

# NAYA NEWS

Empowering the Lives of Native Americans in the Portland Area



July/August 2003

Volume 7, Issue 9

## The Year That Was in the Education Retention Program

Even though the calendar year isn't over, it often feels like it is at NAYA—the kids are gone, the Tutoring Center is quiet and the Education Retention Staff has a chance to catch their breath for a moment before the MASAP Summer Camp starts up in the first week of July. What a year it has been at NAYA! After such a busy year with so many events, this is a good time to step back and have a chance to remember and recognize all the hard work and fun had by NAYA students during the academic school year.

The year kicked off with a packed Tutoring Center Open House, over 100 NAYA students and family members filled NAYA to sign up for tutoring and the four basketball teams. Whether the event was successful because students were so excited to sign up for help with their homework or because of Tawna Sanchez's famous Indian Tacos we'll never know. How busy NAYA was that night was a sign of the year to come.



The MASAP School Break Camps filled up quickly and were a great mixture of learning and fun. There was a trip to Mt. St. Helen's and Ape Cave, paper mache mask making, snowball fights, and the legends of Wy'east, Loo-Wit and Pah-to told by a Wasco elder. Great memories for all the NAYA youth that participated and those NAYA high-school students that served as junior counselors, leaders for those following behind them.

So many other programs came to life this year. The Girls Talking Circle on Thursday nights, for Native girls to gather to learn and discuss issues important to them. The Giant Puppet Making class, where eight NAYA students worked hard to create huge recreations of Coyote and the Frog and performed the legend during the Mississippi Street Fair. NAYA High School dances and Jammin 95.5 kept the neighborhood bumping and NAYA high school students visited seven college campuses, gained skills in monthly workshops, and began to take hold of their futures.



The NAYA Dance class became a great intergenerational community event, with students feverishly practicing their dance steps upstairs while parents worked on regalia in the basement. Becca and Kyle Payne led their students in two public performances, at Lewis & Clark Law School, NAYA's Youth & Elders Honoring Dinner, and the Children's Learning Center. A shout out as well to Michael Huddleston and his crew "Animal" that rocked the Youth & Elders Honoring Dinner with their vocal skills.

So much talent, creativity, hard-work, community support and strength was on display during NAYA this year from Native students and family members. It was inspiring to be a part of. It was the hope for all the following generations. It gives us all at NAYA strength as we look towards the next year.

## From the Executive Director..

Dear NAYA Community Members,

First of all, I would like to say **Thank You** for an excellent school year. The NAYA students, community and staff have had so many outstanding accomplishments this year. NAYA has had an incredibly active school year with tons of camps, programming, and general goal setting.

The Foster Care Support Program is in full swing and we have had some recent changes. Rebecca Smart has left NAYA to move back to her Tribe and family. I would like to take this time to tell her what an exceptional job she has done and that NAYA will miss her. We would also like to **welcome** Korrina Wolfe to our staff. Korrina Wolfe whom many of you already know as a former Casey employee has joined NAYA as our Foster Care Support Specialist. She brings with her a strong knowledge base of our community, many great relationships with NAYA youth and families, and exceptional experience of the foster care system. Korrina is an MSW from Portland State University and a member of the Miwok Tribe from California. We hope that you will help welcome her, and share in her enthusiasm for serving Native youth.

On behalf of the NAYA staff I would like to say **Thank You** to Nora Farwell, for all of the hard work and dedication she has demonstrated over the past four years. Nora will be leaving us in the end of June due to county cut backs. She has done an exceptional job working on the Student Attendance program and has truly made a difference in the lives and families of our youth. The entire staff will miss her, although we feel confident that we will see her soon.

There are many exciting events this summer and I hope that you will have a chance to look at our calendar and schedule some time with NAYA!

