

OYA *In the Loop*

November 25, 2008

A time of thanks

It is, of course, that wonderful time of year when we set aside a day to be thankful for all of the blessings in our lives.

There's a theory that gratitude is the secret to happiness. No matter the challenges in front or behind us, I want OYA to be a great place to work, and I want our staff to like their jobs and their coworkers.

As I ponder the path I've gone down during 'retirement,' I am grateful that I was given the opportunity to work with you at OYA. Helping the transition into the future is a wonderful gift for me.

So, in the spirit of the holiday, I would like to share with you some other reasons I'm grateful this year, even through the bumpy times.

- Highest on my professional list: I am grateful to work with 1,112 employees of OYA who passionately care about Oregon's troubled youth and demonstrate their commitment to reformation every day.
- I am grateful to have been asked to serve as your interim director. I care very deeply about juvenile justice, and the opportunity and responsibility entrusted to me by the Governor are not only sobering, but also fulfilling.
- I am grateful that people forgive and organizations heal.
- I am grateful that Measure 57 will have little, if any, impact on OYA.
- I am grateful that you share your successes with me so that I can be grounded in the work of our agency.
- I am grateful for principles, ethics and honesty.
- I'm grateful to work in a progressive justice system that recognizes the potential of youth and invests in their reformation.
- I am grateful for Jean Bergen.

- I am grateful that OYA's universe contains not only OYA World, but also invested, keenly astute partners who provide us with a variety of perspectives so we can best serve the youth in our care.

Although we celebrate Thanksgiving only one day a year, I want you to know that my gratitude is not bound by the calendar.

If you are so inclined, I encourage you to share with me this week things in our professional world for which you are grateful, and I'll set up a posting in Agency News for all to share. Write to me at oyaintheloop@oya.state.or.us to participate.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Bobby