

MARCH
2010



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INSIDE OYA

Youth Art on Loan second open house a success

The walls of the Hillcrest YCF conference room were covered in Japanese fish prints and Jackson Pollock-style paintings. The hard work of eight youth was on display for the second Youth Art on Loan open house that took place February 18.

The response to the artwork was all positive. Guests began arriving early and in 20 minutes most of the artwork was gone.

Amy Calahan-Early, the acting support services supervisor at Hillcrest, has been volunteering her time and art supplies to teach a group of young men the techniques and theories of art.

The youth enthusiastically jumped at the opportunity to test their artistic skills. They are eagerly waiting for future lessons, which will include the works of Claude Monet and Andy Warhol.

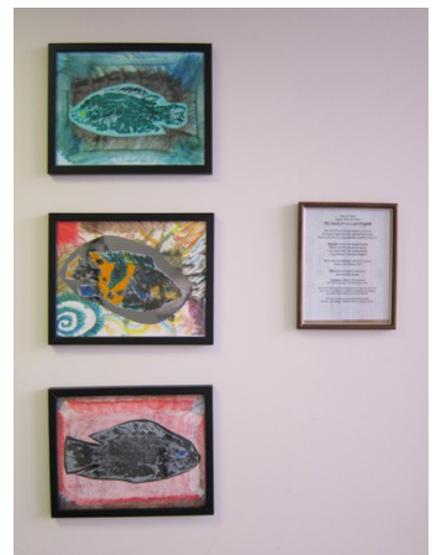
The youth also are excited about their artwork being on display. More than 25 people from 20 agencies came to the open house, taking pieces back to their offices to put on display. Some agencies have reported that the art has received wonderful comments from staff and members of the public.

For most of the youth in Calahan-Early's classes, this is their first exposure to art training. The classes offer a fantastic opportunity for youth to explore hidden talents, focus their energies on something positive and have a chance to give back to the community, she noted.

For more information about the program, contact Amanda Lowe-Davies at amanda.lowedavies@oya.state.or.us or 503-378-6555.



Above: Amy Calahan-Early (right) helps a youth with his Japanese fish print



Above: Japanese fish prints on display at the Oregon Liquor Control Commission

OYA COIN AWARD RECIPIENTS

Gloria Anderson
*Office Specialist 2
Budget and Contracts*

Julia Benjamin-High
*Disability Analyst
Federal and State Benefits*

George Covey
*Program Manager
MacLaren YCF*

Chris Duval
*Operations Policy Analyst 4
Facilities Services*

Rex Emery
*Facilities Manager
Physical Plant Operations*

Kerry Haverty
*Senior HR Analyst
Human Resources*

Lori Hernandez
*Disability Analyst
Federal and State Benefits*

Lisa Hinman
*Senior HR Analyst
Human Resources*

Frank Martin
*PbS State Coordinator
Treatment Services*

Rob Meeks
*Training and Development
Specialist
Training Academy*

Jan Mogensen
*JJIS Communications
Information Services*

Continued on P3



Greetings, everyone, and welcome to the March issue of Inside OYA. It's so nice to see that Spring is on the way.

This month's newsletter includes several articles that highlight what we often mention when we discuss OYA's mission – how so much of the work we do enriches the lives of the youth we serve.

Through our efforts to hold youth accountable and work toward their reformation, we also offer many youth offenders their first exposure to the arts. As part of their education and treatment, youth offenders learn to express themselves through painting, crafts, creative writing and other positive means. They learn to love and care for animals. And, through charitable projects, they learn for the first time how meaningful it can be to help others in need.

So many youth come to us with little education and little hope. By offering them the opportunity to expand their horizons through a variety of creative and charitable pursuits, we open doors to a world many youth have never seen. We introduce them to new ways of thinking and expressing themselves, and by doing so we not only help them build a solid foundation for the future, we help them discover their positive talents and creativity.

I am very proud of our Youth Art on Loan Program and the many other accomplishments our youth continue to demonstrate – everything from film-making to guitar- and flute-making to dog training, painting and sketching, poetry and creative writing, metal- and woodworking, and horticulture. And I am equally proud of the staff here who continue to help youth offenders discover and hone their abilities.

Thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colette S. Peters', written in a cursive style.

Colette S. Peters
Director

Pizza sales help Haiti

A few days after the devastating earthquake in Haiti, a youth at MacLaren YCF decided to do something for the victims.

With the help of Rev. Craig Cutting, the youth purchased pizzas to sell during family visitation times. Between the two days he hosted the sale – Super Bowl Sunday and Valentine's Day – he raised \$360.79.

The money has been donated to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), an organization already working in Haiti. One-hundred percent of UMCOR's donations go to the designated cause.

Rev. Cutting noted that he was touched at how incarcerated youth can share a sense of compassion for those suffering immense loss, and was pleased at the support given by staff to help the youth's efforts succeed.

Rusty inducted into Hall of Fame



Rusty, the Chesapeake Retriever/Lab mix being fostered by youth at Oak Creek YCF, just joined rather elite company.

