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# INSIDE OYA

## Staff recognized for heroism, patriotism

Awards have been conferred on two Rogue Valley YCF staff members for service to their country. GLC2 Kenny Walker was recognized for heroism, and treatment manager Pete Roberts was recognized for patriotism.

Walker, a staff sergeant in the Air National Guard, received the Bronze Star with Valor for his heroism during a seven-hour firefight with Taliban forces in Afghanistan in May 2009. He received the award from Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, who said Walker's personal courage saved lives.



*Kenny Walker (right) receives the Bronze Star with Valor from Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz (U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash)*

A story describing Walker's actions under siege from Taliban forces can be found at [www.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123223557](http://www.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123223557) on the Air National Guard Web site. Walker, who will redeploy to Afghanistan in January, earlier had been named one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

Walker said he appreciated the support of his supervisor, Pete Roberts, so much that he nominated Roberts for the Department of Defense's Patriot Award. The award, given to recognize supervisors for support of National Guard and Reserve members, was presented to Roberts in a surprise ceremony during an RYVCF staff meeting in October. Presented by military representatives from Medford and from the 116th Air Support Operations Squadron at Camp Murray, Wash., the award carries with it a certificate of appreciation and a Patriot lapel pin. (Walker, who earlier served five years' active duty with the Air Force, is attached to the Washington state unit because it is the closest to Oregon.)

Walker, who has been deployed four times and is away from time to time for other Air Guard duties, said receiving the Bronze Star still felt unreal. "They gave me an award for things guys over there are doing right now every day," he said. He said he volunteered to work graveyard shift to minimize disruption to the Rogue Valley living unit and his colleagues.

## ANNIVERSARIES

The anniversaries listed are for the month of September.

### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

#### Dave Hanson

Treatment Manager  
MacLaren YCF

#### Darrell Strand

Group Life Coordinator  
MacLaren YCF

### TWENTY YEARS

#### Phil Cox

Assistant Director  
Community Services

#### Craig Howard

Parole and Probation  
Officer  
Deschutes County

#### Rob Morris

Parole and Probation  
Officer  
Multnomah County

### FIFTEEN YEARS

#### Steve Huffman

Parole and Probation  
Assistant  
Multnomah Branch

#### Ken Jeske

Chief Investigator  
Professional Standards

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## Director's Column



Dear Colleagues,

November is a month of celebration and thanks. As we honor Veterans Day and hold Thanksgiving this month, it also is a time to

renew and think about the importance of connections. It is through connections with family and friends that we build strong communities and meaningful lives.

At OYA we see the importance of connections on a daily basis. Youth who form strong, positive connections with community members achieve a smoother transition from custody to community. Youth who connect with OYA staff, teachers, with treatment providers and with others frequently have better outcomes when they leave OYA.

Helping our youth create these connections takes effort and dedication, and I see those qualities from each of you every day as you seek to build supportive relationships for our youth. Whether you are working with them on an individual basis or are seeking opportunities for them to expand their horizons and learn new skills, you are focusing on strengthening positive connections.

One of the programs under way to help connect youth to their communities is highlighted in several articles in this newsletter – OYA's Re-Entry Grant. This new three-year grant will make it possible to develop the supports and connections youth need to lead productive, crime-free lives when they

return to their home communities.

This issue of Inside OYA also includes articles about other types of connections – the work of the Community Services staff at OYA, who focus almost exclusively on building partnerships, and the work of OYA staff to build relationships with youth as the youth learn job skills. These are just some of the many ways we help connect youth to the world around them and to the possibility of a better future.

As always, thank you for the many ways you help the youth in OYA's care and custody achieve positive outcomes. Your good work is an investment that benefits the youth, their families and their communities.

Sincerely,

Colette S. Peters  
Director

## Annual toy drive kicks off

Across Oregon, colorfully wrapped boxes are appearing in state offices, marking the arrival of the annual State Agency Toy Drive.

Each year, state employees donate new, unwrapped toys for children ages one to 12. These toys are given to the Salvation Army's Toy for Joy program.

Tami Young and Kila Jager from Central Office have volunteered to serve as OYA's coordinator for this year's toy drive.

