



OYA generosity shines during 2014 food drive



Kerstine Munger, who supervises the café at Hillcrest, serves chili made by youth at the facility's Feb. 26 chili cook off.

By [CJ Drake](#), Oregon Youth Authority
April 25, 2014

OYA went above and beyond its past support for the annual Governor's State Employee Food Drive Held by donating nearly 55,000 pounds of food this winter to help Oregonians in need. When the final amounts were totaled from facilities, field offices and Central Office, OYA staff donated 2,833 pounds of food and nearly \$13,000 through fundraisers and payroll deductions. When converted to pounds of food, the monetary support combined with food donations equaled 54,797 pounds. Last year, OYA donated a combined total of 44,303 pounds. Youth helped out by running in marathons and preparing food for fundraisers.

"OYA's response to the food drive was nothing short of overwhelming," said PREA Coordinator Kila Jager, who volunteered again this year to lead the agency's participation in the food drive. "I'm so proud of staff and youth for their enthusiastic and generous support of those in need. I'm also grateful to all my local coordinators for working hard to make this year's outcome so successful."

Coordinators organized various events to benefit the food drive, held throughout February. MacLaren YCF hosted a 5K fun run/walk at the facility Feb. 28, and all funds collected through the \$10 admission fee were donated to the food drive.



All donations of food, money and time benefitted the Oregon Food Bank Network, which serves communities throughout the state.

From left: Skill Development Coordinator Thomas Anhalt, Deputy Director Joe O'Leary, youth Noah and Director Fariborz Pakseresht at MacLaren after the 5K fun run/walk Feb. 28. Noah finished first in a field of 55 participants.