

# NAYA Family Center NEWS

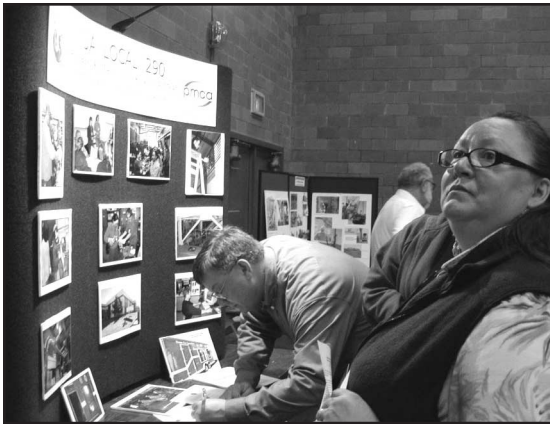
Empowering the Lives of Native Americans in the Portland Area



April/May 2008

Bi-Monthly Newsletter, Volume 12, Issue 3 of 6

## 2nd Annual Native American Career Fair at the Oregon Convention Center



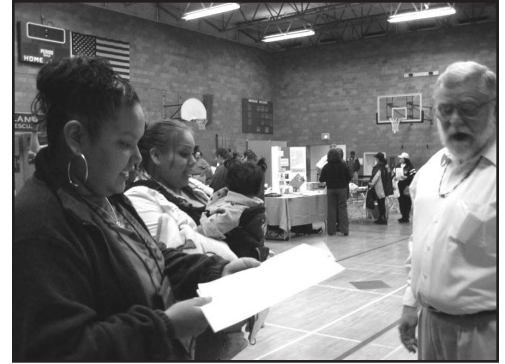
**Native Community Employment Services (NCES) welcomes you attend the 2nd Annual Native American Career Fair from 11 to 2 pm on Saturday, April 12, 2008.** This career fair is free and open to everyone, whether you're looking for your first job experience or have been working for the past 20 years.

Representatives from various employers will be there to share information about positions, apprenticeships, and

internships. They may also be accepting resumes and applications, so make sure to bring a few copies of your resume. Join us to learn about careers in:

- Hospitality
- Retail
- Production
- Warehouse
- Administration
- Construction
- And more!

**Employment Services can help you prepare for the Career Fair by working with you on your resume or master application.** Call Tamra Russell at ext. 203 or Deanne Goforth at ext. 214 for more information!



## The NAYA Family Center's 2nd Annual Career Fair

**Saturday, April 12 from 11:00 am – 2 pm**

Oregon Convention Center – Rooms E145-E146  
777 NE MLK Jr. Blvd • Portland, OR 97232

The Oregon Convention Center is accessible by the #6 bus and the Red and Blue MAX Lines.  
Or visit <http://www.oregoncc.org/directionsandparking/parking/> for parking information.

## NAYA Family Center Planning Pre-K Education

by Tawna Sanchez, Director of Family Services, ext. 209

In 2005, the NAYA Family Center partnered with the Northwest Area Foundation to survey hundreds of families in the Portland area. These families chose childcare services as a priority that wasn't being met.

The NAYA Family Center has been talking with the Oregon Child Development Coalition. This partnership would result in three Pre-K classrooms for children ages 3-5 at the NAYA Family Center!

We are currently developing a community survey. We want to find out what activities the community thinks are most important for their kids. These activities include Native dance classes, after school care programs, Positive Indian Parenting, and language classes. Watch for this survey in the mail soon!

### Want to get involved?

We hope to have the program up and running by January 2009. If you are the parent of a child who will be between the ages of 3-5 in January 2009 and would like to have a say in how the program develops, please contact Tawna Sanchez, Director of Family Services, at ext. 209.

## Youth and Elders Council Update

Youth and Elders Council Meetings are in full swing! The Council aims to bring Portland area Native people together to strengthen the Native community in the Portland area. Everyone is welcome to join the council.

**You are invited to our next meeting on Tuesday, April 8, from 6:00-8:00 pm. Dinner and coffee is provided. Call Brad Dennis, Youth and Elders Council Coordinator, at ext. 217 to RSVP or if you have any questions!**



*The Youth and Elders Council enjoys dinner together before gettingtng down to business.*

## Thank you to the Roth Family and their Church!

by John Walker, EHCD Program Specialist, ext. 206

The NAYA Family Center wishes to thank **Chuck Roth and Family** for their continued generosity! For the past three years, the Roths and their church have donated large amounts of food they collect to the NAYA Family Center. This food goes into gift baskets for our Elders and holiday food baskets for families.

