George Passadore Selected for 2006 DePreist Award for Excellence

Mark your calendars for our 5th annual DePreist Award for Excellence Tribute Dinner. On February 2, 2006, Volunteers of America Oregon will honor George Passadore for his outstanding leadership and community service.

The DePreist award is presented annually to recognize individuals who have been outstanding leaders in our community. George Passadore is the retired Regional Chairman of Wells Fargo Bank in Oregon and Southwest Washington. He was selected as the 2006 recipient because of his many outstanding contributions to our community and his commitment to furthering the culture and economy of our city.

Passadore is a third generation native Oregonian and a self-made man. His illustrious career with Wells Fargo began in 1962 in the mailroom sorting mail and processing checks—a long way from the Oregon regional chairman’s office of Wells Fargo in Portland that he would one day occupy.

Passadore worked his way up the career ladder at the company, scoring success in his many assignments in research and product development, technology development, and management of several departments. He was appointed Oregon regional president in 1998 and Oregon regional chairman in 2002. He retired in December 2003. (continued on page 5)

Open Hearts, Open Doors: We are Family!

Life doesn’t always deal a fair hand. That’s how it must have seemed to 12 year old Bobby McVeigh and his brother David, age 15, when they learned that their step-grandfather, their one and only legal guardian, was becoming too ill to care for them.

It was a confusing time for the boys, but a bit of luck and a lot of grace would soon change everything. The parents of David’s closest friend would not only be opening their hearts and doors to welcome the boys in, they would literally tear down walls to make it happen.

Back in 1995, when Bobby and David were only two and five years old, family circumstances prompted the Department of Human Services to intervene. Their grandmother and her husband stepped in and the grandmother became their legal guardian. But four years ago, their grandmother passed away and the full responsibility fell to their aging step-grandfather, Grandpa Bob.

Arlie and Cathy Bartmess lived nearby with their own two children, daughter Amy 12, and son Chris 15. The families would occasionally see each other at school events and when Bob’s frailties became apparent, Arlie and Cathy began to wonder what the future held for the brothers. It was the tight friendship between David and Chris that was about to set the course of the future for all of them. (continued on page 3)
From the Desk of the President

Greetings,

I’m pleased to write that our agency has successfully completed a five-year charter review led by a team of two top executives from our National headquarters—Tom Turnbull, Vice President of Financial Affairs and Karen Dale, Executive Vice President of Operations and Strategic Development. Their review included a self-assessment of our service and fiscal systems as well as the functionality of our management and governance.

Tom Turnbull reported the findings to our board of directors saying he would be whole-heartedly recommending to the national board that our charter be approved for another five-year period. We were pleased, but truly not surprised by the wonderful compliments paid to our agency!

The DePreist Award for Excellence selection committee has chosen our honoree for 2006—George Passadore, retired regional chairman of Well’s Fargo Bank. We are extremely gratified that Mr. Passadore has accepted the invitation to receive this award. The event is scheduled for February 2, 2006. (See more on page 1.)

Rick Cagen, Board Chair, Christee Sweeney, Director of Development and Communications and I, will be attending the national Volunteers of America conference in June. The conference will be important for two reasons, the program planned for this year, and the fact that next year’s conference will be held in Portland. As the year unfolds, we’ll be providing additional information on the Portland conference, how many attendees we expect and the agenda to be presented.

Malia Wasson, Sr. Vice President, US Bank retired from our board of directors in April. I’d like to express my appreciation to Malia for having served as a dedicated board member for six years, plus an additional two years as board chair.

Our vehicle donations program has been a significant source of income for our programs for nearly 14 years, but recent tax law changes are affecting the way in which donors can claim write-offs. While we anticipate that this could create a reduction in our revenues, we hope that the community will continue to make these important donations since our Vehicles program has been largely responsible for underwriting our general operating costs.

