



Juvenile Community Justice

Annual Report

Spring 2008

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Juvenile offenders:

How alcohol and other drugs don't mix

The majority of young people referred to Juvenile Community Justice also have involvement with alcohol and illicit drugs. The most common drugs used are marijuana and alcohol. Each substance is difficult to successfully treat, particularly when young people began experimenting at a young age. For the past several years in Deschutes County, juvenile clients have had only about a 50 percent treatment success rate.

One drug receiving much media attention is Methamphetamine, or "Meth." In reality, Meth is not commonly seen in the general juvenile population. Of those youth drug tested by the juvenile department in 2007, only five percent were positive for Meth use.

Last year, for those drug-addicted users who were referred to the most intensive drug and alcohol treatment—residential care, nearly half were Meth users. Even though Meth use by young

people is low overall, successfully treating a Meth addiction is a long-term and expensive struggle. Local options for adolescent Meth treatment are limited, particularly for those also engaging in criminal behavior. There is also a distressing equation to factor for youth suffering this addiction—the financial expense goes up, while the likelihood of successful treatment goes down.

Experts analyzing juvenile criminal behavior are also concerned about juvenile alcohol and other drug use. There is a clear connection between the two activities and typically, both issues must be addressed to resolve the problem. Visit www.methaction.org for a list of available local resources and www.theantidrug.com for general illicit drug information and advice.

Data: Juvenile Community Justice Mental Health/Drug and Alcohol Evaluation Data, 2007. JCJ Annual Benchmarks Data, 2007.

Greetings Deschutes County Citizens

It is my honor to provide you this year's report card for Juvenile Community Justice. For nine years, we have reached out directly to you, the community we serve and to whom we are accountable, to provide information on our diverse activities. Deschutes County Juvenile Community Justice is committed to ensuring public safety, preventing juvenile offending and ensuring offenders repair the harm their actions have caused victims and the community. Correspondingly, our stated mission is, "Repairing harm, reducing risk...creating opportunity."

I am pleased to report continued improvement in a number of key areas. **Over the past year, the rate of restitution paid by youth under our supervision increased by 11 percent to 93 percent. Having 93 percent of youth actively making restitution payments is an outstanding result.** Victim satisfaction and community service work performed also increased. The percent of youth staying in school or graduating high school and completing court-ordered treatment, also rose.

I congratulate Juvenile Community Justice staff for the department's success over the past year. Next year will certainly present us with challenges. Like all public services, Juvenile

Community Justice is entering a period requiring diligent fiscal management. I am confident we can and will continue to provide excellent service to the citizens of Deschutes County.

Juvenile offending is a community phenomenon. The harm is experienced by individuals, families, neighborhoods and business owners. Likewise, the solutions rest with these groups, including community agencies like Juvenile Community Justice, schools and social service agencies—all working collectively to meet our community's unique needs.

Thank you for your interest in juvenile justice. If you have questions or comments about this year's report card, or would like to be involved, please do not hesitate to call 541.388.6671.

Respectfully,

J. Kenneth Hales
Community Justice Director



WEB RESOURCES

Visit our website to review our annual reports produced since 2002 to demonstrate our effectiveness, and gain an overview of Deschutes County Juvenile Community Justice services at www.deschutes.org/juvenile.

Check out these helpful websites for other juvenile and family resources:

Central Oregon Resource Guide
www.frconline.org

Drug & alcohol treatment
www.rimrocktrailsats.com

Opportunities for disadvantaged
www.neighborimpact.org

Myths & facts on youth crime
www.cjcj.org

National key indicators of well-being
www.childstats.gov

Contact us...

Give us feedback! Please offer your suggestions or concerns regarding this 2008 Annual Report.

Attn: Communication Specialist
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Bend OR 97701-9475

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Each year, Juvenile Community Justice tracks key indicators shown to give relevant information on the status of juvenile offenders in Deschutes County. These benchmarks help identify findings, trends, and areas for focus of department resources.

2007 Benchmark Results

2005 2006

Restitution

Owed	\$117,717	\$72,063
Paid	\$96,299	\$67,287
Percent Paid	81.8	93.4

Victim Satisfaction

Percent Highest Satisfaction Level (based on returned surveys)	59.0	65.0
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Community Work Service

Hours Ordered	7,757	8,032
Hours Worked	5,884	6,795
Percent Completed	75.9	84.6

Recidivism

Percent with no New Referral within One Year	70.5	67.9
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School Participation

Percent in School, Graduated/GED, Employed at Case Closure	80.0	84.0
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Drug and Alcohol Use

Percent tested positive	48.0	54.0
Evaluation*	86.9	77.0
Education*	63.1	72.3
Treatment*	50.6	54.0

