



Johnson Creek

A perfect summer day is when  
the sun is shining, the breeze is  
blowing, the birds are singing,  
and the lawn mower is broken.

-James Dent

SUMMER 2009

# ColumbiaCare Newsletter



ColumbiaCare Services, Inc. Mission Statement:  
"To promote the mental health and welfare of individuals and communities by developing progressive, regional systems of behavioral health care facilities and affiliated service programs in collaboration with public and private providers of social, judicial and health care services".

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings to All,

Well, this has been an incredibly busy summer for ColumbiaCare, both here at the Administrative Office as well as at all of your facilities. I would like to start by acknowledging the newest employees who have joined our organization since the last newsletter. Welcome! Here at the Administrative Office we have two new staff members- Deborah Tressel, who provides support services for our administrative clinical team, and Patty Angeli whom we have brought aboard as much needed temporary help for our finance department. We are very glad to be in our new administrative building which has the space to accommodate all of our very important staff members and the functions they provide us. We are certainly a growing company.

Just this month, ColumbiaCare and our partners Coos County Mental Health and SOASTC have realized the long-awaited goal of opening our first children's foster home-based crisis services program. The county was recently congratulated in the media not once, but twice in the same week for making such a smart investment for the county and for providing more effective treatment for children and their families in the community. To

read the articles in their entirety visit [www.theworldlink.com](http://www.theworldlink.com) and then search Pony Creek. The articles were posted August 10, and August 11, 2009.

We also anticipate opening Johnson Creek SRTF in mid-September (see article below). This is another project that has experienced some delays, but will be a much needed resource for state hospital patients who have been working hard towards the goal of integrating back into a community setting. It is a beautiful facility which will provide 8 adults with professional residential treatment services and supervision within a non-institutional environment. Congratulations to those who have made significant progress in managing their illness and will soon be calling Johnson Creek home.

As always, I would like to thank all of our staff and community partners who help us care for people who have a mental illness. It is a worthwhile and fulfilling mission. Great job to all.

Bob

## NEW FACILITY UPDATE!: JOHNSON CREEK

ColumbiaCare Services will be opening Johnson Creek Secure Residential Treatment Facility (SRTF) mid-September, 2009. This 8-bed facility is a beautiful, newly constructed, craftsman style home that is tucked away in the quaint community of Milwaukie, Oregon.

Johnson Creek will promote community safety and the psychiatric recovery of individuals who are under the jurisdiction of the Psychiatric Security Review Board. Residents living at Johnson Creek will be ready for community integration with a high level of support and supervision.

The facility will be staffed with trained employees who will provide high-quality residential and mental health treatment services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Services will be provided under the management of Facility Administrator, Andrew Axer, Ph.D., and under the supervision of a Psychiatrist.

While at Johnson Creek residents will enjoy a collaborative, relaxed and safe treatment environment that will allow them to become successful in learning the necessary coping skills for community integration.

## Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!

We would like to welcome Todd Siex! He has recently taken over the reins at Columbia River Ranch as Facility Administrator.

Todd has extensive experience with the DHS regional office in Eastern Oregon, the Children's Services Division, Oregon Youth Authority and has worked at the Oregon State Hospital. The combination of his background, experience and skills will be a tremendous asset to Columbia River Ranch, as well as ColumbiaCare Services.

## BOUNCING BABIES EVERYWHERE!



Congratulations Diana Wilkerson on the birth of your baby boy Wyatt! He was born on the 4th of July, what a way to celebrate Independence Day!

Congratulations also to Gail Burns who welcomed her second granddaughter on July 17th. She is a beautiful baby and already has a head of hair to make the girls jealous!

## THROW ANOTHER SHRIMP ON THE BARBIE!

Okay, so maybe no shrimp have been involved, but many facilities have been taking advantage of the beautiful summer weather and in the least throwing a few burgers on the Barbie!

The Roses had their annual barbeque, and let's just say that when it came to entertainment, well, they didn't stop till they got enough! Residents were able to enjoy the festivities that included miniature horses, exotic tortoises, a cake walk, a piñata, volleyball, and even karaoke! And not just the Roses' residents were there, but residents from all our Portland facilities were invited to enjoy the food and fun.