Their longstanding relationship with NAYA Family Center reflects a generosity of time, energy, and spirit and we thank them for it.



*Rebecca Kirk and Charles and Sierra Penn put together baskets for our Elders with food from the Roth family and their church.*

**The Native American Youth and Family Center is located at  
5135 NE Columbia Blvd  
Portland, OR 97218**

**You can get here on TriMet bus #75,  
which stops a short distance away.**

**NAYA Family Center (503) 288-8177  
NAYA Early College Academy (503) 972-2461**

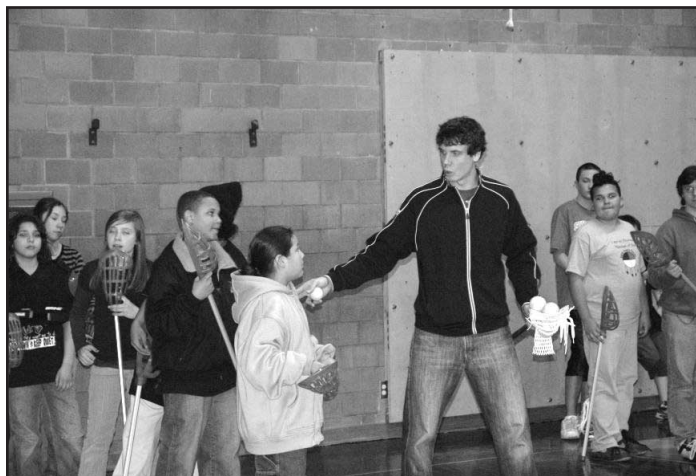
**www.nayapdx.org  
info@nayapdx.org**

## Portland LumberJax Visit the NAYA Family Center!

by Dave Higgs, Sports Coordinator, ext. 215

We want to send a big thank you to the Portland LumberJax for coming out and conducting a lacrosse clinic for our kids! **Players Dan Dawson and Peter Jacobs (Mohawk) came and talked about the game of lacrosse.** They then guided us through the basic skills of cradling and passing. They also passed out posters, signed autographs, and gave us tickets for a game. **The kids were very proud to gift both players with NAYA Family Center T-shirts.**

Lacrosse is originally a Native American sport. **The NAYA Family Center hopes to offer a youth lacrosse program in the future, so stay tuned!**



**Lumberjax Forward Dan Dawson offers some tips to our aspiring lacrosse players.**



**Dillon tries out some of the new skills he's learned.**



**Isaiah shows off his lacrosse moves.**

## Basketball Season Wrap-Up

by Dave Higgs, Sports Coordinator, ext. 215

**Congratulations to all of our basketball players and coaches for another outstanding season!**

Twice per week practices and games every Sunday is a grueling schedule when added to lives already busy with school and work. Finishing the season is a major accomplishment.

Though our teams lost some games here and there, every team made tremendous strides this year. **I am very proud of each and every player that worked so**

**hard to come to practices and improve their skills.** Great job everyone.

**The coaches once again were the heart and soul of the program, and the NAYA basketball community owes much to them.** Our coaches regularly provide rides to players, organize team gatherings, and dedicate so much time and energy into providing leadership to the youth. Thanks again for your outstanding work.

**The Jim Thorpe Sports Awards BBQ is tentatively being planned for May.** Details will appear on our website and invitations will be mailed to the families of all NAYA athletes in the coming weeks.

## NAYA Early College Academy Students Speak at City Hall

by Frank Hernandez, School Administrator

On Wednesday, March 5, three NAYA Academy students went to the City Council to present on issues that were of concern to them. They met with Mayor Tom Potter prior to their presentation, shook his hand, and took a photo. They then sat in front of the city council to present their concerns.

The first student to speak was sophomore Michael Marteeny. He brought up the issue of bicyclists not obeying traffic laws and the idea of requiring a license to ride a bike on a public street. Junior Kateri Eagle Staff spoke next and addressed her concern about the possibility of the police station near her house being shut down. This was worrisome to her due to the recent drive-by shootings in her neighborhood just within the past month. The third and final student to speak was junior Blackbear Guerrero. He expressed his concern of the transit officials using racial profiling to check fares. He had been a target of this in the past, and would like to see something done about it.

After the three students had finished, Mayor Tom Potter asked the students about their experience at the NAYA Early College Academy and how it has impacted their lives. Kateri Eagle Staff explained that the school offers dual credit courses through PCC. She is currently enrolled in one of these courses at the PCC campus. Kateri explained that it has assisted her with preparing for college and gives her the opportunity to see what it will be like to be a college student. Michael Marteeny added that the school offers culturally specific and culturally competent classes. He told Mayor Potter that "we get to learn history from a Native American perspective".

