

APRIL
2011

IN THIS ISSUE

P2

Director's column

P3

More on skimboards

P4

JPPA services

P5

Project POOCH
volunteer award

Food drive donations

P6

OYA's warehouse

P7

Foster parents
honored

P8

Camp Tillamook
youth work video

P9

MacLaren
Grover Unit

P10

BAAD tournament

INSIDE OYA

Tillamook youth learn skills and make a business out of building and selling 'beach skateboards'

And you thought you knew all the ways to have fun on the Oregon Coast.

Soon, if you visit Rosenberg Builders Supply in Tillamook or the coffee shop in Oceanside, you may find a new one – skimboards made by youth at Tillamook YCF and Camp Tillamook.

"It's just like a beach skateboard," Philip Russell, Trask River High School vocational instructor, says for the uninitiated. "You throw it down, you jump on it like you would a skateboard, and it skims across the thin film of water or wet sand."

Russell said he wanted to give youth a "hands-on, minds-on" project offering both engineering and entrepreneurship. So he not only taught youth how to make skimboards but also had them set up companies with names, logos, business plans, and board displays.

"Up until this project, a majority of us didn't know what a skimboard was," said Ismail, a Tillamook YCF youth. "So you can imagine that using all kinds of power tools – scroll saw, band saw, jig saw – was the most difficult part of the project. I feel that the most important thing I learned was seeing how complex a small business is and how having all your team members on the same page is helpful and necessary."

Daniel, also at Tillamook YCF, said approximately \$15.50 in materials is required to make the boards, which will sell in the \$40 range. He sees markets for skimboarding enthusiasts and for tourists wanting an unusual Oregon Coast souvenir.



A young boy practices skimboarding along the coast.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

The anniversaries listed are for February.

TWENTY YEARS

Joyce Armstead
Parole and Probation
Officer
Multnomah County

Angelo Meaderds
Group Life Coordinator
Riverbend YCF

FIFTEEN YEARS

Matt Griffin
Unit Coordinator
MacLaren YCF

TEN YEARS

Brian Persinger
Parole and Probation
Officer
Lane County

FIVE YEARS

Carolyn Timberlake
Nurse
Hillcrest YCF

Balvina Vera
Office Specialist
MacLaren YCF

Director's Column



Dear Colleagues,

It's nice to know that spring is finally here. It's always a time of renewal and a reminder that fresh starts are possible.

The fresh starts we work to give youth can make a significant difference for them and for their families and communities. By teaching them accountability and empathy, providing them with treatment and education, and offering them the opportunity to learn employable skills, we help make their futures brighter.

In this issue of *Inside OYA* you'll learn how OYA youth in Tillamook are acquiring business skills by building and selling skimboards. And perhaps you'll feel compelled to make a visit to the coast to see what it feels like to skim along the shore over the watery sand!

You'll also learn about the award-winning work of Camp Tillamook youth, who participate on riparian restoration projects for the Bureau of Land Management. They are

learning job skills and giving back to the community in a way that will benefit their community today and for many generations to come.

And, just as our youth receive awards for their work, so do our employees. This issue of *Inside OYA* contains several articles about employees and work groups who have received awards for their work on behalf of OYA and for their community involvement. My congratulations to all of you who have been honored for your efforts.

You also continue to work to make OYA's operations and programs more efficient and cost-effective. From finding ways to save money on warehouse purchases to gaining treatment certifications, articles in this issue highlight your continuing dedication to improving services and saving money.

Your work makes a difference – for youth offenders, families, and public safety. You help create fresh starts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colette S. Peters".

Colette S. Peters
Director



The next time you visit the Central Office, be sure to see the Director's new desk. It is a gift from the Oregon Department of Corrections, which built it several years ago for DOC's first female superintendent, Joan Palmateer.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"If our boards sell, we will try to come out with a broader line of boards," said Miguel, a third Tillamook YCF youth. "As I have told Mr. Russell, every board will be made as if it was my own. Well, the big part will be to work as a team and get it done right."

Forty-five skimboards were made initially, and Tribal Boards, one of the youth companies, won the Trask River High School youth vote for best boards.

Russell said he wanted youth to get a glimpse of what it's like to manage a business, get them to think about other things they could make, and have them learn

how to fix router nicks, paint smudges and lacquer drips so product isn't lost.

Now he wants youth in his vocational classes to consider three options for the future: being part of a skimboard company, being part of a facility innovation team, or starting other micro-businesses.