Sincerely,  
 Nichole J. Maher  
 Executive Director



*“Wooo Hooo!” says Jason Angell and students at the “Pure Fun” event at Thrillville Amusement park.*



## NAYA STAFF

**4000 N. Mississippi Ave  
 Portland, OR 97227**

**Phone: 503-288-8177**

**Nichole Maher, Executive Director**  
 nicholem@nayapdx.org, ext. 201

**Tawna Sanchez, DV Program Coord.**  
 tawnas@nayapdx.org, ext. 209

**January Scott, Sexual Assault Adv.**  
 Januarys@nayapdx.org, ext. 202

**Robin Dennis, Fiscal Manager**  
 robind@nayapdx.org, ext 204

**Korinna Wolfe, Foster Care Prg.**  
 Korinnaw@nayapdx.org ext.211

**Jason Angell, Ed. Ret. Prg. Coord.**  
 Jasona@nayapdx.org, ext. 207

**Rebecca Rank, Ed. Retention**  
 Rebeccar@nayapdx.org, ext. 208

**Shirod Younker, Event Coord.**  
 shirody@nayapdx.org, ext. 206

**Sarah Gellman, Tutor**  
 Sarahg@nayapdx.org, ext. 213

**Erica Lord, Tutor**  
 Erical@nayapdx.org, ext. 213

**Micah Johnson, Tutor**  
 Micahj@nayapdx.org, ext. 213

**David Spotted-Eagle, Transport.**  
 Davids@nayapdx.org, ext. 213

**Rebecca Payne, Receptionist**  
 Rebeccap@nayapdx.org, ext. 200



## NAYA Events Calendar

**July 11-13<sup>th</sup>**, Young Adult Group  
Camp Cody Retreat: Contact Erica  
x 213 for more information

**Friday July 18<sup>th</sup>**, Simnasho's  
Just Another Hot Summer Night  
Powwow. Dance group trip to  
Warm Springs. Contact Rebecca  
Payne x 200 for more information.

**July 7<sup>th</sup>-August 8<sup>th</sup>**, 9 am – 4pm  
M-F, MASAP Summer Camp @  
NAYA. For more information  
contact Shirod x 206

Creative Writing Workshops  
Tues night last day **July 8<sup>th</sup>**  
6-8pm : Taught by "Write Around  
Portland" hosted at NAYA  
Contact: Rebecca Rank x 204.

Notchco Foster Care Support  
meetings: Contact our New  
Foster Care Support Specialist:  
Korinna Wolfe x 211 for more  
information.

Back to School BBQ & Open  
House: **August 25<sup>th</sup>** 4-7pm at  
NAYA. Pick up back to school  
supplies and get a bite to eat.  
Sign up for NAYA programs,  
workshops and sports teams.

Southern Oregon University  
Oregon Institute of  
Technology tours: HS  
students looking to attend  
college: **Late August: Tentative.**  
Please Contact Rebecca Rank  
x 204 or Shirod x 206 to sign up.

### NATIVE COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Native American  
Rehabilitation Association  
17645 NW St. Helens Hwy.  
Portland, OR 97231  
503 621-0200

Columbia River Inter-Tribal  
Fish Commission  
729 NE Oregon Street #200  
Portland, OR 97232  
503 238-0667  
<http://www.critfc.org/>

Indian World KBOO Radio-  
90.7 FM  
20 SE 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Program, OR 97214  
503 231-8032

Native American Art Council  
Portland Art Museum  
1219 SW Park Avenue  
Portland, OR 97205  
503 226-2811

The National Indian Child  
Welfare Association (NICWA)  
5100 SW Macadam Ave #300  
Portland, OR 97201  
503 222-4044

Indian Education ACT Program  
2303 SE 28<sup>th</sup> Place  
Portland, OR 97214  
503 916-6499

Indian Health Service  
Chemawa Indian Health Center  
3750 Chemawa Rd. NE  
Salem, Or. 97305  
503-399-5931



