

# NAYA Family Center NEWS

Empowering the Lives of Native Americans in the Portland Area

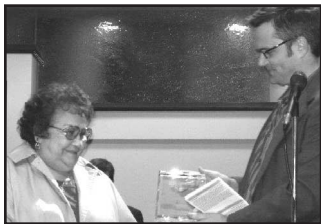


February / March 2007

Bi-Monthly Newsletter, Volume 11, Issue 2 of 6

## Community Elder Joyce Nelson Wins City Award

By Colin McCormack, Employment Services Manager



On Wednesday, December 13, **Joyce Nelson** was honored with a **Spirit of Portland Award for Independent Spirit**, an award created to recognize an individual or group that uses creative approaches to

respond to local issues. The award was presented by **Commissioner Sam Adams** on behalf of the **City Council**. Joyce has assisted in the implementation, creation, and development of many outstanding projects and organizations including (but not limited to) the **Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest Inc.**, **The Concerned Indians Citizen Advisory**, the **Portland Indian Elders Association**, the **Native American Youth and Family Center**, and the **Portland Native American Youth and Elders Council**. In doing so, she has continually been a strong and vibrant proponent of the Native American Values of generosity and bringing community together.

Beyond her individual leadership, she has been a consistent source for collaboration and advocacy in the Native American community in Portland for over 50 years.

Mrs. Nelson has enriched and revitalized community and neighborhoods through her constant community work and volunteerism. She has proudly held onto her culture and practices to pass onto the parents and children of the generations to follow her. Though retired, Joyce to this day takes time away from her grandchildren and family to sit and talk with leaders of diverse organizations and elected officials. She has been a primary shaper of Native American policy issues for five decades and continues to inspire her fellow community members to be involved with local issues.

Although there are some 31,000 Native Americans in Portland, many have experienced oppression and marginalization as well as stereotypes and misconceptions. Joyce has created many successful strategies over the years to raise awareness around these issues. Her creativity, responsiveness, and civic values have assisted her in exemplifying unmatched perseverance.

The NAYA Family Center would like to say thanks to Joyce for her years of giving.

**You are invited** to a fun-filled and educational gathering here at NAYA Family Center (5135 NE Columbia Blvd.) on **Saturday, April 14th from 9am-noon to plant native plants** while celebrating our connection with our community and this place we now call home. More than simply getting our clothes muddy and our hands dirty, this event is an opportunity to learn about our local ecosystem, the Columbia Slough, and Whitaker Ponds. We will be re-planting this land with native flowers, trees, and herbs that will create a "Butterfly Garden." Please bring appropriate clothing for muddy yard work and a smile! Refreshments will be provided. A healthy place makes for healthy people, so together let's make this place more beautiful!

## Save The Date!

**March 21st, 2007** the NAYA Family Center will hold its annual **Spring Gathering Honoring Ceremony**. This event is held to honor and acknowledge our wonderful Volunteers, Community Partners, and Dance Class participants. This year's event will also feature a speaker who will talk about the importance of honoring ceremonies in the Native community. *Specifics TBD, if you'd like more information, please contact Lori Reinecke at 503 288-8177 ext 230 or Shilo George, ext 224.*

Greetings everyone! During the last year and a half, I have been pursuing my teaching license part-time. Near the end of January, I will be leaving NAYA to complete my training as a teacher by becoming a full-time student teacher for 18 weeks. It has been a wonderful experience serving the Portland Native community as an Education Advocate these last two years. My experience at NAYA with the Native community was invaluable. I have learned so much about Native American culture and history. Throughout my time here, I have really admired how close-knit the Portland Native community is, and how much value is placed on spending time together as a community at gatherings, pow-wows, and other events. In a time when the value of community has been forgotten by many in our country, I am so glad to see the thriving Native community here in Portland. I wish to bring what I have learned about Native culture, history, and community with me into my practice as a teacher.

To all of the youth I have worked with, I will certainly miss you. I enjoyed being a part of your journey in this life. I wish you the absolute best of luck in all of your future pursuits!

