JPPOs mark 20 years of service

By Supervisor Mike Runyon and JPPO Christine Tegner
Marion County Field Office
November 12, 2014

JPPOs Mark Plaza and Shelley Viggiano with the OYA Marion Parole and Probation team recently celebrated 20 years of service. Mark and Shelley became friends (fueled by their mutual love of Green Bay Packers football) in 1993 when they were both employed as on-call workers with Marion County Detention. Shelley was already working as a temporary GLC at Hillcrest YCF and encouraged Mark to apply as well. Thankfully, he cooperated, and began working as a temporary GLC in 1994.

Prior to joining OYA, Mark was a group life coordinator at the former Camp Hilgard and a tracker for Union County. He was a GLC at Hillcrest YCF for six months before he was hired as the JPPA in the Marion County Field Office. Mark served as a JPPA for a year before being hired as a JPPO and he has remained in that position ever since. When asked why he’s stayed for so long, Mark replied, “At some point I’ll make a difference. It may be 10 years down the road and I may not get to see the outcome, but I know I can make a difference.”

As it turns out, Mark and Shelley have more than the support for the Packers in common. Shelley left Hillcrest YCF on a rotation as the first and only female statewide transport officer in 1995. That rotation led to a permanent JPPA position in 1997. Over time, she also had the opportunity to work in Lincoln, Tillamook, Yamhill, Polk, Clatsop, Linn and Benton counties.

Shelley says her career took a big turn when she was allowed to transfer to the Marion Field Office five years ago. She describes the staff as “an amazing team and family who reminded me why I enjoy being a part of OYA.” Growing up, Shelley’s father, Richard Roever, worked in juvenile corrections and was a great inspiration to her, instilling in her a belief that youth are capable of reformation. Echoing Mark’s point of view, Shelley said, “I believe if I succeed in helping one youth change his or her life, it’s worth it.”

Mark and Shelley’s compassion, professionalism, and humor reflect the core values of the Marion Parole and Probation team and OYA. We’re grateful for their service and are proud to work alongside both of them.

Congratulations, Mark and Shelley, on your twenty years of service to the people of Oregon.