Driftwood Lodge was also able to get some good use out of their barbeque. And even though there was a lacking of prancing miniature horses, everyone seemed to have great time!

The Administrative Office recently was able to join in on a little barbequing fun as well! Bobby Flay you better move over, Mary Matchett knows how to work a grill!

## Camping Adventures!

Our residents at Creekside recently packed up and headed out to the beautiful Camp Morrow to enjoy a week long camping trip. Canoes were tested, geese were fed, and fish were caught by residents and staff alike. And even though there were plenty of engaging activities to partake in, simply enjoying the beautiful natural setting definitely made it on the daily agenda.

## Supported Employment Success Story

*The following is a positive letter from a client who successfully progressed through the Supported Employment Program*

"Thank you for all your help. I appreciate receiving the orthopedic shoes, the warm coat and the mini electronic planner that you arranged for me. The mini planner is particularly helpful in allowing me to remember my schedule. The shoes fit me well now and the coat will wait until the weather gets cold again. My work at Fred Meyer and Safeway as Stock Clerk means a lot to me. Extra spending money is great and I don't need to pay a service contribution once I started receiving my paycheck. Going to work is an achievement. I am determined to keep up the good work long after my initial 90 days of employment. Once again thanks."

## Congratulations Dave and Bill!

Can we have a little applause for Dave McDaniel and Bill Byers please? After much hard work they have become certified Oregon Intervention System (OIS) Instructors.

OIS is a curriculum designed to provide a solid foundation of person-centered, non-aversive strategies to assist people who provide supports to individuals who may engage in challenging behavior.

## Way to go Instructor Dave and Instructor Bill!

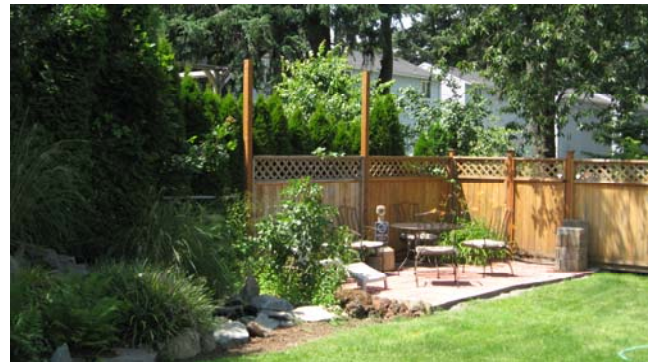


## EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT ANTHONY EMEGHEBO

Anthony has been an employee at ColumbiaCare for a little over a year. He states that the aspect he most enjoys about his job is being able to help.

The learning experiences Anthony has had while at ColumbiaCare have varied from just practical knowledge, to learning about client's various diagnoses. He also has been learning how to effectively help manage client's conditions in order for them to lead a more meaningful life. His long term goal is to finish medical school and to continue working at ColumbiaCare.

His favorite quote is "Always give, and do not count the cost for in everything there is a reward." He considers his parents and Nelson Mandela as his heroes and mentors.



Oh, wouldn't it be nice to enjoy a pleasant summer day in Rosebud's backyard!

## The Forming of ORPA

In April, ColumbiaCare Services participated in the formation of Oregon Regional Provider Association (ORPA). This organization was created for the purpose of enabling Oregon's mental health providers the opportunity to share a common voice as they experience similar challenges, issues and goals. ORPA will hopefully help providers to establish a better partnership with the State. ColumbiaCare has been able to attend the three meetings held thus far, and is honored to serve as Secretary and Treasurer.

## SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW ME, HUH?

*It's time to test your knowledge of the Administrative Office staff once again! Be ready though, next time it might be about those in your own facility!*

1. Who once worked for a road construction company, and then went on to own it?
2. Who owned a Christmas tree farm and drove a semi truck with them loaded on the back?
3. Who was a cheerleader in high school and competed at the state level?

*\*\*Answers are posted upside down on bottom of front page. No cheating!\*\*\**