*Sincerely, Mike Anders*

## Volunteers Make Us Better!



**Carol A. Taylor,**  
Volunteer-Project  
Consultant

The NAYA Family Center would like to thank Carol for all of her hard work! Carol joined NAYA in April, 2006 to help organize and advise on several projects including the technology plan, facility move, software survey and training assessment, safety manual and emergency plan, evacuation plan, infrastructure assessment and planning for replacement, software selection planning, and job description review for new Vista positions. She came to NAYA with close to 30 years of experience in information technology.

*Photo  
not available*

**Marquetta Mitchell,**  
Volunteer-General  
Support

The NAYA Family Center would also like to acknowledge and thank Marquetta for stepping up and supporting our Reception area. In addition, Marquetta has been very helpful *wherever* we have needed additional assistance, including providing childcare at events, event support, special projects with the CASP program, mailing projects, and many other duties. Thank you to our wonderful Volunteers! *If you would like to Volunteer at the NAYA Family Center, please don't hesitate to contact us...*



*By Lori Reinecke, CASP Manager/HR Specialist*

We invite everyone to the art show currently on display in the Youth Services wing of the NAYA Family Center. The Multnomah Art Center organized the **Picturing Here** art project last spring and invited **NAYA Family Center** to participate as one of the groups. **Youth ages 8-19 from numerous organizations** were asked to create a piece of art that represented their perception of their community. The show, comprised of approximately 60 different pieces, has been traveling around the Portland area since its opening

reception at the Multnomah Art Center is September. The show was displayed at City Hall during November and December and will now be here at NAYA for January and February.

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*Continued on page 7*

## New Faces at The NAYA Family Center:



**Nicole Croft**, Youth Services Director

Raised in Portland, Nicole (**Taos Pueblo** descent) received her **Bachelor of Science in Sociology** from Western Oregon University. Prior to joining us, she served as Unit Director with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland. Her background includes working with school age youth and community partners, program development and evaluation and youth program marketing. Nicole enjoys the outdoors, movies and is an avid sports fan. "I am very excited to join the NAYA Family Center team. I look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting many new ones through my experiences with NAYA."



**Shilo George**, Generations Project Intake/Outreach Coordinator

Hello, I'm Shilo George and I'm the new **Intake/Outreach Coordinator for the Generation's Project**. I grew up just northwest of Portland in St. Helens and my grandfather was an enrolled member of the **Southern Cheyenne-Arapaho Nation**. Before working at NAYA, I was employed at Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare for six years providing social services to low-income residents living in both Cascadia and Housing Authority of Portland buildings. I am very excited to be a new member of the NAYA family and I am looking forward to meeting all the youth, adults and families that participate in NAYA's programs. Hope to see you at the Spring Gathering Honoring Ceremony in March.



**Joe Ball**, High School Advocate

Hello again, my name is **Joe Ball**. I am **Klamath Modoc** and **Cherokee**. As part of the **Portland Teachers Program** I went to Portland Community College and Portland State University to get my **BS in General Science** and attended the **Graduate Teacher Education Program**. I am returning to NAYA after spending a year at Lewis and Clark College in the Tribal Educators Program. I'm excited about reconnecting with NAYA youth and families and looking forward to meeting all of our newer families.



**Cori Matthew**, Gang Prevention Coordinator

Hi, my name is **Cori Matthew** and I am the new **Gang Prevention Coordinator** here at the NAYA Family Center. I was born and raised on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana. I am **Salish & Blackfeet/Cree**, I am very proud of my culture; who I am and where I came from. I have a **BA in Criminal Justice** and a **Master's Degree in Human Relations** with an emphasis in counseling. I feel it is an honor and privilege to be part of the NAYA Family. I'm looking forward to getting to know the Portland area and working with the community, to lend a hand as we strive to improve the lives of our Native youths and their families. When I am not at work I love spending time with my daughter and husband and all my family in Montana.

