, we are expanding to serve the mental health needs in our state.

As an organization that exists to serve, we are grateful for these opportunities and for everyone who continues to support us with your prayers and financial and material donations. If you have not prayed for or donated to our mission before, I prayerfully request you consider it; our needs are greater than ever as we expand our services to serve as many as possible. We could not do it without you. God Bless you and your loved ones this Christmas and holiday season.



Scott Held, Executive Director, Catholic Social Services of Montana

## OUR TEAM



**SCOTT  
HELD**  
Executive  
Director



**JANN  
PETEK**  
Social  
Worker,  
Western MT



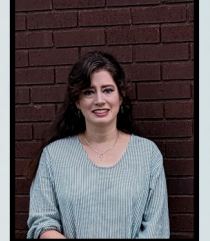
**MICHELLE  
PERLICK**  
Director of  
Adoption,  
Social  
Worker,  
Eastern MT



**PHIL QUINN**  
Mental Health  
Therapist,  
Counselor



**SENJA  
LINJANEN**  
Program  
Coordinator-  
Adoption



**JEANNETTE  
BOWER**  
Program  
Coordinator-  
Mental Health

## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Diocese of Helena

Most Rev. Jeffrey Fleming

Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

Rev. Cory Sticha

Cascade

Sarah Phipps

Helena

Coreen Glen

Billings

Rev. Craig Hanley

Butte

Vacant

Diocese of Helena

Roy Brown

Billings

Vacant

Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

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Missoula

Very Rev. Msgr. Dan Wathen

Havre

Dan Hallsten

Knights of Columbus Rep

Hamilton

Debi Rolwing

Board Fellow



# Our New Mental Health Services Program

We are excited to introduce our mental health services program. With this program, we hope to address the high need across Montana for exceptional care through counseling and educational services. Initially, this program will aim to:



- ★ Provide in-person and telehealth counseling services.
- ★ Offer educational sessions in communities around Montana that give attendees the ability to recognize and help someone experiencing a mental health crisis.
- ★ Offer supervision opportunities to future mental health professionals.

## Important Details

- ★ We believe we should be a good fit and comfortable with each other, so the first session costs nothing. If future sessions are scheduled, CSSM will accept private pay and insurance. There will be a sliding fee scale and pro bono services may be available for qualifying clients.
- ★ Faith can be a part of the conversation, but is not required. We're here for everyone.
- ★ We'll do our best to help everyone, regardless of what the topic or difficulty is.
- ★ Initially, counseling will be available in-person in Helena and through telehealth on our secure online platform. We hope to offer additional in-person opportunities as the program expands.

**Meet Phil Quinn, LCPC, our licensed counselor.** Phil lives with his family in Helena and has years of experience working with children, couples, and families from many different backgrounds. If you name it, Phil has probably encountered it in his work. He welcomes everyone and has this to say about his philosophy—



Phil Quinn, LCPC

**“My approach to counseling is rooted in building a trusting relationship so I can accompany you on your journey to a solution that works for you and your loved ones. With your whole self in mind, we'll work to improve or cope with whatever difficulty you're facing; we all encounter them at times!”**

***INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE OR SCHEDULING A SESSION?***

You can call 406-442-4130 OR visit [www.cssmt.org/mental-health/](http://www.cssmt.org/mental-health/). There, you can learn about our program and start the process.

# OUR ADOPTION STORIES

## *Eli*



Steven and Richelle dropped everything and hurried to Missoula, filled with excitement. They had learned their baby boy was born early and was experiencing withdrawals from the medication his mother had been taking. At their very first meeting, they felt deep and immediate love for him. Their sweet boy needed their love and prayers to help fight his way to health. His first month of life was spent in the NICU, where their caring love and support provided much-needed comfort for him as he received the around-the-clock care he needed. Happily, he thrived from their love and has made it through the challenges he experienced.

To read another story from our adoption program, please see page 7.

## **CSSM BABY BOUTIQUE MINISTRY UPDATE**

CSSM's Baby Boutique serves dozens of families across Montana, providing diapers, wipes, clothing, formula and other necessities for their children free of charge, with no barriers to access the service.

**OUR HELENA BOUTIQUE HAS MOVED!** The Helena Boutique has expanded and moved across the parking lot from the Brondel Center to the Cathedral Center. It is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00am-1:00pm.



**IN FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023, OUR HELENA BOUTIQUE DISTRIBUTED**  
32,616 diapers, 922 packages of wipes, and 3,206 items of clothing



## NEW BABY BOUTIQUE!

CSSM has expanded the Baby Boutique ministry to Billings. The location, inside Riverstone Health Clinic, serves families with children aged 0-3 needing assistance. The Boutique is open Mondays and Thursdays from 11:00am-1:00pm.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

CSSM gratefully accepts donations of:

- ★ Diapers sized newborn-6 in Helena (with 5-6 being the greatest need) and diapers sized newborn-4 in Billings.
- ★ Wipes and Rash Cream
- ★ Boys and girls clothing sizes 2T-5T in Helena and NEW clothing sizes up to 4T in Billings.
- ★ Donations in Helena can be dropped off at the Cathedral Center during its business hours. Donations in Billings are accepted at the Boutique during its open hours, with more donation locations to come in the future!



You can volunteer at a Baby Boutique! Give us a call at 406-442-4130 to find out how.