*percent completed within 6 months

Percent of Former Juveniles

With No Adult Arrests	74.3	68.9
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Crime Prevention

Funds Contributed	\$335,758	\$319,040
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Citizen Participation

Hours Contributed	3,662	2,256
Value of Hours	\$66,074	\$36,412



Parents are powerful: Making your home "Party Safe"

"All teens drink, right?" Wrong. Janet Westmoreland has watched the city of Redmond triple in size from the 7,000 citizens she joined when she moved there 15 years ago. Now she passes superstores, highways and busy streets each morning on her way to drop off her children at Redmond High School. She also passes the homes of her children's classmates. As part of TAPS' (Think Again Parents) Substance Abuse and Prevention Team of Redmond, Westmoreland takes more than a passing interest in those homes.

For over two years, she has been the driving force behind the Redmond "Party Safe Home" initiative, which refuses to allow Redmond to become an anonymous city where it's possible for teens to entertain themselves without supervision. This initiative connects Redmond parents with similar values about teens using alcohol and other drugs.

TAPS builds on scientific research showing parents actually do have considerable influence on their kids, even through the age of 18. Studies show that kids are less likely to experiment or become regular users when parents talk frankly and share their own values about staying away from alcohol and other drugs.

Westmoreland passes out brochures and Party Safe Home "pledges" at many Redmond middle and high school events. A parent signs and returns the pledge, stating they will not knowingly allow alcohol and other drugs to be consumed in their home, and that they want to know if their kids are seen consuming alcohol or other drugs in the community. Westmoreland envisions a time when these parents share a network list, thereby forming a team of like-minded parents.

Westmoreland says it doesn't surprise her that not every parent who takes a pledge card actually returns it. Many parents don't realize or even believe how important their opinion is to their teen. Some also believe, "All kids are going to drink; they may as well do it in my home so I know they're safe." To this, she has a clear answer, "You are the parent. Your job is to protect your children. Allowing them to drink is not healthy or safe. You have to love them enough to protect them."

Research supports Westmoreland. Young people who drink, particularly when they start before age 15, are far more likely to be involved in violence, accidents and school failure.

Parents are the number one defense against premature and illegal consumption of alcohol and

other drugs by teens. Here's how:

- Establish communication. Ask open-ended questions that require more than a "yes" or "no" answer.
- Respect your teen's perspective on what life is like for a teen today.
- Avoid the temptation to lecture or "scare" your teen into compliance.
- Practice ways for your teen to refuse alcohol and other drugs.
- Show them you love and care for them.
- Secure and monitor alcohol in your home.
- Parents set boundaries: Not your teens or their friends.

For more information on the Party Safe Home initiative, call TAPS at 541.548.4481.

Restorative community service...so much more than litter patrol

In Deschutes County, community service is considered "a vital and effective tool in holding juvenile offenders accountable for their offenses," according to Bob La Combe, deputy director of Juvenile Community Justice. "We practice 'restorative' community service, taking advantage of its many benefits," he added. First, juvenile offenders are provided meaningful opportunities to repair the harm caused by their actions. It also allows these youth a chance to make positive contributions to the communities where they live. Restorative projects are designed to offer services that are highly valued by the community and juveniles alike. These youth are often paired with adult mentors who effectively demonstrate a sense of civic responsibility, community pride, and a strong work ethic. Not only are these young offenders paying back for the harm they have caused, but the process expands itself by teaching important life skills and offering vocational training, whenever possible.

Restorative community service is a two-way street. Active involvement from both offenders and the community, including institutions and individuals—is critical to the effectiveness of restorative community service programs. To that end, Juvenile Community Justice actively seeks collaboration with individual citizens, civic partners and business groups who provide meaningful opportunities and projects.

Along with a long-standing partnership with Bend Area Habitat for Humanity where youth help build homes for those in need, youth are now engaging in a variety of construction projects. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has youth building bird-nesting boxes. A local spay and neuter project has received feral cat houses. Saving Grace, a domestic violence agency, benefits each year from the labor and

Juvenile Community Justice Mission Statement

"Repairing harm, reducing risk... creating opportunity."



Restorative work service crews unload a postal truck of donations from a USPS neighborhood food drive. Goods are distributed to those in need through NeighborImpact.

creativity of youth offenders who volunteer at its Children's Festival in Bend.