As for the skimboards, Russell is proud of what the youth have produced. "I'm impressed with the boards the kids produced with what they had to work with," he said.

"From experience I know that in this price range you can't get a board that's going to work like these." ■



STAFF CHANGES

NEW HIRES

CAMP TILLAMOOK
Dennis Martin

MACLAREN YCF
Vickie Elliot

STAFF RECOGNITION

HILLCREST
Art Majchrzak
Ryan Tippets
Staff of the Month

MACLAREN
Alan Walker
Employee of the Month

DEPARTURES

Rosemary Amen
MacLaren YCF
Kim Banks
Oak Creek YCF

Dave Boykin
MacLaren YCF
Monty Meek
Oak Creek YCF

John Meyers
MacLaren YCF
Justin Rigaud
Tillamook YCF

Frank Stewart
MacLaren YCF
Nicholas Tyree
MacLaren YCF

TREE-PLANTING EARNS AWARD FOR RIVERBEND YOUTH

For a 12th consecutive year, RiverBend is receiving the Tree City USA Community Partnership Award from the City of La Grande.

The award, presented this month, recognizes the participation of RiverBend youth in working with the city's arborist to plant trees throughout the city. When the city's Pioneer Park was being renovated, for example, RiverBend youth planted 250 pine trees.

RiverBend superintendent Brian Blisard said he hoped to have one or two youth at the ceremony to join in accepting the award, earned by RiverBend for nine years and by fore-runner Camp Hilgard for three years.

Who ya gonna call ...? The A-Team's always ready

By Ron Sandler

So you are a Parole and Probation Officer and you suddenly get a call that a residential program has a bed available. Who would you call to get this youth moved?

You would call the A-Team – the JPPA Team, that is – otherwise known as your Juvenile Parole and Probation Assistants (JPPAs), or more fondly as “trackers” if you’ve been around OYA a while.

The JPPA is the paraprofessional version of the JPPO and can be found conducting a variety of duties during his or her day – such as supervising and monitoring youth offenders' behavior; meeting with conditionally released or incarcerated youth offenders to discuss and monitor progress; researching placement and education options and employment opportunities; coordinating with other individuals who could be affected by detention of a youth (such as agency staff, security personnel, teachers, police departments, and apartment managers); conducting secure transport of youth in custody; searching the youth's person, property, and residence, as well as collecting and interpreting urine samples to monitor drug and alcohol consumption.

The JPPA also can conduct a lot of other duties that involve reports and communications; resource development and needs evaluations; and other miscellaneous duties.

However, probably 70 percent of a JPPA's daily duties involve transporting youth offenders, their personal belongings, or both. Neither rain nor sleet nor snow will hinder JPPAs from accomplishing that task as they travel throughout the state of Oregon. (Within safety requirements and state-

wide weather policies, of course.)

Sometimes they also may be called to conduct duties as an Interstate Compact Escort Officer, flying or driving out of state to escort youth who have

absconded from the state without permission or to return youth to Oregon after an Interstate Compact placement fails. In conducting this duty the JPPA may be asked to coordinate with a variety of law-enforcement agencies such as Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration), juvenile departments, county sheriffs, or the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force.

OYA currently has 12 JPPAs who collectively travel from 15,000 to 20,000 miles per month moving youth to and from foster homes, detention centers, youth correctional facilities, residential programs, medical visits, and other appointments to accomplish the mission of protecting the public and reducing crime by holding youth offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

Mostly unsung heroes, you can always count on the A-Team to deliver. ■



JPPA Ron Sandler, a proud A-Team member, works out of OYA's Josephine County field office.

Walking dogs, mentoring youth nets service award

Seven years ago, the Commission on Prison Ministries at Thomas Lang's church asked him to deliver a check to Project POOCH at MacLaren YCF. "I went out there and fell in love with the program and have been going back ever since," he says.

For his dedication, Lang has been recognized by the Liberty Mutual Foundation with its 2010 Chairman's Service Award. The foundation affixed Lang's name to a plaque and donated \$10,000 to Project POOCH.

Lang is a property claims adjuster for Liberty Mutual-owned Safeco Insurance. At Project POOCH he serves as a positive role model for youth, many of whom don't have one in their personal lives. Staff will tell him if a youth is having a problem, and Lang will engage him in conversation as they walk dogs.

Lang volunteers twice a month at Project Pooch and, as an Episcopal deacon, also has a regular schedule of leading morning prayers with MacLaren Chaplain Craig Cutting.