## Girls Talking Circle Strengthens Courage, Confidence, & Communication

With the assistance of the Americorps Volunteer Legal Advocate, Julia Allison, NAYA began a group for teen girls call the Girls Talking Circle this past March. There have been some memorable moments with the group and it's been a great experience for everyone involved. The Girls met every Thursday afternoon and would talk about a range of topics, from healthy relationships, self-defense, conflict resolution, self-care to gender stereotyping and Teen Dating Violence. The program was created to help girls talk about difficult topics in a setting of their peers. The group offered the girls a safe environment to talk about their experiences of being a girl in today's society and a place to voice their questions or concerns. The statistics for abuse in the Native Community are staggering, it is reported that Native American women are twice as likely to have experienced some sort of abuse over that of White or African American women. It has been shown that if you can teach children the skills to keep them safe up to two years before they need those skills, that they are more likely to use them. Also, it has been found that when girls are allowed self-expression within a safe caring environment, it encourages self-confidence, authenticity in relationships, and enhances their judgment. Some of the exercises that were done in the group helped them identify concerns that they may have, gain a better understanding of their relationships and realize that we all have the right to be safe and respected.

The purpose of the group was to encourage and foster the strength, courage, confidence and communication skills in the girls, as well as to educate the girls about different issues that affect them. This group was all about helping the young women of NAYA gain confidence, build self-esteem. The skills that they learned in-group will last them a lifetime. The Girls Talking Circle has been a great way for the girls to talk about social issues and start their own personal journey towards self-discovery. The last day of the Girls Talking Circle was June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003 and their will a celebratory "Girls Night Out" to commence this amazing experience.

**A new group will be started at the beginning of the school year. Please contact January Scott at 503.288.8177 ext. 202 with any questions you might have.**

# Native American Youth Association

4000 N. Mississippi Ave  
Portland, OR 97227

Phone: 503.288.8177  
Fax: 503.288.1260

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

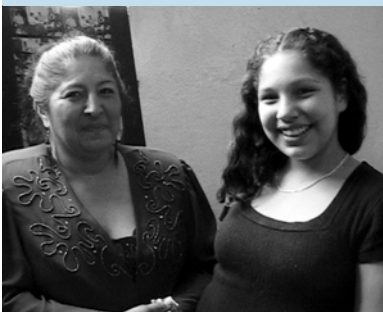


## NAYA



*Serving Native youth and their families through cultural identity and education*

## Native Youth Movement: The Young Adult Group Success & Potential



*At this year's Honoring the Youth and Elders Dinner*

The Young Adult Group has been busy over the last few months with community service, meetings, and planning for the group's large summer events. At this year's *Honoring the Youth and Elders Dinner*, NAYA was very happy that they group assisted with serving food and assisting elders and subsequently honored the group for their continued commitment and dedication. NAYA would also like to congratulate the YAG members who have graduated from High School. Congratulations and good luck with your next step!

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, the group held their first fundraising dance called "Flowtopia." They invited students from Portland High Schools, other Youth groups in the area, and participants from the annual Oregon Indian Education Association conference. Music was provided by Jammin' 95.5 FM. DJ Jerm also helped us to host a MC Battle in which a YAG member claimed first place with his lyrical abilities.



*Flowtopia MC Battle 2003*

In early June, a small portion of the group participated in another Downspout Disconnection fundraiser through the City of Portland. The group is actively fundraising for ongoing social and education events as well as raising funds to contribute to their summer activities. Some of the events the group is planning this summer include a three-day trip to Camp Cody on Mt. Hood, trips to local pow-wows, and hopefully sponsoring an Environmental Education trip to the Columbia Gorge and the Olympic Peninsula.

**All youth between the ages of 15-21 are encouraged to attend meetings. The next meeting is Thursday, June 26, 7-9pm, and is every other Thursday after that.** Call ahead to confirm the meeting time. Young Adult Group Coordinator: Erica Lord, 503-288-8177 ext. 213, or email: [erical@nayapdx.org](mailto:erical@nayapdx.org).