There has also been an increase in the number of families and children impacted by the illegal use of Methamphetamines. Consequently there is a greater need for services and programs to serve them, such as our Parenting Program, the Family Relief Nursery, and our Men’s and Women’s Residential Centers. Please see page 7 for examples of how our programs are meeting these needs.

Management has worked diligently in developing our 05-06 FY budget, presented at our June board meeting for approval. As the demand for our vital services continues to increase, so does our need for greater funds to keep us operating. We are more dependent now than ever before on the generosity of individual contributions and grants from corporations and foundations. It is my sincere hope that our loyal donors will continue to support us thereby allowing us to fulfill our purpose of promoting self-determination and building strong communities.

We are most grateful for all you do!

Kay D. Toran
President/CEO

Smurfit-Stone: Recycle Your Office Paper & Cardboard and Support Volunteers of America Oregon

Smurfit-Stone Recycling in the Portland Metropolitan Area has committed to donate $5.00 to our agency for every ton of office waste a new client recycles and $2.50 per ton of cardboard.

If your business would like to recycle in support of our agency, call 503-239-7944. We hope you’ll join the program.
With the widespread media coverage about the increasing abuse of Methamphetamines and related crime in Oregon, we are happy to share two success stories about recovery. Byron Lively and Butch Nicklin have turned their lives around and volunteer helping others in Volunteers of America Oregon programs.

Byron Lively: From Meth to Mentoring

Drug-free for four years, Byron now meets with several parents every other week. “Most of the drug issues are related to Meth and I can personally relate to their stories,” he says. “Meth drives a wedge between you and your children that can’t be fixed without intervention and solid support.”

“This level of ongoing support is missing in so many other programs,” Byron added. “It’s why I’m so happy to help people who might otherwise fall through the cracks.”

Byron is now part owner of a thriving masonry business in Portland and helps others understand they have the same capacity for success. Parent-to-Parent Mentoring Program Coordinator Kate Davis says, “Without Byron’s honesty, compassion and charisma, we wouldn’t be where we are today. Byron visits parents in the classroom, personally calls parents and conducts orientations for new parents—all to assure them that we are here to help them overcome their problems.”

Butch Nicklin: Commitment to Change

Starting with his first experiment with Methamphetamine in 1999, right up until his arrest two years later, Byron Lively was consumed by his addiction. He was a single parent, lost custody of his two young children and spent nine months in jail and another six months in a drug treatment center. “But it was the 20-week Parenting Program at Volunteers of America Oregon,” Byron acknowledges, “that put my life back on track.”

Byron came away from the program so much better equipped to raise his children, who are now back in his care, he decided to devote time helping other parents.

The Parenting Program supports parents who have lost their children to foster care, often due to substance abuse. After completing the program, many opt for a follow-up program—the Parent-to-Parent Mentoring Program—which goes even further by matching parents with a volunteer mentor for continuing support. Since October, Byron has been facilitating meetings where parents and potential mentors learn about the programs, and hopefully all find a good parent/mentor match.

Meth use for Butch Nicklin began in the ’70s, well before the drug would become a continuing story on Oregon’s nightly news. He’d had a well-paying job, but when his marriage broke up, he started experimenting with Meth, got arrested for possession and landed in jail.

His life became a continuous loop—in jail, out of jail, back into the same crowd and then back in jail. “I had no one in my life that was clean or who cared enough to help me find a better way,” Butch recalled. His family was fractured, with his two sons in foster care in the early years. Then in 2002 he was referred by the correctional system to the Men’s Residential Center (MRC) of Volunteers of America Oregon, a program serving up to 52 non-violent men. Butch completed the first six months of treatment and with the support he received, was well on his way to building a clean and sober life. He felt ready to go out on his own, so he opted to not return for six months of continuing care. He thought he was ready, but he wasn’t.

“The worst thing you can do after treatment, is return to the same old places,” Butch said. “My so-called ‘friends’ were exactly as I’d left them. No jobs, breaking laws to buy drugs—I fell right back into the swing of it.”