Numerous collaborations with civic organizations including neighborhood associations, parks and recreation departments, area city governments, and nonprofit agencies are benefiting from youth labor. A variety of products and services are generated for these groups like wheelchair ramps and yard cleanup for the elderly and disabled. Free firewood is delivered to those in need. Fire fuel reduction activities help keep surrounding forests healthy and minimize the risks to area structures. Juvenile offenders are also actively removing graffiti in Central Oregon. Along with law enforcement and local paint suppliers, graffiti removal is completed at no cost to business and private victims. Traditional community service also remains an aspect of regular work. In 2007, juvenile offenders hauled nearly 63,000 pounds of trash and yard debris to local landfills. Other restorative community partners include the following:

- Hospice Transitions of Redmond and Sisters
- Bend Community Center
- Family Access Network
- Community Action Team for low-income families
- United Way of Deschutes County
- Deschutes County Department of Solid Waste
- Deschutes Children's Foundation
- Oregon Department of State Lands
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- La Pine Helping Hands
- Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers
- Central Oregon Master Gardeners
- Wild Wings Raptor Rehabilitation Center

Individual citizen participation is also important. Youth work alongside adult volunteers who are willing to donate their skills and time. These mentors offer invaluable talent and creativity for these youth to experience.

Through Fresh Start, a program that repays victims through the community service work of offenders, over \$17,000 in restitution was repaid in 2007.

Juvenile Community Justice actively seeks input and project feedback from crime victims, community partners and youth who have completed their

assigned work hours. Before any work project, youth receive an orientation, education session and general information about who benefits from their work and its value to the community.

Contact Restorative Community Service supervisor Jim Smith, at 541.322.7653 or email james@co.deschutes.or.us with your interest.

Insights from a youth crew leader

Community work service is a vital aspect of restorative justice. There is no better way for the community to observe reparations and receive immediate payback from a youth offender.

As a community work service crew leader, I also get to witness firsthand, a community that cares. Weekly, if not daily, people honk and wave while driving by youth on litter patrol, and sometimes they even take time to stop and thank us. Still, others have dropped off treats to show their appreciation.

Some of the work is dirty and physically hard, but these youth really benefit from the gratitude expressed from someone in need. It's amazing how far a simple thanks for their hard work goes. We have witnessed a terminally-ill cancer patient use all of his strength to come out on his porch to personally thank the crew for removing yard debris he had become unable to manage. There are also many people grateful to receive firewood when it is their only source of heat. The stories of gratitude are endless.

In the role of crew leader, you spend more time with the youth than any other staff in juvenile justice. We get to see the individual growth and watch their confidence build from learning new skills. My partner has been doing this job for nine years. Every week, I see young adults who were once on his crew wave when they see our van or come to shake his hand in thanks. Some tell stories of the projects they worked on "back in the day." It is obvious that their time spent on community service projects has impacted them in so many favorable ways. I recently heard one youth tell my partner, "I hated you, but I loved you." I attributed that statement to mean sometimes our decisions are unpopular, but they also know we are there to help them redirect their lives.



Crew member installing bird-nesting box he built for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, a restorative effort to provide habitat for a variety of birds. In the spring, crews check activity and perform required maintenance.

Being a community work service crew leader definitely has its rough moments. But they are eventually overshadowed by the positive actions we

see every day. I am thankful to have a career that is so meaningful and rewarding in so many ways to so many people, and I am ultimately proud to be a part of the restorative juvenile justice system.

—Mark Wolff, crew leader



Participants reducing fire fuel in Redmond Dry Canyon, safeguarding adjacent homes. Debris is recycled as mulch for canyon trails.

Katie's path revealed in a simple question

Essay from a former juvenile offender

Drug dealer...its title comes with so many issues. I guess it all depends on who you are and what you believe. I'm not sure why, but for me it all seemed so glorified in the beginning. Maybe it's the money and lifestyle and access to drugs of course, but it's also the fact that others need you. It all sounded so amazing—until I finally got there.

First, you should know I had a wonderful early childhood; the kind I hope to give my children someday. My father made good money and my mother was a stay-at-home mom. But by age eleven, things changed and I came to view my dad as an absent, dead-beat father. My mom gathered her strength to leave him and we moved to Bend from Texas. She maintained three jobs to support our family, all while dealing with severe arthritis and depression. Eventually the strain took its toll on her. One evening my aunties came over and checked her into St. Charles for a week of treatment. Meanwhile, they helped rid the house of a huge supply of empty and full pill bottles. When my mom returned home she was much better. On the other hand, I was not okay. I had started stealing her meds.

As time went on, we moved into different apartments and I had started drinking, which eventually led me to drugs. By age 16, I was living with roommates and was addicted to alcohol, nicotine, marijuana, cocaine, meth and the occasional prescription drugs and mushrooms. It was all fun and games. On my sixteenth birthday, I tried my first OxyContin. I remember little about that night. What I do recall is waking up with a piercing and wondering how I got it.