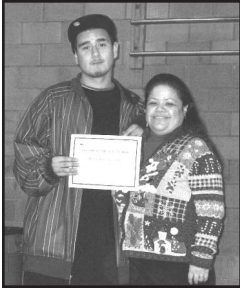


**Mark Wilson**, AmeriCorps/Vista Leader

**Mark Wilson** is the new **AmeriCorps/VISTA Leader** at NAYA Family Center. He will be in charge of supporting and coaching NAYA's soon-to-be eight member VISTA team. Mark is in his second year of AmeriCorps. After graduating from Wilson High School, Mark attended **Indiana University** in Bloomington, Indiana. Mark finished his **Bachelor's of Arts** with a double major in **Journalism** and **Computer Science** in 2003. Away from work, Mark enjoys hiking, recreational cycling, and tinkering with obsolete computers. "In my short time here, I've seen how NAYA's staff and culture fosters a strong and caring community. As per Mark: "I am really excited at the opportunity to share these experiences with our incoming VISTAs."

**Melissa Waggoner**, the former Generations Project Intake and Outreach Coordinator will be transitioning to the Youth Services Program as a **High School Advocate**. She can now be reached at extension 220.

**John Walker**, the former Middle School Program Planning Specialist, is glad to be joining the Employment, Housing, and Community Development Program as an **EHCD Program Specialist**. For the time being, John can still be reached at extension 206.



The NAYA Family Center's Employment Workforce Program took a few moments during the past Winter Gathering to honor **Marcus Standing Crow** for completing the Job Readiness workshops and for participating in 2 Community Service projects. During his time in the program, he obtained employment, but continued to improve his

employment skills by continuing with the workshops! We are very proud of Marcus, and encourage others to enhance their job-readiness through our program. For more information on how you can participate, contact Tamra Russell at 503 288-8177 x 203.



By Micah Johnson, Lead Tutor

The **2006 Winter Break Camp** took place December 19th, 20th, and 21st. Attendance was nearly full each day with continuing

clients and some new faces. Campers were treated to an entire day of exploring and experimenting at **OMSI**, including the limited time **Star Wars** exhibit. Many of the actual props and wardrobe from the movies were on display! We also spent time at the **Oregon Humane Society** learning about different animals and spending time with the dogs and cats. *Many students were interested in coming back on their free time to do volunteer work and to adopt a pet of their own!*

A trip to the **Lloyd Center Ice Skating Chalet** was also a favorite activity during camp, as it helped enhance our holiday mood. *Most of the kids looked like veteran skaters while many of the staff did not!!!*

A trip to **NIKE** to tour the campus and learn about the history of the shoe company was also very interesting. Other activities during camp were **helping set up for the NAYA Winter Gathering**, a **pizza party**, attending a **movie**, and a **Dodge Ball Championship**.

Staff for this year's camp was **Micah Johnson, Daniel Rowell, Ash Wendt, John Anderson, Ryan Pinkham**, and volunteer **Jessica Carrillo**.

By Melissa Waggoner, High School Advocate

**Winter Gathering** is one of the quarterly celebrations here at NAYA Family Center intended to strengthen community awareness, encourage involvement, and expand knowledge of Native American traditions, food, and culture. Community Celebrations aid in helping to develop a better sense of Native community by offering more opportunities for us to come together, learn from one another, and to support each others talents and families.

This year we had a tasty variety of stews from different nations and Navajo tortillas. Our **Young Adult Talking Circles** were able to showcase the Native style clay masks they made with **Artist, Lillian Pitt** (Warm Springs/Wasco/Yakama). We were fortunate enough to have two of our youth, **Jennifer Noonan** (Cherokee/Chippewa) and **Fiona Graham** (Comanche/Kaw), play the Native Flute for the community. These young ladies are extremely talented and hopefully we will hear more from them in the future.



We were also able to publicly recognize the **couples** who were honored at our **"Celebration of Marriages and Partnerships"** evening, allowing the community to recognize and honor

them. Among the couples attending, **Buzz and Joyce Nelson** (married just shy of 50 years) had *these* wise words for the community, "Respect each other and through respect comes a lot of love." A lot can be learned by the example of all the strong Native couples in our community. We could not have had such a wonderful evening without the help of all of our **staff** and **fantastic volunteers**. Ahe'hee' Thank you for all those who volunteer your service and time to make our programs successful!




