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Program E-News



January 2008

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GREETINGS FROM OREGON MENTORS

Greetings to mentoring advocates in Oregon and SW Washington,

We're off to a great start in 2008. Exciting developments have recently taken place in our quest to kick volunteer mentor recruiting into high gear, and better serve the entire state's mentoring programs. Pay special attention to the "breaking news" section to get the inside scoop about our new relationship with the Trail Blazer's Greg Oden, to learn about our Web launch, and find out about Mentor PRO — the mentoring program database and evaluation tool coming soon to select Oregon programs.

Additionally, three Youth Development Networks are now in place, working to identify resources for mentoring programs and after school programs in Lake, Klamath, Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Jackson and Josephine counties.

We look forward to working more closely with all of you, as we seek to find quality

opportunities to connect more young Oregonians with caring adults.

Happy New Year!

Carolyn, Celeste, Christina, Elia, and Kim

NEWS

- **Greg Oden and Oregon Mentors**

Greg Oden, the NBA's #1 draft pick in 2007, recently selected Oregon Mentors as a key community service partner. Through statewide media, marketing and event activities we believe Greg will inspire more Oregonians to mentor – specifically men. We're currently working with Greg and his community relations team to build out the details of the campaign which will provide activities opportunities for existing mentors and youth as well as specific incentives for adults who make the commitment to volunteer and are successfully matched with a quality mentoring program. Stay tuned for the official kick off announcement to the public in the coming weeks.

- **MentorPRO: A Mentoring Program Database and Evaluation Tool.**

Mentor PRO is a database designed specifically for mentoring programs – it stores staff and volunteer, family, school and match relationship information and provides analysis of your data, highlighting trends and statistics. The tool was built by MENTOR the National Partnership (MENTOR).

Mentor PRO is a Web-based database used specifically for:

P = Program (Managing volunteers and mentees through the intake process; Matching volunteers to mentees)

R = Relationship (Tracking and quantifying match support quality)

O = Outcome (Administering ready-made, scientifically validated surveys to mentees, mentors, teachers, and parents; Automatically analyzing your data to give statistics on your program)

MENTOR selected Oregon's mentoring programs to participate in a spring roll-out. During the first initial phase, Mentor PRO is available to 10-20 programs in Oregon. To qualify for Mentor PRO, your program must have 25 active matches and follow the Elements of Effective Practice. There is a one time \$50 enrollment fee and a sliding scale annual fee depending on the number of matches at your agency (\$50 – \$250).

MENTOR and Oregon Mentors will provide technical assistance for implementation and training to you and staff. If your program qualifies for this roll-out criteria and is interested in Mentor PRO, please contact Celeste Janssen at celeste@oregonmentors.org.

- **Oregon Mentors launches a new Web site**

Our new Web site launched in January and gets better from here. The new interim site includes a resource library, improved volunteer search functionality to find mentoring program profiles, an easy to use I of all participating mentoring programs. Future features will include regionalized content, a ticket exchange feature for mentoring activity discounts and freebies – and increased ease of the site's use. We welcome comments from your impressions of the changes, positive and constructively critical. Email them to:

Christina@oregonmentors.org.

- **Youth Development Network — Statewide Outreach**

Oregon Mentors and OregonASK (www.oregonask.org) have partnered to assist three communities in building a regional support network for mentoring and after school programs. Oregon Mentors is sponsoring the three-year project with 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), Kids Unlimited of Oregon (Medford), and OregonASK (Salem).

An AmeriCorps*VISTA member serves each region, tasked with building a Youth Development Network (YDN). The YDN coordinator will work with providers, parents and other youth development advocates to boost regional supports for mentoring and after school programs. The network will convene around a locally-defined agenda, identify resources, offer trainings, and share practice wisdom through the Oregon Mentors Web site. This effort will leverage local resources to positively impact youth in each region.

