



Volunteers
of America®

OREGON

FALL 2019

SELF WORTH

A Newsletter of Volunteers of America Oregon

INSIDE:

Kay's Corner

WRC Goes
Camping

2019 DePreist
Award for
Excellence:
An evening of
thanks to Arlene
Schnitzer

Creating the Case
for Philanthropy
at VOA Oregon:
An investment in
your community!

Partner Corner:
Fred and Patty
Hopp Foundation

Volunteer
Corner: Reading
Hour at Marie
Smith Center

Our Mission:
To enhance lives by
promoting
self-determination,
building strong
communities, and
standing for
social justice.

Observing National Domestic Violence Awareness

by Jenny Woodson

One out of every four women and one out of every ten men in the United States experience sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner, and reported an intimate partner violence-related impact during their lifetime. - NCJFCJ



Our Home Free staff and volunteers help domestic violence survivors safely navigate the family court process. We coordinate the restraining order room in the Multnomah County Courthouse where we help survivors fill out protective orders, create safety plans, and provide them with information and referrals. Home Free also has a co-located Court Advocate that works with survivors going through family law cases. From talking about what it will be like in court to accompanying them when they appear, an advocate can be there every step of the way! While in the courthouse, survivors can also use our CourtCare services, which provides free, safe drop-in childcare.

For more information on domestic violence and family court, check out the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) fact sheet at www.ncjfcj.org/DVAM-Facts-2019.

Speak to a confidential advocate today
(503) 771-5503



Did You Know?

Home Free moved to Gresham. Although we don't have drop-in services at this location we are better able to serve survivors in East County. To learn more about **Home Free** visit www.voar.org/home-free.

From the President and CEO, Kay D. Toran

Fall began with a bang as we celebrated the 19th annual *DePreist Award for Excellence*. This year we honored Arlene Schnitzer for her work not only in supporting the arts in Oregon but also for her support of young people. Arlene expressed that she was appreciative of the event and humbled to receive the honor. Many of her long-time friends were included in the over 300 guests in attendance celebrating all Arlene has done for our community. We were pleased to have Governor Brown attend, as well as three individuals from the national Volunteers of America office.



Kay Toran

Internally, we are seeing growth in our leadership team. We are in the process of filling a new position, Director of Properties and Business Development. We have some excellent finalists and hope to complete the process in the very near future.

We are still busy leading an effort to determine if there is a use for the never-used Multnomah County Wapato Jail. VOA Oregon would like to see the site repurposed to a Community Wellness Center that provides services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Our concept is that the center would provide substance abuse treatment for men and women, health care services, social enterprises including catering, vehicle donation program, vocational training, therapeutic gardens, and other possible enterprises. It would be anchored with a professional intake center. We have reached out to many partners including law enforcement, social service providers, the business community, health care providers, higher education, and interested individuals. The concept has been well received. However, to date we have not secured operating dollars for the treatment center. That is a requirement in order to move forward with this concept. We will keep you posted.

Over the summer we had one other notable celebration. At our annual staff picnic, I was pleased to be recognized and congratulated for serving as the leader of VOA Oregon for twenty years. I want to thank our wonderful team for planning a great party, with excellent food from **Catering for a Cause**. In addition, thank you to the VOA Oregon board of directors for their well wishes and recognition of this anniversary. It is my pleasure to serve and lead this organization. I am inspired daily by all the great, high quality work performed by our staff. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve this agency. 🌟

Board of Directors | 2019 - 2020

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WRC Goes Camping

By Tamika Stockdale

The **Women's Residential Center (WRC)** has gone camping for the last 3 years, taking two trips in the summertime. We have tried a few different campgrounds, but the client favorite campground by far is KOA in Astoria. There we have a 30-person camp area with two sleeping cabins, each sleeping eight, and a kitchen. At our campsite there is plenty of room for tents with a really big fire pit ring in the middle. One of the reasons we choose KOA is because they have a lot of amenities. First off, they have a free pancake breakfast every morning! Plus two pools, a hot tub/sauna, mini golf, a big jumping pillow, bike rentals, basketball courts, a volleyball court, nature trail, s'more's garden, and much more. The best part is that the beach is right across the street.



