

## Moving Forward . . . Step by Step

Youth Forum – April 1, 2016

Gate Garden Party – May 13, 2016

The Gate Golf Tournament – August 13, 2016



**MOVING FORWARD . . . STEP BY STEP** we continue to make positive changes in the lives of M-I students and our community. This newsletter will highlight just a few.

### MOVING FORWARD THIS SPRING

Moving Forward ...Step by Step will be the overarching theme of the 2016 Gate Garden Party. Mark your calendars for 6 PM on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at Green Villa Farm . Like last year, if you or your organization would like to sponsor and/or host a table of eight friends, please let us know by emailing us at [Info@TheGateYouth.org](mailto:Info@TheGateYouth.org).



### MENTORING: MOVING FORWARD... STEP BY STEP



Over 20 Central High School students have been involved in the Central High School/Gate Youth Association Mentoring Program this year. Students involved in the program are moving forward... step by step, in their life journeys, beyond CHS, with an extra adult at their sides. The mentors encourage, stress accountability, and advocate for each student in a variety of ways. Thanks to the consistent effort of the 6 community mentors, students are now “paperwork ready” for community colleges, state universities, trade schools, and the work force. Additionally, The Gate has offered on the spot help most Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the new CHS College and Career Center.

### COMMUNITY YOUTH FORUM: MOVING FORWARD...STEP BY STEP

The Gate hosts three Youth Forums annually. Over the last three years, community leaders and youth advocates have gathered for an hour-long lunch meeting to focus on youth challenges and solutions. Through the forums, the Gate mentoring program began. Other local youth resources like the CHS College and Career Center and the Central Health & Wellness Center have been advocated for and have become viable community funded services to our youth. The next youth forum will take place on Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at noon at Central Baptist Church. We will be exploring the topic of how we can help youth stay connected, face to face, in a very virtual world. Please feel free to join us. Lunch is on us!

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: MOVING FORWARD ...STEP BY STEP

For the last three weeks at Thursdays @ The Gate, Judi Peters from OSU Extension Service and her Western Oregon University Work Study student, Jazmine Deckard, have been teaching the students about the positive nutritional value of whole grains. Through this partnership the students have learned valuable life lessons, actually ground the whole grains and thoroughly enjoyed making and eating whole grain pancakes, energy balls, granola, whole grain quesadillas and whole grain noodle stir fry. We look forward to expanding this partnership and continue to be thankful for all our partnerships. They allow us to provide collaborative programs and resources for our youth.



## ACCESS YOUTH GROUP: MOVING FORWARD...STEP BY STEP



This past weekend youth were involved in a winter retreat facilitated by ACCESS leaders, Ben Bobeda and Frank Caudillo. The students did their share of snow time, but also spent time learning how their spiritual life is an important part of their daily well-being. As one student put it, "Awesome time with awesome people."

Additionally, the same weekend, other Gate students attended a Young Life retreat with Gate worker and volunteer, Anthony Preston and Haley Jensen. We are very thankful to work hand in hand with Young Life once again. We continuously encourage all our students to attend a youth group or activities like Young Life in addition to Gate events and many do!

## CHURCH LUNCH: MOVING FORWARD...STEP BY STEP

On the Tuesday after Valentine's Day, CHS Senior, Reba Hoffman, volunteered to speak to her peers at Church Lunch (which is a big step for most students.) She spoke to them about love that is patient, kind, protective, trustworthy, hopeful, persevering and never failing. (1 Cor. 13:4-8) She shared how she is challenged daily to love others in such a way...and it is not easy. One, however, needs to keep moving forward...step by step. Her honest and comfortable sharing was a true testament to the fact that The Gate is a place where students are known for who they are, encouraged to learn and grow and experience unconditional love. Thanks, Reba!



## THE GATE: MOVING FORWARD...STEP BY STEP

This year The Gate Youth Association is making plans to move forward with two very important steps. The first relates to our organization. As we continue to develop our youth programs and still look forward to building our own facility, the job of Executive Director has grown beyond a single person's reach. Joyce Wahl, our current Director will now focus her efforts on our ministries in her new position as Program Director. Our future Executive Director will be asked to lead us on our second step in 2016, our capital campaign to fund a facility in the 2017 time frame. We are actively looking for someone to fill this paid position and excited about moving our plans forward...step by step!

