

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2009

OUTREACH!

Committed Partners For Youth



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Lane County

935 OAK STREET

EUGENE, OREGON

(541) 344-0833

WWW.COMMITTEDPARTNERS.ORG

ENHANCING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MENTORING

Committed Partners
For Youth



**Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Lane County**

OUR MISSION

CONNECTING YOUTH TO THEIR COMMUNITY THROUGH MENTORS WHO INSPIRE AND MOTIVATE YOUTH AND FAMILIES TOWARDS PERSONAL GROWTH, HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES.

OUR EQUITY STATEMENT

CPY-BBBS IS COMMITTED TO BUILDING TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS AND SAFE ENVIRONMENTS FOR OUR YOUTH AND FAMILIES BY HONORING AND RESPECTING HUMAN DIVERSITY THROUGH WORKING COOPERATIVELY IN THE COMMUNITY TO CREATE AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING AND INCLUSIVENESS.



CPY-BBBS HELPING CHILDREN IN LANE COUNTY

Committed Partners For Youth, a non-profit organization that has been part of the local community for just over 19 years, this year joined with Big Brothers Big Sisters (which has been in Lane County for 40 years). Our missions, our passions, and our mutual desire to serve more children in Lane County made our union a natural choice. Together we provide mentors for youth ages 6 to 19 years of age. The programs are available at no cost to the children and their families. Mentors do not take the place of the parent(s) but provide another adult figure that offers consistent support and friendship. Our volunteers are trained to focus on positive reinforcement, trust-building, and the achievement of goals by engaging youth in one-on-one outings and group adventures in the community. All of CPY-BBBS programs foster positive change in youths' lives through goal-setting, self-discipline, and skill development in the areas of athletic, outdoor, artistic, academic, and vocational pursuits.

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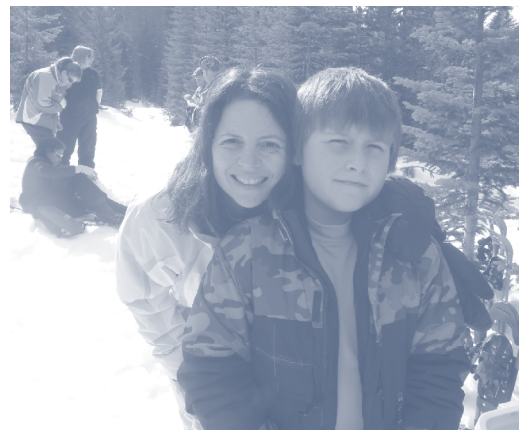
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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- Susan Walsh

Welcome to the first newsletter of our new organization, Committed Partners for Youth, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lane County. I am proud of the hard work and time invested by so many individuals to create this union over the past three years. Our sole objective? More mentoring relationships. With state and school budgets shrinking mentoring has become an even more essential element of the holistic safety net so critical to youth and families when they are struggling. Our two organizations had to turn away over 150 children in need last year. There was no ego or governance issue that could de-rail the process when we reminded ourselves of our end goal: to provide these 150 children and more with the most valuable, beautiful resource in Lane County... the ability to learn from the life lessons and experiences of

our community's men and women who volunteer as mentors. Inside this edition we will share with you our exciting changes – our new name, logo, office location, board of directors, leadership board, and staff members. Yes, it has been a very, very busy and rewarding year.

We are building on the historical legacy of Llew Albrecht, CPY's founder, and Tom Diamantine who ensured that the local Big Brothers Big Sisters remained strong under the guidance of the Eugene Family YMCA. Uniting our two local organizations is a model for the state and nation, as shown by the endorsement of support from Oregon Community Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, and U.S. Department of Justice. Just as corporations are doing across the country and world, CPY and BBBS have boldly

joined forces to maximize administrative efficiencies for the sake of the missions we serve, while maximizing the impact of the community's investments in mentoring.