22 teams joined us for a day of fun and excitement.

Games included driving a jumbo-size marshmallow, long drive, long putt, and driving a golf ball with your non-dominant hand!

There were many prizes, highlighted by gift cards to local businesses, a Billings stay and play trip, brand new golf clubs, artwork, and a brand new cooler!

Please visit [www.cssmt.org](http://www.cssmt.org) for a complete list of all our generous sponsors.

## The 24th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit CSSM took place July 14th!





# 2023- A YEAR IN REVIEW AT CSSM

## January

CSSM attended the Montana State March for Life at the Capitol, joining hundreds of other pro-life advocates to show our support for life!



## March

CSSM finalized an adoption this month!



## April

CSSM was blessed to receive an amazing amount of donations to our Helena Baby Boutique from Our Lady of the Valley Parish's annual Lent to Life campaign.

## May

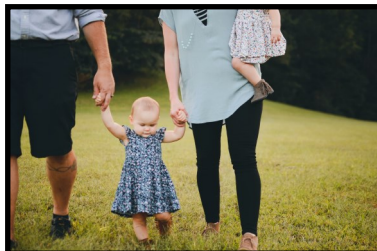
The Carroll College Saints for Life organized a diaper drive for our Helena Baby Boutique!



HELENA AREA  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

CSSM was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Helena Area Community Foundation and Lewis and Clark County to support the Helena Baby Boutique.

CSSM placed two babies with adoptive families this month, beginning the long process towards adoption finalization!



## July

CSSM was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana to help launch our new counseling program.



CSSM held its 24th annual Charity Golf Tournament at Bill Roberts Golf Course.



FOUNDATION  
for the Diocese of Helena

## August

CSSM was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Foundation for the Diocese of Helena to support our Helena Baby Boutique.

## September

CSSM held a two-day Adoption Workshop for prospective adoptive couples.



CSSM placed a baby with an adoptive family, starting another journey towards adoption finalization!

CSSM began the initial hiring process for a licensed Mental Health Counselor.



# A YEAR IN REVIEW CONTINUED...



## October

CSSM worked with local partners to distribute a \$10,000 grant to support victims of flooding in Hardin.

## November

CSSM attended the 2023 Adoption Celebration at the Capitol.



## November

CSSM expanded its Baby Boutique ministry and opened a new Boutique in Billings.



CSSM launched its new Mental Health Program and welcomed Phil Quinn as our Mental Health Counselor.



Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

CSSM received a generous endowment donation from the Diocese of Great Falls Billings to help launch the Billings Baby Boutique.

CSSM's Helena Baby Boutique officially moved from the Brondel Center to its new expanded location in the Cathedral Center.



## December

CSSM will gratefully receive donations from Saint Mary Catholic Community Annual Christmas Giving Tree.

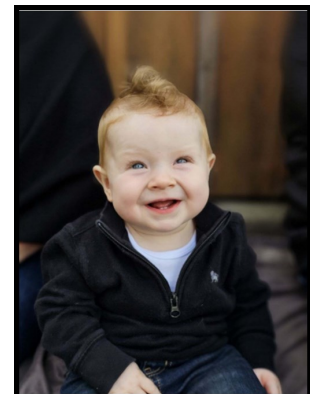
CSSM will participate in the Cathedral's Christmas Giving Tree Program by opening our Baby Boutique during the event.



## OUR ADOPTION STORIES

### *Auggie*

Justin and Susan had almost given up on being chosen as an adoptive couple after waiting in the pool for three long years. After prayer and much serious thought, they decided to try one final year. To their delight, they learned they had been chosen by a mother who was struggling to provide for herself and was hoping for more in life for her sweet baby boy. Justin and Susan welcomed the precious child into their hearts and both agree he was worth every second of their wait!





Catholic Social Services of Montana

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LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK FOR THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES

**CORRELATE THIS BACK COVER TO THE FRONT COVER!!!**

## How You Can Partner With Us In Our Mission

- ★ **Mail us a donation** using the envelope in this newsletter. Please make checks out to CSSM.
- ★ **Donate online** by visiting our website and clicking on the DONATE button in the upper right corner. There, you can select a one time donation or an ongoing monthly donation.
- ★ **Donate to one of our endowments.** CSSM has endowments with The Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana and The Foundation for the Diocese of Helena. To donate to one of these, visit their websites and follow their instructions. Make sure to choose the CSSM endowment. Endowment donations ensure your gift will benefit us in perpetuity.
- ★ **Donate distributions from your IRA.** Donating distributions from your IRA, including required minimum distributions, will allow you to avoid paying taxes on those distributions.
- ★ **Donate a vehicle.** If you have a vehicle that runs well and has a Montana title, you can donate it to CSSM. Your donation may be tax deductible.
- ★ **Remember CSSM** in your will with a bequest. This is a great way to create a bright future for CSSM in your memory.
- ★ **Follow us** on our website AND Facebook to keep up with all our latest news.
- ★ **Pray for us.** We are grateful for your thoughts and prayers that accompany us in our work.

***Thank you for your generosity to our mission and ministries.***

*CSSM is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and contributions may be tax deductible. Consult with your tax professional.*

### HELENA

630 N Last Chance Gulch; Ste 2200  
Helena, MT 59624



### BILLINGS

1048 North 30th St.  
Billings, MT 59101