As a result of Project POOCH, Lang says, he sees youth with more responsibility, follow-through, and willingness to help others, plus more eye contact and improved spelling and grammar. "They're good kids who need to be treated as adults and get a chance to act like an adult," he says. ■



FIELD OFFICE STAFF SEND CHECK FOR TSUNAMI RELIEF

During a break in a unit meeting, conversation turned to the tsunami and the tragedy in Japan. The result was that the International Red Cross received a \$250 check for tsunami relief from staff members of the Linn, Benton, Polk, Yamhill, and Lincoln field offices.

"The thing that struck me about staff making donations is that we had just gotten done with the Governor's Food Drive, for which everybody gave generously," said Field Supervisor Steve Harder. "Those same people did not think twice about writing yet another check for this cause."

OYA employee generosity buys truckloads of food

Imagine providing food for 460 Oregonians for a month.



That is what OYA employees will do this

year through their Governor's Food Drive contributions, based on the amount of food the USDA estimates a typical American eats in a day.

In all, OYA employees raised the equivalent of 64,890 pounds of food through monetary contributions, scheduled payroll deductions, and actual food donations.

The largest single category was the equivalent of 51,064 pounds as a result of \$10,212.82 in scheduled payroll deductions. Smaller events such as walks, runs and swims also raised money for the food drive.

John Massey, a GLC at Rogue Valley YCF, was OYA's statewide coordinator. "I really liked the experience," he says. "I had a good time." He says he only wished he had had the freedom to participate in some of the fundraisers such as MacLaren YCF's concert and Hillcrest YCF's chili cookoff.

The Oregon Food Bank reports that 16 percent of its food comes from food drives, and that a third of people receiving emergency food are younger than 18. ■

**HR MANAGER
EARNS HONOR FOR
SUPPORT OF THE
GUARD**

OYA Human Resources Manager Belinda Teague has been recognized by the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard.

Nominated by GLC Kenny Walker of Rogue Valley YCF, Teague received the Patriot award and the Above and Beyond award. These recognitions acknowledge Teague's support of Walker, an Air National Guard staff sergeant who nominated Teague.

The awards are given in limited numbers to employers at the state and local levels who have gone above and beyond legal requirements for granting leave and providing support for military duty by their employees.



Belinda Teague

Like warehouse shopping? You'll love this warehouse

OYA has its own version of a big box store – and it delivers. It has staff who work constantly at finding the best deals and who also test products.

It's the Central Warehouse, located on the McLaren YCF campus, which at any given time carries 1,000 different items in an inventory worth an estimated \$350,000. "We are here to help people purchase products at the best price," says Central Warehouse Manager Tom Riel. "We're the shoppers of the agency."

The warehouse stocks items ranging from pants, paper and peanut butter to shirts, salsa and shampoo. For example, OYA uses 117,000 paper bowls annually. Based on volume, the warehouse's largest category is janitorial supplies. Riel says 10 to 15 pallets of food and supplies go out of the warehouse weekly, with deliveries to OYA facilities and field offices keeping one or two trucks on the road three days a week.

The goal is to save money by standardizing what OYA uses, identifying discount merchandise, and buying in bulk.

As for deals, one of the best was obtained by Food Services Operation Manager Elaine Adams. She bought 600 cases of USDA commodity peanut butter at \$5.10 per 30-pound case compared with more than \$40 from OYA's primary vendor. Another time, warehouse Supply Specialist Robert Johnson – he's both a buyer and a driver – bought several pallets of copy paper at half price.

"Our goal is to provide the product more uniformly to everyone and reduce costs," Adams says. "We're trying to save the state money. It may be only \$5,000 here and \$5,000 there, but it adds up."

Warehouse staff also test products, such as checking six types of safety razors to see how easily they come apart and working with facilities to test floor and window cleaners for cost-effectiveness. "We're one group doing the research instead of everyone doing it," Riel says.



OYA's warehouse provides many supplies used by agency staff.

Some of the inventory is

food obtained through the USDA Child Nutrition Program, administered in Oregon by the Department of Education. Adams says OYA Food Services receives credits toward purchase of commodity foods, which amounted to \$78,000 this school year and helped pay for such foods as ground beef, diced chicken, and cheeses.

