

# NAYA Family Center NEWS



Empowering the Lives of Native Americans in the Portland Area

August/September 2005

Bi-Monthly Newsletter, Volume 9, Issue 5 of 6

## NAYALP NEWS!

By Marla Woodhouse, Outreach Coordinator

**The Leadership Project** has had a busy summer! We went to Camp Cody & The Sundance Ceremony on July 8-10. We did a 3-hour service project and helped the National Forest Service prune trees at an experimental forest on Mt. Hood. **Teddy Perez** took the prize at cutting 37 trees!

We had the opportunity to experience **The Sundance Ceremony** and learn about the sacred and spiritual journey the dancers take for four days. The young adults led a group discussion about service projects and fundraising ideas they want to do in the upcoming year.

We made Native crafts (Dream Catchers, Medicine Pouches, Necklaces) and decorated t-shirts with 3-D paints. We gathered wood for the campfire, played flashlight tag and hiked and swam at the White River Waterfall. We cooked, cleaned and enjoyed being in the outdoors.

In other NAYALP news, we received a special invitation by The Administration for Native Americans Commissioner, **Quannah Crossland Stamps**, to attend the National Youth Summit in Washington DC on July 27-29!

**Perry Nunes, Aarontino Yazzie, Shayleen Macy & Carla Edwards** will be attending to represent both the NAYA Family Center and the Leadership Project. We are excited to tour the National Museum of the American



Indian and other historic landmarks while we are visiting our nation's capital.

NAYALP continuation funding search is a success! Funding has been secured for up to three years for NAYALP through the City of Portland Bureau of Housing and Community Development (BHCD). This is very timely, as the two year Administration for Native American (ANA) federal funding for the project expires July 31, and BHCD funding will pick it up on August 1. There will be some program changes as the focus of BHCD is work force development rather than leadership development, but we will still be incorporating community service, leadership skill building and support services. Final contract goals are being negotiated, and a Project update will be posted on the website by August. Check it out!

## Outdoor Club Thanks Starbucks!

By Lori Reinecke, CASP Coordinator

The Outdoor Club would like to thank the **Starbucks Foundation** for their continued support of our programming. With their support, we have been able to take youth on many challenging and exciting outings this summer, including a ropes course, canoe trip, bike trip, and fishing trip. Some students also participated in the **Police Activities League** for a week after school was out. The months of August and September are full of more exciting trips – kayaking, rock climbing, hiking and a trek through Ape Caves. Activities will continue through the fall, so stay tuned for more updates! If you would like more information or to sign up for any of these trips, please contact **Dave Higgs**, Sports Coordinator ext. 215. Thank you Starbucks!

## A Note from Outgoing POIC Instructor Mike Scarbo

Dear NAYA Family,

I just wanted to express a heartfelt thank you to the NAYA Family Center for providing me with an opportunity to grow as a teacher and as a human being in this past year. As someone committed to the limitless potential of our youth, the NAYA staff and volunteers were a continual source of inspiration and strength.

For reasons both personal and professional I will be returning to Hawai'i to teach middle school this fall. It was a hard decision to make because it is hard to imagine finding another organization with a staff so dedicated to the mission statement of "enhancing the diverse strengths of our youth and families in partnership with the community." What's more, in recent weeks it has become obvious that the NAYA Family Center is about to embark on some very exciting educational projects, ones that I would love to help grow and develop. I can only hope that the surf is stellar enough to keep professional regrets at bay.

I look forward to hearing about these projects and about the advances being made by the young adults I had the good fortune of spending time with over the course of the last school year. I will sing your praises far and wide. Thank you so much for all that you do to ensure the strength of our future.

Aloha,  
Mike Scarbo

## Healing Circle to Welcome a New Legal Advocate

NAYA Family Center's Healing Circle will be welcoming **a new Legal Advocate** to the program this fall. The position is coordinated through the Communities in Partnership to Stop Violence Against Women and Children (CPSVAWC) AmeriCorps program, which places volunteers with organizations around the state to provide services to survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. The new Legal Advocate will serve at the NAYA Family Center for eleven months, and will assist Healing Circle clients with restraining orders, divorce and custody issues, and tribal and state court and agency processes. The Healing Circle's **current Legal Advocate, Jennifer Amriott**, will be completing her term of service in early August. According to Jennifer, "I have really enjoyed my time at NAYA. Thank you to the NAYA staff and community members for a wonderful year!"

