



# LIFTT

Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow

## The LIFTT Connection Newsletter

YEAR 2024 ISSUE 2

### LIFTT Billings Office to move to 1241 Crawford Drive New Center will be located in former St. Stephen's Church



**LIFTT's Billings office will move to 1241 Crawford Drive, the former St. Stephen's Church building, beginning in April 2024. The expanded space including kitchen, large and small auditoriums, classroom and fellowship space will provide a true "center" for the disability community to gather for educational, cultural and social events enhancing LIFTT's mission. (photo by Deb Acosta)**

In a significant stride towards expanding its capacity and services, Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow (LIFTT), a cornerstone in empowering individuals with disabilities, is thrilled to announce the purchase of a new building at 1241 Crawford Drive, Billings, MT 59102.

This move, set for April 2024, marks an exciting new chapter in LIFTT's history, furthering its mission to lift individuals above life's barriers.

Strategically located for enhanced accessibility and community engagement, the new premises at the corner of 13th Street West and Crawford Drive, the former site of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, promises a bright future for LIFTT, its consumers, and the broader disability community.

This expansion responds to the growing need for LIFTT's core independent living services, which has significantly increased since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Carlos Ramalho, Executive Director of LIFTT, expressed enthusiasm about the new opportunities the larger space will bring. "The new building will not only accommodate our growing operations but will also allow us to introduce innovative programs and host community activities that will enrich the lives of those we serve," said Ramalho.

Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow has been a beacon of hope and support for the disabled community across 18 southeastern and south-central Montana counties for over 36 years. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, LIFTT offers a range of programs and services designed to break down physical, bureaucrat-

ic, and cultural barriers, promoting full, independent participation in society.

As LIFTT embarks on this exciting journey, the organization welcomes the community's support through donations, which can be made directly at [liftt.org/get-involved/donate-support](https://liftt.org/get-involved/donate-support). Your contribution will play a vital role in offering a more inclusive and supportive community that enhances the lives of individuals with disabilities.

For more information regarding LIFTT and the move of its Billings office, please contact either Carlos Ramalho, Executive Director (406) 294-5190, [carlosr@liftt.org](mailto:carlosr@liftt.org) or Jed Barton Public Relations, Government Affairs & Independent Living Specialist (406) 294-5186, [jedb@liftt.org](mailto:jedb@liftt.org).

## Director's Corner: See you at 13th & Crawford!



To LIFTT's consumers, friends and supporters,

We're thrilled to announce that LIFTT is moving to 1241 Crawford Drive, Billings, MT 59102. The new building, which is the former St. Stephen's Church, is on the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> Street West and Crawford Drive –six blocks north of Grand Avenue and two blocks south of Poly Drive!

Our moving will not change anything between us

except that it will help us serve you better.

Remember that moving is a normal part of life! You will love LIFTT's new location because we were thinking of you when we planned it.

Our new office is very close to our current location. There is a bus stop right in front of the new building. If you prefer to drive, there will be lots of parking spaces. We have great plans for the new location. There will be an auditorium, a community room, classrooms, and lots of space for community activities.

LIFTT's new building is wheel-chair-friendly and ADA-accessible. We want everyone to feel welcome.

This new location provides LIFTT with the opportunity to grow its vision and empower individuals with disabilities to LIFTT themselves above the barriers of life.

**In spite of the complications caused by our recent flood**

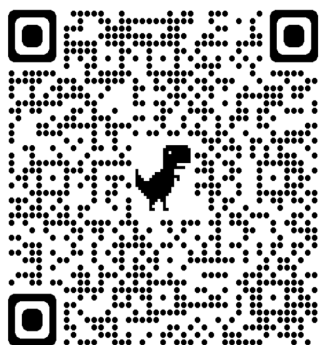
**(see page 3) We'll be moving and open at the new site in April 2024!**

At LIFTT, our consumers, friends and supporters are family. We've known each other for a long time. And we can't wait to have you see our new building. You will feel right at home.

