

From Angry Young Boy to Productive Community Member

He never considered graduation an option, but his Friend gave him no choice.



Aaron is the 2nd oldest of five children. He lives with his mother and father in Northeast Portland. Before he came to Friends of the Children, Aaron's life was hectic and inconsistent. In a particularly difficult evening, he saw his father shot in the stomach three times. **The images he witnessed at an early age were full of violence and dysfunction.** By the time Aaron was in third grade, he was angry.

Aaron's Friend (mentor), James, met him when he was in third grade. James came to see him after school and saw an unhappy, apathetic young boy isolating himself from the rest of the children. Aaron was leaning against the wall trying very hard to look tough, while refusing to look at anything but his feet. James took a deep breath and went to introduce himself.

Aaron was forced to grow up so quickly that he had forgotten how to have fun, so James determined that the first step was to teach him to be a child. He needed to play and meet children his own age! They went to the zoo together and played kickball, football and basketball. Eventually, Aaron began to have fun with his Friend and realized his love of sports. At the end of his 4th grade year, Aaron was given an assignment at school to write a letter to anyone he wished.

He wrote a letter to James that read, "thank you for being my friend." The wall was beginning to come down.

When Aaron entered high school he became increasingly aware that nobody in his family had ever graduated. He never considered graduation an option, but his Friend gave him no choice. James continued to push Aaron to improve academically and got him to start visualizing the day of his graduation. James spoke about how proud his family would be and what an impression the first family diploma would make on his younger brothers.

Gradually, Aaron began to share in James' excitement and began to improve academically. He worked hard to bridge the gap that his earlier apathy and behavior cost him in the classroom and began to understand the power that education could provide. **On June 3rd, 2005 Aaron graduated from high school.** His entire family beamed with pride as they watched him receive his diploma. Aaron's little brother was there and was obviously impacted when he said, "I want to be the next Aaron!" James, of course, was there and watched the culmination of all the hard work, struggles and tears.

Now, graduating from high school is no longer enough. Aaron will be attending a local community college in the fall, and is looking forward to continuing his education. Aaron is a true success story and he simply could not have done it without his Friend. As James observed, **"Aaron is going to be successful. He has beaten the odds too many times already not to be."**

An Update from our Executive Director



The Friends of the Children—Portland program has had a very successful and rewarding fiscal year. I would like to take a moment to give you just a few of our highlights.

We had forty seniors graduate from our program in July. Several of them are moving on to college or junior college programs, and five of our youth received the Friends of the Children—Portland Legacy Scholarship, started by David Oringdulph (Legend Homes). Also, four of our 13 alumni (who went to college last year) will be returning to school for a second year, two of them earning additional scholarship money through our organization.

We enjoyed a successful second year partnering with George Fox University for our academic camp for 2nd–5th graders. We developed a new partnership with Portland State University and completed a two-week academic middle school camp on the PSU campus, which was taught by PSU graduate students. Both partnerships were exciting, rewarding and created educational opportunities for our youth, staff and the college students who participated. In addition, we have seventeen youth working in internships in the community this summer (last summer we had eleven). As our graduates depart we add new youth, and we just completed enrollment for 38 new kindergartners.

We know that much of what we are able to accomplish is made possible by your generous donations, both monetary and in-kind. We truly appreciate your continued support of Friends of the Children—Portland. Together—we are making positive changes in children's lives. We know because we see those successes daily.

Thanks for caring and helping to change the lives of our community's children...one child at a time.

Warm Regards,

Virginia Silvey
Executive Director

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Adolescent Program Update



It has been an exciting year for our Adolescent Program here at Friends of the Children—Portland! On June 16th we had our 2nd Annual Graduation Night and recognized the many accomplishments of our seniors as they prepare for a new phase in their lives. We are excited to report that five of our seniors were recipients of the 2005 Friends of the Children—Portland Legacy Scholarship, which was started by David Oringdulph (Legend Homes) last year. One will be headed to PCC in the fall with plans to transfer to PSU, two others are off to PSU and

two are headed to Lane Community College in Eugene to prepare for attending the University of Oregon.

We are also proud to update you on three alumni who graduated from our program in 2004. LaDandrea will soon begin her second year at Tuskegee University where she is in the pre-vet program. Natasha is beginning her second year at Evergreen College, where she is still deciding her major. Lakisha is finishing her term at Beau Monde College of Design and is preparing to attend Western Business College to pursue her dream of being an inde-

pendent business owner. These success stories are the results we strive for!

Throughout the past academic year our teens have been busy attending community service activities, college fairs and tours, as well as numerous workshops and seminars on personal development. Our Teen Council designed and carried out a 'Bottle and Can Drive' to raise donations for Tsunami Relief programs. They also attended a weekend retreat where they learned how to work as a team with a ropes and challenge course, and celebrated their successes with an overnight visit to Seaside, Oregon.

