

NAYA Family Center NEWS

Empowering the Lives of Native Americans in the Portland Area



October/November 2008

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

The Bus Stops Here: TriMet Service at NAYA's Door

Kendra Meanus makes good use of Line 75's new stop at NAYA



John Walker and Martin McAllister wait for the bus at NAYA



NAYA Community Successfully Negotiates with TriMet to Extend Service

By Rey Espana, Director of Employment, Housing, and Community Development

There's no longer a need to walk along Columbia Boulevard in the rain and cold to catch the bus to and from NAYA Family Center, because **TriMet has extended bus service to the NAYA's doorstep!** Students, elders, volunteers, clients, employees, and all members of the NAYA community can now ride the bus to and from NAYA safer than ever!

After nearly 18 months of on-again-off-again discussions, **NAYA reached an agreement with TriMet General Manager Fred Hansen resulting in a new bus stop at NAYA Family Center offices.** The new bus stop will serve the needs of NAYA community members who require public transportation to commute to NAYA Family Center. On September 2nd, the **Bus Line 75-39th Ave/Lombard extended service from NE 42nd and Columbia to a stop next to NAYA.** The buses will serve this extension on weekdays between 8-11am and 3-6pm, but will not run on holidays or weekends.

"After meeting with NAYA representatives and students, I wanted to make sure that there were transit options to connect to this vital community resource," said TriMet General Manager Fred Hansen.

Portland Youth and Elders Council (PYEC) met with TriMet officials to express concern and provide five recommendations important to the Native community. The recommendations include TriMet recognizing Tribal Identification; increasing awareness of racial and prejudicial incidents and treatment; age requirements to have an Honored Citizen Ticket or Pass; TriMet forms that are easier to complete; and increasing the number of Native American employees at TriMet.

PYEC believes these recommendations will have a positive impact for the Native community and all TriMet customers.

Please see the bottom fold of Page 8 for scheduled times.



Salmon Camp and Salmon Club Provide Youth with Outdoor Fun and Education

By Cori Matthew, Director of Youth Services



NAYA Youth at Rockaway Beach

On August 18th NAYA Family Center and the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) took **22 students to OMSI's Salmon Camp at Camp Magruder for kayaking, hiking, mapping, and environmental studies!** OMSI ran day activities and NAYA staff ran evening programming that included **campfire time, discipline, and cultural stories.** All of the **youth that went on the trip stayed a full week and earned a \$50 stipend.**

During the 2007-2008 school year, **NAYA and OMSI created a partnership to run an after-school program called the Salmon Club,** based on OMSI's Salmon Camp. This program ran for nine weeks, allowed NAYA to hire two after-school tutors, and **focused on water quality, watersheds, native plants, water filtration and pollution, and fish identification.**



Daniel Herrera, Pierce Nelson, and Odessa Engstrom Observing the cheese-making process at Tillamook Cheese Factory



Wanya Jerry and Dominique Vance testing the water quality of Smith Lake

Twenty-four students participated in the initial program with 11 of those **students earning both OMSI membership and a \$100 stipend** for completing the entire nine weeks.

The Salmon Club runs during the fall, winter, and spring for nine weeks each. During the summer, Salmon Camp research teams go camping in Oregon, California, Washington, and Idaho. This summer there were **five trips for high school students lasting two weeks long with students earning \$100 stipends, and two trips for middle school students lasting one week with students earning \$50 stipends.** NAYA youth participated in both high school and middle school camps this year.

For further information on the Salmon Camp please contact Jeremy Matsen by email at jeremym@nayapdx.org or at (503) 288-8177.

Sign up for the Fall Session of Salmon Club!

For more information or to get your child involved please contact Jeremy Matsen at (503) 288-8177 ext. 255 or by email at jeremym@nayapdx.org.

Thanks to Auction Sponsors Portland Development Commission and Comcast

By Christine Dupres, Sustainability Officer

NAYA Family Center extends a **heartfelt thanks to the Portland Development Commission** for sponsoring the 5th Annual Native American Heritage Month Celebration at the **\$10,000 Potlatch Level**. **PDC has been a sponsor of the event since 2006.**

Now in its 50th year, PDC's mission is "to bring together resources to achieve Portland's vision of a diverse, sustainable community with healthy neighborhoods, a vibrant central city, a strong regional economy, and quality jobs and housing for all."