Fortunately, he was accepted back into MRC in 2003, and this time he stayed for the additional six months of on-going care. “I’m nearly two years clean and sober now, the longest I’ve gone since the ’70s,” Butch said proudly. “As soon as I graduated, I decided to come back as a volunteer so I could help other guys get their lives back together.”

Butch volunteers in the kitchen and helps prepare and serve meals for between 50 and 65 men. “I also accompany some of them on special outings, like sporting events,” he added. “I enjoy having one-on-one time because it gives me a chance to be an example of the possibilities of getting sober. My involvement here is part of my own recovery process. This place saved my life, and my counselor, Al Forthan is my hero. If I can help just one other person like he helped me, I’ll be happy.”

“Butch has been a great asset to MRC,” says Greg Stone, Program Director. “He helps in the kitchen and wherever he’s needed. Butch is a kind and gentle man who truly cares about our clients. As a mentor to several of the men and a role model for many, he’s earned their respect and appreciation for how much he gives back.”

Volunteers of America Oregon thanks Byron Lively and Butch Nicklin for their personal courage and their commitment to helping others. The Parenting Program, the Parent-to-Parent Mentoring Program, and the Men’s Residential Center are funded by Multnomah County. For more information, visit our website at www.voaor.org.
Fran Breiling: The Nurse is In.

When you bring a loved-one to any of Volunteers of America Oregon’s three adult day centers, not only can you feel confident knowing that our award-winning centers will provide the best service available, you have the added assurance of knowing that a qualified registered nurse is on duty.

Fran Breiling, graduate of University of Portland with a BSRN degree, has been on the job since 1986. She spends time every week at each of the centers visiting with the seniors and overseeing their medical well being. Whether she’s doing routine blood pressure checks, monitoring blood sugar levels, or something as critical as intervening to stabilize a participant experiencing a seizure, Fran brings a sense of confidence to the seniors, their families and staff.

“I enjoy working with the seniors,” Fran said. “They have a lot of history, great stories, and a wonderfully wise perspective on life. Being here gives me a lot of satisfaction.”

Fran keeps records on all the participants including their social background, history of physical events, primary medical contacts, and so forth. She stays in contact with family members and caregivers and keeps them informed about any health concerns and provides valuable input and advice for the individuals’ care plans.

“Since we work with folks who frequently have multiple maladies and are on several medications, it’s reassuring to the staff, participants and caregivers that we have a registered nurse with us,” says Lynn Schemmer-Valleau, Senior Services Division Director. “We all rely on Fran’s medical expertise and support on a daily basis.”

It’s obvious that Fran’s service is valued judging by the comments received. Hellen Aaron operates a foster care home and likes to give her clients the benefit of socializing at Velma Joy Burnie a few days each week. She appreciates the special care the seniors receive from the staff and especially from Fran. “I have a lot of confidence in Fran’s abilities,” Hellen said. She keeps me informed on how everyone is doing and if a medical problem arises, she immediately contacts the client’s physician with the details of her assessment. It makes things smoother for everyone.”

Fran would like the community to be aware of the continuing need for volunteer nurses to assist in daily duties. “It’s a great opportunity for nurses to stay active in their fields, and also to log any additional hours they may need for license renewal.”

For information about our Adult Day Centers, contact Lynn Schemmer-Valleau at 503-235-8655.

Our Window to the World

We invite you to visit our website at www.voaor.org. It’s the quickest way to learn the most about our agency.

In one stop, you can find details about all the services we offer:

Visit our programs section to learn why our three Adult Day Centers were the first in Oregon to receive the special CARF accreditation. You’ll also find moving stories about individuals who have turned their lives around with the help of our Rehabilitation Services. Or go to our Child and Family section and read about the dramatic benefits families are getting from our Home Free – Domestic Violence Intervention Services.