Surplus property is a significant part of the warehouse's inventory, ranging from hundreds of 3-ring binders to desks, chairs, and filing cabinets. Adams's office is furnished almost exclusively with surplus furniture. "People don't like them, they say they're old and don't match," Riel says of the used items. "But it's free! Really, it's free and we'll have it to you as soon as possible." ■



Velma Kee

AAUW RECOGNIZES NORTH COAST FOOD SERVICES MANAGER

North Coast YCF's Food Services Manager Velma Kee has been recognized as one of "100 Women Who Helped Make Astoria Unique" by the American Association of University Women.

Kee, an OYA employee since 1997, was honored in the volunteer category for support of Desert Storm families, leadership in the Anchor Club that supports Astoria's August regatta, and being active in Clatsop County Search and Rescue, 4-H programs, Boy Scouting, the Clatsop County Fair, and North Coast Republican Women. She was active in Boy Scouts for 22 years and has been a foster parent for more than 20 years.

"I feel that everybody is part of the community and you should help wherever you can," she says. "It takes a lot of volunteers to make a community strong."

Linn couple honored as exemplary foster parents

Long-time OYA foster parents Donna and Arnold Brubaker are being recognized this month by the Oregon Adolescent Sex Offender Treatment Network for their commitment to youth and families.

The Brubakers, Linn County residents, first became foster parents in 1974 for the Department of Human Services and have been OYA foster parents since 1995. Ranging from a few hours to several years, hundreds of youth have been in their care (*Inside OYA, July 2010*).

"The Brubaker foster home is highly regarded by youth, caseworkers and treatment providers for being professional, compassionate and a caring family," said the nomination submitted by OYA Foster Care Certifier Colynn Elder, OYA JPPO Tara Williams, and Linn County Juvenile Probation Officer Karen Cox.

Arnold Brubaker works outside the home, making it possible for Donna to be the primary caregiver for foster youth. "One of Donna's most notable qualities is her ability to maintain firm boundaries while ensuring youth feel

genuinely cared for," according to the nomination.

"She participates in individual and family sessions, attends monthly Parent/Teen sessions, works with biological families on understanding their children's offending and treatment, and helps them develop skills for improved communication and supervision." She helped one youth through knee surgery that included traveling 100 miles for appointments. Despite decades of experience, according to the nomination, Donna Brubaker continues to participate in training opportunities.

"Countless former youth continue to contact Donna to share successes of their own lives and families, including former youth who are now middle-age adults with professional careers and families of their own."

In a November 2010 confidential survey asking foster youth what they had learned, responses from youth in the Brubaker home included "empathy, assertive communication," "to take accountability for my actions," and "listening skills." ■

OYA ACCOUNTING ACHIEVES GOLD STAR AWARD – AGAIN

OYA's accounting team has once again received the State Controller's Gold Star Certificate for timely, accurate year-end financial reporting, a recognition they have received every year since 1996.

"The Gold Star is a challenge to earn, and its achievement is due primarily to your agency's diligent efforts to maintain accurate and complete accounting records throughout the year," John J. Radford, Administrator of the State Controller's Division, wrote to OYA.

OYA Accounting Manager Carolina Marquette says Melanie Tozier, Jill Reece and Kathryn Nelson all contributed to the report, and that every member of the accounting team contributes to the group's excellent record.

The Gold Star Certificate is considered Oregon's equivalent to the Government Finance Officers Association's certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting. Radford said excellence in agency reporting was critical to Oregon earning the GFOA certificate, which it has done annually since 1992.

Video to recognize work of Camp Tillamook youth

Only a few days ago, Camp Tillamook youth working on riparian projects waited as 25 elk crossed in front of them.

It's one of the perks of the job, for which Camp Tillamook last fall shared a BLM Landscape Stewardship Award with the 13-member Tillamook Resource Area Riparian Restoration Partnership.

"They're learning job skills, they're giving back to the community, they're learning about helping wildlife, and they're working together as a team," says GLC Brad Keith, who leads work crews that go out four times a week.

Now, videos are being produced for the Tillamook and other BLM projects that illustrate how they build community partnerships that benefit public lands and involve youth in conservation activities. BLM State Director Ed Shepard may use the video to illustrate how BLM is supporting its 2015 strategic plan.

Begun in 2003, the Tillamook project has received



three national awards and some media attention, says BLM Botanist Kurt Heckerroth, who oversees BLM's seedling production for northwest Oregon. He says the nursery at Camp Tillamook annually produces 15,000 indigenous conifer, hardwood and shrub species, accounting for a major share of what the partnership plants each year.