He has been inducted into the Oregon Animal Hall of Fame, joining only 32 other Oregon animals recognized since 1988 for exemplifying “the affection, loyalty, security, public service and value of the human-animal bond.”

“Rusty was destined for euthanasia, but he was brought into the Oak Creek program where he not only thrives but the youth working with him have thrived too,” said Glenn Kolb, executive director of the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association. The association presented the award – a Gentle Doctor statue – to Rusty at its annual conference in Corvallis March 6.

Rusty, the only 2010 inductee, was nominated by Corvallis veterinarian Sabra Thomas, DVM. Project Pooch, the popular program at MacLaren YCF in Woodburn, which has a dozen or more dogs at any given time, was recognized in 1999.

In the Oak Creek program, called Canines at the Creek, a primary care team of youth – members were selected through a job-application

process – is responsible for obedience training, feeding, grooming, exercising and other general care of a rescue dog until it is adopted.

The paperwork has been completed so that Rusty now is in “permanent foster care” as a companion/therapy dog at Oak Creek. He was the first animal placed outside a traditional foster home by Philomath-based Senior Dog Rescue of Oregon.

Employee survey improvements bring recognition

The organization that administered last fall’s Culture and Climate Survey to OYA employees has recognized the agency with its Circle of Excellence designation as a result of improvements from the prior year’s results.

The National Business Research Institute award goes to organizations whose ratings improve by at least 5 percentage points, which OYA’s did. OYA now ranks at the national average among comparable correctional agencies.

“Employee satisfaction helps alleviate the stress of the job, which helps improve employee retention and employee relations with youth offenders,” said NBRI organizational psychologist Jan Stringer. “This award is a result of the Oregon Youth Authority’s dedication to continually measuring and improving their employees’ satisfaction.”

The survey explored employee opinions about 25 topics and drew a response rate of 56 percent, giving its findings a high level of confidence. Survey results are available in the OYA Public Folders in the “Culture-Climate Survey” folder.

OYA COIN AWARD RECIPIENTS *continued*

JoAnna Sanders
*Accounts Payable Technician
Accounting*

Alan Walker
*Training and Development
Specialist
Training Academy*

Managers who would like to issue a Coin Award can request a coin from Angie Vanderford at angie.vanderford@oya.state.or.us or 503-373-7205.

PREA PODCAST

As part of OYA’s implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), short, informational podcasts will appear in this and future additions of Inside OYA. You can listen to these on your computer or smartphone.

Please share with staff, youth, families, stakeholders and our community partners.

[Click here to listen to this month’s podcast.](#)

[Click here to read the transcript.](#)

ANNIVERSARIES

THIRTY YEARS

Doug Schoonmaker
MacLaren YCF

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Jim Hupp
Marion P/P
Steve McRoberts
Information
Systems

TWENTY YEARS

Shirley Chrusoskie
RiverBend
Terry McLaren
Camp Florence
Tracey Sulis
MacLaren YCF

FIFTEEN YEARS

Vicky Broucher
RiverBend

TEN YEARS

Chris Baus
MacLaren YCF
Pauli Blamont
MacLaren YCF
Joseph Christensen
Coos P/P
Steve Harder
Lane P/P
John Weaver
Hillcrest YCF

FIVE YEARS

Heber Bray
MacLaren YCF
Travis Grimm
Hillcrest YCF
Joseph Mabonga
Hillcrest YCF

What is an auditor?

By Brandon Weber
Chief Audit Executive



When I meet people for the first time and tell them I am an auditor, I have heard the many thoughts that come to mind.

For some, it is the IRS and getting their taxes audited. For others, it may be pocket protectors, 10-keys and financial reports that can instantly cure insomnia. My personal favorite: Auditors arrive after the battle has been fought and bayonet the wounded.

I hope that after you get a chance to meet me, these images will be replaced with a more accurate picture of the role I play in our agency.

My goal is to add value by improving the way we do business and how we accomplish our mission. I approach everything I do with a spirit of partnership and collaboration. Working together is not only more effective, but more rewarding.

While auditing standards require the internal audit function to remain independent and objective, this does not prevent a partnering mind-set that is

focused on improvement. I think internal auditing should never exhibit a "gotcha" attitude or a police mentality, but should focus on identifying ways we can do our jobs better within the limited resources we have available.

While on the organization chart I reside in the Director's Office, it is my goal to regularly spend time in our field offices and facilities where our work with the youth occurs. I look forward to the opportunity to meet as many of you as I can and learn from you.

Hillcrest holds Black History Month celebration

February was Black History Month and Hillcrest YCF celebrated by hosting a cultural event with the Office of Minority Services, Robert Farrell High School and community partners.

Youth participated in coordinating the event, which featured music, dancing, slide shows of African American visionary leaders, poetry and a basketball contest. Dances were performed by the SEI Dance Team from Portland.

Rev. Rob Richardson was the keynote speaker. Peggy Ross from the Governor's Affirmative Action Office also spoke with the youth and presented a Governor's proclamation designating February 2010 as African American History Month in Oregon.