If you have a car, truck or boat you no longer need, we’ve made it easy for you to donate it with our online vehicle donation form. Do you have a garage full of “stuff” you’ve been meaning to get rid of? Before you do, check our wish list and see if you find a match. And if you don’t, why not think about giving it to our Thrift Store? We’ll even come pick it up for you! All the proceeds from these sales support our other programs.

Are you looking for a job? There are plenty listed in our jobs section. And if you feel an urge to volunteer, you’ll find a huge list of opportunities.

And of course, we have a section on how you can donate to support us, whether it’s a one-time contribution, or a planned giving program.

So, visit our Website soon. We would love for you to get to know us!

www.voaor.org

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Volunteers of America
Oregon
2330 SE 182nd Avenue,
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Open Hearts, Open Doors: We are Family!

(Continued from Page 1) It began last year when the phone call came that Bob had been hospitalized leaving no one to care for the brothers. Even though the Bartmess home was just big enough for the four of them, there was no question in their minds that David would stay with them while their grandfather recovered. Meanwhile, Bobby, went to spend time with another family.

Three weeks later the brothers learned that returning to their home with Grandpa Bob would not be an option. For the next several months the brothers were separated, had little chance to visit and obviously were missing one another. It was not an easy time for either of them.

Arlie, an assistant educator for special-ed preschool children and Cathy, a licensed tax preparer, had their lives in order and were actively involved with caring for their own family. But they grew concerned about the brothers being separated and began contemplating the possibility of bringing both boys into their home.

Volunteers of America Oregon had just taken over the foster care operations from Casey Family Programs, an agency that had been serving the needs of nearly 500 young people since 1966. Kristin Johnson, formerly a case manager with Casey, was already aware of the plight of the McVeigh brothers.

“We began to explore all the options for emergency placement for the boys,” Kristin recalled, “including the possibility of finding a foster home for them. Then we had a meeting to see if we could find a better solution and invited the step-grandfather, the Bartmess family, another family that had expressed interest in caring for Bobby, plus other family friends. To our relief and surprise, Arlie and Cathy offered the idea of having David come live with them permanently, and a few weeks later they agreed to include Bobby as well.”

With Kristin’s expertise and guidance, the legal documents were prepared so the Bartmess family could take legal guardianship of both boys. David was still living in the Bartmess home and when Bobby joined them, it was hard to tell who was happier about the reunion, Arlie and Cathy or the brothers themselves. Even though it meant that three boys would have to be camped out together in the same small bedroom. After one month of everyone sharing a pretty tight living space, it became clear that more adjustments needed to be made.

Cathy and Arlie weren’t looking forward to moving, and fortunately they didn’t have to—the solution was waiting in their own back yard. They consolidated their lot with the empty one adjoining it and hired a contractor to draw up plans for a major expansion. Now there is a whole new wing, bright and airy with plenty of space and privacy for everyone.

Extending their lives and expanding their home was a huge commitment for the Bartmess family and an amazing demonstration of their generous and bountiful spirit.

Youth Foster Care Program

The Youth Foster Care Program (YFCP) provides services for youth and adults in foster care and guardianship families. Since assuming case management responsibilities from Casey Family Programs in 2004, Volunteers of America Oregon has helped families with parenting issues, educational advocacy and day-to-day family support. We currently serve 27 clients and their families working with foster care families as well as guardianships. Youth range from ages eight to 18.

YFCP services include, but are not limited to:

- youth enrichment and recreational activities
- family assessment
- support, counseling and therapy
- individual and group counseling for youth
- life skill classes
- support for parents
- assistance accessing resources in the community

Volunteers of America Oregon invites you to support the Youth Foster Care Program with financial, volunteer or in-kind support. For information about how you can help, please contact Rhonda Warnack, Program Director at 503-287-6068. See more program details at www.voaor.org.
Second Annual CourtCare Campaign a Success!