To keep track of our move, I encourage you to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn and no matter which building we are in, **our main phone number remains (406) 259-5181** and your IL Specialist and/or PCA program managers direct numbers and email address remain the same.

See you at 13<sup>th</sup> & Crawford soon,

Carlos Ramalho  
Executive Director



**Take IL on the Go!**  
**Download the**  
**LIFTT Mobile APP!**  
**Free for Apple & Android**

**Just use the QR Codes or**  
**go to [liftt.org/mobile-app](https://liftt.org/mobile-app)**



## THE LIFTT CONNECTION!

Page 3

### Flooding Disrupts LIFTT's Billings Operations Office closed until further notice , Recovery Fund established

During the weekend of March 2-3, The LIFTT office at 1201 Grand Ave, was met with an unfortunate turn of events as an old toilet and pipe broke, causing substantial flooding.

The water damage has rendered all particle-board furniture, including desks and other items, unusable. Efforts are underway to assess damage to and possible loss of supplies and equipment..

AmeriClean, a local disaster remediation company has been working with LIFTT on salvage and recovery operations.

The flooding incident is a temporary obstacle for LIFTT, which has been preparing to leave the rented space on Grand and make a monumental move to its own building. The new facility at **1241 Crawford Drive**, slated for an April 2024 grand opening, is still undergoing electrical renovations and is not ready for immediate occupancy.

Carlos Ramalho, Executive Director of LIFTT, expressed regret over the interruption of

services but remains optimistic about the future. "While this flooding incident is a significant challenge, we are resilient and committed to restoring services and getting up and running in our new building as quickly as possible." said Ramalho.

While the Billings office is closed until further notice, team members may be reached via phone and email.

LIFTT encourages community members to offer their support during this challenging time. Interested individuals can contact the LIFTT office at **(406) 259-5181** or make a donation to the Flood Recovery Fund at **[liftt.betterworld.org/donate](https://liftt.betterworld.org/donate)**.

LIFTT is grateful for the understanding and cooperation of the community as they work to overcome this unforeseen obstacle.



## HELP LIFTT RECOVER FROM OUR FLOOD

A broken toilet has disrupted our Billings operations and complicated the move to our new location.

Help us clean up and get back open to the public we serve!

**To donate, please visit:**

**[liftt.betterworld.org/  
donate](https://liftt.betterworld.org/donate)**



1241 Crawford Drive  
Billings, MT 59102  
(406) 259-5181

1201 South Kendrick Ave  
Glendive, MT 59330  
(406) 948-8500

Non profit  
US Postage  
PAID  
Billings, MT  
Permit No. 88

**LIFTT's Mission**— Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow, Inc. is Montana non-profit organization committed to empowering persons with disabilities to live freely and equally in Southeastern Montana through the provision of independent living services which reduce societal barriers.

## Peer Support Group

**Would you like to connect with others living with disabilities?**

**Join the weekly fellowship of LIFTT's online peer support group. Whether it's games or supportive deep discussion, you're sure to enjoy the new perspectives and the positive sense of belonging.**

**Join us every Thursday at 3 p.m. via Microsoft Teams for the LIFTT Peer Support Group**

**For more information or to obtain a login contact Tanya Thomas at (406) 690-6324, or [tanyat@liftt.org](mailto:tanyat@liftt.org)**

**LIFTT is a nonprofit agency governed by a consumer-led Board of Directors whose lives have been personally impacted by a disability.**

**LIFTT is funded in part through contracts and grants from the MT Department of Public Health and Human Services, US Aging and the Administration for Community Living, United States Department of Health and Human Services. The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of DPHHS, US Aging, ACL, or HHS.**