A heartfelt "Thank You" from John Walker and the NAYA Family Center to the following organizations/businesses/individuals that made our 2006 Holiday Gifting such a huge success:

Hollywood Bowl, Interstate Lanes, Schoolhouse Supplies, Next Adventure, Finnegan's Toys, Safeway MLK, Albertson's Distribution, Adidas, Child's Play Toys, Lloyd Center Ice Chalet, Port of Portland, City of Portland Bureau of Housing and Community Development, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, USMC Toys 4 Tots, Toy & Joy, Oregon Zoo, Open Circle/Augustana, NW Portland Area Indian Health Board, Janus Youth Projects/Clipped Wings/Washington Square Sharing Tree, NIKE Native American Employees Network, Chuck Roth, Big Kahuna BBQ, Interstate Fred Meyer, Sunshine Division, Hands on Portland, NAYA Family Center Staff, Native Elders.

# FEBRUARY

# MARCH

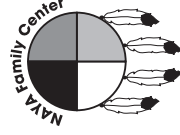
# 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> HSTC SRM	<b>2</b> BAC**	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> MSTC CC	<b>6</b> SRW	<b>7</b> NCES PIP HSN	<b>8</b> HSTC SRM	<b>9</b> BAC	<b>10</b> PIP-2
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> MSTC CC	<b>13</b> SRW	<b>14</b> PIP	<b>15</b> HSTC SRM	<b>16</b> BAC	<b>17</b> PIP-2
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> CLOSED	<b>20</b> STW	<b>21</b> PIP HSN	<b>22</b> SRM	<b>23</b> BAC RTR	<b>24</b> PIP-2
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> MSTC CC	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> PIP MCC-M			

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> HSTC	<b>2</b> BAC** RTR	<b>3</b> PIP-2
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> MSTC CC	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> PIP HSN MCC-M	<b>8</b> HSTC	<b>9</b> BAC RTR	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> MSTC CC	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> HSTC	<b>16</b> BAC RTR	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> MAPPI	<b>19</b> MSTC CC	<b>20</b> MAPPI	<b>21</b> SG/HC	<b>22</b> HSTC	<b>23</b> BAC RTR	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> BAC	<b>31</b>
						

Code	Class, Group or Event	Location	Time
BAC	Bow & Arrow Club	NAYA	6:30 - 9:30 pm
CC	Culture Class	NAYA	6 - 8 pm
CLOSED	NAYA Offices Closed		
HSN	High School Night	NAYA	6 - 8 pm
HSTC	High School Talking Circle	NAYA	5 - 6:30 pm
MAPPI	Mentor Artists Playwrights Project	Portland Central Library	1 pm
MAPPI	Mentor Artists Playwrights Project	PSU - NASCC	7 pm
MCC-M	Monthly Culture Class - Moccasins	NAYA	5 - 7 pm
MSTC	Middle School Talking Circles	NAYA	5 - 6:30 pm
NCES	Native Community Empl. Services	NAYA	TBA
PIP	Positive Indian Parenting	NAYA	6 - 8 pm

Code	Class, Group or Event	Location	Time
PIP-2	Positive Indian Parenting	NAYA	9:15 am - 12:30 pm
RTR	Ready to Rent	NAYA	4:30 - 7 pm
SG/HC	Spring Gathering/Honoring Ceremony	TBD	TBD
SRM	Strengthening Relationships - Men	NAYA	6 - 7:30 pm
SRW	Strengthening Relationships - Women	NAYA	5:30 - 7 pm
**	Potluck		



## New Opportunities with the Cultural Arts Program

The **Cultural Arts Program** is happy to announce that we have received a \$6,000 grant from the **Charlotte Martin Foundation**. With this generous support, we are able to expand the Cultural Arts programming to include an **Advanced Drum Class** and some **Monthly Culture Classes for high school youth**. The Advanced Drum Class will target youth who have taken the 1st and 2nd year drum class and/or who have been selected by the drum instructor to have enough experience drumming to move up to this level. *All students must have approval of the instructor.* Additionally, Monthly Culture Classes, which explore a different activity each month ranging from field trips to basket weaving, will be open for high school youth. Classes are announced on the website. *Please contact Roanne Littlelight if you have questions and/or are interested in attending these classes.* We would also like to thank the Charlotte Martin Foundation for their generous support!