On one fateful night, some close friends lost their son to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. I was the one babysitting with a friend and discovered him not breathing. I was questioned by police for three months. A baby just a few months old, how unfair? 'Life' was thrown in my face and I realized how fast it could all come to a screeching stop. That's when I decided to get off meth, cocaine, hallucinogenic



Wild Wings Raptor Rehabilitation owners, Gary and Kelly Landers educate crews on their rehabilitation program for injured birds of prey. Juvenile crews remove barbed wire from residences, one of several known hazards for these birds.

and prescription drugs. But with good intentions too easily pushed aside, within six months I was living the life I had fantasized about...I was now officially a drug dealer.

It lasted almost a year. Then I got my act together, and eventually moved back in with my mother. I entered a steady relationship, got a job promotion, and everything was grand. But it's tough to shake the lure of fast money. A \$100 in OxyContin could multiply so fast. So, why not sell just one more time? It was gone by 6:00 the next night. But later that evening while closing the store, two police officers showed up to arrest me. My boyfriend and I were arrested for possession, manufacturing and distribution of a controlled substance.

I was so mad at myself, more than anyone else, until I got a letter from juvenile justice. The only thing I remember reading was, "Who did your actions affect?" At the time, I could only see myself. But what about my mom who worked so hard to keep me and four siblings fed, clothed and happy? She did not intend for me to end up this way—chasing a high and some happiness that she had been trying to provide all along. What of my brothers and sisters who looked up to me like I did of my older brother? And what about the people those pills went to...their families and lives? What if one of those kids was to die and I was the cause for a mother's lost child? That single question of my actions really affected me. So, it was not the six months of drug testing or 40-hours' community service, but, "Who did your actions affect?" The complex answer was not just me or my boyfriend, but so many others.

Is there stress and conflict in your family about your teen's behavior?

Has your teen started to make poor choices or been in trouble with the law? Are these issues in your home? Inappropriate behavior? Alcohol and other drugs? School problems? Peer pressure?

Juvenile Community Justice offers Functional Family Therapy, an in-home program working with families to improve communication between kids and parents, and helps teens make better life choices. Call Jim LaPorte, LCSW at 541.322.7652 for more information.

Did you know?

Juvenile offenders held in detention spend five and a half hours in school during weekdays. Classes are held year-round by Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) teachers.

I regret how many lives I endangered and how much time and energy I wasted. But what I regret most is the person I lost to drugs. I missed me. But I think if I had never been arrested, I would not exist now. So, in the long run, I thank the people who called the police, the officers who came to my work that night, and I thank everyone at the juvenile department. I am still alive!

I offer this advice learned hard. Realize what you have, who is there for you, what makes you happy, and you will find the 'real' you. Because eventually, the high isn't going to bring you up anymore, but take you down instead. Be eternally grateful for the air in your lungs, for you do not know when it will all come to that screeching end.



Child abuse shatters dreams and leaves deep emotional and, sometimes, physical scars—often behind impenetrable walls of silence. Be a voice for these children. Report child abuse.



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Redmond graffiti victim impressed with outcome

Aaron Bondi, manager of Ferguson Enterprises-Waterworks Division, a local pipe supplier and distributor in Redmond, wasn't necessarily surprised to learn his building had been vandalized with graffiti. It sits along the railroad tracks and is a common location for transients. While most graffiti is discovered after the fact and finding the offender can prove difficult, Bondi was fortunate. An off-duty Redmond police officer saw the three teen males and called the police department to respond immediately.



In an ongoing effort, two community service youth remove graffiti from a Bend underpass. Materials are donated by local paint suppliers. Removal is completed at no cost to victims.

All three youth were cited and court-ordered to repair the damage to Ferguson Waterworks. While Bondi was out of town, the youth completely repainted the backside of the building, and later repaid Bondi in full for the paint materials. Reflecting on his experience, Bondi shared, "I was really impressed with the great work from Redmond Police and Deschutes County Juvenile. I was contacted several times with updates." He also added, "Everything was taken care of, so I didn't have to contact our landlord and my business was saved time and money. Fortunately, we didn't need to file any claims." Bondi also thinks having these youth fix the problem they created has taught them a very valuable lesson in community justice.

Darkness to Light: Child sex abuse prevention training available to Central Oregon adults

A child's safety is an adult's job. Today, over 2,300 adults in Central Oregon are trained in sexual abuse prevention. That means over 23,000 children are better safeguarded. Juvenile Community Justice has partnered with KIDS Center for a tri-county initiative to help adults prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. 'Stewards of Children' training is available to everyone. Call Valentina Muggia, prevention education coordinator at 541.383.5958, for upcoming training dates or visit www.kidscenter.info for details on Darkness to Light.