

# NAYA Family Center NEWS

Empowering the Lives of Native Americans in the Portland Area



August/September 2007

Bi-Monthly Newsletter, Volume 11, Issue 5 of 6

The **MASAP Summer Camp** was held this past summer from July 9th to August 10. We had two interns (pictured) joining us for the summer, **Cerise Palmanteer** – a student at **Evergreen State College** (see related story this page), and **Marissa Wolfe** – a student at **Clackamas Community College**.



*Cerise and Marissa*

This year's summer camp focused on math, science, the environment, cultural studies, and recreational activities. Partnerships for this summer included the **Boy Scouts**, **Oregon College of Arts and Crafts**, **Friends of Trees**, the **City of Portland**, **The Rebuilding Center**, the **Oregon Zoo**, and many others. Highlights of the camp were **Camp Cody on Mt. Hood**, attending a



**Portland Beavers** game, the **annual NAYA track meet**, and the **Native Games**. We had **50+ campers signed up this year** – the highest number ever! We're glad to have

provided a safe and fun summer that kept minds sharp and hands busy!



"This summer is my second summer as a NAYA camp counselor, and my seventh or eighth year as a NAYA kid. I know I'm getting older now and should probably be calling myself a young adult or something, but I still consider myself just a big kid because I still have a lot to learn.

Through working with the NAYA camp last summer, I learned that working with kids is the most rewarding thing I have ever done. I have been in school at **The Evergreen State College** for two years now and next year I will be a junior. For the longest time I could not decide what I was going to do when I grow up. Then I came to work with the NAYA summer camp and it became clear to me that *this* was what I was most passionate about; working with kids, unveiling the wonders of the world to their eager minds.

Without having had the experiences I have had with these wild, crazy, and absolutely wonderful kids I doubt that this is the path that my life would have taken, so I am forever grateful to them for driving me crazy Monday through Friday all summer long! Because of them I have decided to focus my studies at Evergreen on gaining entry into the **Masters in Teaching program.**"

*Cerise Palmanteer*

## NAYA History Project

**WE NEED YOUR HELP! Have you or your family participated in NAYA events over the last 34 years?** If yes, we would love to hear from you. We are collecting photographs, documents and stories from NAYA's 34-year history to make a display of NAYA's groundbreaking and helpful services, programs and events. This exhibit will be mobile and can be used at NAYA events, Native community events and larger community events for educational purposes.

*If you have any documents, photos, or stories to share or would like more information please call Shilo George at 503-288-8177 x224 or [shilo.g@naya.pdx.org](mailto:shilo.g@naya.pdx.org). Any documents, photos, or stories will be scanned into the computer and promptly given back to you.*

## Fall Community Gathering

Please join us Friday, September 14th from 6:00pm-9:00pm at NAYA Family Center to celebrate our **new NAYA Early College Academy!** We will be providing a free dinner and ask that **community members bring potluck side-dishes to share.** There have been many, many people who have contributed to and supported NAYA in bringing this 30 year vision to reality, and it's time for our community to celebrate. We will have speakers, entertainment and you will have a chance to meet the new NAYA Early College Academy teachers and staff.

NAYA Family Center will hold a **Book Drive** during the Fall Community Gathering to add to the **Early College Academy's library. We are looking for new or used books with Native American and Alaska Native focus that are age-appropriate for our future students.**

We're looking for books about Native culture and history as well as Native literature. Books focusing on environmental and nature studies would also be very helpful. Educational books would be ideal but books our students could read for pleasure would help us create a fully functional and welcoming library space. We would like to thank the community in advance for its support.

From the American Leadership Forum of Oregon Press Release:

**The American Leadership Forum (ALF) of Oregon** has selected NAYA Family Center's Sustainability Officer, **Christine Dupres**, to participate in the statewide American Leadership Forum of Oregon program for the 2007-2008 year. Dupres will join 25 other notable leaders from around the state to participate as part of the organization's Class XXII Fellows Program.

The American Leadership Forum of Oregon is an independent chapter of the national American Leadership Forum, a non-profit, non-partisan organization that works to join and strengthen Oregon leaders in order to better serve the public good... "This year's ALF Fellows are extraordinary leaders with impressive records of personal and professional accomplishments," said ALF of Oregon's Executive Director, Robin Teater. *Congratulations Dr. Dupres!*

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*Continued on page 7*

## Your NAYA Family Grows and Grows!



Hi, my name is **Bianca Sekayouma**, NAYA Family Center's **new Bookkeeper**. I am Hopi and Nez Perce. My past experience includes Finance work for large Corporations and Small Business Administration in Child Development. I attended **Chemeketa Community College, and studied in Business Administration**. Previously, I have enjoyed work

experience in non-profit organizations.

