

## Thanks to Our Collaborators

With The Gate being a **nonprofit organization** run solely by volunteers and personal and corporate generosity, the phrase “it takes a whole community to raise a child” becomes reality. We are so grateful for the following positive local partnerships which have contributed greatly to The Gate being able to serve the youth of the community throughout the past school year:

Central High School, Central High School Afterschool Program, Western Oregon University Service Learning Department, The Gate Prayer Team, the cities of Monmouth and Independence, United Way’s Hands On Willamette Valley, Independence First Baptist Church, area youth pastors, Monmouth-Independence Young Life, Polk County 4-H and the Central Service Integration Team.

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Provide snacks once a month
- Teach students how to write their names in calligraphy
- Teach students how to change a tire
- Tutor one afternoon a week
- Mentor a student
- Help prepare dinner on Thursday
- Teach a youth leadership class
- Facilitate a girls’ group
- Facilitate a boys’ group

Contact Joyce Wahl at [joyce.wahl@att.net](mailto:joyce.wahl@att.net) or 503 838 5653 if these opportunities

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### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament**

Preparations are just about complete for the 5th Annual Gate Golf Tournament which will take place on **Saturday, August 14th** at Oak Knoll Golf Club. Thank you to all of you who have already participated in the sponsorship of the tournament. We are looking forward to a great day filled with fun, food and prizes. We hope that you and your friends can join us. A registration is included. Please call Joe Johnson at 503-838-6082 if you have further questions.

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### **Thanks Central SIT for a New Ping Pong Table**

Recently we were the benefactors of a grant from the Central Service Integration Team, a group of Polk County human service providers who gather monthly to collaboratively meet the needs of youth and families in the Monmouth- Independence area.

Through the grant we were able to purchase a sturdy ping pong table that will last many years and provide many hours of exercise and friendly competition for Gate youth.



### **Gate Gala Thanks and Update**

The April 24th Gate community dinner filled the tables at the Central High School cafeteria with both past supporters and many first time guests interested in learning more about The Gate and how it impacts the lives of the youth of our community. A great prime rib dinner was enjoyed by all and people left with a clearer picture of what has been accomplished over the last few years as well as plans for the future.

The event netted \$xx,xxx which is enough money to allow us to carry on programs for another year and add another piece to our building fund. The Gate Board is very grateful for the support of those in attendance and their generosity.

### **Strong Finish to the Year**

All Gate Community Youth Center programs finished the year strongly. After school tutoring numbers remained steady through the last sessions as students completed class projects and papers and prepared for final exams and college next year. We continue to be grateful for the collaboration with Central High School's after school program.

The Tuesday Lunch year end finale was a great event affirming all students and especially the seniors. Close to 50 seniors shared their future plans with CHS underclassmen. It was an inspiring event with 175 students enjoying barbecued hamburgers, a blessing and the program all within a 30 minute lunch.

Thursdays at the Gate's attendance doubled this year. We started the year with about 40 students coming to play indoor and outdoor games, get help with homework and be with friends in a safe environment. As the year progressed, we added cooking and craft options and new games, our numbers doubled and we ended the year with 90 students attending during the 3 hour session.

### **Building Update**

We now have the completed building plans in our hands. Our task now is to continue fundraising, finalize in-kind donation offers, and pursue grants and other funding options. We and (the youth) are excited about having a real Gate building soon and we will work diligently to make that happen while still relying fully on God's provision and timing.

### **Program Plans for Fall**

As the start of the new school year approaches, we making plans to begin the 22nd year of Tuesday Lunch! Additionally we will

1. pursue further opportunities to collaborate with Polk County 4-H,
2. add more specialized learning opportunities on Thursdays such as leadership and service learning opportunities and
3. work with community partners to initiate a mentoring program for high school youth.

We will also be looking to see how we can partner in new ways with Young Life and other local youth groups.

### **Weekly Volunteer Hours**

Serving the 275 students that participate in Gate activities throughout the week takes a host of volunteers. **Each week** the 10 church lunch moms, the high school tutors and the Thursday at the Gate volunteers collectively give **over 100 hours** of

time serving the youth of our community and sharing God's love with them. This generous gift of time allows all The Gate programs to be run on a yearly budget of only \$7,500.

