



LIFTT

Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow

The LIFTT Connection
Newsletter

**Join LIFTT on August 1
for
Hidden Treasures
&
Grand Journeys**

A Fundraiser for RideWell Transportation



Hidden Treasures & Grand Journeys

A Fundraiser for RideWell Transportation, a
service of LIFTT

Fundraising Dinner - Live &
Silent Auction

Auctioneer: Reno Babcock

\$50
PER PERSON

For Tickets,
call Pam
Ramirez at
406-294-5189

MENU

Smoked Brisket

Chicken Teriyaki
Skewers

Baked Beans

Mac N Cheese

Rolls

Salad Bar

Cheesecake
w/strawberries

AUGUST

1

2216 Grand
Avenue -
Columbia Club

Starts at 5:30
PM

Catering by
Black Sheep
Market

**CASH
BAR**

Tickets and Table Sponsorships are now on sale for "Hidden Treasures & Grand Journeys," a dinner, silent and live auction fundraiser in support of RideWell Transportation- a service of LIFTT on Saturday, August 1, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Columbia Club, 2216 Grand Avenue in Billings.

Catered by Glendive's Black Sheep Market, Dinner will feature traditional BBQ fare of smoked brisket, teriyaki chicken skewers, rolls, baked beans, and mac'n'cheese, along with a salad bar and cheesecake with strawberries for dessert. A cash bar will be available for those wishing to purchase beverages.

"Hidden Treasures" such as vintage antiques, custom jewelry, spa days, rounds of golf, a Billings Mustangs ticket package, and more await your bid at the silent auction tables.

Local auctioneer Reno Babcock will be at the gavel for the Live Auction, which will feature local original artwork, a portable wheelchair ramp, and three "Grand Journeys" to bid on: two big game hunts, one in New Zealand and one in Argentina, as well as a week for up to eight people at a luxurious private seaside villa on Mexico's Pacific coast!

All proceeds from the dinner and auctions will directly support RideWell, LIFTT's ADA Accessible Rural Transportation Service, which will provide critical mobility assistance to aging and disabled individuals in Southeastern and South-Central Montana. Through RideWell, individuals will be able to attend medical appointments, access essential services, and remain connected to their communities.

Individual tickets are \$50, and Table Sponsorships are \$400. In addition to eight tickets, table sponsorship includes placement of your name or your organization/business's name in the event program, signage, social media, and other advertising opportunities.

Tickets can be purchased online by clicking the event flyer above, the button below, or by visiting <https://tickets.mtstandard.com/events/hidden-treasures-grand-journeys-fundraising-dinner-8-1-2026-233116>. For more information, contact Pamela Ramirez at (406) 294-5189 or pamelar@liftt.org.

Buy Tickets Now!

The Treasure Hunter behind LIFTT's Biggest Night!

LIFTT's RideWell Transportation Coordinator, Tina Carter, has been the driving force behind organizing the "Hidden Treasures & Grand Journeys" Event, which will take place on August 1.

She was gracious enough to sit with the LIFTT Connection for an interview discussing the event and the RideWell program.

"Seeing neighbors, businesses, volunteers, and families all come together for a great cause is incredibly rewarding"





Finishing Strong Together

LIFTT ED Carlos Ramalho talks about how things are not slowing down at LIFTT as Summer heats up in Eastern Montana and our Fiscal Year enters its fourth quarter

"Let's finish the year strong and continue to open pathways to independence together."

Boiler Modernization begins at Billings Office, July 13

From July 13 through September 18, the Billings LIFTT office will undergo a boiler modernization project.



This is a major facility improvement project and represents an important investment in the long-term safety, efficiency, and reliability of our building

[More Info](#)



First Presbyterian Welcomes Wellness Classes

Due to the Boiler Modernization Project at the Billings LIFTT Office from July 20 to September 18, 2026, our Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) and Tai Chi classes will temporarily relocate to First Presbyterian Church at 2420 13th Street W.

LIFTT is grateful to Pastor Dave Thompson, Cheryl Banks, and the entire church family for opening their doors to us.

[More Info](#)

Happy 36th Birthday to the ADA!

Over the past thirty-six years, the ADA has transformed communities across the United States. Curb cuts, accessible entrances, captioned media, accessible transportation, assistive technologies, and inclusive workplaces have become part of everyday life because of the vision and determination of disability advocates who fought for equal opportunity.

At Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow (LIFTT), the principles of the ADA guide our work every day. We believe that independence is strengthened when people have the resources, support, and opportunities to make their own choices and fully participate in community life.



