

Volunteer Spotlight

August 2016



Laurie Johnson

(Family Relief Nursery)

After settling in Portland in 2014, Laurie knew she wanted to get involved volunteering with young people. She quickly discovered VOA Oregon, attended a volunteer orientation, and connected with the Family Relief Nursery (FRN), our child abuse prevention/intervention program.

For over a year now, Laurie volunteers two days a week in the toddler classroom, where staff say she makes the FRN a better place because of her ability to work well with children and staff, and her enthusiasm to take on any tasks. She is passionate about the mission and so loyal to the children and families. This loyalty is key to a successful volunteer and happy children. Laurie shares one of the best parts of being a volunteer is building that trust with the children by showing up and giving them positive attention. Once that bond is formed, real progress can be made in improving the lives of our children.

Working alongside staff has been another highlight of Laurie's services with the FRN. She's constantly reminded of staff's versatility, detailed attention, and commitment to the families. She enjoys being a part of this community coming together to affect change in families.

It's no surprise that Laurie encourages those interested in VOA Oregon to volunteer today. Her words of advice?: "What you will receive in return for your service is a sense of camaraderie working side-by-side with like-minded people, and a sense of accomplishment in knowing that VOA's programs really make a difference in the lives of others. What could be more important than that?"

Thank you, Laurie, for showing up for our families and being a part of our community. Your support makes our work possible!