



# NAYA NEWSLETTER

EMPOWERING THE LIVES OF NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE PORTLAND AREA

WINTER 2013-2014

## US SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY VISITS NAYA

BY SHAWN FLEEK, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



Senator Merkley with ECA Youth Jeremy Whiz, Yakima Nation, and Jennifer Pedro-Miguel, Guatemalan

US Senator Jeff Merkley visited the NAYA Family Center, where he met with NAYA leadership and Early College Academy students involved in the Step-to-Respect program. NAYA greeted him and presented him with information about the organization, how we currently utilize federal resources, and our plans for the future, and the potential for future collaborations.

The Senator discussed health insurance sign-ups with NAYA's Cover Oregon Health Advocate Melissa Henderson. She explained that despite some hurdles helping people sign up with the Affordable Care Act has "been a fun challenge."

Director of Community Development Rey España showed Senator Merkley plans for the Generations project, an intergenerational housing community slated to offer culturally-specific services in health and education, which NAYA plans to develop at the Foster School site in the Lents neighborhood.

Merkley concluded "I am so impressed by the numerous forms of outreach, support and economic development NAYA is engaged in. Well done!" As NAYA continues to grow and expand services, we plan to strengthen relationships in all levels of government like those with Senator Merkley and his staff.

## NAYA SUPPORTS MARRIAGE EQUALITY

BY KAETI NAMBA, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

The NAYA Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the Oregon United for Marriage campaign. A marriage equality measure is expected to be on the ballot in November of 2014.

"Oregon United for Marriage is honored to receive this endorsement, and we are proud to welcome NAYA to the coalition," says Jeana Frazzini, chief petitioner and chair of Oregon United for Marriage.

NAYA's Executive Director Matt Morton, *Squaxin Island*, said of the decision, "I am very proud of our board's unanimous vote. Our community is wonderfully diverse, and our organization is a safe place where all people should feel welcome and included. We are living up to our community's values by supporting Oregon United for Marriage."

Read the Board's full statement at [nayapdx.org/samelove](http://nayapdx.org/samelove)



# PREPARING STUDENTS TO LEARN

BY CARRIE GREENE, FAMILY SERVICES ADVOCATE

NAYA/PPS Head Start classes are underway, with students exploring their classrooms, making new friends and learning about their world. NAYA believes that parents are a child's first and most significant teachers. Our goal is to work with families throughout the year in helping each child learn and grow.

The class incorporates Native culture into the Creative Curriculum, with developmentally-appropriate activities in literacy, language, math, science, creative arts, self-help skills, and most importantly, social-emotional skills of getting along well with others. To prepare children for school and life academically, physically and emotionally is our goal. This is an exciting time in our students' growth and development and we will do all we can to help them succeed and be happy.



Parent R. Toby Lindwood, Okanagan, Wampanoag and Ojibway reads to Head Start youth.

## YOUTH EVENTS

### CULTURE NIGHT

January 6th  
January 13th  
February 3rd  
February 10th

### SIBLING FAMILY VISIT NIGHT

January 8th  
February 12th

### CHXI SAN PLAYGROUP

January 9th

### PORTLAND YOUTH AND ELDERS COUNCIL

January 14th

### SEE A FULL CALENDAR

[nayapdx.org/events](http://nayapdx.org/events)

# ART MUSEUM FEATURES YOUTH STORIES

BY THERESA SMITH, CULTURAL ARTS COORDINATOR



ECA student Quin Clark, Cherokee, and Northwest Native artist Lillian Pitt, as featured in the Portland Art Museum's "Object Stories" collection.

This fall, the Early College Academy partnered with the Portland Art Museum to connect urban Indian, high school-aged youth with art from the museum's Native American collections.

Engagement with culture affirms Native youth's sense of identity, which improves performance in school and in life. The Museum created this opportunity for a group of NAYA youth to explore their sense of identity and cultural pride through a connection with these art works, empowering them to express themselves through the public platform called *Object Stories*.

Each participating student chose an object that resonated with them, conducted research on the work, and then recorded their personal narratives about the artwork. The stories, which seven NAYA youth created, are presented in the *Object Stories* gallery. They share with you their own stories of how their Native culture spoke to them through these works and affirmed who they are.