Beach walk.

We had four VOA Oregon staff who went on the trip with eight clients assigned to each staff member. Each group had an assigned meal to cook and clean up after. We had hamburgers, hot dogs, and for our last night's meal, a BBQ chicken dinner. And all the different kind of snacks you could want.

The group always has a great time with many unforgettable experiences. This past trip in September was no exception! We arrived on an evening with a full moon. Once we got set up, some of us went to the beach, where the water was surprisingly warm for a September evening. We had a fire every night and gathered around it to eat s'mores and share stories.



Campfire and s'mores.

Saturday night, when we were hanging out laughing around the fire, the raccoons were trying to steal anything they could. I heard a noise behind one of the tents. A client and I looked to see what it was, and found a raccoon drinking a can of Spite with both paws! Then someone opened the cabin door and a bat flew in. It was chaos. We were screaming telling everyone to get out because some people were sleeping. The bat flew up in the ceiling and we didn't see him anymore. Glad that wasn't my cabin! Oh, and the spiders, I haven't seen spiders that big in my life!

On our last morning, we held a meeting where everyone shared what they were grateful for. We practiced forgiveness and the act of letting go. Camping at WRC is an experience that our clients enjoy and they leave feeling closer to both their peers and the staff. Sunday morning we packed up our belongings and returned to the WRC. We had a great weekend camping. Everyone was exhausted, yet content from all the fun we had together. ♡

[Learn more about WRC at www.voar.org/women-s-residential-center.](http://www.voar.org/women-s-residential-center)

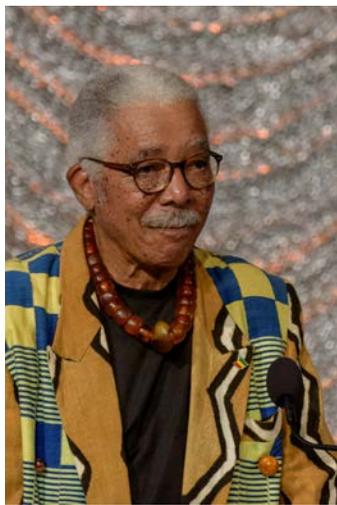
2019 DePreist Award for Excellence: An evening of thanks to Arlene Schnitzer

by Carol Tatch

On September 5th, VOA Oregon celebrated the 19th Annual *DePreist Award for Excellence* by honoring Arlene Schnitzer at the Portland Art Museum. This glamor-filled evening was attended by over 300 guests who came to witness Arlene’s induction into a very select group of Oregon civic leaders. Throughout the evening, Arlene was celebrated for her community, statewide, and national engagement and phenomenal philanthropy to Portland and the Pacific Northwest. Arlene was serenaded by Julianne Johnson who sang to the accompaniment of Michael Allen Harrison on a grand piano.



Arlene Schnitzer at the DePreist Awards. Photo by Andi Petkus.



Arvie Smith as the 2019 DePreist Awards. Photo by Andi Petkus.

Honored guests for the event included speakers Governor Kate Brown, Master of Ceremonies Paul Linnman, VOA Oregon Board Chair Steve Mocerri, and a keynote address by renowned Oregon social justice artist Arvie Smith (pictured to the left). He spoke about the power of art and artists to raise social consciousness and advocate for social justice.

VOA Oregon’s highlight for this year’s event was our Prevention Services program, represented by Umu Tullah, Afterschool Program Coordinator; Anna Bledsoe, Director of Prevention Services, and Kristin Buchanan, Teen and Family Outreach Coordinator. They presented the multi-faceted program and its impactful work with teens and young adults in the Portland metro area. Read more about the focus areas of the program at www.voao.org/prevention-services.