We realize that the acceptance of change is not always easy, and so over the course of the next year, we are dedicated to reaching out to all of you to answer your questions and hopefully assuage any of your concerns. I know I speak for the entire staff when I say that we draw our strength and inspiration to surmount the day-to-day challenges from our CPY-BBBS youth, many of whom have endured more than their fair share of family disruptions and changes during their short lives. We find our courage from Paul, age 10. When little Paul comes bouncing into our office

excited to dance hip hop with his mentor after being pulled from his grandmother's home and placed in foster care – with grandmom having been the only stable adult in his life since his father was sentenced to prison and mother abandoned him in the streets...when he looks up to us with his bright eyes ready to try something new with his new mentor, all of us at CPY-BBBS take a deep breath, forget our fears, and dive right into our next challenge.
Please come join us!

WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT YOU!

It truly took a village of people and organizations to make the marriage of CPY and BBBS a reality. The three main parties determining the strategic direction for the merger were the staff members and board leadership of Committed Partners for Youth, our local Big Brothers Big Sisters program, and the Eugene Family YMCA, which had been the parent organization for BBBS during the past ten years. Although the initial conversation began over three years ago, a task force of board and staff members, led by facilitator Margot Helphand, analyzed the possibilities in earnest from spring through fall of 2008 with the central objective being to maximize the opportunity for more children in Lane County to benefit from caring mentoring relationships.

After formally joining forces, we began the journey to find ourselves a new home in the heart of downtown Eugene. We celebrated the grand opening of our new office at 935 Oak Street with a festive Open House celebration on September 15th. Over 200 people joined us for our ribbon cutting ceremony where community leaders Jean Tate and Jack Roberts recognized the importance of mentoring today's youth to ensure a healthy, prosperous future. An enormous "shout out" of thanks from the staff, board, mentors and youth at CPY- BBBS to the following people and organizations who have volunteered significant time, energy, expertise, in-kind and financial resources to ensure this merger's success.

THANK YOU!

BBBS advisory board members – Andy McWilliams and Frank Johnston
Retired BBBS program director – Jude McKay
Executive Director and Associate Executive Director of the Eugene Family YMCA – Dave Perez and Julie Grossman
CPY board members – Brad Boyd, Gwynne McClure and Connie Manley
Representatives from the the National BBBS agency – Tisha Frank, Becca Fein and Hilda Oropeza-Chihak for their advice and ongoing support.
Margot Helphand for her facilitation expertise with regards to non-profit mergers.
Matt Springer for his strategic consultation advice and grant-writing skills.
Jean Meeks and John Barry from Positive-Eye Consulting for their ongoing consultation with staff in the co-creation of our new organizational development plan.
Lori Dunning and Jocelyn Burdick – former BBBS employees for reviewing files.
Dave Funk, Jenny Ulum, Ron Farmer, Sadie Dressekie, and Laura Illig, for their expert advice on PR, marketing, and branding issues.
Jenny Ulum, Anne Marie Levis, Bob Larson and Justin Schmick for their assistance with regards to our beautiful new office space.
LaFollette Gallery, Chipotle, Iris Vineyards and Oakshire Brewery for their generous sponsorship of our Open House.
Doug White, Bobby Lee and Hynix Corp. for their donations of hardware and infinite hours providing technical assistance to upgrade our computer system.

Finally, this bold initiative would not have launched from the starting blocks without the generous capacity-building grant support of the U.S. Dept. of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Oregon Community Foundation and Meyer Memorial Trust.





THANK YOU!
ROTARIANS &
GREAT ROTARY DUCK RACE SUPPORTERS!

CPY-BBBS was privileged to have been selected as one of five agencies to receive funding generated by the Great Rotary Duck Race for a second, consecutive year. Local Rotarians have been selling Ducks Race tickets for over 20 years and have raised millions of dollars to combat child abuse in our community.

On October 10, more than 70,000 little rubber ducks bobbed and raced down the Willamette River next to Alton Baker Park. Many supporters of CPY-BBBS who bought tickets showed up at the river park to cheer on the little ducks in their big race.