Hello, my name is **Deanne Goforth** and I am a member of the **Pawnee Nation, Chaui band** now located in Pawnee, Oklahoma. I am a new **Workforce Case Management Specialist**, and I am very excited about meeting and working with Native American community members on employment issues. I grew up about 30 miles away from Pawnee in Stillwater, Oklahoma. As the first person in my family to attend college it was very exciting for me to attend **Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado**. I received a **B.A. in International Studies** with a **French minor** and upon graduation in 2004, **worked for Free the Children in Kenya as a Project Manager**. I moved to Eugene, Oregon in the fall of 2005 **to pursue a master's degree in International Studies at the University of Oregon with a focus on indigenous women's empowerment**. It was an honor to work at the **Center for Indigenous Cultural Survival as an Office Manger** throughout my master's program. After researching in **Dharamsala, India** with indigenous Tibetan women, I **graduated in June 2007**. As one of the new members of the NAYA Family Center, I would like to say that it's very exciting to be working here and strengthening our indigenous communities. Please schedule an appointment if you're interested in working on your resume or job-searching.



My name is **Desiree Castille**. I'm 40 years old as of this past July 6th, and **was born in San Leandro, California**. I'm a mother of 5 children (3 boys, 2 daughters), and one on the way! My Grandmother was born and raised in Arizona. We are 3 different kinds of Native American tribes, one being **Yaki**, and the other two being researched. I'm **also Spanish/Mexican** (my Grandfather was born in Spain). I live in Portland and attend **Portland Community College (PCC) studying computers**, so I can better myself with my internship here at NAYA!

*The NAYA Family Center welcomes our new employees! We also encourage the community to stop in and say "hello" when you are in the neighborhood.*

*NAYA Family Center also welcomes **Theresa Keeney** as a new **Workforce Case Manager** (Theresa's bio wasn't available at press-time, so more on Theresa in next issue!).*

## Sadly, some have to move on:

I've been truly blessed to have interned at the NAYA Family Center while I completed the second year of my **Graduate Social Work program**. My internship began September 2006 and ended June 2007. The staff at NAYA has been phenomenal, encouraging, and accessible to me throughout. My field instructor, **Naomi Harris**, deserves unprecedented applause and acknowledgement for her untiring devotion, compassion, encouragement, accessibility, and her unfailing desire to have seen me become the best social worker I could become. Naomi has a beautiful spirit and work ethic, and I feel as though I have been exceedingly blessed to have her as my field instructor, counselor and advisor this year. So it is with profound sadness that I leave Naomi and the rest of NAYA's staff who are not *like*, but *are* a second family to me.

*Gina Hicks  
MSW*

## Welcome, New Board Members!



**Angela Hoge** has lived in the Portland area for over 10 years. She was born in **Fort Wayne, Indiana** and spent most of her childhood in Indianapolis. She is married and has two dogs. Angela is enjoying her first year in business for herself as an interior custom designer transforming residential and commercial spaces. She is also the **lead singer and band leader of Charm School**, a

7 piece event and wedding band.

Angela's great, great grandmother was a **Cherokee** tribal member and as a child attended the **Carlisle School in Carlisle Pennsylvania**. Afterwards, she stayed in Pennsylvania and never returned to her family. The family's Cherokee roots were all but lost when her daughter, Angela's great grandmother, passed away while giving birth to her fifth child. Angela's grandfather spent his childhood in a Catholic orphanage with his four brothers. The boys spent most of their lives trying to prove their Native American bloodline. They knew nothing of their heritage or customs. It seemed that what little the Carlisle School left was completely lost and forgotten after the death of Angela's great grandmother.

This year after shuffling through census documents and communicating with Carlisle School researchers, Angela traced her lost ancestry. "The birth of the Internet has allowed us to research and locate documents that formerly took years to uncover. One of the biggest honors of my life was calling my great uncle in Indiana to tell him I received his grandmother's record from the school. The record contained her tribe, clan and blood quantum."

