



Good News Letter:

*With
Gratitude*

Proud Moments

Public speaking can be terrifying even for adults. So when a youth from one of our programs is willing to address hundreds of people, it's a proud moment for us.



Shaun with Eliza, LOFT Case Manager, at the grand prix dinner

This summer at the Oregon High Desert Classics Grand Prix Dinner, Shaun, a former resident of the Cascade Youth & Family Center LOFT and recipient of a J Bar J Youth Services scholarship, shared his gratitude with the crowd gathered. In his speech, he said:

"Two years ago I thought I would not be here, I thought that I would not be able to achieve the privilege to attend college, as a matter of fact, a university of my choice. I thought I would not be able to

even exist past those years. I was afraid, and although fear can drive me to achieve some things, it held me back for the most part. I wouldn't speak up for what I stood for, as oppression is violent."

"It was until I found my family of choice; those teachers who supported my dreams, achievements and future education, the doctors and trusted adults who made sure I was safe and feel understanding of myself, and my friends, who loved and supported me as a human being for who I am; that I was able to finally speak up and stand up. I do not think I would be where I am at this moment without any of them, and I am so grateful to have them and you all at my side."

"It took me a while to feel comfortable in my own skin, I didn't grow up with any mentors and role models that influenced me positively to achieve or even feel comfortable with my identity. I could have felt proud at a younger age. I certainly do now. [And] I wish that every person out there could

feel safe being who they are truly; I wish that those who are younger than me, and some who are older, had the chance and privilege to have those mentors and role models, that's why representation is important."

"What I'd like you, and perhaps the rest of the world to try to learn and understand is that identity is not binary. I don't think every teenager out there suddenly wakes up and decides to be a sociologist or a chef or boy or an activist. Being who you are takes process, phases are healthy and ok, and everyone's experiences is going to be different. Identity is important, it shapes minds, it influences ideas, and sometimes it takes a longer time for some than others to figure out [their identity], whether its what they aspire to be, if its their gender, their job, what they stand for, and if it means validating their experiences, or even if its being offtrack and lost sometimes; and to understand that not everyone is going to know who they are instantly. I want all of this to be okay for everyone.

Another Chance to Win Fun

Pine Mountain Sports Community Ambassador Program is helping Cascade Youth & Family Center with another bike raffle! There will be up to 2000 tickets sold to



win this top-of-the-line mountain bike: a Santa Cruz Megatower in the size of their choice. The winner will be drawn on October 17th. Congrats to Scot, who won the Trek Fuel 9.8 in the drawing on August 1st! TEN BUCKS gets you a RAFFLE TICKET & chance to win!

Sharing Gratitude

Two lovely young mothers whose lives brought them to Grandma's House recently told us what their experience there meant to them:

"(It) allowed me to gain relationships with amazingly compassionate, respectful, caring, woman I now aspire to be more like each and everyday. I love how amazing a presence each and every single woman has and how they carry themselves as the strong woman they are. They are the only females I've ever had to look up to ever in my life. I know without a single doubt that our friendship will continue for the rest of our lives!"

"(I Learned) how to carry my self



with more grace, be nurturing forgiving, and to take a moment and slow down. I learned to be a mom and a great mom at that!"

~ Logan



"The staff at Grandma's House are the best people I know. They are truly caring people, and showed me and Calliope genuine kindness and compassion. They often went above and beyond their basic responsibilities to build relationships with every girl and baby there."

"Without Grandma's House, I would not be where I am now. I was scared and did not see a way out of a lonely situation. Now, I am employed and am a full-time college student, living independently with my daughter. They helped me find myself and become the mother I wanted to be."

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~ Anna



Opportunity Gap



Our own Peggy Carey, winner of the 2019 Bend Chamber Woman of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award, was a panelist in this month's City Club's luncheon forum. The topic will be community led solutions to the opportunity gap.



"Our programs provide the underpinnings, the foundational pieces, that support kids while they get their education, vital to closing the GAP, find their first job, vital to closing the GAP, and while they figure out adulthood. Then we get to watch them form a dream for their future." Peggy spoke passionately about J Barj J's programs.

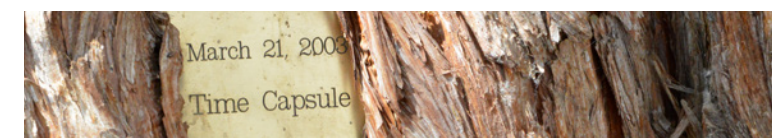
"Solutions to closing the gap need to be holistic, comprehensive, big picture. Kids don't learn well when they are hungry. We need to feed them."

Peggy has been working tirelessly

on our vocational school project on the J Bar J Boys Ranch campus. This new program will offer the boys job skills training and help them visualize themselves in a career. Peggy shared information about our other programs as well, such as employment coordination and job search assistance for homeless youth.

Celebrating at The Academy at Sisters

As a part of the Academy at Sisters 25th year celebrations, a small reunion was held on campus. The group gathered to reminisce, share a meal, and catch up with each other's lives. Walking into their past, they toured the facilities, noting what was new and what had remained the same. Together, they also tried to find the time capsule buried in 2003, but it remained hidden.



We're rolling out the red carpet, and you are invited!
Join Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon for a fabulous night of comedy, libations, & defending potential.

Tickets available: www.bbbsco.org and at the Tower Theatre

For sponsorship information, contact Jenni Garner at 541-389-1409 or jgarner@jbarj.org

Our 22nd annual Comedy For Kids' Sake is returning to the Tower Theatre November 15th, 2019, and promises to be the best yet!

This 21 years of age and older event features two outstanding comedians as well as our amazing live & silent auctions. We look forward to seeing you on our guest list!



Follow at: *project*, our newest program, on social media:

Facebook: [@at.project.org](https://www.facebook.com/at.project.org)
Instagram: [@at_project_org](https://www.instagram.com/at_project_org)

Jumping With Joy



Kids practicing jumps of their own

The Oregon High Desert Classics returned to J Bar J Boys Ranch again this summer, marking the 30th year for this outstanding event.

Crowds of spectators gathered to watch world class riders, dine al-fresco at the Grand Prix

Dinners, and to wander through booths on the Vendor Village Green. This show is our largest fundraiser each year, and provides much needed funds benefiting all of our programs.

Sponsorships are open for next year's event, including the title sponsor whose name and logo appear in all Oregon High Desert Classics advertising. Call Jenni Garner at 541-389-1409 for more information.



Above: Grand Prix Champion Lindsey Garner in flight on Capilano



Left: Kyle King on Christian visiting owner Joyce Pedigo and family after the Grand Prix.

Every Child
Carries the
Potential
to make the world
Better

We Are

J BAR J YOUTH SERVICES



Facilitating Positive Change for Youth

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