On November 3, 2009, CPY-BBBS received a \$40,000 check from the Great Rotary Duck Race to help fund our TRUE Friends Program, which matches adult mentors with children and youth who have an incarcerated parent.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Rotary Clubs of Eugene and Springfield, the sponsors and local businesses who make the event possible through their donation of fabulous prizes, and the community members and supporters of CPY-BBBS who bought tickets and helped rescue all the wayward ducks comfortably nesting along the riverside.

Lastly, a special thanks to Len at Hutch's Bicycle Store, for donating a beautiful bike cruiser, worth over \$400, to Amy Beller for her work as a mentor and her amazing donor contribution selling Rotary Duck Race tickets. Hutch's has also been a donor to the Jane Higdon Memorial Fund which has provided scholarships to our girls and their mentors. Thanks Len!



Hutch's
Bicycle Store



FULL OF PROMISE!

CPY-BBBS'S FIRST LEADERSHIP BOARD

Our organization has had a formal Advisory Board and Board of Directors since its inception - and we've had the vision of creating a Leadership Board for several years. The idea was to recruit young professionals from the community who have business knowledge as well as a passion for community service.

Our vision came to a reality in February of this year. The goals of this new Leadership Board is to help raise awareness about our mentoring programs, recruit mentors, and raise funds. We're excited about our 14-member team.

Members include:

SHERISA AGUIRRE (FUNK/LEVIS & ASSOCIATES)
BLAIR ARMSTRONG (FARMER'S INSURANCE)
MARK FROHNMAYER (ARCIMOTO)
KELLY HOELL (GOOD COMPANY)
NICK KELLEY (PACIFIC CONTINENTAL BANK)
JARED MASON-GERE (EUGENE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)
AMY MCCANN (INDEPENDENT SALES CONSULTANT)
CAMERON MCNEELEY (YAHOO!)
ERIKA WESTLING (OREGON RESEARCH INSTITUTE)
VICTORIA WHITMAN (WINDERMERE)
KEN VENDLEY (FARMER'S INSURANCE)
PETER VOMOCIL (INDEPENDENT MARKETING CONSULTANT)

Special recognition goes to Peter Vomocil for being our first Leadership Board President! Great Job Peter!

THANKS 2009 SPONSORS!

TITLE SPONSOR

Crescent Village
(a project of Arlie & Company)

GOLD SPONSORS

Eugene Physical Therapy
Eugene Running Company
Euphoria Chocolate Company
Jerry's Home Improvement Center
Innovative Print Group
KVAL TV
Roaring Rapids Pizza Company

SILVER SPONSORS

Bagel Sphere
The NIKE Store

BRONZE SPONSORS

American Family Insurance
Emerald Fruit and Produce
Full City Coffee Roasters
Guaranty RV
Market of Choice

MEDIA

Cumulus Radio
Flying Ink Media
KVAL TV

DONATED PRIZES

Eugene Running Company
Euphoria Chocolate Company
The NIKE Store Eugene

VOLUNTEERS

The Aiken Crew
Alpha Kappa Psi
Alpha Phi Omega
Eugene Kiwanis Club
Sigma Pi
Strands
Team in Training



ANOTHER RECORD BREAKER!

We are proud to announce that Truffle Shuffle 2009 was our most successful event ever. Thank you SO much for your dedication to CPY-BBBS and the overall health, fitness, and chocolate addiction of the Eugene/Springfield community.

HERE'S THE SCOOP:

- We had 1,776 people signing up to run or walk (100 more than last year!).
- Our net revenue was \$28,500 (last year our net was \$19,800).
- We increased our revenue by reducing costs in event expenses (mainly in T-shirts, equipment and print advertising).
- We had over 150 volunteers help us put on the event, 104 of whom were associated with a group or service organization. 52% of our Truffle Shuffle volunteers had also helped us in previous years..... Such a loyal bunch!

So, rest up and harness your excitement because Truffle Shuffle 2010 is right around the corner

FEBRUARY 7, 2010! - YIPPEE!