Angela became involved with NAYA two years ago after **Matt Morton** introduced her to NAYA. "At first I felt silly because I didn't feel I was native enough to participate, so I dove into the fundraising. My first community event at NAYA wasn't until early this year. When I heard the drums and singing I was hit with a sudden reverence. I knew at that moment my great grandmother was with me at NAYA and I was honoring her life learning about my lost heritage."

Angela is very passionate about NAYA. "I came to NAYA to give – I didn't expect to be given so much in return. I have experienced the most incredible gathering of people

at NAYA. Every smile and handshake has meant the world to me. I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve for NAYA and my service and time are given to the community in honor of all of you."

*(Look for features on our other newest Board Members, **Billy Barquin** and **Lois Chilcott** – in our next issue.)*

## Letter to NAYA:

Nichole and NAYA Staff –

First of all, thank you for all you do on behalf of our Children, Families, and Elders. And thank you for including me in the NAYA Family. I can say I am always honored to be a part of Youth and Elders Night, but much more, I am grateful for how good I feel after visiting with our young people, watching their dance gifts to us, and to share in their successes.

**As a career street cop**, I saw so much pain and failure among young people that it broke my heart - children that were alone and without appreciation struggled with their anger, frustration, and lack of belonging. Gangs became their culture and they hid their shame with violence.

I had only to stop by NAYA on my shift and went away feeling good. As a Native person, I felt at home and happy to be among children and staff who cared about one another and about where they came from. It is a good thing that we celebrate every little step our young people take in their education and in their other accomplishments. Their dances, their flute songs, their writings and drawings are a blessing to us. They bring many smiles to us. I am grateful for these years with NAYA.

Peace,  
David Barrios  
Officer-Portland Police/Ret.



## Wish List

NAYA Family Staff would love school supplies for the school supply give away. Art supplies are always needed and appreciated both for the Cultural Arts program and regalia making, as well as for general arts activities. New board games are also very desirable! As NAYA continues to grow, the need for room dividers also grows.

# AUGUST


# SEPTEMBER

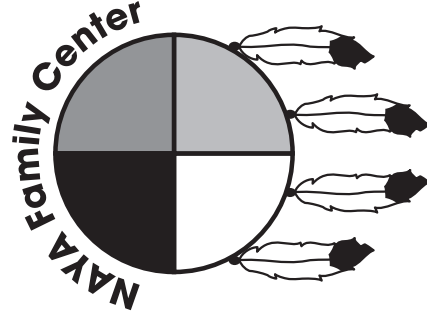
# 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> PIP MASAP	<b>2</b> DVG NTPM MASAP	<b>3</b> MASAP	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> MASAP	<b>7</b> MASAP	<b>8</b> PIP MASAP	<b>9</b> DVG NTPM MASAP	<b>10</b> MASAP	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> SRM	<b>14</b> ESG SOCC SRW	<b>15</b> PIP	<b>16</b> DVG NTPM SOCC	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> SRM	<b>21</b> ESG SOCC SRW	<b>22</b> PIP	<b>23</b> DVG NTPM SOCC	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> SRM	<b>28</b> ESG SOCC SRW	<b>29</b> PIP	<b>30</b> DVG NTPM SOCC ODC	<b>31</b>	
						

Code	Class, Group or Event	Location	Time
DVG	DV Group	NAYA	6:30 - 8:30pm
ESG	Employment Support Group	NAYA	6 - 8pm
HSN	High School Night	NAYA	6 - 8pm
MASAP	MASAP Summer Camp	varies	9:30am - 4pm
NTPM	Native Teen Parenting Meeting	NAYA	4 - 6pm
ODC	Outdoor Club Rock Climbing	NAYA**	9am
PIP	Positive Indian Parenting	NAYA	6 - 8pm
RTR	Ready-to-Rent	NAYA	4:30 - 7pm
SOCC	Soccer Practice	TBD	5 - 6:30pm
SOCC-GD	Soccer Gameday		
SRM	Strengthening Relationships - Men	NAYA	5:30 - 7pm
SRW	Strengthening Relationships - Women	NAYA	5 - 7pm