See the stories at [www.objectstories.org](http://www.objectstories.org) - search "NAYA"



# SPOOKY FUN AT HAUNTED FAMILY NIGHT

BY VALERIE NELSON, YOUTH ADVOCATE



The Youth and Education Services department hosted the annual Family Night Halloween gathering. The Zombie Apocalypse theme was a great success, and over 360 people attended. Youth and families gathered to play games and socialize with community members and staff; it was a fun-filled night of costumes, games, candy and fun. The collective strengths of all involved, including ECA students and community volunteers, made the Halloween event an inspiring and happening place to be. Family night during Halloween is an infectious occurrence where all sorts of fun and mysterious events can be encountered; it is a great reminder of how our involvement and commitment plays a crucial role connecting to our families in the community. We look forward to continuing this fun tradition in years ahead.



TOP: "Bumblebee" Jasmine Jumpingbull, Oglala  
 BOTTOM: "Owl" Ramona Sanchez, Little Shell

"Strawberry" Maria Jumpingbull, Oglala

# VOLLEYBALL GIRLS KEEP IMPROVING

BY MICAH JOHNSON, RECREATION COORDINATOR

The volleyball season concluded for all three NAYA teams in November. The highlight was the high school girls' team winning a third place plaque with a record of 3-1 in the final tournament. They were coached by Jessica Berning and finished their season with an overall record of 10-4.

The middle school girls also finished their season with one win and two losses in the tournament, finishing in 5th place. Jasmine Traversie and Suvi WhiteElk contributed leadership and experience to this team. Alex Jefferson was the coach and led the team to an 8-6 overall record in the highest level of competition.

The grade school girls had a good season and finished 5th in the tournament as well with a record of 1-2. Sophia Smith, Meh, and Jemila Ahmed were the leaders of this team, coached by Izzy Yasani and finishing with an overall record of 7-4.

All of the volleyball teams improved this year and both the high school team and middle school team progressed to the point that they were routinely bumping, setting, and spiking. Every girl in the program improved this season. Congratulations to the players and the coaches for all their hard work and for their winning records.



# CREATE-A-COMMUTER ROLLS ON

BY NATALIE MITCHELL, FINANCIAL SKILLS COACH

NAYA regularly hosts a Create-A-Commuter class in partnership with the Community Cycling Center.

Twelve community members participated in the 5-hour workshop. The day included instruction on bike safety, road rules, flat tire repair, proper bicycling techniques, and more. The group also went on a group ride in the neighborhood and had lunch together. At the end of the day they all took home a fabulous new bike with all the gear necessary for commuting safely. We are fortunate to continue to partner with Community Cycling Center. We encourage you to visit them at [communitycyclingcenter.org](http://communitycyclingcenter.org).



Community members prepare to put their new safety and riding skills to the test in NAYA's neighborhood.

## WINTER SERVICES

### CLOTHING CLOSET

Clean, seasonally-appropriate clothing donations needed! Donations accepted: M-F 9am-5:30pm  
Closet shopping T & Th, 2:30pm-5:30pm

### FOOD PANTRY

Food is available at no cost for those in need M-F 9am-5:30pm

### EMERGENCY ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Call (503) 972-2463

### EMERGENCY RENT ASSISTANCE

Call (503) 972-2464

### MORE RESOURCES

For information on where to stay warm or receive meals, clothes and other services:

Dial 211 - [211info.org](http://211info.org)

## NEW PARTNER

Port of Portland has joined NAYA in partnership to further our mutual goals and strengthen our organizations. The Port operates Portland International Airport, two smaller regional airports, plus industrial parks and marine terminals, employing tens of thousands of people. NAYA is located near the airport, which is considered an "anchor institution" in the neighborhood. This partnership hopes to incorporate Community Economic Development career skills development programs.

# CONSTRUCTION BUILDS SKILLS

BY PROUD GROUND, COMMUNITY PARTNER

Proud Ground, a program which helps low-income people buy homes, partnered with NAYA Construction, which trains young Native men and women who have no work experience and who face challenges in getting employment. Students are trained in an industry that provides good working wages and gain skills that they can take with them to other jobs. Proud Ground is pleased to be able to play a role in this important program



NAYA Construction intern Richard Ortiz, Ute, Apache and Navajo, gained valuable skills after a year-long internship.

and, to date, has contracted with the NAYA Construction Program for the renovation of four homes.

Proud Ground's Steve Whitson likes the program's mission. "NAYA Construction Services Program is training people to find living-wage jobs and we are happy to be a part of that," Steve says. "They do excellent work and we look forward to many future projects with the program."

