



Oregon

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NEWS RELEASE

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Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility honors volunteer of the year



Willis "Willy" Whitefeather (left) holding his OYA coin award as Superintendent Ken Jerin looks on.

The Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) in Grants Pass has named Willis "Willy" Whitefeather its volunteer of the year for 2013.

Whitefeather resides in Grants Pass and is renowned for his Native American storytelling skills and survival skills.

"We are deeply grateful to Willy for the time he donates to our kids," said facility Superintendent Ken Jerin. "His leadership of the Native American cultural group and participation in facility events such as the annual Pow Wow are deeply valued by staff and

youth alike. His unique ability to tell stories makes a memorable and strong impact on everyone, but especially our kids.”

The facility honored Whitefeather at a ceremony where he was presented with a certificate and an OYA coin award, a silver dollar-sized medal bearing the state seal. After accepting his certificate and coin, he told a Native American story to youth and staff. He described how “people spend their lives seeking treasures; however, the real treasure is the gift that we hold inside of us when we give to others.”

Rogue Valley YCF is one of 10 youth correctional and transitional facilities operated statewide by the Oregon Youth Authority.

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The Oregon Youth Authority is the state's juvenile justice agency, reducing victimization by helping at-risk young people lead productive, crime-free lives. Learn more at www.oregon.gov/oia and follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/oregonyouth.