

Employment And Volunteering On The Rise



Above: Yolanda Miller bringing Round Table Pizza to the people.

The past few months have been an exciting time for clients looking for employment and volunteer opportunities. For the past several months, Benjamin Woodruff and John Garceau have been dining assistants with Marquis Care at Centennial in Gresham. And, Patricia Doyle, Peter Kashi, Brad Nordone, Daniel Earp and Krystle Almendariz have started working at the Kaiser Enclave. Another success story has been OESCO's partnering with Round Table Pizza. Round

Table hired its first employee, Stevie Whitfield, this past March. Whitfield started as a 'sign shaker', standing in front of the store holding signs that promote daily pizza deals, and he now also works in the store as a pizza maker. "It's the most fun, exciting and exceptional job," says Whitfield. And, "It's the most hands-on job that I've ever had. It allows me to do more than I've ever done." Arran Hersey, the Round Table manager who hired Whitfield, was so impressed with Whitfield's work that word spread to other managers that have hired several other OESCO clients. In all, there are now seven OESCO clients working at seven Round Table Pizza shops, including Whitfield, Hiep Trinh, Darlene Pear, Shawn Zimmerman, Brian Higdon, Pat Harvey and Yolanda Miller.

Dennis Benjamin, Job Development Director for OESCO, says that approximately 90% of OESCO clients are currently employed and that, "staff and clients have worked especially well as a team over the last 6 months, leading to many new and exciting community employment opportunities. Even in these challenging economic times, OESCO clients are entering the workforce in impressive numbers." Furthermore, OESCO staff Carolyn Hanscom reports that there has been a record number of people wanting to hone their work skills, as the West Wing has been reporting the largest groups ever attending computer and job training skills days.

The OESCO community has also been active with various volunteer opportunities. Marilyn Hermans has been volunteering at the Bonnie Hays Animal Center since September and Steve Bruemmer has been working at the Hillsboro Library as a book shelve, as well as at the JOIN project with Bruce Lazott, Jeff Meyers and Dennis Scott. JOIN is a homeless outreach program that offers various services to homeless people. In 2008, JOIN helped 282 households, 77 families with 148 kids, and 102 chronically homeless people to get off the streets. OESCO clients have been working with JOIN to renovate their new home and community resource center, a 12,000 sq. feet building and additional 1200 sq. feet learning garden at NE 81st and Halsev.



Above: Benjamin Woodruff sharing his positive spirit at Marquis Care at Centennial.

Holiday Closures 2009/2010

Please be aware that all OESCO offices will be closed on the following dates:

Thanksgiving

November 26th**November 27th**

Christmas

December 24th**December 25th**

New Year's Day

January 1st

Martin Luther King Jr.

January 18th**Happy Holidays!**



OESCO Holiday Party

Join us on December 10th for the OESCO Holiday Party. The cost this year is \$12 per person and there will be a Gift Exchange (\$10 limit). We look forward to seeing you!

December 10th, 2009
Spaghetti Factory, McAdam
6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

OESCO's Board of Directors

- Kurt Shusterich*
- Bev Peloquin*
- Raymond G. Robertson*
- Lucia Reynolds*
- Ann Smith*
- Linda Stent*
- Karen Saul (Legal)*

Executive Director

Gerald Pearce

OESCO's Team

- Mary Ellen Baldauff*
- Janice Robinson*
- Mary Jo Kessinger*
- Enola Smith*
- Roseann Nelson*
- Nita Hoskins*
- George Paulson*
- Meagan Kennedy*
- Dennis Benjamin*
- Jesse Klein*
- Jennifer Nicholas*
- Carolyn Hanscom*
- Jamie Resendez*
- David Mattingly*
- Brie Charles*
- Joshua Leslie*
- Dru Welland*
- Consultant**
- Paul Crowther*

New Chance For Friday Dance?

Have you heard of the famous Portland disc jockey, DJ Lamar? When he's not busy volunteering as the sound technician for his church, Lamar Wright enjoys sharing his music with the community. He has been putting on dances for people in the Portland area for almost 15 years, and his dances generally attract up to 40 people. However, he recently lost the dance space that he was using for the event, and everybody who was coming is now without an activity. The dance is called the "Last Chance Friday Dance", and it's put on for free the last Friday of every month. If anyone knows of a place that could be volunteered for a free monthly dance please contact Nita Hoskins at 503-260-4097.



Above: DJ Lamar showing off his skills at a recent performance.

NEW ADDITIONS TO OESCO'S TEAM Welcome to our new staff members, Brie Charles and Joshua Leslie, who joined our team in July and October, respectively. A few staff also recently celebrated anniversaries with OESCO, including Jamie Resendez, Carolyn Hanscom and Jennifer Nicholas (1 year), Enola Smith and Dennis Benjamin (2 years), Meagan Kennedy (5 years), Nita Hoskins (7 years), Roseann Nelson (9 years), MaryJo Kessinger (13 years) and Janice Robinson (16 years). Thank you for all of your hard work!

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A nonprofit organization*

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