The 2019 DePreist Award honoring Arlene Schnitzer



VOA Oregon staff with Governor Kate Brown, at the DePreist Award for Excellence. L-R: Alison Bookman-Skidmore, Kristin Buchanan, Governor Brown, Umu Tullah, Haja Koroma (Umu’s siter), and Lisa Nims. Photo by Andi Petkus.



Artwork by Arvie Smith on display at the 2019 DePreist Awards.

Creating the Case for Philanthropy at VOA Oregon: An investment in your community!

by Carol Tatch

As an organization that is primarily funded by government grants and contracts, VOA Oregon turns to non-government funding to bridge the gap between our government-covered services and the program needs that do not fall within the purview of those very restricted funds.

These currently include opportunities such as outings or other activities for our disabled clients; concurrent therapies, such as music and art that serve to help those in recovery or in transition from the criminal justice system; and gift cards for families in need at programs such as Home Free and our Family Relief Nurseries. It is these pieces that the fundraising program at VOA Oregon helps to address. Funds from our foundation, corporate, and individual supporters provide the unrestricted dollars that round out our services, serving clients from the age of six weeks to those over 100 years old.

Contributions are the keystone support for the success of the auxiliary services we can offer to the over 19,000 women, men, and children who come to us for help getting their lives back on track. Donors make possible music and horticultural therapy at our Adult Day Services, a playground in our Family Relief Nursery, and the much-beloved Movie Nights for youth in Prevention Services. These, as well as the ability to respond to critical program cuts resulting from shrinking government grants, make all the difference in the effectiveness and even the very existence of our programs.

Please join with us to continue to cultivate a community that believes in, and funds, the work of VOA Oregon. You, dear reader, are the investor we need to keep our programs sound and responsive. The returns are phenomenal, and the need is constant.

There are many ways to contribute to our work:

One-time gifts are a great way to honor or remember a friend or family member, and to respond to an expressed program need.

You can also join us as a **monthly sustainer in our Heart's Gift Sustainer Circle**. These are funds we can rely on for our annual budgeting. Sustainers are the backbone of our annual giving program. Your ongoing support helps us to plan our dreams.

We would love to have you as part of our **planned giving program, The Common Good Circle**. Bequests, trusts, and IRA disbursements create the foundation for our future planning. These can also relieve you of the burden of deciding how best to invest your annual IRA mandatory disbursement, or which worthy organization to provide for in your will — and you will have a lasting impact on your community and its citizens.

For over 123 years, VOA Oregon has served the Portland metro community, changing lives and enhancing futures, and our results are tangible. Help us to make them sustainable as well through your supportive investment. We look forward to having your continued support, or having you join us as a supporter today. We promise to continue our work serving the most vulnerable and under-served people throughout our community. Your partnership makes this a reality. Thank you! ♡



Board member Bruce Warner raising his paddle to support VOA Oregon at the 2019 *DePreist Award for Excellence* Photo by Andi Petkus.

Fred and Patty Hopp Foundation

An interview with Maryanne Bay

There is so much need with children and people who are hurting. Our heart at the Hopp Foundation is to serve those people. - Maryanne Bay

The work being done through the Foundation has opened the eyes of Maryanne Bay to the needs of the Portland metro area. She has a passion for researching causes and organizations to learn about the compelling work they are doing. "I try to keep up with all of the charities that we support so I always know what's going on."



Fred Hopp

The Fred and Patty Hopp Foundation is a self-directed foundation that began in 2014, built from a dream of Patty and Fred's. They do not accept grant applications but research areas of interest instead. Though Patty passed away eleven years ago, Fred continued to build the foundation they had planned. Being a successful businessman allowed Fred to make a difference in his community. "The neat thing about Fred, he didn't want to wait until he was gone. He has really enjoyed seeing how his money has helped others." In the beginning, there were just a few charities that they were involved with, including Self Enhancement Inc. and Providence Child Center for Medically Fragile Children.