PDC has guided Portland's growth this past half century. PDC has created 20 Urban Renewal Areas to foster locally owned businesses, beautify neighborhood streets, increase homeownership, improve parks, and support many other city improvements. Some of PDC's past projects include the Eastbank Esplanade, Pioneer Courthouse Square, and renovation of Union Station. They have given over 7,000 loans to improve affordable housing rental units, and thousands more loans to area homeowners for home improvements. **It is thanks to the dedicated board and staff at the PDC that Portland is such a fantastic and fun place to live, and NAYA is proud of our close partnership.**

Investing in Portland's Future



Comcast is also sponsoring the celebration as a **\$5000 Illahee Sponsor**. **Comcast purchased tables at our 2006 and 2007 events, and we are thrilled to welcome them as sponsors this year.**



Artist: Marcus Amerman, "The Gathering"

Comcast is the country's largest provider of cable services, and **promises to "entertain, inform, and empower [its] customers while enriching [its] communities."** Through their corporate giving, which totaled over \$180 million in 2007, Comcast supports organizations, like NAYA Family Center, that develop literacy, volunteerism and youth leadership. Comcast supports diversity among its employees, vendors and in all the communities it serves. **NAYA is truly grateful for Comcast's continuing support.**

To Purchase Tickets:

Tickets are \$125 each,
or \$1250 for a table of 10.

To purchase by mail, send payment to:
NAYA Family Center
5135 NE Columbia Avenue
Portland, OR 97218.

To purchase online with a credit or debit card, please visit our secure online donation page by visiting **www.nayapdx.org** and clicking on **2008 Dinner and Auction tickets now available** link. **Be sure to note that the payment is for an auction ticket(s) on your check or money order.**

Request for Auction Item Donations:

All donations are welcome. Items currently needed for the auction include Native artwork, instruments, jewelry and crafts; guided hikes and tours; health and wellness products; romantic and other dining and travel amenities.

Items can be dropped off or sent directly to:
NAYA Family Center
Attn: Chris Dupres
5135 NE Columbia Avenue
Portland, OR 97218

Please let us know how to get a hold of you so we can properly thank you for your generosity. To donate larger items, one-of-a-kind experiences, or other items that cannot be mailed easily, **contact Chris Dupres at 503-288-8177 ext. 240** to make arrangements.

Dedication, Smart Saving and Local Programs Make the Fish Family Our Newest Native Homeowners!

By Sara Libby, Homeownership and Resident Services Coordinator

Yvonne Fish had rented the same house for 21 years but always wanted to become a homeowner and create a place for her daughter, son-in-law, and two beautiful granddaughters to really call their own.

When she heard about the \$70,000 homeownership grants through the **NAYA Family Center's Homeownership Program & Portland Community Land Trust (PCLT)** she jumped on the opportunity to achieve her dream. After attending a PCLT orientation **she knew land trust homeownership would be the right fit for her family.** The \$70,000 grants greatly reduce the cost of homeownership by bringing the home into the land trust and support permanently affordable housing for working families in Portland.

Yvonne began working with Sara Libby in NAYA Family Center's Homeownership Program, and together they made a plan that will become the future for her grandchildren. The family would prepare to buy while NAYA and PCLT would work to bring the right players and financial resources to the table. **Yvonne's hard work paid off** – her commitment to saving, paying off debt, and maintaining a good job for years meant she was ready to take the next step. **The whole family got on board to achieve the goal together** – sticking to their budget, paying bills on time, and conserving their spending.



The Fish Family at their New Home

The Homeownership Program worked closely with Yvonne and her entire family, identifying all the resources available and bringing together a team of committed professionals to support her through the home buying process. Soon Yvonne completed her homeownership education with Portland Housing Center, chose the right mortgage loan for the family's needs, found an affordable new construction home with **HOST Development** near her granddaughter's school, and completed the application process through the **Confederated Tribes of Siletz Down Payment Assistance Program.**

With everything in place after many months of work, a closing date was set! Yvonne sat at the table and signed the papers for her first home – with her family

and her team from NAYA Family Center, HOST, PCLT, and Siletz at her side.