## NAYA Playwrights Community Readings

By Korinna Wolfe, High School/Foster Care Program Manager

We are very proud to announce that our **NAYA Family Center High School Program** and **Foster Care Program youth** will have their plays read during a tour of community events in March. In November 2006 six of our talented youth engaged with the **Mentor Artists Playwrights Project (MAPP)** professional mentors to complete six one act plays. These capable youth represent the **second series of young writers** to be developed and engaged in this wonderful partnership between the NAYA Family Center and MAPP. Professional readings of these plays will take place during the month of March. On **Sunday, March 18th at 1:00 pm at the Central Library in downtown Portland** as well as on **Tuesday evening March 20th at 7:00 at the Portland State University Native American Student Center**, these plays will again be read by professional artists for the community's enjoyment. Please join us in encouraging these talented Native American writers as we promote their works and celebrate their gifted accomplishments! Supplementary information for additional reading cites will be forthcoming. *For questions, comments or additional information please contact Korinna Wolfe or Myra Donnelly at NAYA.*

NAYA Family Center is working with the Portland Public School District, Portland Community College-Cascade Campus, Portland's Native community, and Antioch University Seattle's Center for Native Education to develop an **Early College High School for Native Youth**, set to open September 2007. The opening of the high school realizes decades of work by NAYA Family Center's parents, families, and community members to ensure Native youth success. (continued)

The **NAYA Early College Academy** will be open to 9th-12th graders, and attendees will be selected according to an application process. Classes will have high Native cultural relevancy and content, students will use active inquiry rather than passive learning, and students will demonstrate their achievement through both real-world tasks and standardized tests. The curriculum will include dual enrollment for students to simultaneously earn high school and college credit.

NAYA Family Center has been fortunate to receive input on the school planning process from a variety of volunteers, community members, parents and families, and the Youth and Elders Council. Curriculum Development, Community Engagement, and Student and School Support planning committees, as well as community forums and youth focus groups, will continue to ensure community involvement in the development of the NAYA Early College Academy. The school is also seeking to form a Parent Advisory Committee. *To becoming involved in the planning process or to learn about the upcoming events, please contact Kate Bucko at 503-288-8177 ext 229.*

NAYA Family Center is currently recruiting for eight new AmeriCorps/VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) positions. VISTA members work nationwide to expand the capacity of organizations like NAYA and alleviate poverty. VISTAs are expected to commit to one full year of full-time service to qualify for a \$4725 educational award or a \$1200 cash stipend. Members also receive training and a monthly living stipend and are eligible for moving and childcare benefits.

Two recruits are needed to help build capacity for the NAYA Early College Academy, and individual recruits are needed to aid finance, sustainability, youth services, volunteer recruitment and housing. For more information please visit <http://www.nayapdx.org/about/jobs.php> or contact VISTA Leader Mark Wilson at 503-288-8177 Ext. 231. **NAYA Early College Academy Will Open September 2007.**

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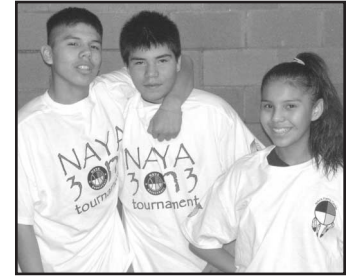
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## NAYA Sports Report

By Dave "Who'll Buy My Buckeye Hat?" Higgs, Sports and Outdoor Club Manager

**BASKETBALL:** NAYA Basketball is in full swing. The opening weekend for the league, January 6th, four of the six NAYA teams achieved victories in their games, which is undoubtedly the most successful first week in NAYA Basketball history! All of our players and coaches should be proud of their accomplishment, and keep up the great work! If you are a student and would still like to join in on the fun, we still have roster spots open for boys and girls 4-5th grade teams as well as the girls' high school team. Here are the practice schedules:



**Monday** @ NAYA Family Center: 6-7:30: MS Boys, 7:30-8:30 MS Girls,  
**Monday** @ Ockley Green: 6:30-7:30: 4th - 5th Girls & Boys  
**Wednesday** @ NAYA Family Center: 6-7: MS Girls,  
**Wednesday** @ Ockley Green: 7-9 HS Boys  
**Thursday** @ NAYA Family Center: 5-6 HS Girls Open Gym,  
**Thursday** @ Ockley Green: 6-7 4th – 5th Girls and Boys  
**Friday** @ NAYA Family Center: 4:30 – 6 MS Boys

Basketball game schedules are available online at [www.nayapdx.org](http://www.nayapdx.org).

**LACROSSE:** NAYA Sports is proud to announce that we will be forming a lacrosse team at NAYA for the first time this spring! Lacrosse is one of the fastest growing sports in the country and there are many new youth teams in the Portland area. Lacrosse is played outdoors on a grass field and combines components of football, basketball, and soccer. It is one of the oldest sports in the world, and was originally developed by Native American people long before Europeans arrived in North America.

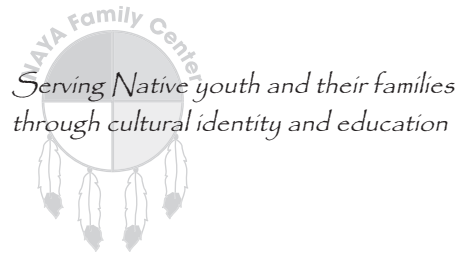
Last summer a group of NAYA youth traveled to Nike Headquarters to participate in a Lacrosse Clinic with the professional Iroquois Nationals team, and had a great time learning some of the skills you need to play the fast-paced game. The NAYA team will be for **boys and girls in grades 6-8**. We will have **practices twice per week** beginning after basketball season concludes in March, with **games on the weekends**. NAYA is partnering with St. John's Lacrosse in North Portland this year, and will be coached by Robert Brucken, who also coaches the club team at University of Portland. All equipment will be provided to NAYA youth. Look for upcoming Lacrosse Clinics and practices on the Whirlwind Calendar and on the NAYA website!

For more information on Lacrosse and the Nationals, visit: [www.iroquoisnationals.com](http://www.iroquoisnationals.com).



# Native American Youth and Family Center

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We're on the web  
[www.nayapdx.org](http://www.nayapdx.org)



**Ready to Rent** is a 5 week housing readiness training where you learn your rights and responsibilities as a renter. You will review your rental and credit histories and take steps to overcome barriers to renting. **For 5 Fridays, beginning February 23rd, from 4:30-7:00pm Ready to Rent classes will be held at The NAYA Family Center located at 5135 NE Columbia Blvd. Childcare will be available (please call to reserve space).** These classes are open to the public please contact the NAYA Family Center. Contact Naomi Harris to sign up 503-288-8177 ext. 202.

## Good News!

The Southbound 75 bus is now stopping closer to NAYA Family Center!

You may now catch the Southbound 75 (Lombard to Milwaukie TC) at NE Columbia Boulevard and 47th (in front of the Columbia Broil).

**Marneet Lewis**, by attending the **Summer Institute** in 2004 and 2005, became quite taken with the Portland Community College (PCC) Campus. Although she was accepted to Willamette University (Salem) and George Fox University, the NAYA Summer Institute and PCC gave her a better understanding of the pace of academic discipline. Tours on campus gave her an appreciation of the structure of PCC while her involvement with Summer Institute was giving her all of the tools to be successful in academics.

Though it was a tough to pass up acceptance to these other fine institutions, Summer Institute/PCC made her want to stay around and challenge herself in **Portland**. Among her accomplishments since then, she has made the **President's List** and has been inducted into the **International Honor Society of Community Colleges**. As per Marneet: "Having the tutors and structure gave me everything I needed to succeed, provided I was willing to make the effort."