" This anniversary is both a celebration and a call to action."



Your Voice Matters: Protecting the Future of Independent Living

Recently, the federal government proposed changes to the regulations governing the administration of federal grants. Although these proposals primarily address grant administration, they could affect the stability and predictability of funding for LIFTT and other community organizations that provide essential services nationwide.

Because these proposals are still part of an ongoing federal process, it is important for community members to stay informed and understand how public policy decisions can influence the services available in their communities.

Polymakers need to hear your story!

**LIFTT Receives
\$50,000 Blue Impact
Grant to Provide
Accessible
Transportation for
Rural Montanans**



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Montana**

Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow (LIFTT) is proud to announce that it has been awarded a \$50,000 Blue Impact Grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana (BCBMT) to support the RideWell ADA-Accessible Rural Transportation Program.

The award recognizes RideWell's commitment to improving access to health care, community participation and independent living opportunities for aging adults and individuals with disabilities throughout South Central and Eastern Montana.

More Info



A Note from the Board Chair

Garrett Mills, Chair of LIFTT's Board of Directors, offers some thoughts on the challenges and opportunities in LIFTT's past, present, and future, and posits that, come what may, "LIFTT's mission of empowerment through support and inclusion will continue to prevail."

[Read More](#)

Mid-Rivers Communications \$5,000 Sponsorship to Support RideWell Transportation Program



Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow (LIFTT) is proud to announce and extend its heartfelt appreciation to Mid-Rivers Communications for its generous \$5,000 sponsorship of the RideWell Transportation Program.

RideWell is a vital initiative dedicated to providing safe, reliable, and accessible transportation for elderly and disabled individuals across Eastern Montana. With a service area spanning over 47,000 square miles, the program plays a critical role in ensuring community members can attend medical appointments, access essential services, and maintain their independence.

More Info



Looking Ahead Together

A look at some possible challenges LIFTT may face in the future and how we are preparing contingency plans in line with our mission and vision, so we can continue serving our community with dignity, respect, and a focus on independence.

- [Read about how LIFTT is committed to planning ahead](#)

- [LIFTT Board Resolution 2026-01 "A Resolution Supporting Stable Federal Funding for Centers for Independent Living and Approving Contingency Planning for the Continuity of Independent Living Services."](#)

Montana IL Symposium Aug 18-19

Save the date! The 2026 Montana IL Symposium will be held at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center on August 18-19!

This year's theme is "50 Years Strong: Empowering Independence, Driving Change," and it celebrates five decades of the Independent Living Movement and the remarkable progress made by people with disabilities working together to advance accessibility, choice, and equal opportunity.



Whether you've been part of the movement for years or are just beginning your journey, the symposium offers an opportunity to connect, learn, share ideas, and celebrate the power of community. You'll meet people from across the state who are passionate about building a Montana where everyone has the opportunity to live independently and participate fully in community life.

[Register Today!](#)



Moments of Independence: Small Steps. Big Victories. Stronger Communities.

At LIFTT, we know that independence is not measured by the size of the accomplishment, but by what it means to the individual.

Each month, Moments of Independence shares the stories of the remarkable people we have the privilege of serving. These stories remind us that independence is a journey, not a destination—and that with the right support, determination, and community, extraordinary things happen every day.

[July's Moments of Independence](#)



Living Independently
for Today and Tomorrow
Call 406.259.5181
or click to learn more.

Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow (LIFTT)

1241 Crawford Drive, Billings, MT 59102 · (406) 259-5181
206 S. Douglas Street, Glendive, MT 59330 · (406) 948-8500

LIFTT is a Montana 501(c)3 corporation organized as a Center for Independent Living (CIL). With team members based in Billings and Glendive, LIFTT provides aging individuals and people with disabilities with programs and services that help empower them to break down the physical, bureaucratic, and cultural barriers that prevent them from being fully independent participants in their lives and communities throughout 18 counties in southeastern and south-central Montana: Big Horn, Carbon, Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, Golden Valley, McCone, Musselshell, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Stillwater, Treasure, Wibaux, and Yellowstone.

Our Vision: Empowering aging individuals and people with disabilities to LIFTT themselves above the barriers of life.

Our Mission: Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow's (LIFTT's) mission as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Center for Independent Living serving Southeastern Montana is to empower aging individuals and people with disabilities to live independently through education, support, and opportunities.

LIFTT is partly funded through contracts and grants from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, USAging, National Aging and Disability Transportation Center, 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, USAging, NADTC, ACL, or HHS.

Support Independent Living in Montana by Donating to LIFTT Today!



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