The main focus of the event was to introduce participants to the rich value and lifestyles of diverse cultures while highlighting African American heritage and history.

Thank you to all who supported and participated in the event.

Trask High School set to relocate and expand



Construction that will relieve crowding and improve educational opportunities at OYA's two Tillamook facilities is expected to be completed in July.

2KG Contractors Inc. of Milwaukie won the contract to relocate the existing Trask River High School, currently split between two locations, into an unfinished building on the campus. The project will double the building's square footage by constructing six classrooms, restrooms, administrative offices, and central control and camera monitoring.

The Tillamook facilities have been so crowded that some staff members use an old control room and hallway for office space, long-term storage of youth property is located in the main entrance corridor, and there is insufficient space for clinic and psychiatric services.

The \$761,530 project is being financed by Go Oregon! stimulus funds. By using the existing unfinished building, OYA saved approximately \$500,000 in construction costs.

The school serves youth housed in Tillamook YCF and the adjacent Camp Tillamook transitional facility, which serve 50 and 25 male offenders, respectively. The accredited high school provides 5.5 hours of instruction 220 days a year, leading to high school credits, high school diplomas or, in the case of

high school graduates, skills improvement to prepare for higher education or employment.

The Tillamook school project is the second-largest among OYA's \$9.2 million in state stimulus-funded projects. The largest is construction of a 7,200-square-foot young women's transitional home in Albany to replace Corvallis House, which closed last year.

OYA's Accounting team gets gold star

OYA's Accounting Services office has received the State Controller's Gold Star Certificate for excellence.

"The Controller awards Gold Star certificates to state agencies that provide accurate, complete and timely financial information," said Carolina Marquette, Accounting manager. "It's recognition that we have met and exceeded reporting standards."

The award period covers the fiscal period ending June 30, 2009.

"This achievement is particularly impressive," said Marquette, "because it was the first time most of the staff have been involved in the 'end of biennium' reporting process in their current roles."

The staff directly responsible for completing the activities that qualified OYA for this award are Melanie Tozier, Jill Reece and Kathryn Nelson.

The State Controller's Gold Star Certificate is Oregon's equivalent to the internationally recognized Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

NEW HIRES

HILLCREST YCF

Kathleen Twist

MACLAREN YCF

Elaine Adams

NORTH COAST YCF

David Herrera

ROGUE VALLEY YCF

Andrea Bassett

TILLAMOOK YCF

Sarah Pimentel

STAFF CHANGES

RETIREMENTS

Pam Livingston

30 years

Janice Smith

46 years

TRANSFERS

Sid Thompson

to MacLaren YCF

Wid Thompson

to Hillcrest YCF

DEPARTURES

Mike Conzoner

MacLaren YCF

Claxton Fernandez

Hillcrest YCF

Melanie McCall

Eastern Oregon YCF

Joyce Merritt

Human Resources

James Metcalfe

Tillamook YCF

James Shinholster

MacLaren YCF

Jeff Sledge

MacLaren YCF

INSIDE OYA

Colette S. Peters
Director

Fariborz Pakseresht
Deputy Director

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The deadline for each issue is the last week-day of the previous month. Send your stories for the April issue to Amanda Lowe-Davies by March 31. Articles received after that date will be held for the May newsletter.



What to do with cell phones in an office setting

Beeping, buzzing and banter – etiquette reminders for open work environments

Last month we talked about cell phone etiquette in meetings. But another frequent area of complaint involves cell phone use in offices – particularly in open-landscape areas where people work in close proximity. Here are some simple etiquette guidelines that are good to follow when using cell phones at work – whether they are agency-issued or personal phones.

Turn your cell phone ringer off.

This is particularly important if your job causes you to step away from your work area and you are not always available to immediately answer your phone. No one else wants to hear your phone playing various sound effects or a few bars of music. (There are many different musical tastes on the planet; don't be surprised if your nearby co-workers do not share yours.)

Let your cell phone calls go to voice mail.

While you are at work, if you are in doubt about whether an incoming call is important, let voice mail pick it up. It will take much less time to check your messages than it will to answer the call and then tell the caller you can't talk at the moment.

Put your visitors first. If you are speaking with someone in your work area on a work-related matter, do not answer the phone if it buzzes. The exception to this is when you are expecting an important call. In that case, warn the person ahead of time that you may have to break off the conversation to take a specific call.

Find a private place to talk. If you have to answer a call, softly ask the caller to wait while you move away from all work areas into a hallway or outside, where you can talk without disturbing others. Avoid talking within earshot of other people. (Does everyone really need to know what dinner ingredients you need someone to buy? Does the person on the other end of the conversation really want you sharing details about their health issues?) And remember, the breakroom and multi-stall restrooms are NOT private places.

Pictures from the road

Chris Duval recently took a trip to facilities across the state to talk about OYA's business continuity plan.

Here are a few photos from her trip.



Above: RiverBend's new sign welcomes visitors.



Above: Construction is under way on the Young Women's Transition Program at Oak Creek.