THANK YOU



crescent village

(a project of Arlie & Company)

2009 TITLE SPONSOR

TRUFFLE SHUFFLE 2010

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7TH

ALTON BAKER PARK

4 mile run
2 mile run or walk
kids fun run!

TO ENTER - GO TO:
ECLECTICEDGERACING.COM

“THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS WILL LAST A LIFETIME”

THE BOLDER OPTIONS PROGRAM

The Bolder Options Program provides mentors for boys ages 12-18 who are on probation and in residential treatment through a Looking Glass Program called Stepping Stone. It is a seven month, athletic-focused mentoring program where the boys are matched with a volunteer adult mentor who works out with them once a week and helps them prepare to run in seven road races throughout the seven months. The boys set their sights on the ultimate road race, the 4th of July Butte to Butte 10k run.

One of the boys, 17 year-old Steve, bemoaned at the beginning, “I’m not a long distance runner and why do we have to run so far?” I’m a sprinter!” Well, in June, the boys ran in the Eugene Challenge Mile put on by the Eugene Running Company. Steve ran a 5:59.00 mile- his fastest mile ever! He continued to run and work out with his mentor gearing up for the Butte to Butte. When he crossed the finish line, after his first ever 10K race, he looked astonished! He ran a 7:43.00 mile pace for 6 miles! Watch out Galen Rupp!

Another great story - Jason, age 17. Despite feeling overweight, Jason was initially super excited about being on the team. However, once the boys began increasing the miles during workouts, he had second thoughts. “I don’t want to run so far, can’t I walk?” Can’t I take a short cut and meet you guys back at the house?” Jason was quite content with running a few steps and walking a mile. His attitude changed, however, during our 5K (3.2 mile) CASA run in May. He was one of the very last finishers, but when he crossed the finish line, he smiled and screamed, “I feel great! I could run that again!” By July, Jason had lost 25 pounds and successfully completed the Butte-to-Butte race.

All of the boys in the program did amazingly well, spending over 120 hours at running practice, an additional 90 hours working out with their mentors, and running over 22 miles in road race events. Their accomplishments will last a lifetime.

Special thanks to our incredible team of mentors and volunteer coaches who worked one-on-one with the boys, empowering them to achieve their goals.



QUOTES FROM THE BOLDER OPTIONS’ BOYS:

“To have a quitter’s mentality is to be a quitter, to be an achiever is to jump on the opportunity to accomplish something big.” C.S.

“If you need motivation, this is a great program for youth.” Anonymous

*“I have always been too tired to run. But this program has changed that.” J.G.
(J.G. lost 25 pounds over the last 7 months- Oh Yeah!)*

THANK YOU GREG ERWIN!

CO-CHAIR EUGENE 08 & VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR!

Greg Erwin, co-chair of the local organizing committee for the 2008 Olympic Trials, was the recipient of the 2008 United Way of Lane County Volunteer of the Year award and generously donated his \$1000 award in honor of our Bolder Options team. As a result, 40 pairs of youth and mentors attended the U.S. Nationals Track Meet this spring at Hayward Field. Greg’s donation, along with Tom Jordan’s and Barb Kousky’s annual donation of Prefontaine Meet tickets, resulted in a star-studded opportunity for our kids and mentors to watch athletes role-model how working out and having self-discipline can result in achieving amazing – and fast goals!

ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES, YOUTH & MENTORS

Besides the wonderful array of activities that mentor youth pairs experience together, families of youth have the opportunity to receive free training from experts in the community.

