



Volunteers of America®  
OREGON



## Volunteer Newsletter



Volunteers of America®  
Oregon

# Ladies (Gentlemen, and even kids!) Night!

*Click image for more details!*

October 15th is National Tampon Day and we'll be celebrating at Portland Brewing Company (from 5-10 p.m.) collecting feminine hygiene products for Home Free, our domestic violence resource program.

Join us at this family-friendly event, eat, and be merry! Portland Brewing Company is generously donating a portion of the proceeds to VOA Oregon.

**Donate a box of feminine hygiene products and get a free beer!**

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## Follow us on social media!!

**Our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram presence is growing, but we need you to join us!**

Social media is a fantastic way for VOA Oregon to build community and spread the word about our services.

*Will you be our ambassadors?*

[Like us on Facebook!](#)

[Like us on Instagram  
\(voaoregon\)](#)

[Follow us on Twitter!](#)



## Program Spotlight: Youth Prevention Services

Youth Prevention Services (YPS) is a drug and alcohol prevention program for low-income youth. Programs take place at 6 public housing sites in Portland. Services strengthen families by offering culturally-informed activities and support shaped by community input, including fun family and youth activities, homework clubs, parenting education, and substance abuse and gambling prevention education.

Volunteers play an integral part in facilitating positive after school activities.



Children living in poverty are at a greater risk of things such as high school drop out, teen pregnancy, drug abuse, and gang activity. Volunteers serve as role models and safe adults to engage with youth in healthy ways. The primary activities are after school tutoring and lots of fun activities like games, sports, field trips, and more.

Each housing site also hosts a monthly community night where residents are invited to an evening of food, fun, and

## New Volunteer Opportunity

Looking to learn a new skill? Have a friend who wants to get involved? VOA Oregon has an exciting new role open in our Youth Prevention Services program. Help us spread the word!

### Youth Gambling Prevention Activities Assistant

Help facilitate after school activities with middle school youth in this gambling prevention program. Gain experience in teaching, child development, and counseling while you watch kids grow and build positive relationships. Email Kelsey at [kstark@voaor.org](mailto:kstark@voaor.org) to learn more.

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## October One-Time Projects

If you ever wanted to check out another VOA Oregon program without making a long-term commitment, Youth Prevention Services has monthly events to celebrate community and birthdays at various housing sites in Portland and Gresham. Volunteers are needed to help facilitate games and activities, serve a meal, and have fun! Join us, bring a friend, and come be a kid again!

For more information and to RSVP, email [kstark@voaor.org](mailto:kstark@voaor.org) or call 503-595-2009.

**Here are the October events (all events are 5-7 p.m.):**

- 10/11/16 - Birthday party @ Eastwood Court
- 10/12/16 - Plaza Townhomes Community Night
- 10/20/16 - Gateway Park Community Night
- 10/24/16 - Birthday party @ Stark Manor

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## Volunteer Organizations and Groups

resources. Individuals can drop-in for a one-time volunteer opportunity (See more in the article to the right.). This is the perfect way to check out the program without making a long term commitment. Although we always hope you come back! Clair Raujol and her staff make sure volunteers are engaged and having a blast!

### What are volunteers saying about YPS?

*"I gained a tremendous amount of experience. I built long lasting relationships and I was able to give back to others, which is an amazing feeling."*

*"I'm currently doing a women's youth group and so far LOVE it so much! I am hoping I can be a program coordinator/director for a youth program. I am just looking for the right people to be around to expand my experience and connections. I can tell I am going to learn great things."*

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## DePreist Recap

Thank you to all our volunteers who made our DePreist Award for Excellence event a huge success! We rely heavily on volunteer participation to assist with set-up, registration, greeting, and more.

Don't miss the chance to volunteer at our other special events! Stay tuned for emails as we recruit for other opportunities. It's always a fun night to dress up, enjoy a gourmet meal, and do good.



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## In the News

Thank you to this quarter's volunteer groups, organizations and companies that shared their time with VOA Oregon. Group volunteering is a great way to build camaraderie and help VOA Oregon accomplish big things. If you have a group interested in volunteering, email [volunteer@voaor.org](mailto:volunteer@voaor.org). We've hosted groups of five volunteers all the way up to 60!

- Agape
- Airbnb
- Brown and Brown Insurance
- University of Missouri
- Pacific International Academy



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## Volunteer Impact Report

As a valued volunteer, we want you to know the significant impact your contributions have had on VOA Oregon. You may not see results or an impact in one day/shift of service, but the cumulative effort helps our clients grow and create lasting change.

The annual Volunteer Services Impact Report strives to highlight the qualitative and quantitative outcomes of volunteerism in VOA Oregon. While just a snippet of the big picture, we hope this report helps you understand your value and how much we appreciate all that you do. Thank you!

**[Read the 2015-2016 report here!](#)**

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## VOA Oregon Wish Lists

In addition to volunteer time and financial contributions, VOA Oregon and our clients rely on generous in-kind donations.

We are always in need of hygiene items, new socks and underwear, and gently used clothing of all sizes. **[Please consider donating some of the items off our wish list.](#)**



Call the number of the program listed on the website to make a donation drop off or contact Kelsey Stark at [kstark@voaor.org](mailto:kstark@voaor.org) to make arrangements.

VOA Oregon's Marie Smith Center and Providence ElderPlace hosted the 2nd Annual For the Joy a Bike Ride this August. It was a joyful day for medically fragile seniors to enjoy the wind on their faces as they were pedaled down the street to Peninsula Park for a picnic. This event is such an innovative way to engage seniors in a beloved activity they don't often get to enjoy anymore.



[Check out the great photos and story from The Oregonian.](#) Hope you can ride with us next year!

## Volunteer Spotlights

In an effort to showcase the work our awesome volunteers are doing and spread the word about our 32 programs, we're highlighting one stand out volunteer each month. With over 750 volunteers annually, it's hard to choose just one volunteer, but we want to show the community how you're making a difference. Follow the links below to read the past six months' stories. We can't wait to share yours, too.

- [Laurie Johnson - Family Relief Nursery](#)
- [Helene Farnen - Family Relief Nursery](#)
- [Austin Raglione - Men's Residential Center](#)
- [Rob Yorke - Catering for a Cause](#)
- [Diane Duncan - Home Free](#)
- [Kathy Wooten - Marie Smith Center](#)

Kelsey Stark  
Volunteer Services Manager  
503-595-2009  
[kstark@voaor.org](mailto:kstark@voaor.org)  
[www.voaor.org](http://www.voaor.org)

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

*STAY CONNECTED*