Our CHOICE (Creating Higher Options in Careers and Education) group was busy this spring with visits to Lane Community College, Linn-Benton Community College, Oregon State University and the University of Oregon. We held an in-house college fair and visited the Oregon Convention Center for Portland's Annual College Fair. We also took a trip to Salem to tour the Capitol, which included visits with Secretary of State Bill Bradbury and Attorney General Hardy Myers.

Currently, we are in the midst of our Summer Internship Program with 17 high school youth serving as Interns throughout the community. The internship sites include Body Vox, Camp Friends (FOTC Portland), Habitat for Humanity, Ethos, Inc., Rock n' Roll Camp for Girls, The American Red Cross, and Office Max. All interns are learning valuable skills in a 'hands-on' atmosphere, helping them prepare for future careers.

As we begin a new academic year, we are very excited about our Adolescent Program. We have opportunities available for our youth this fall that will help them acquire the tools they need to be successful, contributing members of society.

Our adolescent programming has been very successful and we could not have done it without the support of individuals and businesses in the community. If you wish to get involved with our adolescent programming please contact Richard Porter at rporter@friendsofthechildren.org or 503-281-6633, ext. 119.

Part-time Volunteer to Full-Time New Beginning

For the first time in 30 years of climbing up the corporate ladder, I began to wonder what the climb had really been all about. Yes, I had much to be grateful for and proud of—seeing far off places, meeting many interesting people and having impressive sounding job titles. I had succeeded in proving I could do it all, but I had failed to pay attention to that nagging voice inside my head. That voice that kept asking, "what happened to that person who was going to change the world for the better and make a positive difference in people's lives?"

It was time to quit thinking and talking about it, and start making a genuine effort to do it. I joined Friends of the Children—Portland last October as a

volunteer on the steering committee for their large fundraising event, the Friend Raiser. It did not take long to see Friends was going to return to me more than I was going to give to them. Friends gave me the inspiration and courage to make a far-reaching career change. I now have the honor of serving as the Development Director for Friends. In this new role, I look forward to sharing with you the extraordinary phenomenon that is Friends of the Children.

Sincerely,

Pat Van Orman-Price
Development Director

Another Successful Camp Friends!



Photo by Friends of the Children—Portland

Having fun together at Camp Friends



Photo by Friends of the Children—Portland

Working hard at Camp Friends

Thank you to our college partners for leading our middle school and elementary Camp Friends! Camp was a true success for our children and youth. Through our partnership with Portland State University's College of Education, fifteen of our program youth attended camp on the PSU campus and received instruction in reading and writing by

PSU graduate students. The group visited the Portland Art Museum, Powell's bookstore, the Central Library and toured the PSU campus. Our middle school youth spent two weeks improving their reading and writing skills, while being exposed to the atmosphere of a college campus. Three of our high school youth learned the value of giv-

ing back to their community by serving as role models and camp counselors for our middle schoolers.

Elementary Camp Friends is hosted in partnership with George Fox University's College of Education. Thirty elementary students received instruction from George Fox University's graduate students, while learning primary academic skills and having fun! This two-week academic enrichment day camp was held at the Friends Center in Northeast Portland.

Attendance for both camps was nearly 100%, which showed that our children truly enjoyed their time at the camp and found it worthwhile. Education Specialist Joe Bergen noted, "The fact that we have such consistently high numbers speaks volumes to the fact that our kids find this summer camp meaningful and fun."

Bridget O'Leary, one of the teachers for the middle school camp, remarked, "The collaboration between Portland State University and Friends of the Children—Portland is so important because children get to explore fiction and non-fiction and process information through writing in a supportive setting. The low ratio of students to adults allows both children and teachers to bond and learn from one another in a short time period. I can't wait until next year."

Alumni Corner

LaDandrea first came to Friends of the Children—Portland as an angry and misbehaving second-grader. She faced a great deal of instability since her parents were unable to care for her and she moved from living with her grandmother, to her cousins, and finally to a foster home during her time in the Friends program.

LaDandrea credits the mentoring she received through Friends with changing her life and helping her to stay positive. She triumphed over her challenging circumstances, graduating from both Friends of the Children—Portland and Benson High School in 2004.

Now in her second year at Tuskegee University in Alabama, LaDandrea is majoring in veterinary medicine. She tells her former Friends mentor, with

whom she still keeps in touch, that she loves working with the animals at the vet school, which is located right on the main campus. In addition, she has learned a lot about improved study habits and money management during her time away.

LaDandrea also participates in the Air Force ROTC at Tuskegee, hoping it will lead to scholarship opportunities and a chance to see the world.