This drive makes up a large portion of the toys distributed by the Salvation Army each year.

# Ever wonder what we do in Community Resources?

By Erin Fultz



Community Resources Unit, left to right: Khris Ward, Heidi Lung, Ed Wyller, Erin Fultz, Kris Scrabeck, and Heber Bray

“The Community Resources Unit – what the heck do they do?” We get that a lot.

We are the behind-the-scenes team who ensure OYA’s community residential services – more than 400 beds – are effectively serving youth on probation and parole.

We have the most contact with field and facility staff when there’s a problem with a community placement, so it may seem that’s all we do: Listen, make a couple of phone calls, talk to the program, figure out a solution, call everyone back, done.

Not quite. Managing 44 contracts delivering residential services ranging from intensive treatment to independent living is a pretty big job. Here’s some of what we do beyond solving problems:

- Write contract language and know what these contracts expect community programs to do (yeah, sounds boring; it’s important).
- Know the Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) standards, which support federal reimbursement that

pays half (!) of the daily rate for youth in community programs that meet the standards.

- Ensure all 44 programs are meeting BRS standards by visiting them almost monthly, having phone contact almost weekly, and doing one- and two-day BRS reviews every two years (about two a month).
- Become expert on – and ensure programs are meeting – evidence-based treatment practices and the Correctional Programming Checklist (CPC), which measures programs’ evidence-based compliance. This may mean consulting with an executive director or program manager, training case managers and staff, and – more onsite reviews – doing one- and two-day CPC reviews.
- Talk to kids – this is the best part! We conduct formal youth surveys in residential facilities each May and November, and hold informal conversations throughout the year during onsite visits.

We are hiring and training two replacement staff members (this will give us a staff of four, compared with an earlier staff of six); using population data to ensure we have appropriate beds to meet demonstrated youth needs; and improving the program evaluation process.

In a nutshell, we’re responsible for partnering with field, facility and community provider staff to ensure delivery of community resources supporting crime-free youth. Have a question or ideas for improving what we do? Hope so. Contact me at [erin.fultz@oya.state.or.us](mailto:erin.fultz@oya.state.or.us) or 503-373-7533.

## ANNIVERSARIES

CONTINUED

### TEN YEARS

**Michael Mann**  
Group Life Coordinator  
MaLaren YCF

**Lori McGovern**  
Counselor  
Oak Creek YCF

**Ryan Murray**  
Group Life Coordinator  
Rogue Valley YCF

**Randy Rictor**  
Group Life Coordinator  
Eastern Oregon YCF

### FIVE YEARS

**Nathan Allen**  
Custodian  
Hillcrest YCF

**Dan Cloe**  
Trades Maintenance  
MaLaren YCF

**Lieb Lee**  
Accountant  
Accounting

**Pohai Olomua**  
Security  
Hillcrest YCF

**Melody Schwartz**  
Group Life Coordinator  
Hillcrest YCF

## NEW HIRES

### CENTRAL OFFICE

Ann Butte

### EASTERN

Carmen Mix

### HILLCREST

Kerstine Munger

### ROGUE VALLEY

Frazier Lellis

James Williams

## STAFF RECOGNITION

### EASTERN

Chad Bradach

*Employee of the Quarter*

### HILLCREST

Tim Fannion

Jim White

*Staff of the Month*

### MACLAREN

Jayson Ellis

*Employee of the Month*

## Youth work beside staff to gain on-the-job skills



A contractor working at MacLaren YCF observed the high-quality work a youth offender was doing. "When you get out," the contractor told him, "look us up." The youth followed through and, 10 days after being paroled a few weeks ago, he was earning a paycheck.

That is an example of the jobs youth land after being mentored by OYA maintenance staff, an often-overlooked element of the education and treatment offenders can receive in OYA facilities.

At any given time, approximately 15 MacLaren youth are working up to 35 hours a week with the staff electrician, plumber, painter and other OYA trades professionals.

"We don't invent work, it's real-world job experience," said facilities manager Rex Emery. "Tradespeople who love their work get to teach people who want to learn."

One youth said he moved from working in the canteen, where he didn't enjoy working with people, to an opportunity in plumbing. "It's very numbers-oriented," he said. "If you have your numbers right, everything should work."