Homeownership can be a long, complicated process, requiring the type of dedication and commitment shown by the entire family. It helps to have the right supports along the way. NAYA Family Center is here to provide that support and guidance to families so they can buy their first home and keep it for years to come. As Yvonne said, **"With so much support along the way, I knew that we could do it...the support from our homeownership team made the steps clear and easy."**

Achieve Your Housing Dreams

Connect with the NAYA Family Center Homeownership Program for more information about the PCLT Partnership Grants and other home buying resources! Call or email **Sara Libby, Homeownership and Resident Services Coordinator** at 503-288-8177, X232 or saral@nayapdx.org. Ongoing opportunities and supports are available to help you achieve your housing dreams.

Corrections

NAYA Family Center would like to **recognize Wells Fargo Bank, Umpqua Bank, and Hacienda CDC for their work to support homeownership in Portland's urban Native community, and as sponsors of the 2008 Native American Housing to Homeownership Fair.** Their names were erroneously omitted from the Fair program. We apologize for the mistake and thank each of these organizations for their continued commitment to the event and to the Native community.

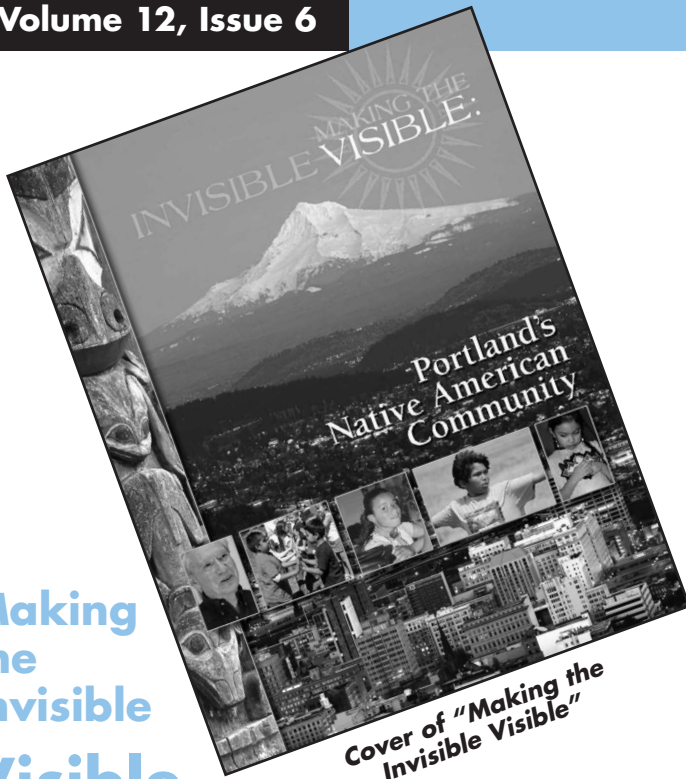
Making the Invisible Visible

By Christine Dupres, Sustainability Officer

Twenty-four Portland Native Agencies and their leaders gathered over the last year to create a story in common about the Native people of Portland. Following discussions and focused group work, they formalized into the **Portland Indian Leaders' Roundtable (PILR)**. Together, PILR created an amazing document designed to educate the public about the concerns the Native people of Portland share. The document details the level of "invisibility" created in the Native community; for example, how the lack of knowledge about the Native community and inaccurate demographic information can lead to unbalanced funding. It also details how different Native organizations have different ways of collecting and reporting information.

PILR hopes to continue to build on the strong services that Portland Native organizations have made to the Native community. **The story, "Making the Invisible Visible" is a crucial first step.** PILR is working in cooperation with Portland's Mayor and city officials to create a resolution which promises to distribute the **20,000 copies and use it as a central document to educate city and county employees.**

Copies of "Making the Invisible Visible" can be downloaded from the NAYA website or attained from Lai-Lani Ovalles at 503-288-8177 ext. 213 or lailanio@nayapdx.com.



Cover of "Making the Invisible Visible"

Summer Institute Once Again a Big Success!

