W hen Sonya Wilander filed her 2019 annual report for Men’s Second Chance Living, she noted the organization’s key employees and past and present workers had all come together to help the organization’s mission of providing stable, affordable housing for those in need.

**Home Sweet ‘Second Chance’ Home**

Sober living facility makes upgrades, adds new programs

**BY ERIC VALENZUELA**

When Sonya Wilander filed her 2019 annual report for Men’s Second Chance Living, she noted the organization’s key employees and past and present workers had all come together to help the organization’s mission of providing stable, affordable housing for those in need.

Men’s Second Chance Living house manager John Inman stands in the newly upgraded kitchen at the sober living facility in Hailey. Photo credit: Jordan H. Zarr

The kitchen at the residence just saw an upgrade, too. The previous kitchen was able to make improvements thanks to a grant from the Wood River Women’s Foundation.

Wilander, a long-time substance abuse counselor who first spent seven years volunteering for the Hailey drug courts, has a street-smart and academic understanding of recovery. And that means she has a holistic approach to helping the men who enter her program succeed. It involves more than regular or cutting-edge therapy, it involves more than giving a place to live. It’s about educating the men with new skills and building new habits, too.

Wilander has brought in Kristin Hovencamp, a Valley-based investment consultant at Hazelit Wealth Management, to conduct financial planning courses for MSCL residents. She focuses on long-term savings techniques and helps residents set specific savings goals. The program sets up residents with credit cards that have modest spending caps—something manageable to pay down, which helps establish creditworthiness. The facility also allows residents to make a monthly deposit and, if the deposit goal is met, matching funds are made available.

“Nobody can make a deposit in one lump sum; it has to be done monthly,” Wilander explained. “We’re not just providing them with financial planning information, but working with them to create new financial habits.”

The raffle Wilander was getting ready to launch in early December if it’s allowed to go forward, “Chance for Change,” as it’s called, is a partnership with Josten Senior jewelers in Ketchum. The jeweler has donated a $10,000 gift certificate for use in the store. A limited number of raffle tickets priced at $100 each will be sold.

“I know keeping the ticket numbers low so it’s a good chance of winning,” Wilander said.

And chances are, any time the community supports MSCL, it’s a win for everyone.