\*\* Leaving NAYA at 9am sharp

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> CLOSED	<b>4</b> ESG SOCC SRW 1st Day of NAYA Early College Acd	<b>5</b> PPS Begin School HSN PIP	<b>6</b> DVG NTPM SOCC	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> SOCC - GD
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> SRM	<b>11</b> ESG SOCC SRW	<b>12</b> HSN PIP	<b>13</b> DVG NTPM SOCC	<b>14</b> Fall Community Gathering Book Drive	<b>15</b> SOCC - GD
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> SRM	<b>18</b> ESG SOCC SRW	<b>19</b> HSN PIP	<b>20</b> DVG NTPM SOCC	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> SOCC - GD
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> SRM	<b>25</b> ESG SOCC	<b>26</b> HSN PIP	<b>27</b> DVG NTPM SOCC	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> SOCC - GD
<b>30</b>						



## Meet the new NAYA AmeriCorps\*VISTAs!



*Shannon, Heather, Fatima, Jason, and Lauren*

Hello NAYA community! My name is **Shannon Effler**, and I am the **new AmeriCorps\*VISTA Youth Services Department Analyst**. I graduated from **Earlham College with a B.A. in Human Development and Social Relations**. It is my privilege to serve here at NAYA.

I grew up in the lovely corn-loving land of **Zionsville, Indiana**. I most recently lived in Louisville, Kentucky. In Louisville I **was employed as a Youth Counselor at a residential treatment center for adolescent girls**. I moved to Portland in January where, prior to NAYA, I worked as a **Special Education Para-Educator in the Portland Public Schools**. I certainly hope to become more than my job description to NAYA and the Native community of Portland. I hope by the end of my year of service my title will no longer be VISTA, but NAYA Family Center's ally and friend.

Hello NAYA Community, my name is **Heather Pruess**, and I'm the new **VISTA Education Specialist for the NAYA Early College Academy**. I'm finishing up my **Master's of Public Administration at Portland State University**.

It is an understatement to say that I am excited to be here at NAYA. I consider myself fortunate to be here, to witness the dedication of everyone involved, and to learn from your efforts creating the NAYA Early College Academy. I look forward to meeting all of you.

Hello, my name is **Fatima Schoemaker**, and I'm NAYA Family Center's **new AmeriCorps\*VISTA Community Partnership Specialist**. I recently graduated from **Goucher College in Baltimore with a bachelor's degree in psychology**. I was **born in Paraguay, South America** and immigrated to the Baltimore area when I was five. I've lived there since and am now in Portland to work with NAYA. I am very grateful for the warm welcome I've received from all the staff and community members here. Everyone has been so helpful and approachable, and I'm really excited to serve my first VISTA year with such a wonderful, dynamic group of people.

My name is **Jason Long**, and my title is **"AmeriCorps\*VISTA Housing/Employment Resource Analyst."** I went to school at **Portland State University and graduated with a B.S. in Community Development and a B.S. in Sociology**.

While I have no direct tribal affiliations, I have had an interest in Native American peoples and their culture since I was a boy growing up in the **Puget Sound**.

I want to say hello to everyone, and that I am glad to have the chance to work for and with you on many projects to improve our community.

Hello! My name is **Lauren McCartney** and I will be working with NAYA as the new **AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer Program Specialist**. Just to let you know a bit about myself, I spent my childhood in central Nebraska and later moved to Yakama, WA. I have family in South Dakota, so I've spent many summers traveling between Washington and the mid-west. For the past six years I've lived in Portland attending **Portland State University**. During this time I was introduced to social justice activism and organizing, and developed a passion for community empowerment through organizing and non-profit work. Last year I **studied Spanish and immigration** in Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico. I **recently finished my bachelor's degree in Community Development**. I am very excited to be working at NAYA and have much appreciated the warm and welcoming people here. I am greatly looking forward to meeting and getting to know others in the community, as well as working with the volunteer program, this upcoming year.

## NAYA Staff

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## Generations Project Adult Classes

We hope you all are enjoying the summer and having fun before school starts up again. We want to remind everyone that we continue to have ongoing adult classes: **Positive Indian Parenting, Women's Relationships Strengthening** and **Men's Relationship Strengthening**. These classes are held once per week for several weeks and classes are led by Nora Farwell, MSW (*Blackfeet*).