By Cori Matthew, Director of Youth Services

The NAYA Family Center's Summer Institute ended August 15th with a fun-filled field trip to Bullwinkle's Fun and Family Center. **Over 40 students completed the program held this summer at NAYA and Portland Community College's Cascade campus.**

For eight weeks during the summer, students from all over the Portland area took **courses in Math, Science, Writing, Cultural Arts, and Workforce training.** **Students received 0.5 high school credits** for each completed course, as well as **up to a \$440 stipend** if they completed the program. **PCC students were eligible to receive high school and college credit.**

Math students used **Cognitive Tutor, a computer based program which allowed the students to work at their own pace.** Several students took advantage of this program and were able to complete up to three semesters of work!

Congratulations to all of the youth and staff that were involved in NAYA's Summer Institute for their accomplishments, hard work and successes!



NAYA 2008 Summer Institute having fun at Bullwinkle's Fun and Family Center



Summer Camp Brings Middle School Youth to NAYA Family Center

By Cori Matthew, Director of Youth Services

This August the annual **NAYA Summer Camp** was held for middle school youth. The camp offered many activities, including **environmental education** projects and **clean rivers education**. Guest speakers from the local Native community inspired students to be positive members of the community. **Students visited local farms, learned about organic cultivation, environmental sustainability, and went canoeing.**

The youth worked on community service projects **creating awareness of river contamination through curb-marking and preparing food for families at the Oregon Food Bank.** Students visited the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, the Oregon Zoo, Oregon Health and Sciences University and the Audubon Society. Recreational days of swimming and movies were awarded to the kids for their great behavior.

There was a full roster of **60 kids participating in the camp with an average of 40 kids a day,** building positive relationships with their peers and staff. NAYA is fortunate to have community partners that support bringing these wonderful opportunities to youth.

The NAYA Summer Camp would like to thank: **Portland Public Schools Summer Food Program, Fred Meyer, OMSI, OHSU- Celeste Ward, City of Portland- Megan Hansen and Ethan Chessin, The Multnomah County Library Research Rangers- Cathy Camper, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, NICWA- Dolores Jimerson, Rudy Soto, Robert Van Pelt, Nichole Maher, The Oregon Food Bank, Audubon Society, Zoo Animal Presenters, Boy Scouts of America- Vernard Taylor, Lavena Farms, Tryon Life Farms, Portland Rebuilding Center.**



MASAP Summer Camp canoeing on the Lower Columbia River Estuary

Native Professionals Night: Chat, Connect and Have Fun!

By Lai-Lani Ovalles, Indigenous Community Engagement Coordinator

With over 38,000 Native Americans, the Portland Metro Area makes up the 2nd largest Native Professional population in the country. In 2007, NAYA Family Center started **organizing quarterly events called Native Professionals Night (NPN) to bring together Native professionals in Portland to network and socialize in order to build the strength and voice of Portland's Native community.**



Native Professionals Night at Portland's City Hall in April

With over 20 Native American organizations in the area, 9 federally recognized tribes in Oregon, 380 tribes represented in the community and Native owned businesses, NAYA recognized the chance to bring these Native professionals together. Influenced by efforts in other cities, such as Native Element in Denver, NAYA felt inspired to reach out to Portland's Native Professionals.

NPN events create a welcoming environment for Native professionals to bring their social circles together. These moments can help build relationships in the Native community to engage the voice of this emerging generation. The potential for a **collective movement to help make a positive difference** in the community is exciting.

The response has been positive, **with an average of 55 people attending.** NPN has been held at places such as: Quintana Galleries, Wieden & Kennedy offices, and the Gerding Theater. In April participants had the opportunity to meet Portland mayoral candidates Sho Dozono and Sam Adams at Portland City Hall, and in July NPN was hosted by the Indigenous Ways of Knowing program at Lewis & Clark's beautiful campus. NAYA is grateful for partners who host the events in their venues and for their continued support to the Native community.

The Next Native Professionals Night will be held Wednesday, October 8th from 6-8 PM at Quintana Galleries

120 NW 9th Avenue, Portland 97209

A suggested contribution of \$25 in cash or check at the door will benefit NAYA Family Center and support the cost of the event.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Lai-Lani Ovalles at 503.288.8177 x 213; lailanio@nayapdx.org.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

NAYA Welcomes Financial Skills Coaching

By Ben Helgren, Financial Skills Coach



New Financial Skills Coach Ben Helgren

In July NAYA Family Center opened its doors to the **new Financial Skills Coach, Ben Helgren**, who has come to work at NAYA to **teach financial skills to members of the Native community**. Ben will lead **Financial Wellness classes that will meet in four-part series** on Wednesday evenings (6-8pm at NAYA). Classes will cover **budgeting, credit, and how to get a loan. Individual mentoring**

is also available for issues not covered in the classes.