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**Every Friday from August 5th through September 2, 2005 (from 4:30 - 7pm), Ready to Rent (RTR) classes will be offered at the NAYA Family Center.**

This is a free, five-week housing readiness education training available to the public. Participants work closely with housing specialists to learn their rights and responsibilities as renters and gain access to landlords willing to consider **RTR** graduates, even when they have screening barriers. Screening barriers can affect all of us and make it difficult to find safe and comfortable places to live. Barriers can be any negative information a landlord finds out about you, such as past credit problems, evictions, a criminal history, or if you're a first time renter.

**RTR** helps people identify these barriers and overcome the challenges they present. Participants must be on time and attend all of the classes to receive a graduation certificate. The classes require participants to do some difficult work, and they can start *right now*. Come to the first **RTR** class with a completed orientation packet and credit report. You are entitled to one free copy of your credit report a year if you certify in writing that (1) you're unemployed and plan to look for a job within 60 days, (2) you're on public assistance, or (3) your report is inaccurate because of fraud. Otherwise, a credit reporting agency may charge you up to \$9.00 for a copy of your report.

Orientation packets are available at the Portland Housing Center, 3233 NE Sandy Blvd. Portland, OR 97232, can be downloaded at [www.portlandhousingcenter.org](http://www.portlandhousingcenter.org), or at the front desk of The NAYA Family Center. Present completed packets to the instructor on the first day of class (August 5<sup>th</sup>). Please call (503) 288-8177 for information.

## Call for NAYA Youth Talent

NAYA Youth have been invited to perform at a talent show as part of a youth conference here in Portland. We are looking for 3-5 youth to read a poem, play an instrument, sing... For more information, please contact Lori Reinecke, ext. 230.

## Delta Park Pow-Wow Cleanup: The Necessity of Community Involvement

NAYA Family Center Volunteers, lead by our own Tawna Sanchez, spent the better part of the Monday following the Delta Park Days Pow-wow helping to pick up garbage and debris left over from the event. This effort reflects our commitment to the Native American value of "leaving a place better than you found it." The project also allowed the NAYA Family Center to show their appreciation of the efforts of the Elders and the Bow and Arrow Culture Club. NAYA Family Center believes it's important to have a visible presence serving on community volunteer projects. Volunteer efforts can accomplish huge tasks, help to overcome cultural/social barriers, and their combined efforts and resources can help solve many of the problems that we face as a society. Community volunteer projects are also a great way to reconnect with your friends and community members, and serve as valuable "networking" opportunities.

Look for every opportunity you can find to be a Volunteer; there are many non-profit organizations and social service agencies that need your time and energy. And, by the way, you get to keep the good feeling that volunteering gives you!

## Family and Community Members – Cultural Arts Program Seeking Volunteers and Donations

In preparation for the upcoming school year, the Cultural Arts program is seeking donations of material, thread, ribbons, buttons and shawl fringe to make regalia for the youth. Each spring, we honor those students with outstanding attendance, behavior and commitment to the dance class at the Honoring Ceremony with regalia. Each year, amazing volunteers come together to help make this possible. We are holding the first volunteer party of the year on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 PM here at NAYA and would like to make it an instructional party where parents, guardians, family and community members can learn how to make a shawl while working on regalia to be given to youth. Please contact Lori Reinecke if you have any questions or would like to attend the work party at extension 230.

## Native Clubs Starting-up in September

The **Native Club Program** just might be at your school this year. This past year, **Roanne Littlelight** and **John Walker** brought Native American hands-on activities, stories, music, and traditional foods to several schools in the Portland area (including two in Gresham). Schools that participated in the 2004/2005 program included **Beaumont Middle School (MS), Binnsmead MS, Clear Creek Elementary School (ES), East Gresham ES, Fernwood MS, George MS, Lane MS, Parkrose MS, Portsmouth MS,** and **Sellwood MS.**

The Native Club Program was formed as part of an effort to help Native American students (and students interested in Native American culture and values) have a place at school to find one-another, gather together, and participate in culturally-specific activities. This last year, we handed out "Me and My Tribe" packets to help students research their personal Native heritage (or research a tribe they were interested in), made baby moccasins and parflech bags. See you there!!!

## Native Youth Network "Back to School BBQ"

Get ready for the **Native Youth Network "Back to School BBQ"** to be held on **August 27th** at around **"lunchtime" (exact time and location TBD).**

This community event showcases the many programs and agencies in our area that serve to improve the educational, personal, and cultural opportunities of Native Youth and Families.

