



OREGON EMPLOYEES CHARITABLE FUND DRIVE

Get involved in Oregon

- **Be a Charitable Fund Drive Site Coordinator** for your state/university office! **Help raise funds (and FUN!) in your office** through the Charitable Fund Drive starting on Sept. 1st. Email the CFD Campaign Management Team by Aug. 1st to volunteer: cmoteam@earthlink.net
- *EarthShare Oregon*- Explore the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River from a kayak! Join **Columbia Riverkeeper** for a weekend boat tour on July 21-22 or July 28-29. [Learn more...](#)
- *Local Independent Charities - Oregon Student Access Commission* wants volunteers who want to help Oregon students achieve their dreams of a college education. [Learn more...](#)
- *United Way of Mid-Willamette* - Garten Services is hosting its annual "Garten Party" and auction Aug. 4th. [Buy tickets or learn more...](#)

Search for your perfect volunteer opportunity at Volunteer-Match.org, the HandsOn website, or one of HandsOn's three local Action Centers in Oregon:

- [Greater Portland](#)
- [Mid-Willamette Valley](#)
- [Linn-Benton](#)

For more volunteer ideas, visit the "Make an Impact" page at ecfd.oregon.gov.

Your Gifts at Work in Oregon is produced by the participating non-profits of the Charitable Fund Drive. It does not necessarily reflect policy or views of the State of Oregon. **If you have story ideas or want to respond to articles in this newsletter, please e-mail cmoteam@earthlink.net.**

Your Gifts at Work in Oregon

July
2012

A few dollars saved lives

These two Oregonians are living proof that donations from State of Oregon workers save lives. Here are three stories of success you'll want to read:

How \$80 made a difference

As a 26-year old graduate student, Heather never imagined that the lump she detected would be breast cancer. But it was. With no job, no insurance, and no family in town, she qualified for Susan G. Komen's free screening program, a partnership with the Oregon Breast and Cervical Cancer Program. Because she was diagnosed through the program, she qualified for the Oregon Health Plan and all of her treatment, surgery, chemotherapy and radiation were covered. Reflecting upon her survivorship, Heather says, "I am forever thankful to Komen for connecting me to lifesaving resources. I won the fight of my life."



Susan G. Komen For The Cure's Oregon and SW Washington affiliate is a member of [Community Health Charities of Oregon](#).

Housing makes everything seem possible

Supported by a grant from the [Equity Foundation's](#) Higgins Trust, **Cascade AIDS Project (CAP)** finds homes for homeless and near-homeless people living with HIV/AIDS. The death rate from AIDS is as much as nine times higher for a homeless person. Last year, CAP's Supportive Housing provided housing services, including rental assistance, emergency assistance, and life skills training to nearly 600 people—a 20% increase from the year before.

One of these people is "Debra", who sought CAP's help finding a home for herself and her 13-year old son. She had recently escaped an abusive relationship and was living in a domestic violence shelter. Besides dealing with HIV, she struggled with past-due bills for utilities and penalties for breaking the lease of the apartment she'd fled from. CAP helped her take care of her financial situation so she could move into her own apartment and get her son settled in a new school. With CAP's "scattered site" housing model, no one has to know about her HIV unless she chooses to tell them. As Debra says, "Now that we have a new home, I'm ready to start my life again."

"I've always wanted more from life..."

A word like "perseverance" doesn't begin to describe the path of Aundrea Smith, a young woman who, in spite of two drug-addicted parents and working long hours since the age of 15 to support herself and her sisters, made the honor roll at her high school. Aundrea left negative influences behind to get her high school diploma in Detroit at an alternative school that allowed her to continue working. She returned to Portland to take care of her great-grandmother, who had provided for her and her sisters in their youth, and began to take college courses at Portland Community College (PCC) while working full-time.



Aundrea obtained her Associate's degree from PCC and is working on her Bachelor's in Criminology and Criminal Justice with a minor in Child and Family Studies at Portland State University **with the help of [Black United Fund](#) scholarships**. She dreams of working with youth, adults, and families to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into the community, to make a difference in their lives and motivate them to change.