

## ***Thoughts from the President***

At our annual Board retreat last month we took the time to recognize the core values of The Gate and to draw out of them a Mission and Vision statement that defines what our purpose is as a ministry. As we spent time refining these two statements it became clear that as a Christian ministry, we believe that for someone to truly be successful in life, they need to know Jesus Christ as their Savior. We believe the best way to introduce someone to God's love is to come alongside of them, teaching them things that benefit them and the community as a whole.

Having a clear mission and vision gives us a measuring rod to examine each aspect of The Gate ministry against. We can quickly decipher whether a program fits within the realms of The Gate by examining whether the program's goals further the purposes of The Gate. This is an exciting step as we move closer to fulfilling our dreams of building a youth center and meeting the needs of kids today. Thank you for continuing to partner with us as we seek to build up the youth of our community.

New Mission Statement (Who we are/The Core) – The Gate – We demonstrate Christ's love to the youth of our community through academic, social and spiritual activities!

New Vision Statement (The result of our efforts) – A community where future generations experience, follow and serve Christ!

Ben Bobeda, President

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### ***Thanks to Our Volunteers***

Each week it takes about twenty five Gate volunteers to carry out our three major activities. We are very thankful for both long and short term commitments of our volunteers. Our volunteers range in age from high school graduates to retirees. They are interested parents, grandparents and community members, presently employed and retired professionals, college students, and youth pastors to name a few. Please contact Joyce Wahl at [joyce.wahl1@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.wahl1@gmail.com) if you would like to join the fun group of volunteers at The Gate.

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## ***Change of Leadership for Tuesday Lunch***

After successfully leading and growing the Tuesday Church Lunch program for over two decades, Sally Peyree is stepping aside to encourage Diane Riddell as the "lead Church Lunch Mom". Over the last several years Sally has often made a special trip down from Seattle on Tuesdays to carry out her commitment to the 160 Central High School students and staff who attend weekly. Sally will maintain her position as a Church Lunch Mom...just with a bit more flexibility to spend more time with her four grandchildren. Thanks, Sally, for graciously sharing God's love with CHS students and staff for over 20 years.

## ***Prayer Requests***

- Please pray for safety and wise choices for our youth during the summer months.
- God's continued guidance as The Gate Board works to create long range plans and seeks funding sources.
- Decisions to be made regarding a paid staff position.

## ***Plans for Next School Year***

Our collaboration with OSU Extension Service will expand with the addition of a SNAP-ED foods and nutrition class taught by Diane Silberstein, OSU Extension Staff and Gate Board Member. We additionally are working with students on the possibilities of sewing and technology classes, an "open mike" time to share poetry and music, a TV room, a music recording area and a youth advisory board.

## ***The Year in Numbers***

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Staffing (All volunteer)	
Tuesday Lunch	100 hours weekly
Thursday @ The Gate	80 hours weekly
Tutoring	20 hours weekly

**Total 200 hours volunteer time weekly  
Equals 5 full time employees**

Students served weekly	
Church Lunch	160 students (200+ different students attended)
Thursday @ The Gate	100+ (230 different students attended)
Tutoring	20-40
Totals	<b>280+</b> students involved at The Gate <b>each week</b> Approximately <b>500</b> different students participated in Gate activities this year!

## ***Thanks Polk County Drug and Alcohol Prevention***

The Gate Community Youth Center was the recipient of a Polk County Prevention Grant. Many of the Thursdays @ The Gate Youth gathered together to talk about ways that we could help students make wise choices with their free time. Some suggested making signs to post in areas frequented by youth, others suggested making videos for U-Tube and the largest group suggested having a diversity of activities going on all the time at The Gate. We summarized all the ideas in grant form and were fortunate to receive \$1000 to buy recreational, craft, and cooking supplies for The Gate. The students are already using a new outside backboard and basketballs and making beautiful beaded jewelry all purchased with the grant money.

## ***Many Thanks to Our 2010-11 Partnerships and Collaborations***

The Gate is able to provide services for youth in our community because of the following collaborators and partners. From them we receive in-kind gifts of human and other resources. Coupled with our 500 volunteer hours(5FTE), The Gate is able to provide free or low cost programming to approximately 300 students weekly.

Thank you Central School District, Central High School, CSD Food Service, CHS Afterschool Program, Area Churches, First Baptist Church for facility use, Western Oregon University, Polk County Commission for Children and Families, Central Service Integration Team, Young Life, Polk County Drug and Alcohol Prevention, 4-H, and Colonia Amistad.

## ***Church Lunch Moms Thanked at Graduation***

Last Friday evening the Tuesday Church Lunch Moms were publicly acknowledged by Central High School graduation speaker, Taylor Gowen, for their dedicated effort to make each Tuesday Lunch the special weekly event it is and done in a matter of 30 minutes or less!

## ***Save the Date!***

**The 6th Annual Gate Golf Tournament**

**August 13, 2011**

**Oak Knoll Golf Course**