Food, games, information, and a sense of community are all provided. Stop by the NAYA Family Center booth to register your youth/families for our many programs offered this fall. Students who have new Intake Forms completed are eligible to participate in our Back to School Supply Giveaway to be held Thursday, September 1st from 2-6 pm and Friday, September 2nd from 9-12 am at the NAYA Family Center. Details will be available at the event.


Contact John Walker, MS Program Planner at 503.288.8177 x 206 for updated details as they become available! Hope to see you there...



# AUGUST

# SEPTEMBER

# 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> Native American Teen Gathering - Coos Bay, OR	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Ready to Rent (RTR) 4:30-7pm NAYA Family Center	<b>6</b>
				↑		
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Outdoor Club (ODC) Rock Climbing (Dave Higgs)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Ready to Rent (RTR) 4:30-7pm NAYA Family Center	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Script Writing Workshop (Chris Tinker)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Ready to Rent (RTR) 4:30-7pm NAYA Family Center	<b>20</b>
						↑
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Ready to Rent (RTR) 4:30-7pm NAYA Family Center	<b>27</b> Native Youth Network Back To School BBQ (TBD)
	<b>29</b> FC - Pathways to Adulthood (Selona)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					<b>2</b> Ready to Rent (RTR) 4:30-7pm NAYA Family Center	<b>3</b>
					<b>1</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Labor Day	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> ODC Hike (Dave Higgs)
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> CASP Volunteer Party - Shawl Making (Lori Reinecke)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> ODC Ape Caves Trek (Dave Higgs)
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> FC - Pathways to Adulthood (Selona)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

## Young Adult Researchers Complete Community-Based Project

By Colin McCormack, YEC Coordinator

In May, the **Youth and Elders Council Research Interns** wrapped up the second year of community-based research. They completed more than 550 surveys with the help of community members. That number of completed surveys far surpassed the goal of 500. For that, we would like to thank all of those researchers who helped to complete the project. **Michael Begaye, Leah Gibson, Michael Huddleston, Jessie McDaniel, Tashina McKinney, Kimmei Potawanakwat, Allison Vasquez,** and **Teresa Whitefoot-Ambrose** all helped over the course of the spring. The Council extends a thanks to all of them. Good work, guys!

The Council also thanks all of the individuals and agencies throughout the Portland Native American community who helped us in our work. We would like to especially thank **Linda Looking** and **Arnold Little Head**, and **Buz and Joyce Nelson** for their strong support. In June, the Youth and Elders Council named **Linda Looking** the 2005 Volunteer Researcher of the Year. Thanks Linda!

Our sister cities in the Urban Indian Community Project: **Seattle, Billings,** and **Rapid City** also completed the same survey in their communities. A total of 2,271 surveys were completed in all four cities. The information collected will go a long ways towards creating a regional strategic plan for reducing poverty in urban American Indian/Alaska Native communities in the Northwest.

Complete survey results will be available soon. To receive this information, please call Colin McCormack at (503) 288-8177 x 217 or email him at [colinm@nayapdx.org](mailto:colinm@nayapdx.org).

Some information is already available including the following points:

- 2005 Native American Youth and Elders Council Survey respondents in Portland report unemployment at 25.9%.
- The 2000 U.S. Census indicates that the general American Indian population of Portland had a 14.4% unemployment rate, while the overall population rate was 5.6%.
- More than one quarter of the 2005 Native American Youth and Elders Council Survey respondents in Portland have an annual household income of less than \$10,000, while another 22.4% report household incomes of \$10,000-\$20,000.
- The 2005 Native American Youth and Elders Council survey showed that 25% of respondents were homeowners. The 2000 Census indicates that nearly 63% of the overall Portland population owns their homes.

## News From the Pathways to Adulthood Program

By Selona Stallings, FC Support Specialist

Pathways to Adulthood is NAYA Family Center's Independent Living Program for teens currently or formerly in state or tribal foster care. On May 23rd the first "Pathways to Adulthood Group" met. In June the "Pathways to Adulthood Group" was joined by native artist Deanna Wohlgenuth. We learned about her business of turning the elements into wearable art and all participants left with one of her pieces. This support group will continue to meet on the last Monday of every month. The next group meetings will be on Monday August 29th and Monday September 26th from 4 pm – 5:30 pm. Please contact Selona Stallings to attend 503-288-8177 ext. 225.