All of the students did an amazing job. They were very impressive and very professional in their speech and etiquette and we are very proud of them.



From L to R, Kateri Eagle Staff, Mayor Potter, Black Bear Guerrero, and Michael Marteeny.

## NAYA Early College Academy Open House

Do you know a middle school student interested in attending the NAYA Early College Academy next fall? **The academy will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, April 3 from 5 – 6:30 pm.** Come by for a tour, light refreshments, and to learn more about the Academy.

The NAYA Early College Academy is the only Native-focused high school in Portland. **All of our classes are taught from a Native American perspective.** We offer courses in Native American Language, Literature, Art, Worldview, Marine Science, and Tribal Government. **Students can also take college-level classes and earn college credit.**

**RSVP to Brandy Moran or Tessa Sayers at (503) 972-2461.** If you can't attend, you can make an appointment with either Ms. Moran or Ms. Sayers to learn more!

**The Early College Academy  
is currently enrolling students!**  
Please stop by or **contact  
Ms. Sayers, Academic Counselor,  
at [texas@nayapdx.org](mailto:texas@nayapdx.org) or ext. 264**  
for an application/tour.

## Students Succeed at Early College Academy

The NAYA Early College Academy congratulates our students for completing their first semester. **In the first semester, 96% of our students passed every one of their classes.** This far exceeds our original goal of 80% of our students passing all of their classes. The NAYA Family Center knows that our students will continue to make us proud and thanks all of them for their hard work!

## Traditional Story Day at the NAYA Early College Academy

Thank you again to all of our session leaders and story tellers for generously donating their time!



*Academy teacher Stephanie Kelly helps serve breakfast to our Elders.*



*Nichole Maher talks with students about the origin of the NAYA Family Center.*



*Evan Gardner teaches students some of the Chinook WaWa language.*



*In UR Israel's session allowed students (and teachers!) to create their own stories and act them out.*

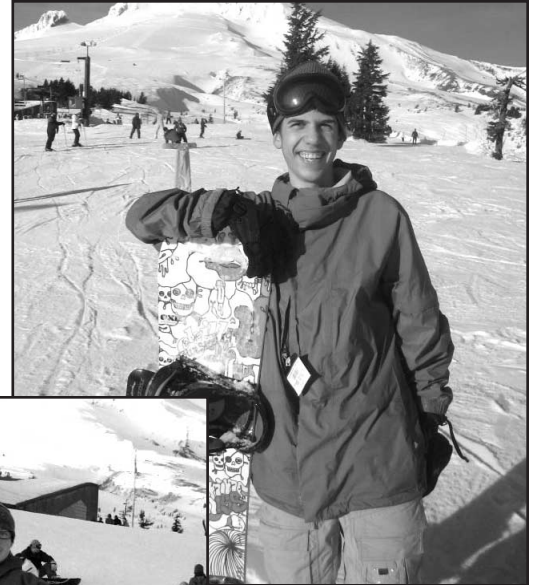


*Ed Edmo telling a traditional story.*

## NAYA Kids Hit the Slopes with CHILL

This year, 8 NAYA Family Center youth got to participate in the CHILL Program. Created in 1995 by Burton Snowboards, CHILL brings snowboarding to kids who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity.

Burton provides the gear, the lift tickets, and the lessons for six weeks. NAYA Family Center provides the kids. We'd like to thank Burton Snowboards for giving our kids this opportunity!



## Affordable Homeownership in Portland

by Sara Libby, Homeownership and Resident Services Coordinator, ext. 232

**HOST Development, the largest non-profit homebuilder in the state of Oregon, has started construction on a new affordable housing development.** Helensview is located at NE 64th and Killingsworth in the Cully neighborhood. That's just a few miles from the NAYA Family Center!

Helensview will have forty 2, 3, and 4 bedroom, detached single family homes and 12 condos. Home prices start at \$196,000.

**HOST will also help you buy these new homes!** They provide \$5,000 in closing cost assistance to first time home buyers below 100% MFI. You can also qualify for reduced property taxes for up to 10 years.

HOST builds beautiful, affordable, energy efficient homes. **These homes come with kitchen appliances, window blinds, and landscaping.** There is also a 10 year limited warranty on the construction of the house.

Helensview homes are for sale now! **Visit [www.hostdevelopment.com](http://www.hostdevelopment.com) to learn more about HOST, their program requirements, and other homes they have for sale.** You can also call Deborah Johnson or Alyssa Isenstein Krueger at (503) 331-1752. Make sure to say you heard about HOST from NAYA Family Center!