That things should work is impressed on the youth. For example, mainte-

nance specialist Ron Nelson worked with youth to fabricate a rooftop metal stand for a new HVAC system. "When we're hiring a crane at \$500 an hour it's got to fit perfectly," he said.

Participating youth have earned their high school diplomas, and allowances are made for the time they need to take online college courses.

Youth are schooled in being ready for work and exercising appropriate social skills on the job site. Youth doing electrical work can get photos illustrating the work they've done. They learn to apply math, and they can get references when they look for a job. They can prepare for electrical and plumbing apprenticeships and earn certifications; one youth left MacLaren with 15 HVAC certifications.

"This is the closest to the real world of anything we offer on this campus," said MacLaren maintenance manager Cole Miller.

"We're self-sufficient here, the youth get to do everything," said electrician Mark Brandt who has 100 electrical panels in 28 buildings. Painter Steve Babcock said he is responsible for 360,000 square feet that need paint. "There's no way I could keep up with the work without these guys," Babcock said.

The youth say they appreciate the chance to spend their time in close custody in a productive manner. "They'll know I was in jail," one youth said of prospective employers, "but they'll know what I did with my time."

Next month: How Hillcrest maintenance staff mentor youth.

## OYA, OJDDA team up to assist re-entry youth

Oregon is receiving federal support for a cutting-edge effort to reduce juvenile parole revocations and youth recidivism.

OYA and the Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association have a three-year federal grant to support the Oregon Youth Offender Re-entry Project, intended to remove barriers youth offenders face when they return to the community from OYA juvenile corrections facilities.

Oregon is one of only five states awarded such a grant, and the only one doing work on a statewide level.

"Many people don't realize how much knowledge JPPOs need to have, how early they have to start contacting the youth's family and other child- and family-serving agencies, and how creative and adept they are at what they do," said Faith Love, project supervisor.

The project's goal is to start transition planning earlier, bring more partners to the table and give paroled youth access to more of the services they need to succeed.

The project was prompted by a recommendation in a study commissioned by Governor Ted Kulongoski. It concluded Oregon should give post-incarceration re-entry services high priority. The report said only 25 percent of the treatment needs for youth with AOD and co-occurring disorder issues was met in 2007, a figure believed lower for offender youth.

Cohorts of such youth from three areas are scheduled to be selected at intake beginning in January. The areas are:

- The Portland tri-county region;

- Lane County; and
- The 17-county CEOJJC region, which covers 61,000 square miles east of the Cascades.

Love said the project chose the toughest population. "If we can make it work for these kids we ought to be able to make it work for any of them," she said.

A Portland State University team will evaluate the project's outcomes.

## Re-entry project: 'Less time and better results'

Improved access, greater timeliness, more partnerships, better information, stronger community connections, reduced recidivism, and successful return to communities for OYA youth.

These are the principal benefits expected from the Oregon Youth Offender Re-entry Project OYA is implementing with the Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association.

"Right now each JPPO has their own process and they get it done very well," said Debbie Hansen, Multnomah field office supervisor. "But hopefully this will lead to a more systematized way of doing things – less time with better results rather than having to hunt for services every time."

"If a JPPO got hired tomorrow he or she would be able to have some structure and not spend years building resources," said Vikki Whitmore, Clackamas field office supervisor.

Among the goals set for the project are to get more service-providing partners to the table, get them talking with OYA earlier in the transition process, ensure

## STAFF CHANGES

### DEPARTURES

- Diana Demarco**  
Rogue Valley YCF
- Daniel Efseaff**  
MacLaren YCF
- Dan Halter**  
MacLaren YCF
- Johnny Padgett**  
Hillcrest YCF
- Garrett Salzer**  
MacLaren YCF
- Jennifer Shepard**  
Rogue Valley YCF

### TRANSFERS

- Andrea Bassett**  
to Professional Standards
- Shelley Gerlach**  
to Human Resources
- Melissa McNabb**  
to Minority Services

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## ROGUE VALLEY STAFF HELP OUT BMX STATE FINALS



Rogue Valley YCF staff recently showed they were not only correctional leaders, but also community members who could be counted on.