Ben grew up in Gresham, Oregon, and earned a Bachelor's degree in Spanish from Pacific University. Ben has worked in a variety of fields such as auto repair, food service and construction. His many skills and experiences have allowed him to travel internationally and to learn skills from inside a credit card company, a mirror and bath accessory installer, and most recently at a homeownership center, where Ben started counseling others in financial skills.

To reserve a spot in Ben's classes or for individual mentoring, please contact Ben at 503-288-8177 ext. 273 or benh@nayapdx.org.

Financial Wellness Class Series

October 1st, 8th, and 15th
from 6-8pm
at NAYA Family Center

Class Reservation is necessary
Contact Ben Helgren at
503-288-8177 ext. 273
or benh@nayapdx.org

Good Bye to Roanne LittleLight, a Special NAYA Family Member

By Cori Matthew, Director of Youth Services



Roanne LittleLight (right) and her daughter Stephanie

It is with a heavy heart that NAYA Family Center let you know that **Roanne LittleLight, the Cultural Arts Teacher, left NAYA in the middle of August**. Due to various family situations, Roanne will be moving back home to the Crow Agency in Montana to be with her family immediately. We all

love Roanne and her children, and are appreciative of her four years of dedicated service to our community and youth. There are countless children in this community who have a stronger identity about who they are and their role as dancers and drummers, and NAYA appreciates all of the gifts she has given us. **We thank Roanne and wish the best of luck to her and her family.**

Volunteer Corner *By Joel Schneier, AmeriCorps*VISTA Volunteer Program Specialist*

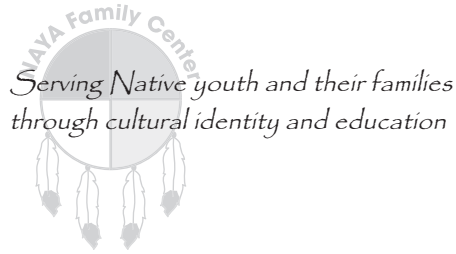
Want to get involved and give back to your community? **Here are some current and upcoming volunteer opportunities** at NAYA Family Center:

1. **The NAYA Kitchen is looking for Food Service Volunteers!** We'll need help with everything from setup, food prep, serving, and cleanup.
2. **Help members of the community prepare their taxes!** We are looking for people to volunteer at our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site this coming tax season.
3. **The NAYA Early College Academy is looking for volunteers** including hall monitors, classroom assistants, and lunch assistants.
4. **The Winter Gathering is coming up soon!** Volunteers are needed to help in all aspects of this annual gathering!
5. **Interested in teaching or helping teach an art or craft class?** contact Shilo George at 503-288-8177 ext. 224, or shilo.g@nayapdx.org

For more information or to sign up, please contact Joel Schneier at 503-288-8177 ext. 227, or joels@nayapdx.org.

Native American Youth and Family Center

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



NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND OR
PERMIT NO2851

We're on the web
www.nayapdx.org

TriMet Bus Line 75 has extended service to NAYA Family Center's front door!

See the below schedule for drop-off and pick-up times!
Line 75 Weekday Trips Serving NAYA- Schedule for Fall 2008
Stop ID# 11009

(scheduled times shown for bus departures from NAYA)

Buses going outbound to Lombard/Pier Park		Buses going inbound to Milwaukie Transit Center	
AM Service	PM Service	AM Service	PM Service
7:52	3:22	7:49	3:27
8:01	3:34	8:01	3:38
8:11	3:46	8:15	3:49
8:22	3:57	8:27	4:03
8:35	4:07	8:41	4:16
8:50	4:17	8:56	4:29
9:03	4:24	9:11	4:42
9:18	4:33	9:26	4:55
9:33	4:38	9:41	5:08
9:46	4:45	9:56	5:20
10:01	4:59	10:11	5:33
10:16	5:12	10:26	5:42
10:31	5:28	10:41	5:52
10:46	5:44	10:56	6:01
	5:58		6:11
	6:14		6:19
	6:26		