

Thoughts from Chris

When times get tough the community unites

A basic, yet forgettable, fact is that we live in an unpredictable and uncontrollable world. Even though this world is untamed we are surprised when our security gets shaken. There are few establishments a student can put their trust in and not have to wrestle with the potential of a breakdown. The established community is one structure that has survived the test of time. It has been said that what doesn't kill you only makes you stronger. I believe that this community is stronger now than ever and that God is blessing the many efforts in this community to unite. The Gate has become something of a bridge linking people of faith and good will together with the common interest in reaching out to students. It is important as a community to come together and demonstrate unity in these times. Community unity will build security within the student. I am excited to see what God has in store for this community. I am confident in the fact that even in unsettling times Independence and Monmouth will come through stronger and more united in the mission to reach out to students.

Chris

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Tutor kids after school
- Hang out with the kids at FUSE
- Help cook lunches or suppers
- Teach an after-school class

For more information contact:

Joyce Wahl—503-838-5653

The Gate Youth Association
PO Box 416
1505 Monmouth Street
Independence, Oregon 97351-0416



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New Team Members

We'd like to welcome two new team members to The Gate Youth Association. Greg Ellis has joined us in one of the two new board positions created last year. Liz McCormick has also joined the team as our new Administrative Assistant taking Yvonne Robertson's place. Yvonne has started school and needed a little more time for that. We wish her well in her new endeavor!

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THE GATE

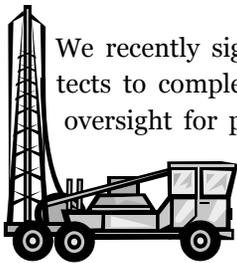
Winning, equipping, mentoring and empowering youth

After School Homework Program

The Gate/CHS After School Homework Program is off to a positive start. The students involved in the program last year have returned along with their siblings and friends! The outstanding staff hired by the 21st Century After School Program Grant has allowed the program take on new roles such as playing an integral part in the freshmen ZAP program (Zeroes Aren't Permitted). The ZAP program provides a place, time and extra help for freshmen who need extra encouragement to achieve assignment completion.

We are always thankful for WOU student volunteers who assist in the program one or two days a week. We can always use more volunteers to help students if you have a free afternoon and a desire to see students be academically successful.

Building Update



We recently signed a contract with our architects to complete the design and construction oversight for phase one of the building. You may have noticed a drilling rig in the location for The Gate. We were having a soil survey completed as required by the building codes. We are also completing a site survey to make sure we put the building in the right place! Our next big goal is to secure a commitment from Weyerhaeuser for the lumber needed for the building. We feel that if we can get that, we will be ready to break ground and get started on the building! Please pray for a positive response from Weyerhaeuser.

Thursdays at The Gate

Thursday afternoons at The Gate finds 30 to 40 high school students spending time with each other doing homework, discussing senior projects and playing guitars, video and table games. Thanks to last year's grant from the Polk County Commission for Children and Families we were able to purchase a variety of games that are being put to a good use every Thursday afternoon.

This year we are being joined at our evening meal by several of the students who participate in the The Gate—Central High School collaborative after school homework program. It provides them with a relaxing venue to refresh and socialize after two hours of homework help.

3rd Annual Golf Tournament

A special "THANK YOU" goes out to all the hole sponsors and prize donors for The Gate Golf Scramble. \$3,500 was raised for The Gate at this



year's event. We want to extend a special thank you to Traeger Grills for donating the beautiful grill that was raffled at the tournament. Thank you also to Joe Johnson Sr., Wanda Kenyon, Mike & DeAnn Ainsworth, and Mark & Jan Rothert for their \$100 KP donations. The winning team consisted of Glen Conaway, Greg Conaway, Don Baer, and Tyler Morgan. Thank you to all the participants and we look forward to seeing you all next year at the 4th annual golf tournament.

Upcoming Classes at The Gate

We are looking forward to a repeat performance in January of the cooking and nutrition class that Diane Silberstein, Polk County 4-H leader, taught at The Gate last year. Presently we are planning to collaborate with the Central High School after school program to host guitar, self-defense and WII sports classes second semester. We enthusiastically embrace community members sharing their skills and talents with our community's youth. Please contact Joyce Wahl at joyce.wahl@att.net or 503-838-5653 if you have questions about sharing with youth in this manner.

Church Lunch Changes

More is better! We trust this can be said of Church Lunch this new school year as we celebrate 20 years of feeding kids and touching lives with God's truth.

With changes in scheduling for freshmen students at Central High School we are now doing a separate Church Lunch for this class about one hour before the second shift. We have been pleased to see a positive response from the students and staff with an average of about 40 in attendance. We have developed a good partnership with the school in arranging for the students to leave the closed campus each Tuesday with permission to participate granted through a form completed by parents.

Our regular serving time during the open campus lunch hour for 10-12th graders shows consistent numbers (125+) and enthusiastic participation. At the end of September we were featured in an article in our local paper, the Itemizer Observer, highlighting our 20 years of ministry. Please continue to pray for this weekly outreach, the only church many of these students attend.