The **Positive Indian Parenting (PIP)** classes last eight weeks and are scheduled for Wednesday nights from 6:00pm-8:30pm at NAYA Family Center. This class is open to anyone who would like to increase their knowledge about traditional parenting skills and values, improve their already existing parenting skills and learn new skills for relating to our children and helping them grow to be strong and respectful. Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and any other community members who would like to develop and explore their parenting and childcare skills in a Native American culturally specific environment are encouraged to come. Classes will explore traditional Indian parenting skills through culturally appropriate stories, videos and group discussion. Here are a few things past participants have to say about Positive Indian parenting: *"I love knowing our traditional parenting ways, it sounds so nurturing."* *"As a parent we all have a difficult time with our children. And we are not in this boat alone. It is nice to see other parents share their stories and feelings as a parent."*

The **Men's Relationship Strengthening** classes last six weeks and are held on Monday nights from 6:00pm-7:30pm at NAYA Family Center. Through the use of traditional stories men who participant in this class are able to gain knowledge about traditional roles of men and women and how past traditional values can be brought into current relationships with their partners and loved ones. All of us are aware of the devastating effects genocide, loss of cultural and traditional values have had in how we see ourselves, how we interact with our families and our community. This class allows men to develop the relationship skills they already have and to learn new ones, giving the strong men of our community tools to take a respectful and nurturing role in their family. This is one way for our families to become healthier and happier. Here are a few things past participants of Men's Relationship Strengthening have said about the class:

(Did the group topics influence your present relationship?)

*"It will help me make healthier choices and take responsibility for my role."*

*"To pay attention more."*

The **Women's Relationship Strengthening** classes last six weeks and are held on Tuesday nights from 5:30pm-7:00pm at NAYA Family Center. Through the use of traditional stories women participating in this class will gain knowledge about traditional roles of men and women and how past traditional values can be brought into their current relationships. All of us are aware of the devastating effects genocide, loss of cultural and traditional values have had in how we see ourselves, how we interact with our families and our community. This class allows women to develop the relationship skills they already have and to learn new ones, giving the strong women of our community tools to take a respectful and nurturing role in their family. This is one way for our families to become healthier and happier. Here are a few things past participants of Women's Relationship Strengthening have said about the class:

(Did the group topics influence your present relationship?)

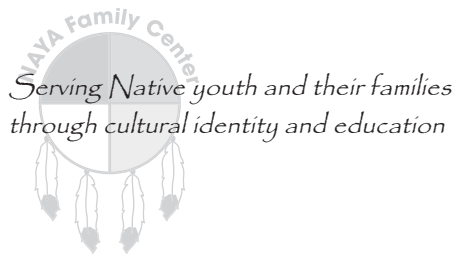
*"Yes, we discuss each story brought home and how it might apply to us."*

*"I learned about why I continue to make the same choices in my relationship."*

All of our adult classes are **free** and we provide **free childcare** to those who need it. Couples are encouraged to participate in PIP together or to take the Relationship Strengthening classes at the same time. Snacks and beverages are provided and **class completion certificates** are given as well as **door prizes**. Please call Nora Farwell at 503-288-8177 x 234 or Shilo George at 503-288-8177 x224 to sign up for a class or if you have any questions.

# Native American Youth and Family Center

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Thanks to all who were involved in the **first annual NAYA Family Center 2007 All-Star Invitational Basketball Tournament** on June 22, our first chance to showcase the **beautiful new gym floor**. **The Shooters**, coached by **Aaron Wolfe**, emerged victorious. We are especially thankful to our **Referees**, who called all 6 games back-to-back. *Look for an even bigger tournament next year!*

NAYA Soccer season is just around the corner! If you are a boy or girl in grade 6-8 and are interested in playing soccer, please contact Dave Higgs, or pick up a registration form in the office. Practices will begin in the second week of August and will continue through November. All practices will be at NAYA – all games at Delta Park. Soccer is paid for by the **Children's Investment Fund**, and covers entry and equipment fees for all NAYA youth.

*Dave "Mad Skillz" Higgs - Sports and ODC Manager*

This year the **Pathways to Adulthood Program** took two youth to the statewide **Ten Conference in Coos Bay** from June 25th-28th. We stayed in the dorms at **Southwestern Oregon Community College** and were busy attending workshops, touring the campus, learning about leaving the foster care system and moving into adulthood, and stayed active from early in the morning until late at night. **Kassy Parrish** (pictured) was part of the group that won the sandcastle building contest. Her group entered a real sand mermaid! Kassy, by the way, is also the **winner of a Ford Family Foundation Scholarship**, and will be using this to attend **Western Oregon University** where she will be studying to become an **English Teacher**. *We're very proud of your accomplishments, Kassy!*