

Connected with PRS



Serving People. Strengthening Families. Uplifting Communities.



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High Fidelity Wraparound

A new service to support Plumas families

PRS is bringing High Fidelity Wraparound (Wraparound) services to Plumas County in tandem with Plumas County Department of Social Services and Plumas County Behavioral Health. Wraparound is an intensive, team-based care coordination process for youth with complex needs. It brings together family members, natural supports, and professionals to streamline care through a single, unified plan. A dedicated facilitator coordinates across multiple systems - such as mental health, school, and child welfare - ensuring that the youth and family actively lead the design of their own interventions. The overall aim is to return children and youth in foster care to their homes and communities or help children at imminent risk of foster placement to remain in their homes.

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Wendi & husband Ron James at Burney Falls

Wendi James

Wraparound Coordinator

Wendi James grew up visiting family in Quincy every Christmas and summer break - even getting stranded here in the big snowstorm of '92! They moved here from Capitola in 1994, and she's been here ever since. She's a proud Quincy High School alum, as are her husband and two children.

Before joining PRS, Wendi served as the Homeless and Foster Youth Services Coordinator for the Plumas County Office of Education for more than six years. During that time, she worked closely with many families who had experienced significant trauma. When children don't have the tools or support to process trauma, it often shows up through challenging behaviors that can overwhelm families, schools, and the community. Through her work, she experienced firsthand the gaps in services

in Plumas County to meet the needs of these families. She solicited help from the Lassen Family Services High Fidelity Wraparound program and was able to observe the impact that such family-focused, coordinated services could make. "Watching the Wraparound process in action was incredible; everyone who cared about the family was at the table, working together to create a coordinated plan," she says. "For the first time, these families had a clear path toward getting the resources they needed."

Wendi and her team worked on how to bring Wraparound to Plumas County, including identifying PRS as a perfect fit for a nonprofit to house the program. PRS worked with Wendi to establish the foundation for Wraparound and offered her the Coordinator position once it launched last month. Wendi is looking forward to continuing to strengthen partnerships with other county agencies in order to better serve families together.

"What excites me most is the opportunity to help families build stability, resilience, and hope. I want families to know that, regardless of what they've been through, they can create a new story for themselves - one built on healthy relationships, structure, kindness, and success."

When she's not working, Wendi enjoys spending time outdoors. Whether she's walking, hiking, kayaking, or camping, being in nature is where she feels most at peace. Most of all, she loves spending time with her family. Now that her kids are grown, any chance the whole family has to be together is her favorite way to spend her free time.

High Fidelity Wraparound

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Built around the youth's specific strengths rather than their deficits, this process combines professional services with natural community supports like relatives or neighbors. The team proactively designs custom crisis and safety strategies to manage behavioral challenges while explicitly building a sustainable network to transition the family toward long-term independence.

The program is founded on four Core Principles. **Family Voice and Choice** means that decisions reflect the family's perspectives, preferences, and goals. **Team-Based** services mean that plans are developed and monitored by a collaborative group of formal and natural supports. **Culturally Responsive** programming ensures that services respect the values, beliefs, and culture of the family. **Community-Based** delivery makes sure that support takes place in homes, schools, and local settings rather than institutions.

The Wraparound process can eliminate barriers to service delivery by supporting and strengthening families. In addition, Wraparound can reduce the risk of out-of-home placement and recidivism by bringing individuals, agencies, and the community together as a decision-making team with the central focus on meeting the needs of the child and family.



"Each Wraparound team member identifies meaningful ways they can support the family."

- Coordinator Wendi James

PRS expects Wraparound to begin implementation by early 2027. For more information about this program, contact Coordinator Wendi James via [email](#) or at (530) 283-2735 ext. 825.

FEC Open House

As we gear up for the new school year, are you looking for support with IEPs or 504 plans? Come connect with our dedicated staff and discover resources designed to empower your family!

On Thursday, August 27th, drop in between 12:00-6:00 at the Family Empowerment Center's Open House in the Susanville Office: 804 Main Street, Suite E.

You can meet our friendly team of experts, find local resources, get valuable information on IEPs & 504 Plans, and learn how to prepare for a successful school year. Prizes, giveaways and refreshments available! For more information, [email us](#) or call 530-283-2735, ext 880.



Shaping the Future

Award of Recognition

PRS was recognized on Tuesday, July 28th, by California 1st District Assembly member Heather Hadwick with a Certificate of Recognition for Shaping the Future. The award is for dedicated service advancing education and opportunity within our community, commitment and leadership reflecting a strong investment in those we serve, and building lasting opportunity through collaboration and vision.

Mark Mezzano presented PRS Executive Director Paula Johnston, the PRS Leadership Team, and members of the PRS Board with the award on behalf of Assembly member Hadwick. He expressed her gratitude for the agency's work and support of our communities in her district.

Pictured above, from left to right: Jordan Blanton, Mary McElwain, James Shipp, Ashlee Johnston, Debbie Shirk-McFarland, Paula Johnston, Dana Nowling, Mike Flanigan, Bob Battistoni, Mark Mezzano.



Plumas Bank Donation

Plumas Bank has been a support of PRS and the ALIVE program for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities for decades. On Friday, July 30th, Rachelle Ramelli, Plumas Bank Vice-President and Portola Business Advisor and Branch Manager, presented PRS Executive Director Paula Johnston with a \$5,000 donation.

The funds received from Plumas Bank are designated to support the purchase of a new wheelchair-accessible van for the program. In December 2025, a fallen tree branch destroyed the van used to connect ALIVE clients with vital resources and opportunities in the community. Replacing the van is essential to ensuring ALIVE clients can continue to grow, integrate, and thrive.



Pictured above, from left to right: Paula Johnston, Bob Battistoni, Rachelle Ramelli

PRS is extremely grateful for Plumas Bank's ongoing commitment to support the communities it serves, and particularly for this generous donation for a critical need. If you or your business are interested in supporting this effort, we invite you to [donate here](#).

Coming Up at PRS...

Events, Trainings, & More

Thu, August 27, 12:00 - 2:00 PM

'Lunch - Learn - Lead' Development Seminar: Leading Through Crisis at Work
CLF Church, 317 1st St, Quincy
\$40 fee, [Register here](#)

Thu, August 27, 12:00 - 6:00 PM

FEC Open House, drop-in
804 Main Street, Suite E, Susanville



"It was August and the fields were high with corn. In the orchard the last of the peaches clung to their branches and the apples were showing their first pinkish blush. The vegetable garden overflowed with produce: peppers, green beans, zucchini, tomatoes, cucumbers, and squash."

– Melanie Gideon, [Valley of the Moon](#)



JOIN OUR TEAM!

Visit [our website](#) for up-to-date information on positions and to apply.

ALIVE Support Specialist - Part-Time and Full-Time

Transit Driver - On-Call

These positions available at time of print.



Donate
Here



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X (formerly Twitter): @PRS_Inc

Instagram: @plumasruralservices_inc