Klamath-Lake YDN:

Corey Christensen (AmeriCorps*VISTA): 541-274-1564 or ydnklamath-lake@co.klamath.or.us Debbie Vought (Site Supervisor): 541-882-3198 or dvought@co.klamath.or.us

Mid-Valley YDN:

Alisa Glass (AmeriCorps*VISTA): 503-302-0512 or ydnmid-valley@wesd.org Beth Unverzagt (Site Supervisor): 503-540-4481 or beth.unverzagt@wesd.org

Rogue Valley YDN:

Tiphonie Duffy (AmeriCorps*VISTA): 541-499-7936 or ydnroguevalley@kidsunlimitedoforegon.org
Jane McAlvage (Site Supervisor): 541-774-3900 or jane@kidsunlimitedoforegon.org

- **Oregon Mentors says goodbye to Shannon Connelly**

As 2008 begins, Program Manager Shannon Connelly leaves our organization to join some of her former colleagues and return to estate and business planning law once again. Connelly says of her decision, "This opportunity comes at a time when Oregon Mentors has momentum, a skilled staff, and renewed direction. It's the right time for me to make a transition. Thanks to each of you for honoring me with the opportunity to work with you. It's been one terrific year for me." We echo her sentiment and wish her well in her future endeavors. See you around Shannon.

- **Mentoring Children of Prisoners Demonstration Voucher Project-Update**

Last month, First Lady Laura Bush announced a 30 million dollar initiative to create a nationwide voucher program designed to provide children of incarcerated parents with expanded access to mentoring services which will be administered by MENTOR/The National Mentoring Partnership.

The project is in a planning phase. Mentoring programs that wish to participate will be required to demonstrate adherence to key best practices and deliver quality mentoring services in exchange for federal funding. MENTOR is working to finalize eligibility criteria, the application process, and the requirements for service-delivery.

In Spring of 2008, the project will move into an implementation period that includes soliciting participation from mentoring programs, publicizing the program to eligible children, connecting children to programs, monitoring the delivery of mentoring services, and disbursing voucher funds.

Register to receive MENTOR's e-mail communications for key updates. Visit www.mentoring.org and look for the "Manage your E-Subscriptions" header in the bottom right of the page. Enter your information and sign up for "Children of Prisoners Voucher Project Updates."

TRAININGS

- **Date TBA — Portland — Tough to Talk? Helpful communication ideas for mentors (& staff)**

Looking for a new way to relate to, communicate with, and understand your mentee? Join Oregon Mentors for a *free* class focused on communication tips for mentors working with children and teens with behavioral challenges. This class will be held in Portland in late February - look for an upcoming announcement with exact time and date.

Stephanie Delano, MSW, will provide mentors with the basics of CPS (Collaborative Problem Solving), a technique that parents and care providers have used to improve communication and limit behavior problems. CPS is adapted from the books The Explosive Child and Treating Explosive Kids. Come with questions and scenarios. This workshop is open to mentors and staff at mentoring programs. Workshop is limited in size.

FREE TICKETS

- **Friday, Feb. 15 — Portland, — Playhouse Disney**

Liberty Northwest has generously donated 22 free tickets to Playhouse Disney. This event will be at the Rose Garden, at the Theatre of the Clouds stage on Friday, Feb. 15. The event begins at 3:30 pm.

" Blast off to adventure with your favorite Playhouse Disney pals when Playhouse Disney Live! comes to your hometown. Climb aboard and get ready to explore with the Little Einsteins Leo, Annie, Quincy and June on an important musical mission; say 'Meeska, Mooska, Mickey Mouse' and sing along with Mickey and the gang at the Mickey Mouse Clubhouse; and stop by Sheetrock Hills where Handy and Manny always has the right tools for fun fix-it adventures! Come inside the Hundred Acre Wood and join Tigger and Pooh and their new friend Darby on super sleuthing adventure from My Friends Tigger and Pooh. Get ready to laugh, sing and play along at a live show that lets kids join in on the fun!"

Tickets will be given to mentor/mentee programs on a first come, first serve basis. If you are interested in tickets, please inquire with Elia at info@oregonmentors.org or call us at 503-517-8990.

FUNDING

- **February 15** -- North Coast (Clatsop, Lincoln, Tillamook, Polk & Yamhill Counties) – **Braemar Charitable Trust** – more information at: www.trustmanagementservices.net
- **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. Review application procedures at www.foundationdatabook.com. 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, 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. Note that applications are divided by region between two trustees.
- **First week of April** – Oregon – **Jubitz Family Foundation** – Primarily focused on youth with an emphasis on early childhood development, environmental stewardship, and peace-making activities. Visit the Web site for application

details: www.jubitz.org

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