**Want to Learn More? Come to the HOST Development Orientation at NAYA Family Center!**

Wednesday, April 9th, at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments provided. Contact Sara Libby to RSVP at ext. 232.

## Volunteer Corner

by Lauren McCartney, Americorps\*VISTA Volunteer Program Specialist, ext. 227

**Much appreciation and thanks goes out to all who helped out for the Ikanum San Traditional Story Day and the February Native Professionals night!** Both events were a huge success, mostly due to the time and spirit of our great volunteers. Thank you to Bow and Arrow, the NAYA Family Center board, and our family and friends!

**Want to get involved and give back to your community?** Here are some current and upcoming projects you can plug in to:

1. **The NAYA Clothing Closet is being reorganized!** A committee of volunteers and staff will be managing the closet to ensure that it runs smoothly and meets the needs of our community. There are still positions open to be a part of this important service at NAYA.
2. Want to gain new receptionist skills or practice some old ones? We are in need of on-call receptionist support in the front office.
3. Help the NAYA Family Center sparkle! **We are looking for volunteers to come in and help with basic building maintenance and improvement.** From painting walls to sweeping up the breezeway, we have all sorts of odd jobs if you're ready to roll up your sleeves!
3. **Presenters and assistants are needed for Monday night dance, regalia construction, and drumming classes.** If you have a traditional art or skill that you'd like to share with our youth and families, please let us know. Assistants are also needed to support NAYA youth and families in passing on cultural heritage and traditions of our Native people. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact us!
4. **The NAYA Early College Academy is looking for community members for a variety of positions** available throughout the school days, Monday-Friday. Positions include hall monitors (before, during, and after school), classroom assistants, and lunch assistants. These positions are important to support the success of Academy students!

Please contact **Lauren McCartney at ext. 227** for more information and to sign up!

## Ecology Club Helps Take Care of NAYA Family Center Grounds!

by Ryan Pinkham, Middle School Advocate, ext. 205

**Ecology Club has started here at the NAYA Family Center in connection with the "Metro: Nature in Neighborhoods" grant that we received last year.** Ecology Club is an ongoing credit recovery class for the NAYA Early College Academy students. There are about 8 students who participate after school on Thursdays. We are doing many wonderful things to beautify the NAYA landscape and return our grounds to a more natural and native ecosystem.

This class is a hands-on way for the youth to learn about the ecology of our watershed. We are also designing the landscape around the NAYA Family Center to include more native plants. These plants enhance the biodiversity of the Whitaker Ponds area. **We are having many community partners come in and share with the youth about ecological restoration and the possibility of jobs in the environmental field.**

Beyond the after school class time we are scheduled to have two weekend work parties here at the NAYA Family Center that are open to the community to come and work, socialize, picnic and beautify our grounds. **The Saturday events are scheduled for April 19 and May 17 here at NAYA from 9am to 4pm.**

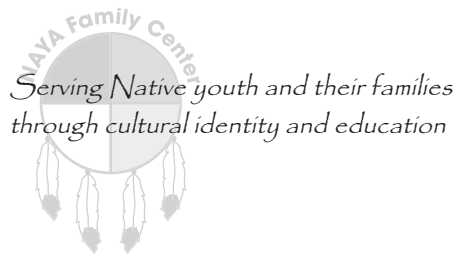
**Call Ryan Pinkham at ext. 205 for more information on Ecology Club.**

### Save the Date!

There will also be a Volunteer Meeting at the NAYA Family Center on **Tuesday, April 1, from 6:30 – 8 pm.** If you are already a volunteer or are interested in finding out more about volunteering, please join us!

# Native American Youth and Family Center

5135 NE Columbia Blvd.  
Portland, OR 97218  
Phone: 503.288.8177  
Fax: 503.288.1260



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

**You're Invited!**

**Culture Night  
Every Monday  
Night from  
6-8:00 pm at the  
NAYA Family  
Center**

**NOTE: Due to the  
Memorial Day Holiday,  
there will be no Culture  
Night on May 26.**

## Azteca Dancers Share Their Skills



***The Ome Iztacuauhtli dancers and NAYA Family Center dancers***

Cross Cultural Dance Class will be focusing on learning about dances from other cultures. Recently, the Azteca dance group, Ome Iztacuauhtli, practiced their dancing and drumming at the NAYA Family Center. We will also be hosting a Polynesian Dance group in the month of April and many others to come.

Our Dance Classes are part of Monday Culture Nights, which feature drumming, dance, and regalia making. Everyone is welcome at these events, which take place on Monday nights from 6-8:00 pm.