"Proud Ground has helped this program by giving us projects to train the interns on; it really helps that they understand that training projects take a little more time. It has been great not to have the pressure of someone looking over your shoulder while you are training," says Martin McCallister, head of NAYA Construction.



# VOLUNTEERS DRIVE NAYA'S MISSION

BY ANNA ESKO, VISTA VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

NAYA originally started as a volunteer effort of local Native American parents who wanted to come together to raise up the children in our community. Still to this day, many important roles are filled not by staff members but by those who want to contribute to improving the lives of our youth. We need your help. Any time you can volunteer can make a big difference in the education, health, and employment of our children and families.

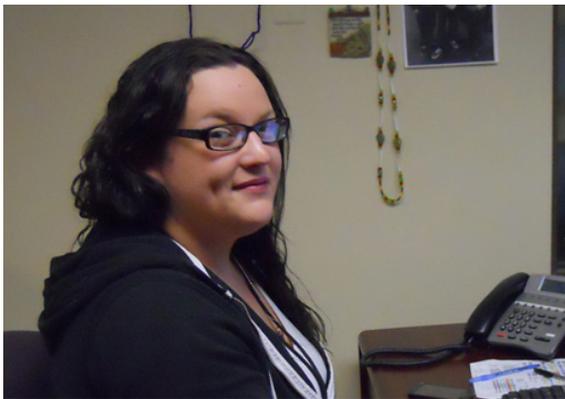
We have volunteer opportunities in our kitchen, offices and across our network. We need parents, Elders, and all community members to support us in our work.

Share your time at NAYA - Contact: Anna Esko at **503-288-8177 x332** or [annaef@nayapdx.org](mailto:annaef@nayapdx.org) - Learn more about volunteer opportunities at [nayapdx.org/get-involved](http://nayapdx.org/get-involved)

Thanks to our recent volunteers pictured here.



*Patricia Purviance, Concordia senior, is fulfilling her community practicum with NAYA's after school learning center and Culture Nights. She will graduate this year and plans to join the Peace Corps.*



*Jenny Monteverdi, Siletz, an Early College Academy graduate who interns with the Gang Prevention and Outreach program.*



*Kitchen volunteers (l-r): Karen Butterworth, Cherokee, comes to us as an Oregon Culinary Institute extern. Lorraine Ferron, Rosebud Sioux, and Jacqui Schmidt, Eastern Band Cherokee, are both students from the National College of Natural Medicine.*

# CULTIVATING A SOVEREIGN FOOD SYSTEM

BY SHAWN FLEEK, COMMUNICATIONS, AND DR. KIMBERLEE CHAMBERS, SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTANT

NAYA Director of Community Development Rey España is working to bring food sovereignty to our community. At a recent staff meeting, Rey announced, "I would like to see our land out back put to good use producing food, and so I invite all of you to help me make this happen." We hope to develop part of NAYA's campus for food production, which will serve the community fresh produce in the cafeteria, from the food pantry, and at events catered by Nawitka. The project will not only provide food to our hungry community, but also opportunities to learn about traditional native plants and foods, land management, food cultivation, and related career skills. Food brings us together, and is at the heart of what we do. This project has the potential to contribute to all programs across our agency. We look forward to a day when NAYA can feed the community.



# 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GALA BREAKS RECORDS

BY ANNA ALLEN, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

The generous support of our sponsors and donors helped NAYA raise more than \$275,000, a new fundraising record! NAYA Family Center celebrated Native American Heritage Month with over 550 guests, also a record turnout for the yearly event.

The theme of the night was *Shaping the Next Generation of Leaders*, with performances by NAYA youth and families, including dancing, drumming, and poetry. Guests dined on indigenous food and enjoyed the company of local leaders and community allies, while supporting the critical work we do each day. College and Career Services recipient and Gates Millennium Scholar Alexis Phillips was the keynote speaker, and revealed how NAYA services supported her entire family, helping her mother start and business and she and her sister enter college.

**See Alexis' story at [nayapdx.org/alexis](http://nayapdx.org/alexis)**

The dedication and commitment from the greater Portland community has been instrumental to the successes of NAYA programs and services. We look forward to seeing you next year as we celebrate 40 years of service.





# THANK YOU SPONSORS

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10TH ANNUAL GALA BREAKS RECORDS



### **OUR MISSION**

To enhance the diverse strengths of our youth and families in partnership with the community through cultural identity and education.