In May two youth from the Pathways program attended the Healing Our Wounded Spirit Conference in Klamath Falls and did a fabulous job making new connections, learning, representing NAYA, and participating in this very serious and challenging conference. This week long conference was the last in a five year series. We have been invited to participate next year when a new series starts in Washington.

The youth in the Pathways program have been invited to Puyallup, WA in September to visit the Canoe Family and go with them on their canoe.

## NATIVE AMERICAN TEEN GATHERING

August 14th the Native American Teen Gathering will be held in Coos Bay, OR. This Gathering is for Native American teens ages 16-20 years old. The nine tribes of Oregon, NAYA Family Center, and DHS have been planning the Gathering. A group from NAYA Family Center will be giving a presentation at the Gathering. Please contact Selona Stallings 503-288-8177 ext. 225 to attend and to register for the Gathering.



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## The Healing Circle

By Naomi Harris, Healing Circle

American Indians experience a per capita rate of violence *twice* that of the U.S. resident population\* - this number includes domestic violence against Native women and children. This startling statistic means that many Native women are in a situation that requires them to find a safe place to stay until they can get back on their feet and make it on their own. This also means that Native women leaving violent relationships often have to move from their homes and families into a domestic violence shelter. The average stay of a Native woman in a domestic violence shelter is 3 days.

For the past 5 years, **The Healing Circle** program has worked with the shelter system and Native victims of domestic violence to change that statistic. The Healing Circle offers co-advocacy and trainings to the shelters in order for them to be more culturally sensitive. We offer advocacy and Native-specific support groups to Native women, as well as continued co-case management with shelter staff to assist them in meeting the needs of Native victims of domestic violence.

The Healing Circle and its work with the domestic violence and Native communities have resulted in increasing the average stay of a Native woman in shelter from 3 days to 27 days! This additional time-in-shelter allows Native women a chance to find their balance, regain their strength, sense of safety and community, all of which are essential for a life free of violence.

If you have any questions, need additional referrals or know of someone who does, please do not hesitate to call **Naomi Harris** (ext. 202) or **Tawna Sanchez** (ext. 209) at **The Healing Circle: 503-288-8177** or **The Portland Women's Crisis Line: 503-235-5333**.

(\*National Crime Victimization Survey 1992-2001)

On behalf of NAYA Family Center and NAYA's High School program, we would like to congratulate the winning teams of the **2005 Summer Institute 9 Tribes Know-it-All Showdown**.

The Summer Institute students spent three Friday mornings devoted to studying the 9 federally recognized tribes of Oregon and preparing for the **Showdown** which was held on July 15th, 2005.

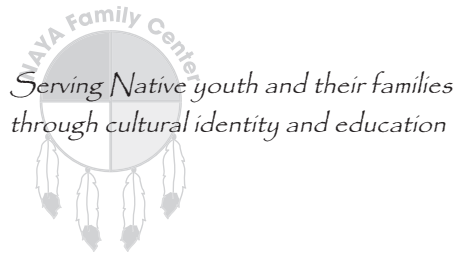
**Gabe Morris, Casmine Bonnett** and **Donovane Willeto** took first place and received a \$25 Lloyd Center Visa Gift card. The second place winners included **Rosa Frutos, David Baker, Margo Guajardo, and Happy Star Bravehawk**. Each second place winner received a \$10 gift certificate to Regal Cinemas.

All contestants did a great job and everyone received gift certificates to Barnes and Noble for their participation.

We'd like to thank Tabitha Whitefoot and the staff at the PSU Native American Student and Community Center for all their help in putting on this event.

# Native American Youth and Family Center

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## This is your opportunity to be famous!

By Chris Tinker, HS Advocate

Have you ever wanted to make your own play or movie? Do you have something to say to the world but can't get them to listen? Have you ever wondered what it would feel like to have people interested in something you wrote? Your chance has finally come.

**Tom Kellogg and his group of Native American actors** would like to put on a one act play that you write during their **Script Writing Workshop**. The workshop will be a one week, all day script writing course at the NAYA Family Center from August 15th through the 20th. If you are going to be in **ninth grade next school year** and you would like to work with professional actors to learn how to write your own play, this is the workshop for you! At the end of the week all will be invited to see your work performed on stage by professional actors.

To find out more information about this free, once in a lifetime opportunity, contact: **Chris Tinker** (503) 288-8177 x 208.