



iLead students working with Nicole on their project

Of interest:

Grants from WOU, 24-Hour Relay and Ford Leadership Institute

Decisions to follow Christ!

Lunch ladies impact lives—really!

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Inside THE GATE

The Gate Youth Association

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Independence, OR 97351

GOOD NEWS ON GRANTS

Since the beginning of the year we have been blessed with three new opportunities to help The Gate continue to move in a forward direction. We have received a small work/study grant from the Service Learning Department at Western Oregon University. This grant will allow us to partner with the university in providing eligible college students work opportunities.

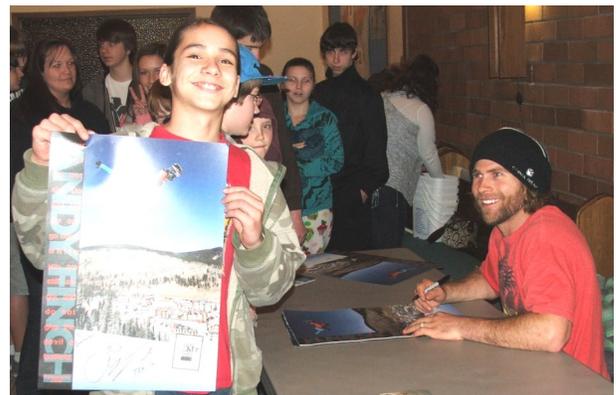
Additionally we have just received a technical assistance grant from the Ford Family Foundation which will allow us to work with consultants from One Accord NFP, a faith-

based firm in Portland. Amy Karjala of One Accord will be guiding The Gate board through a strategic planning process as we focus on future fundraising for a community building of our own.

Our last good news is that both Tuesday Lunch and Thursdays @ The Gate received \$500 grants from the Monmouth-Independence Relay For Life with the monies being spent on cooking and baking equipment and a student led prevention campaign that will include a t-shirt production project and a summer resource guide for teens.

GATE HOSTS COMMUNITY SHOWING OF THE MOVIE “ONE YEAR”

Through the contacts and efforts of our Gate president, Ben Bobeda, The Gate collaborated with WOU Cru, Wednesday Night Bible Study and Seven Cities in hosting two showings of the new snowboarding movie, One Year, starring Andy Finch who recently was a star on TV’s Amazing Race. Andy even came to share his life story with the 140 students who attended and tell how Christ has been an integral part of it! Of course, he signed numerous autographs at the close of the evening, but not before close to 30 life-changing decisions were made to follow Christ.



One happy owner of an Andy Finch autographed poster!

A PUBLIC THANKS TO OUR TUESDAY CHURCH LUNCH MOMS

Josh Mason, who has attended Tuesday Church Lunch for the last three years, was given a classroom assignment to write an editorial to the local Itemizer-Observer on a topic that was meaningful to him. As a matter of fact his whole class at Central High School got the assignment with the caveat of “extra credit” if the student’s work got published. Josh chose to let the lunch moms and the community know how impactful they have been on his life and those of the approximately 150 other students and staff who have lunch with the “Moms” each Thursday.

2011 BY THE NUMBERS

As we wrap up our 2011 financial statements we thought we’d give you a snapshot of how we’re doing “money wise.” Last year we took in \$41,607.43 in donations, dividends and interest. Our total spending for the year amounted to \$16,940.63 leaving us \$24,666.80 to go toward the eventual building of The Gate facility. We finished the year with total assets of \$206,148.73 and no liabilities. We have also completed over \$160,000 of architectural work which we will be using when we start building and we have several units of lumber donated by Weyerhaeuser. Since The Gate Youth Association was incorporated in 2005 we have collected over \$500,000 to serve the youth of our community and build a facility to meet their needs. We thank all of you for your support!

If you would like a copy of our complete financial report, please contact Donn Wahl at The Gate Youth Association, PO Box 453, Independence, OR 97351.

GATE STUDENTS ATTEND I-LEAD CONFERENCE

Thanks to our very fortunate collaboration with Nicole Walker Sundby, Polk County Drug and Alcohol Prevention Coordinator, six Thursday @ The Gate students were able to attend the youth iLead conference at the 4-H Conference Center. The students had the opportunity to exchange ideas with 120 other students from Polk and Marion counties and then bring back innovations to continuously improve what we do at The Gate. The students also attended seminars on goal-setting, leadership styles, communication and service learning. (see masthead photo)

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I sign kids in each week on Thursdays, I’m reminded that we are meeting a need in this community. Although the teens can be a little rowdy at times, I’ve never heard a complaint about the food or how horrible it is to have a dry place to hang out with their friends and play games after school. As I listen to their conversations, it is obvious that teens today need responsible adults to come alongside of them, befriend them and counsel them in a variety of ways. As I think back over how I have been blessed so far this year, I’m challenged to examine how I might give back to the community through The Gate, I hope that you do the same.

Ben Bobeda, President

‘Lunch Ladies’ make a difference

For 23 years, ladies in the Monmouth and Independence community have been providing the students of Central High School with a hot lunch and an inspirational message.

Every Tuesday, for only \$2, any high school student or staff member can walk across Monmouth Street and enjoy one of five lunches provided by the Church Lunch Ladies. Along with a great meal we receive lots of hellos and smiles, a few hugs, and some great words from people who care a lot about these students.

Reaching the halfway point of this school year, they have hosted 18 weekly meal sessions already. On average the Church Lunch Ladies serve between 120 to 150 students every Tuesday.

These hardworking ladies have poured their time and hearts into giving these students a safe refuge and an affordable lunch. They arrange their schedule and lives around Tuesday lunches so they can bless and feed us every week. A big thank you to these ladies who work so hard for the high school students of this community.

*Joshua Mason
Independence*