MENTOR & YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES:

Community Service at FOOD For Lane County's Grassroots Community Garden
Bowling at Strike City Lanes
Art projects with MECCA
Retreat held out at Sky Camp in Fall Creek
Snowshoeing
Hip Hop dance
Rock climbing indoors at the CRUX Rock Gym
Rock climbing outside with the River House Outdoor Program
Sailing with Triton Yacht Club
Tie Dying and BBQ
Cascades Raptor Center
Whitewater Rafting with the River House Outdoor Program
Canoeing and kayaking with the River House Outdoor Program
Group Drumming Circle with Hands On Drumming
Group Fiddling lesson with Kelly Thibedeaux
Science Factory
Fishing with the Northwest Steelheaders
Mountain biking with Center for Appropriate Transport
Dune buggy rides with the Northwest Sand Deuces
Juggling and foot bag lessons with pro footbagger Becca English
Cooking and Nutrition classes with Lane County Extension Service

MENTORS RECEIVE TRAINING FROM EXPERTS IN THE COMMUNITY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

Substance Abuse
Cultural Diversity
Anger Management
Gang Activity and Prevention
Teen Depression and Suicide Prevention
Child Abuse and Neglect Mandatory Reporting
Financial Literacy and Matched Savings Programs for Youth

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PAIRS TO DO ON THEIR OWN- COURTESY OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND BUSINESSES:

Lane County Ice Arena
Eugene Emerald's Baseball games
Putters Mini Golf
Downtown Athletic Club
Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art
Lane Transit District- free bus tokens for transportation to activities
Asian Celebration
Performances at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts
Free Books from Borders through the First Book Grant
Portland Trail Blazer's basketball games
Vouchers for free participation in Kidsports
Free music lessons at the Lesson Factory
Track and Field Olympic Trials- "Eugene 08"
Story Corps
Strike City Lanes
Tickets to U of O sporting events
Swimming Pools: Amazon, Echo Hollow, Sheldon and Splash Willamalane

PARENTS & CAREGIVERS HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO HEAR PRESENTATIONS FROM:

Successful Start to School
How to Talk to Kids about Sex - Planned Parenthood
Cooking Nutritious Meals Quickly on a Tight Budget - Lane County Extension Services
Financial Literacy and Steps Toward Home Ownership - Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.
Dealing with Incarceration Issues and the Department of Corrections
Summer Learning Made Fun - 4J Educator
Addressing Bullying in Schools - Lane Educational Service District
Prisoner re-entry support - Sponsors



THE JANE HIGDON MEMORIAL FUND ALLOWING CPY-BBBS GIRLS TO PURSUE THEIR DREAMS!

This year, CPY-BBBS received a \$1,200 grant from the Jane Higdon Memorial Fund for the purpose of encouraging and empowering girls and young women to pursue healthy and active lifestyles and academic excellence. CPY-BBBS' female youth participants were able to apply for mini scholarships to pursue healthy activities of their choice by writing a short application essay. So far, six girls between the ages of 7 and 14 have received scholarships for ballet classes, participation on a Kidsports basketball team, joining Girl Scouts, joining a Hip Hop dance troupe, and attending Camp Harlow. They had a blast!

Ashley loves basketball & making new friends!



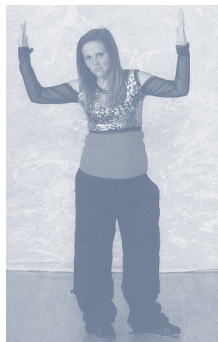
*"Thank you for the scholarship. I like ballet and I loved learning to dance."
- Misty*



*"Thank you for the opportunity to join Girl Scouts and thank you for all your support!"
- Sisters Kianna & Kalya with mentors Brooke & Jenn*



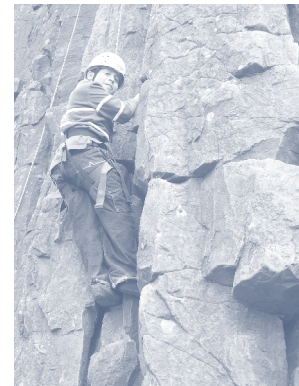
*"My favorite part was performing hip hop at the Hult Center!"
- Mariab*



CPY-BBBS GROUP ACTIVITIES ADVENTURE, CREATIVITY & OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND!