"If it wasn't for youth at Camp Tillamook we wouldn't have started this," he says. "Over time, Camp Tillamook has become the hub for riparian restoration on the northern coast of Oregon by participating as a partner to support production of locally adapted native plant material. Youth at Camp Tillamook not only

help grow the plants, they also are involved at the project sites to plant and maintain them.

"The experiences they gain from this project may very well help them find an interest to invest in later on in their personal lives." ■



Oak Creek YCF celebrated National Women's History Month last month with a panel of women who talked with youth and staff about their experiences in the workplace. Panelists were, from left to right, Liani Reeves, General Counsel for the Governor's Office; Ann Butte, OYA Facility Services; Colette S. Peters, OYA Director; and Mary Helen Puentes, Salem Dental Assistant.

MaLaren's Grover Unit earns treatment certification

Staff of MaLaren YCF's Grover Unit have earned a two-year letter of approval for state drug and alcohol treatment certification from the DHS Addictions and Mental Health Division, making it the first state-certified living unit at MaLaren and the third in OYA.

The certification puts the unit on a par with other state-certified drug and alcohol residential treatment providers across the state, says Lee Lederer, OYA Treatment Program Coordinator. Meanwhile, six more MaLaren staff members have qualified to take the ACCBO test for the CADC I credential.

Lederer says certification is significant because 70 percent of MaLaren youth have addiction diagnoses. Because of the high correlation between substance abuse and criminal activity, says MaLaren Alcohol and Drug Treatment Coordinator Sherry Sullens, certification should improve recidivism outcomes.

Sullens attributes AMH certification to support from Central Office, MaLaren administration, and the hard work of Grover's leadership and staff.

Lederer says the effort was directed by MaLaren Program Director Abe Rios and Treatment Services Supervisor Rebecca Yazzie, and that CADC II and LPC Sherry Sullens provided clinical supervision, coordination, and support to the treatment team. Leadership, planning and support were provided by Grover Treatment Manager Tim Vandersteen, QMHP and CADC I Carrie Wouda, and YCUC Matt Griffin throughout the three-year process.

Representatives of North Coast and Rogue Valley YCFs were present during AMH's two-day site review so they would know what to expect, Lederer says. OYA's two other AMH-certified living units are at Hillcrest YCF. ■



Grover Unit members, from left, are Rebecca Yazzie, Michael Murphy, Perry Tupper, Marty Tolmich, Christy Hess, Carrie Wouda, Sherry Sullens, Juan Mayoral, Matt Griffin, Dalia Salinas, and Tim Vandersteen.

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

A new report detailing 10 strategic directions to ensure Oregon maintains a strong juvenile justice system is now available online at http://www.oregon.gov/OYA/jjs/JuJu_Sym_Report_FINAL.pdf.

The report summarizes results of last fall's Juvenile Justice System Symposium, which brought together nearly 250 people at the Eugene Conference Center.

Among the strategies outlined in the 28-page document are:

- Improve education and vocational readiness for youth offenders;
- Improve re-entry services for youth offenders;
- Expand use of science- and data-driven practices; and
- Improve assessment tools and practices.

INSIDE OYA

Colette S. Peters
Director

Fariborz Pakseresht
Deputy Director

For more information,
to submit ideas or
to write an article,
please contact the
Communications
Office:

Jim Sellers
503-373-7425
jim.sellers@
oya.state.or.us

Ann Snyder
503-378-6023
ann.snyder@
oya.state.or.us

Send your stories for
the May issue by April
29. Articles received
after that date will
be held for the June
newsletter.



OMS leads prevention classes at BAAD tourney

For a second year, OMS Transition Specialist Christina Puentes has taken positive messages to tribal youth during the Basketball Against Alcohol and Drugs (BAAD) tournament sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Puentes says she and a former OYA youth, now a DOC parolee, conducted 16 prevention classes for youth ages 12-18 during the 24th annual BAAD tournament in March. "It was predominantly an anti-gang message, and we also touched on violence in general, domestic violence, drug and alcohol usage, giving back to the community, respect for elders, and using culture as prevention," she says.



Youth in 16 OMS-led classes heard prevention messages.



Most youth said they were unaware of Measure 11 and its potential consequences.

Puentes says 95 percent of youth in the classes had never heard of Measure 11. "They were shocked at what they could be looking at with one wrong decision," she says. "I told them stories of youth I've worked with who didn't do anything but were with people who did and then spent a long time away from family." She says girls were included in the prevention classes for the first time.

OMS also expects to participate in a Umatilla-sponsored suicide-prevention workshop in August. ■