



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Oregon Youth Authority

Office of the Director

530 Center Street NE, Suite 200

Salem, OR 97301-3765

Voice: 503-373-7205

Fax: 503-373-7622

[www.oregon.gov/OYA](http://www.oregon.gov/OYA)



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### NEWS RELEASE

Media contacts:

C. J. Drake, OYA Communications

503-385-5899 or [CJ.Drake@oya.state.or.us](mailto:CJ.Drake@oya.state.or.us)

Ken Jerin, superintendent

Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility

541-218-4253 or [Ken.Jerin@oya.state.or.us](mailto:Ken.Jerin@oya.state.or.us)

## Rogue Valley YCF aids local child during holidays



*Youth at Rogue Valley YCF watch a presentation about Lilliana in the facility's gym*

Youth and staff at Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) in Grants Pass are raising hope and money for a local child with a rare medical condition.

The facility has been organizing youth basketball games, bake sales, "jeans weeks" and other donation incentives to help Lilliana Maupin. The 2-year-old Grants Pass girl has hydrocephalus, a rare disorder requiring costly, ongoing medical treatment. The facility has adopted Lilliana as a holiday cause through Sparrow Clubs USA, a Pacific Northwest charity. (To learn more about Lilliana and Sparrow Clubs USA, visit [www.sparrowclubs.org](http://www.sparrowclubs.org) or [click here to watch a video](#) about her.)

On Thursday, facility staff presented a check for \$650 to Dennis Decasas, a teacher and Sparrow Club coordinator at Hidden Valley High School in Grants Pass. The school, along with Elmer's Restaurants, is Lilliana's official local sponsor. Rogue Valley YCF youth and staff have pledged to raise more than \$1,000 for Lilliana through the holidays. They also signed a large, handmade holiday card for her.

"We are deeply proud of all youth and staff who supported Lilliana during her time of need," said Ken Jerin, superintendent of Rogue Valley YCF. "It's heartwarming to see the youth give money out of their pockets to help a youngster they know only through photographs and videos. This project has also taught them empathy and compassion, which helps them lead productive, crime-free lives after they leave OYA."

The youth earn money at the facility through jobs and they also may receive money from parents or relatives. They use the money to buy snacks from the facility's canteen, or in Lilliana's case, to support a worthy cause.

Service projects by youth in close-custody facilities support OYA's mission to protect the public by holding youth offenders accountable and providing reformation in safe environments. Youth also benefit from year-round support of volunteers, who during the holidays host parties, lead religious services and ensure youth receive gifts.

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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](http://www.oregon.gov/oia) and follow us on Twitter @OregonYouth. To learn more about Sparrow Clubs USA, visit [www.sparrowclubs.org](http://www.sparrowclubs.org)*