At press time, the second annual “A Jungle Gym in the Jungle” Campaign has raised nearly $72,440 for Multnomah CourtCare program. CourtCare receives $50,000 every year from Multnomah County and the State of Oregon Judicial Department. However, CourtCare is free to its users, and private sector contributions and grants are crucial in order to cover the balance of its approximately $125,000 annual budget.

Adding in the Multnomah Bar Association’s WinterSmash bowling party proceeds of $16,661, over $89,000 was raised from the legal community this year for the free daycare at the Multnomah County Courthouse. Multnomah CourtCare is operated by Volunteers of America Oregon.

After months of planning by the CourtCare Fundraising Committee, chaired by Mike Greene and Jeff Matthews, the campaign kicked off on April 25 and concluded on May 6. Nearly 60 law firms and organizations, including several nonprofit agencies, raised money using a variety of methods, including the Karaoke party by the Multnomah District Attorney’s office.

In keeping with its long history of public service, the Portland Metropolitan area’s legal community came through for CourtCare with much needed generosity, spirit and hard work.

In keeping with the “A Jungle Gym in the Jungle” theme, the 2005 winners are: The Proudest Pride Award for the firm making the largest donation, for the second year in a row, goes to Davis Wright Tremaine, which contributed $7,633. They were followed by Bullivant Houser et al at $5,000, Williams Love et al at $3,600 and Multnomah County Judges at $3,260.

The Loftiest Leap Award, for the most per capita donation, for the second year in a row, goes to Williams Love et al at $211.76 per person. They are followed by Yates Matthews at $154.17 per person, Rosenthal & Greene at $144 and McKanna Bishop at $76.

We thank the many people who worked on the campaign in the past weeks and months.

Upgrading Your Digital Cameras?

So, you want the latest, lightest, fastest, brightest digital camera or video equipment with more memory and lots of fancy features? Great! Now what will you do with your old one?

We’d love to have those old hand-me-down digital still and video cameras to use in our programs, say . . . for snapping that perfect image of a child trying something new, or the joy on the face of a happy senior winning a Bingo prize. If you help us capture the memories we get to see everyday, we promise to share them on our Website!

And by the way, if you can provide any of the following, we’d be happy to receive that too!

- Music CD’s
- Classic movies
- Bingo prizes
- Stories on tape
- Joke books
- Inkjet printers
- Heavy card stock
- Oven fire clay
- Large pull-up Depends

- Framed photos or picture frames
- Grow light for plants
- New stoves
- Foam frisbees
- Piano tuning services
- Mirrors
- Hedge trimmers
- Lawn mowers

If you can donate any of these items, please call us at 503-235-8655.

Kris Billhardt: Champion for Children

April was Child Abuse Prevention month and the Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office sponsored their 6th annual Child Abuse and Family Violence Summit in Portland.

Detective Sgt. Allan Alderman, team leader for child abuse prevention in Clackamas County, is pictured here congratulating Kris Billhardt after receiving the “Champions for Children” award presented by Sheriff Roberts. Kris, Director of Volunteers of America Oregon’s Home Free–Domestic Violence Intervention Services, has taken a lead role in the development of a new program model that responds to families typically not served in emergency shelters, and provides support well beyond crisis response to better ensure ongoing safety and stabilization.

“Kris Billhardt was chosen out of 1500 nominees,” noted Detective Sgt. Alderman. “She exemplifies the qualities we want to honor with this award—she is truly a champion for children!”

We thank our contributors for supporting these programs with their generous grants:

- Home Free-Domestic Violence Intervention Services
  - $9,000 - Portland Union Women’s Foundation
  - $3,900 - Women’s Care Foundation
  - $740 - Domestic Violence Prevention Fund (Oregon Community Foundation)

- CourtCare
  - $5,000 - Multnomah Bar Association

- Adult Day Services
  - $3,000 - Dywer Charitable Trust
George Passadore Selected for 2006 DePreist Award for Excellence (con’t. from page 1)

George’s list of board and community affiliations is as diverse as it is impressive. Among his civic activities, he is currently the president of the Board of Directors for Tri-Met and chairman of the Portland-Bologna Sister City Association. He also serves on the boards of Village Heritage Foundation, the ODS Companies and is an emeritus trustee at Oregon Health Sciences University. He is a past chair of the Portland Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Portland Business Alliance, Oregon Health Sciences University Board of Trustees, the Advisory Council for the School of Business at Portland State University, and the Association for Portland Progress.

