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**BRANDI’S DREAM OF VET SCHOOL HAS COME TRUE!**

When Brandi came to CYFS she admits she was a very angry young lady. There was no room in her life for dreams or goals and the future had little to offer her. It was under the love and nurturing of staff like Amanda Zimmerman and Missy Willy that she began to find other outlets for her anger. She was encouraged to redirect that negative energy into positive areas she discovered she enjoyed like cooking, music, singing and setting goals for her future. Her love of animals set free the dream of going to vet school and one day owning a No Kill Animal Shelter where she could match high risk kids with animals no one wanted.

"It was at CYFS that I was told the words that changed my life. They said not to let ANYONE tell you that your dreams are unrealistic or impossible. When you believe it will happen in your heart and if you work hard towards your goal, it will happen!" Brandi recounts in a recent phone interview.

It was with that dream in her heart that she joined the military for two years to receive the GI bill to go to school and is now enrolled in college to become a Vet Tech! She lives with her furry best friend, Onyx, and is on her way to realizing her dream. We’re proud of you, Brandi! You are on your way to a dream come true.

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**CYFS CLASSES TEACH PARENTING SKILLS**

All parents struggle with difficult challenges and many don’t know where to turn for help and guidance. With the assistance from a grant provided by The Yamhill County Commission on Children and Families, the Chehalem Counseling Center has been able to provide evidence-based parenting programs throughout our community.

They’ve recently completed an 8-week young adult parenting group in January focusing on the importance of self-care, increasing communication skills; stress management abilities, and building a support network.

Many of the parents who attended this group were single moms from 19-22 years of age who became teen parents while in high school.

Some of the group members initially came to the group to learn skills such as discipline and effective communication. Although, these and other critical topics were covered during the sessions, the support of Group Leader, Derrin Fukuda, Psy.D and camaraderie of fellow parents provided an added benefit for each member. Parents often said during the meeting, "Sometimes I just need to hear that I’m not the only one that struggles as a parent." Another admitted, "It was good to know that another parent had gone through the same things as I have...I was not alone."

**Continued on page 5**

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**The Oregonian**

**Season of Sharing Wish Book Raises $12,000 for CYFS**

Chehalem Youth and Family Services has been recognized by the Oregonian as a highly valued non-profit that is making a difference and was featured in the Season of Sharing Wish Book this past November!

The Oregonian's annual holiday fundraising campaign, which seeks help for 19 social service agencies throughout Oregon and SW Washington that serve individuals needs chose CYFS as one of their sponsored charities. Donors were generous and CYFS received a check for $12,000! Thank You to the Oregonian and all of the generous donors.
Executive Director’s Notes
Deborah Cathers-Seymour

To all who hold the work of CYFS in your hearts,

Like a human heart, the heart of CYFS beats continually unseen and typically unacknowledged. We count on our human hearts to beat with or without attention and support. We take it for granted. (That is until it stops). “thump, thump” ...“thump, thump” ... “thump ...?”.

The heart beat of CYFS is love & grace. St. Paul’s letter to the Romans 5:6 captures it this way “While we were unable to help ourselves, at the moment of our need, Christ died for us”... God shows his great love for us in this way: “that Christ died for us while we were still sinners” and Romans 4:16 loosely paraphrased, “We didn’t have to earn love & grace or become worthy and get it all together to find approval. No, we had to believe and reach out in faith to receive it...” “People receive God’s promised blessing by faith so that the promise is a free gift ... by the God who gives life to the dead and who creates something out of nothing”. Now as in the beginning.

“Hope springs eternal at CYFS, why? Because we believe in God’s grace and love beating continually like the gigantic valves of the heart of life itself. He says I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever comes to me will have life everlasting.

So, we come as we are to one another and to God – though we are wounded, broken, weak, afraid, angry, imperfect, even horrible and ugly at times. It’s not surprising zombies are popular these days. Many feel not yet fully alive or well. But, with tentative faith, believing, we reach out and discover grace & love are big enough, enlivening enough and beating strongly enough to encompass our need and heal us. We invite you to believe with us in this great work of grace and love.

Thanks to Yoop! I Passed!

“I just finished taking my last test on December 19th, 2012. I passed! Thanks to Yoop! I passed my GED, got my permit, got a job, and I am registered to start college the end of this month.

Looking back on my junior year I have come a long way and made progress beyond what I thought I could do. I never thought that I would be this far in life.

When I talk to people about my success story they say that I have it all together. If they told me that a year ago, I wouldn’t have believed them.

I was walking on a bad path for a long time; the people who were involved in my life and who were impacting me were not good. They pressured me into doing things that were beyond my comfort zone. I just didn’t know how to say no and when to pull away. I never did drugs thank goodness, but I still wasn’t making the right choices.

When I talk to people that haven’t seen me in a long time, they tell me that I look happier and healthier than I did a year ago. To have a previous teacher tell me that I look happy and healthy makes me really think about what was going on in my life at the time.

Kyla

Yamhill Youth Opportunity Program (Yoop!) is funded by Job Growers in partnership with WorkSource Oregon.

Yoop! is an equal opportunity program.

"Life is like photography. You need negatives to develop." Unknown
Thank You to our Sponsors

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Ken & Daughter Jewelers

Tickets: Only $40 each!