FISHING DAY WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF NW STEEL HEADERS

The NW Steel Headers met our eager group for a day of fishing at Carmen Reservoir, located along the McKenzie River. Twenty-two mentor pairs participated, and the NW Steel Headers were fully prepared for a great day. After serving up a fabulous BBQ, they joined us for a hike to Sahalie Falls. The entire adventure was donated which included breakfast, lunch, a fishing pole, and gear for every youth who attended. What a day! Thanks to the NW Steel headers for their amazing generosity!



SAILING WITH TRITON YACHT CLUB

The Triton Yacht Club celebrated its 6th annual Sailing Day with us at Fern Ridge Reservoir this past spring. They donated the entire day to CPY-BBBS by providing a BBQ, t-shirts, and a wonderful adventure out on the water where mentors and youth enjoyed sailing and the opportunity to learn some sailing basics from the skippers! Elijah, 11 years old, was encouraged to steer the sail boat and proved to be a real natural. Later the skipper offered him a lesson if he was interested in learning more. Elijah replied with wide eyes, "Wow – that would be awesome!"



THE ANNUAL TIE-DYE & BBQ

Always a colorful and fun event, this year topped them all with over 40 participants spanning the breadth of our new CPY-BBBS family on a brilliant, sunny day at Morse Ranch. Participants launched rousing games of badminton with the grandmas versus mentors and youth, while others organized a great baseball game going in the outer field. Later, everyone rallied in the shelter area to learn the different tie-dye methods before launching into their own creations. Soon, shirts, socks, and sheets were being twisted and banded in all kinds of contorted shapes. Adults gingerly applied dyes, contemplating color combinations and dye patterns, while the kids took a more willy-nilly approach with abundant colors and dye. Over the next few weeks we marveled at the unexpected beauty and designs created by everyone. The day rounded out with a fantastic BBQ and delicious treats provided by several grandmothers with children in the program. We all went home feeling vibrant, full, satisfied and colorful!



THE HOPE PROGRAM

FOSTERING SUCCESS IN GIRLS, WITH LADIES LEADING THE WAY!



Throughout the past year, Committed Partners for Youth, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lane County has helped lead the charge for efficiency, innovation, and change throughout our community. Beyond the excitement of our agency integration, we have joined forces with six other local non-profits to create an innovative collaborative serving girls aging out of foster care. Funded through United Way's Women in Philanthropy group, the Helping Open Doors by Preparing and Empowering (HOPE) Young Women program launched in January 2009. The program serves ten girls in the Independent Living Program of Looking Glass Inc. over a 3-year period with an array of supportive services including: supportive case management, one-on-one mentoring, a structured work experience, education on healthy bodies and healthy relationships, financial literacy, and a matched savings account.

Drawing upon the existing programs and strengths of the Independent Living Program, Ophelia's Place, Planned Parenthood, NEDCO, Lane Workforce Partnership, Committed Partners for Youth, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lane County, and the United Way, this pilot project has been able to fly!

In the first six months of the program, the girls experienced substantial life changes such as multiple moves, changes in work or school status, relationship upheavals, and pregnancy. All have relied on the strength of their mentoring relationships as a source of solace, problem-solving or as an opportunity to have fun and escape the duress present in their lives. The girls are all driven and have set inspirational goals, including higher education degrees and independent living. They were placed in summer

work positions through the Obama Administration's Stimulus Act, and five of them are enrolled in college this year, including one youth attending the pre-med program at Oregon State University. More than anything, this program has provided a rich network of support for the girls, beginning with their mentors. Just in the last month, the girls were recipients of new bikes, locks, and helmets through GEARS and Hutch's Bicycles, books through CPY-BBBS's First Book Grant, and laptop computers through the Dr. John Crumbley's Youth Support Fund. Mentors have participated in the usual array of outings, but have also assisted the girls in their apartment searches, helped them select work clothes for new jobs through donated opportunities with Ruby Tuesday, helped with academic advising, and been a core thread in the fabric of their lives. We are excited to launch into the second year of weekly classes and activities and see where these pairs go!