



OREGON  
MENTORS



## WINTER 2009

\*\*\*\* We've moved. Please make note of our new address: 1221 SW Yamhill St.  
Ste. 260, Portland OR 97205 \*\*\*\*

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#### NEWS

### PLEASE RSVP TO: OREGON MENTORS DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL

RESCHEDULED -- April 10 - Good Friday (School Holiday) - 9 a.m. -- 2 p.m.

**Power in our numbers** -It is time for the mentoring programs in Oregon to come together and educate law makers on the importance of mentoring as a strategy to help our young people succeed.

**The case** - Oregonians are shocked by the high school drop out rate of 40-50% of youth. The three R's: Rigor, Relevance, and Relationship are touted as the way to help kids stay in school. Mentors provide relationship and showcase relevance for young people in elementary, middle, and high school--yet mentoring programs

receive very little public money.

**Be heard** - Oregon Mentors invites your program's staff, your mentors and youth to descend on Salem for an afternoon of awareness and relationship building with your state legislators.

**Call to action** - We will ask every legislator to commit to support mentoring in his or her district. Support might include volunteering to mentor, joining the board of a mentoring program, or advocating for mentoring around key issues. Legislators will also be asked to meet with program leaders, mentors and youth.

**The ask** - We are asking for help with recruiting more volunteer mentors for the 2009-2010 biennium and will ask for direct mentoring program support for 2011-2012. We need to educate Oregon's leaders now.

**To plan a memorable day:** We need to know approximately how many people we can expect at the Capitol. Please RSVP- (**see link below**) by February 23 with the following information:

- number of people from your program who will attend (youth, mentors, staff, and board members are welcome). Please provide the most accurate estimate.
- if you would like to host a table in the galleria with your program's information (no cost, but you must supply a person to be present)
- if you would like Oregon Mentors to invite your district representative to meet with you and other regional programs (not a guarantee that a meeting will be scheduled)
- if you need assistance to get youth there, i.e., transportation (this will be a very educational day for youth to tour the capital and learn about advocacy)

**Please follow the link to complete the RSVP form at:**

<http://oregonmentors.wufoo.com/forms/rsvp-to-day-at-the-capitol/>

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#### **Meet Program Coordinator -- Kartika Vasavada**

Hello,

I recently moved to Portland from southeast Michigan about 5 months ago. I have a Master's in Social Work from Wayne State University, and a Bachelor's in Social Work from Michigan State University. While working as an intern at Big Brothers Big Sisters- Michigan Capital Region, I became interested in nonprofit organizations. I accepted the Program Coordinator position at Oregon Mentors because I think mentoring is an important asset in a child's life, and it is something I want to be a part of. I was mentored by a teacher at my high school. He was always there for me to talk to, and he helped me get into both my undergraduate and graduate program. When I am not at work, I like to watch movies, go to concerts, read, and try to explore the new city. It's a lot different from Michigan, and I'm excited to explore new territory. In the few short months I have been at Oregon Mentors, I have learned so much, and I hope that I can give back just as much to the organization as it has given me.

~Kartika

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#### **Oregon Mentors Web site update**

It's been a long time coming but it's almost here! We're on schedule to launch a significant portion of our mentoring program resource upgrades.

Scheduled to roll out in mid-March, the updates will include:

- Volunteer recruitment database. An email referral system that will track all your Oregon Mentors referrals.
- Mentoring programs' administration. Each program will have password protected access to your profile - edit and update as frequently as you need to. The administration section will also provide quarterly volunteer referral reports as well as your program's historical annual match data.
- Online application. new (or new to us) mentoring programs will now submit your applications via the Web, streamlining the process of accessing services.

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### Youth Development Network -- Year 2

Oregon Mentors is continuing their partnership with OregonASK to assist communities in building a regional support network for mentoring and after school programs. The first three-years of this project have funding from Meyer Memorial Trust and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Additional support is being provided by the host sites for the project: Citizens for Safe Schools (Klamath Falls), Oregon Mentors Southern Office (Medford), and OregonASK (Salem).

An AmeriCorps\*VISTA member serves each region, tasked with building a Youth Development Network (YDN). Networks are comprised of youth serving organizations, parents and other youth advocates to achieve locally identified goals that increase the success of regional mentoring and after school program efforts.

The 2009 Networks:

**Klamath-Lake YDN:**

Sharon Bowman (AmeriCorps\*VISTA): 541-274-1564 or [ydnklamath-lake@co.klamath.or.us](mailto:ydnklamath-lake@co.klamath.or.us) Debbie Vought (Site Supervisor): 541-882-3198 or [dvought@co.klamath.or.us](mailto:dvought@co.klamath.or.us)

**Mid-Valley YDN:**

Lynn Kneeland (AmeriCorps\*VISTA): 503-302-0512 or [ydnmid-valley@wesd.org](mailto:ydnmid-valley@wesd.org)  
Beth Unverzagt (Site Supervisor): 503-540-4481 or [beth.unverzagt@wesd.org](mailto:beth.unverzagt@wesd.org)

**Rogue Valley YDN:**

Barbra Henry (AmeriCorps\*VISTA): 541-499-7936 or [ydnrogue-valley@oregonmentors.org](mailto:ydnrogue-valley@oregonmentors.org) Kim Bradford (Site Supervisor): 541-770-2807 or [kim@oregonmentors.org](mailto:kim@oregonmentors.org)

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### Team ODEN update

Team ODEN continues to gain more awareness for mentoring this winter with the roll out of Greg and his mentors' PSA via local stations around Oregon as well as a number of National network airplay through partnerships with the Trail Blazers. During the filming of the PSA fantastic artwork was shot and a billboard design is in the final stages of completion. Its call to action is - "We need more Mentors" and

drives people to Oregon Mentors to connect to the hundreds of programs around the state. With the weather, holidays and then our move in January we didn't have much time to publicize the aftermath of our holiday party with Greg Oden. Thanks to all of the mentors and youth who were able to come out and we're bummed those of you on the other side of the mountains had to miss it. Greg had a great time and wanted to thank everyone who attended for your participation in these events.

