

## Person of Distinction - Mike Thatcher: Committed to community

Montana Standard, 11/4/12.

Mike Thatcher has been giving to his community all his life. As the chief executive officer of Community, Counseling and Correctional Services, he works to help people who've been through the justice system get a second chance.

And he helps Butte in numerous other ways, whether it's ensuring that disadvantaged children get a Christmas gift or going to Helena to fight for the community, said Lynn Orr, Thatcher's sister.

Mike cares so deeply about people and would do anything for anybody," she said recently. "He's very committed to this community."

To that end, the Butte native always has his hands full. Thatcher, 53, has run CCCS for years while also juggling family life and raising four children. He was so busy, in fact, that he couldn't be reached for this story.

But Orr said the list of her brother's contributions to Butte go on and on. And they're not stopping. Having grown up in the Mining City, Thatcher knows how tough things have and can be economically. Orr said their father was injured while working as a miner at a young age. They struggled financially, but they also got through it, and Orr said her brother has never forgotten his roots.

That's why he's always trying to contribute to the community to keep people employed.

"He does whatever he can do to keep Butte afloat and to keep people with jobs in this town," Orr said.

That means hiring college kids in the summer.

Thatcher's other contributions include a host of other things. But as an example, Orr tells how Thatcher always works during the annual Christmas Stroll in Uptown, giving gifts to kids. When they would run low, he'd make a run to a store to pick up more — and had to go several times.

"He loves kids and he goes out of his way to make sure that kids who don't have things have something," she said.