His record also includes service as a former board member of the Portland Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, the Portland Public Schools Foundation, the Oregon Zoo, the Oregon Symphony, the Oregon Business Council, the Associated Oregon Industries, the Oregon Historical Society, the Portland Art Museum, Holt International Children’s Services and the National Center for Disaster Decision Making.

The School of Nursing at Oregon Health Sciences University presented George with its first ever “Spirit of Caring” award in April 1999 in recognition of his vision, leadership and commitment to improving the quality of life for all Oregonians. Lewis and Clark College named him the 2003 winner of the Aubrey Watzek Award for Civic Leadership. In April 2005, Portland Public School District’s Portland Area Career Training Center presented him with a Lifetime Achievement award.

“George Passadore’s dedication and long-standing commitment to the community made him our top choice to receive the award. He embodies all the qualities that the DePreist Award for Excellence stands for,” says Kay Toran, President and CEO of Volunteers of America Oregon. “It will be a great honor to present him with this award.”

We are pleased that Gerry Frank, president of Gerry’s Frankly Speaking has agreed to be an honorary co-chair of this event along with James and Ginette DePreist. Event co-chairs are Sho Dozono, President and CEO of Azumano Travel and Judy Peppler, President of Qwest.

Serving as our event steering committee will be:
- Andrew Beyer, Vice President, General Manager, Marin Walsh Construction Company
- Joe D’Alessandro, Executive Director, POVA
- Bernie Kronberger, VP, Corporate Community Group, Wells Fargo Bank
- Judy Peppler, President, Qwest
- Michael Powell, President, Powell’s Books
- Robin Teater, Executive Director, American Leadership Forum
- Pam Treece, Managing Director, External Affairs, PacifiCorp
- Gayle Veber, President, Veber Partners
- Grant M. Yoshihara, Managing Director, Utility Services, NW Natural

Securing Our Future Through Planned Giving

Most of us give time, talent or money to charitable organizations because it makes us feel good—especially if the organization is involved in activities we feel passionate about. But not many of us know about the kinds of gifts that leave a lasting legacy long after we are gone.

Did you know you can leave part of your estate to Volunteers of America Oregon in your will? You don’t have to be wealthy to have an estate. An estate is simply any property, money or personal belongings you may have at the time of your passing. Cash contributions are critical for keeping an organization operating in the short term, but it’s the endowments, the charitable trusts and leaving legacies through wills that really add financial stability to an organization.

In addition to using a will to make a charitable contribution, there are other options available that offer the donor charitable tax write-offs and avoidance of capital gains, such as giving assets outright or setting up Charitable Trusts or Charitable Trust Annuities.

Join the growing list of The Ballington and Maud Booth Society members who are dedicated to continuing our mission into the future. Your intent to leave a portion of your estate to Volunteers of America Oregon is all that is required to become a member. A legacy gift to Volunteers of America Oregon is a promise to the future of your community.

If you would like to receive more information on any type of planned gift, please contact Volunteers of America Oregon Development at csweeney@voaor.org or call 503-235-8655

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$130 value for only $30

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Plus parking pass (August 22-28)

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To order tickets, please send your check ($30 per ticket) payable to: Volunteers of America Oregon and mail to 3910 SE Stark, Portland, OR 97214. Please be sure to note that the check is for Jeld-Wen Tickets, or call Rachael Thomatz at 503-595-2018 to place credit card orders or for more information.

Help spread the word by passing along the enclosed flyer to a friend.

Volunteers of America Oregon
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