Creating the foundation, allowed for growth in the number of organizations they supported. Maryanne's role is to explore charities that focus on medically and physically challenged children and adults, educational services for underserved youth, Catholic Charities, and others as well. The Hopp Foundation has now grown to supporting twenty-five charities across these areas. VOA Oregon has been one of those charities for the past several years.

Through Maryanne's research of VOA Oregon, what stood out most was our history of serving the community in so many different ways. She describes our programs as serving "everyone from the very youngest to the oldest." We are genuinely grateful for the support we receive from the Hopp Foundation. We look forward to growing this partnership as we continue our work. It is in finding partners like the Hopp Foundation that allows us to provide additional support and opportunities to our community's most vulnerable. ↪

Al Forthan Training Series

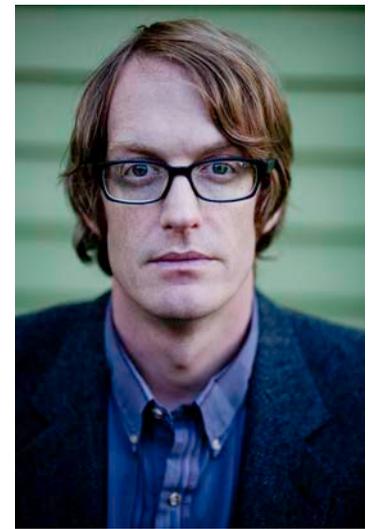
Are you are interested in finding new opportunities to learn from influential people in the social work field? If so, check out our 2019-2020 Training Series line-up. Proceeds for these trainings go to our Al Forthan Scholarship to help students attend college.

Learn more at www.alforthanscholarship.com/al-forthan-trainings.

Reading Hour at Marie Smith Center With Patrick deWitt

*To read something to yourself, in your mind, is one thing.
To read it aloud, to an audience, is very different.*
- Patrick deWitt

As a novelist, Patrick has a passion for literature. Not just in writing, but also through reading and studying other books, and hearing stories. Patrick volunteers at our Marie Smith Center, reading to participants for an hour during the week. This is one way he has chosen to share his love of literature in his extra time. "Reading to these individuals and getting to know them through literature has been a great experience for me."



Patrick deWitt
Photo credit: Danny Palmerlee

The group is currently reading *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie. This was recommended by Maurice, one of the participants at the Marie Smith Center. "Maurice is somebody who I've really come to enjoy as a person. He's a big reader himself," Patrick says. "And it's a wonderful thing to witness his enjoyment of the texts. He's there to listen, to really think about the story, to lose himself to it."

One of the challenges Patrick has found is selecting the book or short story that everyone will enjoy. "Now when I go to the bookstore, I am looking for books for myself but I'm also looking for books for my friends at the Center." There has been a bit of trial and error, but together they are learning the reading tastes of the group.

"We're fans of who-done-its and cozy mysteries. It's fun to try to solve the crimes together, as a group. As the story comes into focus, you'll hear asides and murmurs from the audience. To have that level of engagement can only heighten our enjoyment of a given book or story."



Participants at Marie Smith Center during reading hour with Patrick.

For Patrick it is not only about the stories that he reads but also the stories he hears. "These people have all had (and continue to have) rich, full lives, and in my experience they're happy to share them, if you take the time to ask."

"Bring your interests with you." That is Patrick's advice to those looking to volunteer. "It's through my love for literature that I came to help out at the center and volunteering here has only clarified this love." For Patrick his "sole intention was to make better use of my time and to do something useful in our community." ♡

Learn more about Patrick deWitt's work -
<https://www.harpercollins.com/author/cr-106334/patrick-dewitt/>

Learn more about Marie Smith Center - <https://www.voaor.org/adult-day-services>



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