After treatment manager Pete Roberts pushed the “send” button on an e-mail seeking volunteers for the three-day BMX state finals in Grants Pass, he got six volunteers – three from the corrections side, three from Newbridge High School.

Selling raffle tickets, assisting spun-out riders, watching for illegal moves and grooming the track were GLCs Jonathan Morla and Chris Wells, QMHP William Winter, and Newbridge staff members Gale Barlow, Melonie Pinneau and Karen Archer.

Full disclosure: Roberts had a special interest in the event. His 6-year-old son had spent the past year earning rank to be eligible to complete.

paroled youth know expectations of them from the outset, and create more accountability for communities to youth and youth to communities.

“Timeliness is extremely important for these youth in transition,” said Cathy Baird, field office supervisor for Washington, Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties. “If we can connect them to services in their community prior to being released, they will have a better understanding of the expectations, have support in various areas of their lives, and feel a connection to community.”

The project should help OYA obtain better information from county juvenile departments so OYA doesn’t duplicate services that already have been delivered or been shown ineffective with a youth, said Jeff Milligan, re-entry grant coordinator for the CEOJJC region.

Whitmore said the project will permit offices to learn from one another, too. “My JPPOs are really excited about partnerships with resources we have never had before,” she said. “It’s a bigger task than what the JPPO can do alone.”

Some needed resources may not be available. “By identifying services not available in the community we can advocate for development of those services,” said Donna McClung, field office supervisor for eight Central and Eastern Oregon counties.

Project supervisor Faith Love said she is committed to ensuring there is minimal, if any, disruption with day-to-day work.

## Data show need to assist youth with their re-entry

The proposal that won a three-year federal grant to support the Oregon Youth Offender Re-entry Project contains numbers supporting the need to do a better job of supporting youth who transition back to the community.

The project will focus on the needs of youth with alcohol and other drug issues.

Among the numbers:

- Nearly 40 percent of youth committed to OYA return to a youth correctional facility within one year due to parole revocations or adjudication for new crimes.
- A disproportionate share of these youth have alcohol and other drug issues, which makes them 4.5 times more likely than other youth to be sentenced for a new felony within one year.
- In OYA facilities, 73 percent of offenders have an AOD history and 60 percent of those youth meet criteria for abuse or dependence.
- 70 percent of youth in OYA close custody have an Axis I mental health condition, of whom 47 percent have a diagnosis of a mood, trauma-related or psychotic disorder.
- 41 percent of youth in OYA facilities take one or more psychotropic medications.
- 60 percent of transitioning youth have ongoing AOD treatment needs in the community, based on their assessments and case plans.

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OYA youths' AOD use is greater than that of Oregon's broader youth population. "A non-scientific comparison of responses from the 2008 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey of high school juniors to responses from the OYA Mental Health Gap survey suggested youth in correctional facilities were twice as likely to have used marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy, heroin or inhalants," the grant proposal said.

## OYA's food booth returns to Oktoberfest



(Left) Kevin Nelson, Oak Creek treatment manager, and (right) Drew Reynolds, Oak Creek shift supervisor

Despite the rainy weather that prevailed at this year's Mt. Angel Oktoberfest, the OYA food booth turned out quite the crowd. The collaborative efforts among MacLaren, Hillcrest and Oak Creek staff made it possible to reopen the booth after a hiatus from the 2009 festival.

The popularity of the booth's famous cabbage rolls was pronounced as hungry guests lined up and gave their two cents about the 2009 absence:

"If you need volunteers to be here next year, just let us know."

"I walked up and down the booths last year looking for you guys."

"Your cabbage rolls are the only reason we come here every year."

Cabbage roll connoisseurs were assured that the booth would not miss another year.

The operation of the booth is made possible by OYA staff, along with family and friends who volunteer their own time to work multiple shifts throughout the festival.

Money raised through the Oktoberfest booth is designated to a youth general welfare fund to assist facilities in supplementing youth needs during the holidays.

### INSIDE OYA

Colette S. Peters  
Director

Fariborz Pakseresht  
Deputy Director

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Send your stories for  
the December issue  
to Amanda Lowe-  
Davies by November  
30. Articles received  
after that date will be  
held for the January  
newsletter.