### **BILLINGS OFFICE: Main: 406-259-5181 1241 Crawford Drive, Billings MT 59102**

Carlos Ramalho, Executive Director, 406-294-5190, [carlosr@liftt.org](mailto:carlosr@liftt.org)  
Debra Acosta, Director of Finance & Human Resources, 406-606-1761, [debraa@liftt.org](mailto:debraa@liftt.org)  
Freda Mook, Director of Quality Control, 406-294-5182, [fredam@liftt.org](mailto:fredam@liftt.org)  
Tricia Cutright, Director of Data, 406-294-5185, [triciac@liftt.org](mailto:triciac@liftt.org)  
Alyssa Everett, Finance / HR Assistant, 406-294-5193, [alyssae@liftt.org](mailto:alyssae@liftt.org)  
Morgan Teeple, Admin. Assistant, 406-294-5187, [morgant@liftt.org](mailto:morgant@liftt.org)  
Collette Ostermiller, Admin. Assistant, 406-294-5187, [colletteo@liftt.org](mailto:colletteo@liftt.org)  
Lanette Brown, CFCSDPAS Program Director/Facilitator, 406-294-5184, [lanetteb@liftt.org](mailto:lanetteb@liftt.org)  
Christy Cain, CFCSDPAS Program Facilitator, 406-294-5208, [christiecr@liftt.org](mailto:christiecr@liftt.org)  
Annedria Vincent, CFCSDPAS Program Facilitator, 406-294-5191, [annedriav@liftt.org](mailto:annedriav@liftt.org)  
Melanie Leuthold, CFCSDPAS Program Facilitator, 406-606-1762, [melaniel@liftt.org](mailto:melaniel@liftt.org)  
Tara Robison, IL Program Director /IL Specialist, 406-294-5192, [tarar@liftt.org](mailto:tarar@liftt.org)  
John Robison, Outreach Director /Community Health Worker, 406-294-5188, [johnr@liftt.org](mailto:johnr@liftt.org)  
Tanya Thomas, Peer Program Coordinator, 406-690-6324, [tanyat@liftt.org](mailto:tanyat@liftt.org)  
Britany Hopf, IL Specialist, 406-606-1766, [britanyh@liftt.org](mailto:britanyh@liftt.org)  
Erin Culp, IL Specialist, 406-294-5189, [erinc@liftt.org](mailto:erinc@liftt.org)  
Leah Fitch, IL Specialist, 406-294-5183, [leahf@liftt.org](mailto:leahf@liftt.org)  
Doug Teeple, IL Specialist, 406-445-5100, [doug@liftt.org](mailto:doug@liftt.org)  
Al Black Crow, IL Specialist, 406-318-8336, [alb@liftt.org](mailto:alb@liftt.org)  
Marilyn Gone, I & R Specialist, Phone TBD, [marilyng@liftt.org](mailto:marilyng@liftt.org)  
Jed Barton, Public Relations/ Government Affairs/ IL Specialist 406-294-5186, [jedb@liftt.org](mailto:jedb@liftt.org)

### **GLENDDIVE OFFICE: Main: 406-948-8500, 120 S. Kendrick Ave., Glendive, MT 59330**

Jen Hawkinson, Senior IL Specialist/ Regional Manager, 406-948-8503, [jenh@liftt.org](mailto:jenh@liftt.org)  
Tonnette Jensen, IL Specialist/Assistant Regional Manager, 406-948-8505, [tonnetteb@liftt.org](mailto:tonnetteb@liftt.org)  
Nancy Grigsby, IL Specialist/Community Health Worker, 406-948-8501, [nancyg@liftt.org](mailto:nancyg@liftt.org)  
Dustin Wilburn, IL Specialist, 406-948-8507, [dustinw@liftt.org](mailto:dustinw@liftt.org)  
Dalana Smith, IL Specialist, 406-948-8502, [dalanas@liftt.org](mailto:dalanas@liftt.org)  
Richard Butts, IL Specialist, 406-948-8504, [richardb@liftt.org](mailto:richardb@liftt.org)  
Monica Anderson, IL Specialist, 406-948-8506, [monicaa@liftt.org](mailto:monicaa@liftt.org)  
Teresa Elliot, CFCSDPAS Program Facilitator, 406-948-8108, [Teresa@liftt.org](mailto:Teresa@liftt.org)