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### **MENTOR Releases Legislative Agenda for 2009**

With the 111th Congress in session, MENTOR announced its public affairs priorities, which would help build the infrastructure necessary to expand high-quality mentoring programs across America. The bills (first three priorities) should be introduced shortly.

Highlights of the legislative agenda are:

- **The Child Protection Improvements Act:** This law would create a streamlined system to allow youth-serving organizations access to nationwide FBI fingerprint searches for volunteers and employees in a timely and affordable manner. It is based on the PROTECT Act pilot, which MENTOR manages in partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and which mentoring organizations and others have been using with impressive results for nearly five years.
- **The Mentoring for All Act:** This law would create a competitive \$50 million grant fund to strengthen and grow mentoring infrastructure and provide additional support and funding to direct-service mentoring organizations.
- **The Mentoring America's Children Act:** This law would strengthen and reauthorize the U.S. Department of Education's Mentoring Programs grants, which help local organizations start or expand school-based mentoring programs for children of greatest need in rural areas, high-crime areas, troubled home environments or violent school environments.
- \$100 million for two competitive grant programs for mentoring in fiscal year 2010 through the Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill: MENTOR is advocating for \$50 million for the Department of Education's Mentoring Programs grants and another \$50 million for the Department of Health and Human Services' Mentoring Children of Prisoners program.

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### **TRAININGS**

FEBRUARY 17 - Program Social and PSU Summer Institute Overview

2:00 - 5:00 pm

Friends of the Children, 44 NE Morris, Portland

Please RSVP for this event to [Kartika@oregonmentors.org](mailto:Kartika@oregonmentors.org) or call 503-517-8990.

SAVE THE DATE -- April 2-3 2009 - Oregon Mentor's Annual Mentoring Conference

Main sessions held at NW Natural center in NW Portland, workshops will be held at locations within walking distance. This year's theme is "Get Inspired"

Registration forms and agenda will be on the Oregon Mentors Web site in late February.

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## RESOURCES

### TACS scholarships

Have you used your TACS (Technical Assistance for Community Service) scholarship yet? Each mentoring program, affiliated with Oregon Mentors, that has completed its 2007-08 match data, is eligible for a \$250 scholarship to be used for TACS workshops, joining a regional network, or to attend individual networking events. Learn more about what TACS can offer you at: [www.tacs.org](http://www.tacs.org). To obtain your scholarship please e-mail [Kartika@oregonmentors.org](mailto:Kartika@oregonmentors.org).

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### Fundraising Opportunity for Mentoring programs! New Season's Markets Benefit Barbecues - July 25 & 26

First Come/First Served - Nine mentoring programs have been invited to participate in New Seasons' July 2009 Benefit Barbecues. Oregon Mentors will coordinate and assign programs to the local market closest to where they serve youth and mentors.

About the Benefit Barbecues: The barbecues are one of many ways that New Season's market supports metro Portland's community. The goal of the barbecues is to provide quality locally sourced meals at a low cost to neighbors and shoppers while financially contributing to the sponsored non-profit organization - You! New Season's provides the food and staff to prepare meals and will promote your program via flyers and Web site promotions that reach thousands of people in the Portland community.

Your responsibility: Each participating program will need to provide a minimum of 2 to 3 volunteers each day. Volunteers will need to be present from 11:30 a.m. - 2p.m. Each program is highly encouraged to reach out to your own mentors, donors and supporters to publicize your event. Please assign volunteers who are comfortable sharing your programs' story. You may bring materials that highlight your volunteer recruiting needs. Volunteers must be 16 years or older.

Average event donations are approximately ~\$1,000 for the weekend. Contact [Kartika@oregonmentors.org](mailto:Kartika@oregonmentors.org) to reserve your place.

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

March 15 - Oregon - **Herbert Templeton Foundation** - Grants have regularly been made to various educational, youth, cultural and social service organizations with a present emphasis on program and direct services. Contact: Ruth Richmond, 503-223-0036.

March 31 - Lane, Benton & Deschutes Counties - **Chambers Family Foundation** - General philanthropic support. Grant application and information at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org), contact: Carolyn Chambers 541-484-2419.

March 31 - Portland - **Jackson Foundation** - Broad general purpose foundation with emphasis on Portland but does make grants statewide. Contact Robert Depew through US Bank for an application, 503-275-6564

March 31 - Oregon - **Juan Young Trust** - Grants are awarded for projects and activities to enhance the health, education and welfare of children under the age of 21. Visit [www.gosw.org/juanyoungtrust](http://www.gosw.org/juanyoungtrust). Note that applications are divided by region between two trustees.

April 1 - Oregon - **JubitZ Family Foundation** - (New grantees MUST contact foundation three months prior before submitting application) Primarily focused on youth with an emphasis on early childhood development, environmental stewardship, and peace-making activities. Visit: [www.jubitZ.org](http://www.jubitZ.org) for details



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