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No Meth - Not in My Neighborhood
Mid-Willamette Education Consortium
Oregon Symphony Association in Salem
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce
Salem Art Association
City of Salem - Salem Youth Advisory Commission
Salem Convention & Visitors Bureau
Salem Electric
Salem Leadership Foundation
Salem Youth Advisory Commission
Today's Choices - Tomorrow's Community

Leadership Youth December: "Respecting Our Resources"



Ashley Naas
West Salem High School
Junior

In December, we gathered together for our program "Respecting Our Resources." We had the wonderful opportunity of decorating a stocking, that was filled with gifts that we hand selected and purchased for the residents of Redwood Heights

Retirement and Assisted Living. Just seeing the smiles on their faces made the whole day.

They were all so excited to see us and to open their gifts. It really made me and my classmates happy to see them so excited.

This really opened up my eyes to the fact that I should be thankful for what I have. It made me recognize the fact that we all have the power to help others and to make somebody else's day just by helping out or by showing that we care. My classmates described this as their favorite part of the day!

Our day continued as we went on a tour of E.Z. Orchards, with owner John Zielinski. We learned all about the picking of the apples, cleaning them, and about the processes they do to get them ready to sell. It was fun to find out about all the behind the scenes stuff that goes on and to find out about the huge variety of things they sell.

After E.Z. Orchards, we visited Garten Services, Inc. At Garten, they work on skill development and provide employment

opportunities for people with disabilities. They assist people to reach their full potential and establish independence. Very informational. I had no idea this place existed. It was really touching and to see how happy these people were to be working. It really made us all look at our own actions and attitudes about these everyday things. Plus, RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE, that's what we all need to do.

The day overall was very exciting and very moving and by far my favorite day! It was fun helping out others and seeing how places in our own community strive to help out others around them everyday.

Thank you program funding sponsors from the Executive Leadership Council. Thank you Blanchet Catholic School for sponsoring field trip transportation. Thank you Don Panch Mexican Foods for sponsoring lunch at Izzy's Classic Buffet & Pizza Bar.

Thank you program volunteers for being with us leading us every month: Deb Wilding, West Coast Bank; Gladys Blum, Gladys Blum Real Estate; Cori Fraudentier, MaPS Credit Union; Jack Mitchell, Mitchell's Mobile Lub; Jack Rabenberg, West Coast Merchant Services; Dan Noble, Premium Property Management; and Cheryl Mitchell, PGE Festival of Lights Holiday Parade. Contact Kathy Moore for program information: kathy@salemchamber.org or 503-581-1466.

Salem-Keizer School Board seeking input for 2006-07

The Salem-Keizer School Board is seeking input from the public about the district's direction for 2006-07.

Do we share the same vision for next school year as our community or did we miss something? That's the question the Salem-Keizer School Board is currently asking parents, staff, students and community partners.

School Board members have developed draft Strategic Directions (draft is available online at www.salemkeizer.org) for 2006-07. They have been sharing this draft with the

community and asking for feedback. The Board's three main directions are: 1. Attain high academic achievement and individual student progress; 2. Ensure a school environment that is conducive to learning; and 3. Reinforce student achievement as a shared community value and responsibility.

Offer your input online at www.salemkeizer.org and filling out a questionnaire and returning it through various methods listed on the form.

Susana Ghio, founder of Somos Hispanas Unidas, receives Statesman Journal's Athena Award

The 3rd annual Athena Award was presented at a luncheon at J. James Restaurant in Salem. Sonja Sorensen Craig welcomed attendees to the luncheon and the featured speaker was Susan Castillo, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Details about the award are at www.statesmanjournal.com.



Susana Ghio is a secondary Bilingual Resource Teacher for Salem-Keizer Public Schools. Susana was the driving force in the development of Somos Hispanas Unidas. This group evolved from a Women's Justice Circle facilitated by Susana. The circle was asked to complete a project. The project became a program to help Hispanic women develop their English and Spanish literacy skills. This also includes computer skills. The group has now decided to form a non-profit which will provide classes to help women develop their managerial skills to advance their careers and become involved in their communities. Somos Hispanas Unidas has already assisted the hospital, schools, business, churches, and organizations with translation skills. Contact Susana for program details: 503-399-3258, ghio@open.org, ghio@cmc.net or ghio_susana@salemkeizer.k12.or.us. The 2006 Athena Award nominees were Judge Pamela Abernethy, Joanne Fuhrman, Deborah Glass, Gretchen Schuette, Sue Tatton, Jean Williamson and Susana Ghio.

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