



## Achievement Transitions Group, Inc.

Looking on the Clark Fork River tumbling through this Montana town, just like other Montana rivers, brilliant colored leaves meander down the stream. The surrounding mountain tops of Missoula have begun collecting snow, announcing winters soon approach.

Like our seasons changing, as Transition Specialists working with families with adolescent, we guide the family through changes necessary for making the family team workable when adolescent children wrestle with mental illness, substance abuse, or some kind of deep hurt or delay in development.

**Novus**, located in Missoula, MT, assists young adults and their parents make the crucial transition toward independent living. The University of Montana has a number of our young folks attending classes this fall. It's wonderful being a part of a family's transformation as their young adult child navigates the responsibilities of being an adult. Everyone experiences real changes made through our real-living format.

**Second Step**, the transition support or "aftercare" process for students returning home from an out-of-home placement continues to expand its efforts. Wisdom Ranch, an alternative high school program in Arco, ID, has identified our aftercare process as a much needed service for their clients returning home. EYA continues to use this aftercare support for their

private division as well. Tammy Robbins and Weston White have joined the team to serve families making the reintegration of their loved one home.

With the onset of the country's economic hurt, our team has grown concerned for families that may not have the economic resources to receive needed support. We are addressing this in three ways: Foundation support, financing options and a new line of service

First, we are joining efforts with the **Northwest Experiential Learning Foundation** to assist them in raising funds to support scholarships to families in need. Parents will ultimately be able to apply for a scholarship that can be contributed to meet the expenses of professional and educational support. If you feel called to make a contribution of any sort, please contact Sandy Schmiedeknecht for details.

Second, we will be offering in-house financing options. Third, we have added a new line of service we are calling **At-Home**. At-Home concentrates on assessing and guiding families to find community resources, solve problems, and place onboard resources that would help families that might normally use an out-of-home placement.

I am personally excited about this new service for several reasons. One, through my experience in working in the public

health field, the emphasis has been and has had a recent resurgence around strengthening the family to a level where children can thrive at home. This service capitalizes on this at the outset. We want families to navigate the challenges at home and not have to out-place their child unless there are safety reasons. Two, this is a much more affordable option than an out-of-home placement. Although the process is still more than we would like it to be, it is substantially less costly than placing a child in a therapeutic residency. This program is about walking with a family through the trials they may experience with a special needs child. From beginning to end.

**Simple Projects** has successfully returned home from Brazil this summer! The young people had a transforming experience in Salvador, Brazil led by Bradley Midget and his team. Please visit their [website](http://www.simpleprojects.us), **www.simpleprojects.us** to share some of the life-influencing experiences and more information on an upcoming Winter intercession trip!

For information regarding any of ATG, Inc. programs please contact:

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James Morton, CEO



ACHIEVEMENT TRANSITION GROUP, INC.  
SEAMLESS TRANSITIONS

## Achievement Transition Group, Inc.

### Vision

*Through Faith, we lead and inspire families and those who support them toward a deeper and authentic sense of connection and purpose. ATG, Inc promotes and delivers effective resources to families experiencing difficulties during family-life transitions. We promote healthy emotional and spiritual development, restore or improve intimacy, and aid in hearts healing and growth.*

### Mission

**Our mission, grounded in Faith is to lead, mentor and resource families with adolescent children and young adults toward fulfilling their hopes and dreams.**

***Real Transformations Through  
Living Real***

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## Staff News

Missoula, MT Close family members and staff from ATG, Inc. attended the wedding of James (CEO of ATG, Inc.) and Jackie on September 13th . With the lake and mountains as the backdrop the nuptials were heartfelt. Join us in wishing James and Jackie much happiness in their journey together!



Mr. & Mrs. Morton presents at the 2009 NATSAP national conference in Austin Texas. His presentation *Spirituality: A Dialogue On Its Implication and Directions on Its Usage in the Treatment Process* is sure to be enlightening and thought provoking. Be sure not to miss it!

He recently presented at *Leadership Missoula* to community business leaders.

James presents at the 2009 NATSAP national conference in Austin Texas. His presentation *Spirituality: A Dialogue On Its Implication and*

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Davis, WV Sandy Schmiedeknecht has recently been nominated to the Board of NATWC, elections will be held in January. As co-chair of the NATSAP Regional Conference in Atlanta in October she will be co-hosting the welcome reception. She will be presenting at the IECA Program Showcase in November, co-presenting at the 2008 Share the Vision Conference in Charleston, WV, *Developing Your Personal Mission Statement* and will be a member on the panel at the NATSAP National Conference 2009 in Austin Texas discussing *What's Okay & What's Not Okay in Marketing*.

Sandy recently participated in a community 5 K walk as Team Captain of the River Front Ramblers, raising over \$21,000.00 for the Davis Riverfront Park and being awarded 1st place for most money raised!



Weston, Sandy, James, Ron & Monte at James' wedding



Tammy Robbins joins the team of Second Step as a Transition Specialist. She recently presented at the NATWC conference *Building Aftercare Transition Plans for the Adopted Child and Family* and at the NATSAP SE Regional Conference on *Essentials for Successful Aftercare Transitions*.

Weston White joins the team of Second Step as a Transition Specialist. We are excited to have Weston as part of the team!



Casey Dunning, Lead Mentor with Novus continues to serve the young adults and their parents in synthesizing "right thought" with "right action" as the family shifts in supporting one another in their growth and faith.