Ticket Locations: Ken & Daughter Jewelers- 707 E. First St
Lucky Finds Thrift &Gift Shop- 619 E. Hancock
Chehalem Valley Chamber- 115 N. College St
CYFS Office- 501 E. First St ....all in NEWBERG
Sherwood Chamber of Commerce- 2566 Washington St. #101
McMinnville: YOOP! Office- 448 Third St. Suite M

Purchase Online at CYFS.net

This will be an evening to remember! Great food by Janet & Martin at The Rogue Gourmet, who have catered for George Bush Senior & Barbara, Arnold Palmer, Joe DiMaggio, Ray Charles, the Miami Dolphins and MTV Spring Break to name a few. Listen and dance to outstanding entertainment by Jack Quinby who has performed with Bob Hope, The Moody Blues, The Temptations, Natalie Cole, The Four Tops, Pat Boone, Robert Goulet, Carol Channing, The Manhattan Transfer, and Joan Rivers! Enjoy fine wines from various local vineyards including: Anam Cara Cellars; Arbor Brook; Argyle Winery; Atticus; Kramer Vineyards; Natalie's Estate and Prive Vineyard. Wine may be purchased by the glass or at the Wine Wall. Beer lovers will enjoy handcrafted beer from Chehalem Valley Brewery. The event will include a wide array of silent and oral auction items that can be viewed online at CYFS.net. Guests will be able to purchase tickets for a chance at the coveted Mystery Box with a beautiful Diamond and Ruby white gold necklace donated by Ken & Daughter Jewelers valued at $1100.00 going to the Grand winner. Guests will be amused and entertained throughout the evening and all proceeds will be going to a very good cause!
Donors Make a Difference Thank You!
Donations made from March 2012–March 2013

2nd Street Community Church
Sandra Albo
Judy Aldred
Bruce Alford
American Family Ins. (Ben Jaquith)
AmeriTitle
Lisa Baker (RE/MAX)
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Dr. Kenneth Whittaker, MD, PC
John & Sally Woodyard

“It’s amazing what ordinary people can do if they set out without preconceived notions.” Charles F. Kettering
READY TO HAVE FUN? BE A MENTOR!

We know all parents hope that their children will grow up healthy, happy, and productive members of society. However, not all children get the support they need to thrive at no fault of their own. By all estimates, an astounding 17.6 million young people - nearly half the population between 10 and 18 years of age - live in situations that put them at risk of not living up to their potential. That is where a Mentor comes in! Mentors provide the presence of a caring adult offering support, advice, friendship, reinforcement and constructive examples in the life of the youth.

Mentoring is rewarding and fun for both the Mentor and the mentee. Mary King has been a Mentor to 10 year old JS for over a year. “Our perfect day together is to go play at the park for awhile. Then go swimming at the pool and end the afternoon at McDonalds where we chat over a burger and indulge in a yummy McFlurry.”

We have 20 youth ages 11-16 on the waiting list right now. For around 8 hours a month, you can give a child the invaluable gift of your friendship and attention, often changing their perspective of what life can offer them. Call Keisha Gordon, Program Manager, at 360-609-6989 or email kgordon@cyfs.net to learn more.

The Mentoring Hub is a community-based mentoring program serving youth throughout Yamhill County and is a partnership between CYFS and Yamhill County Family & Youth Services Division.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CHRISTMAS SUPPORTERS

Even though Christmas is behind us, the many blessings from CYFS supporters during the Christmas Season continue to be appreciated by our youth and families throughout the year.

Christmas Tree Lot: A Big Thank You to Bruce Alford, (Friends of Chehalem House Chairman) and Amanda Greene for coordinating our Christmas Tree Sale! Photographer Ron Dingman volunteered his time to take photos of kids with Santa (aka Bruce Alford) as well as building tree stands. And a HUGE thanks to Jessica & Jeff Lane (Newberg Steel) who not only provided the location but used their own truck, gas and crew to transport the trees to the tree lot! Devon Tuning and Scot Olin worked tirelessly on the lot doing whatever needed to be done and thanks to Cheryll Dailey and Mike Clock for providing trees to sell. Did we mention Donna Gentry DONATED trees from her tree farm? A big thank you to all volunteers and thanks to the youth at the CYFS Residential Homes who had a great time helping out.

Host Businesses and Churches for Wish Tags: Our Wish Tags for the Residential Youth Christmas Gifts were a huge success thanks to Abby’s Pizza; Chehalem Valley Brewing; Jazzercise; Pogy’s Subs; Second Street Church; Naps Thriftway; Mode Du Jour; Lucky Finds Thrift & Gift and the Newberg Library.

Special Thanks to Hazelden for choosing CYFS as the beneficiary for their Bowl-A-Thon Gift Drive. So many, many wonderful items were donated for the youth along with a generous cash donation. And thank you to Avamere Senior Housing for their toy drive and Christmas dinners. Photo Right: Lori Anderson, CYFS and Sarah Cleesen of Avamere Newberg load toys and meals for our youth and families.
BE OUR GUEST!
Have Lunch on Us at one of the CYFS Youth Homes
Noon-1:00pm Monday
May 12
June 10   July 8
Learn More about CYFS
Call 503-487-7551 to RSVP

A Christian Service Organization
Providing Hope and Healing for Youth & Families Since 1970

The Kelly Group Presents
Rubies & Roses
A Benefit Ball for Chehalem Youth & Family Services
Saturday, May 18, 2013
6 p.m. Reception & Silent Auction
7 p.m. Dinner & Dancing
Claygate Vineyard
17205 NE Dopp Rd, Newberg

Dance to the sounds of Jack Quinby & his Band

 Tickets only $40 each
Buy online at CYFS.net or see locations on page 3

Dinner catered by The Rogue Gourmet

OUR PARTNERS

- Yamhill County Health & Human Services
- Yamhill County Commission on Children & Families
- Lutheran Community Services
- Yamhill County Family & Youth Program