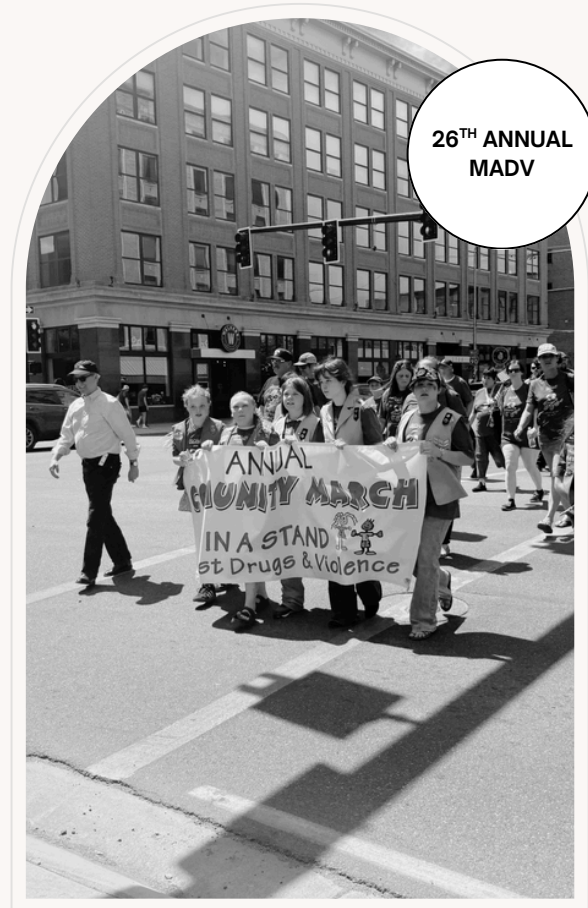


Newsletter Against Drugs and Violence

FOR A NON-VIOLENT & HEALTHY COMMUNITY

We Have a Problem

There was a plan for this newsletter to continue to build off of the previous month's newsletters. But we would be remiss if we did not address a struggle that was magnified last month. While one murder was on the minds of almost everyone there were countless others that impacted families across the nation. While that number is trending down from year to year, that doesn't make the sleep any easier to come by for the children, spouses, brothers, sisters and parents of those whose lives were taken. When push comes to shove, we must ask ourselves as a nation if we truly believe that we can solve our issues, arguments, disputes and struggles non-violently. Are we willing to adopt a selfless outlook that believes the sanctity of someone else's life is as important as mine?



Who is the community supporting the MADV?



STEP has served Yellowstone County for over 47 years, providing community-based services for families, children, and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and those in recovery from substance use disorders. We help individuals set and achieve personal goals, offering support for growth, skill-building, and connection. In the past year, we served over 120 clients monthly and facilitated on average 12,800 recovery days annually.

Since 2019, STEP has operated Renewal Recovery Residences, certified by the Recovery Residence Alliance of Montana. These homes support over 40 individuals in recovery, offering safe, structured environments that balance freedom and accountability to promote successful transitions. We provide housing for men, women, and pregnant and postpartum women and their children, ensuring essential support and upholding high standards.



A Lesson From History

A common thread that can be heard in the defense of a stance that supports violence, is sometimes we just need to kill someone. Sometimes for the safety of our neighbors, children or our society as a whole we need to take the life of another. The most widely presented, though an extreme example, is how are you supposed to bring a non-violent approach to a situation like Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany. Let that sink in, one of our best defenses of violence in the 21st Century is to say that without violence we cannot have security. Arguably if that were true, killing murderers would prevent murder. Sadly, we still live in a society where



murder happens all too frequently. But, to all this nonsense, a small and fairly unknown story must be told. A story about non-violence that brought the Nazi regime to account, without a single death of those engaged in non-violence or those Jewish lives they were working to protect. The Rosenstrasse Protest, in the winter of 1943, February 27th to March 6th saw the release of 2,000 Jews who had been taken into custody by the Gestapo. These 2,000 Jewish men and boys taken into custody in Berlin were either married to, or children of, non-Jewish women. These women were worried that their sons and/or husbands would be sent to Auschwitz. Which a recent sweep of Jews in Berlin had led to.



A small group of a few mothers, sisters, aunts and grandmothers went to the Rosenstrasse building, where the men and children were incarcerated, to demand information. The group, increasing in size over the coming weeks, protested the incarceration in the cold of February and March. The Third Reich was found powerless to their action and released the prisoners without a single life lost. If non-violence can bring the Third Reich to its knees, then imagine how non-violent responses can profoundly bring peace and serenity to our communities.

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