During her summer at home, LaDandrea returned to Friends to provide community service at activities such as the grad night celebration for the 2005 graduates. She also worked full-time at the Portland Tissue Processing Laboratory.

Program Youth Step Out on Their Own

Graduation is a major accomplishment for our youth, such a source of pride and yet bittersweet as they leave Friends and what has been a consistent anchor in their lives. But even after graduation, Friends stay in touch and give support and encouragement and love sharing our youth's stories.

Jack practically beams when describing how well his recent grad, Scott, is doing. Scott graduated this June from Serendipity Center, a charter school dedicated to helping ease behavioral problems. His foster care has been extended and Scott is using this window to prepare himself for his desired future. He is taking a math class at Mt. Hood Community College and volunteers at a local library with hopes of being hired into a full-time position. His love of books makes this a great fit and the stability, benefits and advancement opportunities offered by the county make it a good career choice. Jack is proud of what a happy, productive young man Scott has become. Scott has recently discovered the mental and physical benefits of exercise by taking on bike riding, even learning to repair his own equipment. The road ahead of Scott is bright indeed.

Lisa, who also graduated this June, loves to read books and dreams of being an accountant and then a business owner. A fun-loving athlete, dancer and artist, her multi-faceted creativity expresses itself in crafts such as beautifully knit scarves, hand sewn quilts, jewelry, clothes, candles and more. Her personal charisma has enabled her to successfully sell these creations. Lisa is no stranger to setting goals and making them happen. Besides taking classes at PCC to prepare for enrollment into a four-year program, Lisa is channeling her disciplined nature into a part-time career in the Army National Guard. Her Friend, Joia, notes that although many have concerns about the risks inherent in this choice, her enlistment is the fulfillment of a six year dream. Lisa is a strong young woman who is true to herself and entirely capable of creating the life she chooses.

Our graduates have many stories as they strike out on their own. We certainly don't stop caring or connecting, and love to hear about their progress. Even when our youth graduate from the program, we remain an important part of their lives.



Upcoming Events



September 22: Locker Partner Picnic

All Locker Partner participants and volunteer tutors are invited to join us for an evening of games and burgers to celebrate friendship.

September 29: First Annual Friends Art Fair

Presented by eROI, the Friends Art Fair is a community art event featuring affordable art from some of the top artists and craftspeople in Portland. Tickets are \$25 advance/\$30 door. For information and tickets visit [ww.friendsartfair.com](http://www.friendsartfair.com).

December 9-11: Christmas with the Trail Band

Join us at the Aladdin Theater for the twelfth year of this festive start to the holiday season. For tickets and information, visit www.friendsofthechildren.org/portland. The ticket pre-sale for Friends supporters will be October 10-26, online and by phone at 503-281-6633.

May 2006: Friend Raiser

It's never too early to look forward to our annual Friend Raiser! We are always planning for our signature event—keep your eyes open for more information. Contact us early to get involved.

Sponsorships and Volunteer Opportunities for Events

For information about sponsorship or volunteer opportunities for all of our events, please contact Erica at epoff@friendsofthechildren.org or 503-281-6633, ext. 107.

Wish List

If you can help with any of these items or want to learn more about volunteering, please contact Beth at bchappell@friendsofthechildren.org or 503-281-6633.

- Educational computer games
- Kitchen supplies
- Bissell carpet sweepers
- Gift cards for retail outlets and restaurants to use as incentives for our youth
- Gift cards to fabric stores for our sewing class
- Low-cost printing and mailing services
- Sports equipment
- Musical instruments
- Camping gear: sleeping bags, tents, therma-rests and backpacks, camping stoves, pans and utensils
- New or nearly new school backpacks

Volunteers Needed To:

- Tutor math and reading
- Help with special events
- Help with office projects
- Help with graphic design projects

Thank you to those who donated items from our last Wish List and for special activities:

Alameda Tuesday Club
Ashforth Pacific
Mort Bishop
Bedford Brown
The Campbell Group
Cheryl Meyers
Children's Museum 2nd Generation
Do Jump/Echo Theater
East Portland Rotary Foundation
Empire Pacific Windows
Faces Unlimited
Flowers By Dorcas
Hickox
Janet Wainwright Public Relations, Inc.

Julie and Arvie Smith
KCK Farms
Laura Hastings
Louis Dreyfus Property Group
Metro Arts
Northwest Children's Theater and School
Oregon Children's Theater
Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon
Richard Hill
Russ and Mary Anne Boardman
Bob Sanders (Rivercity Printing)
Simon, Toney and Fischer Inc.
Terry Hines & Associates
West Coast Plant Co.

*Thank you to Fred Payne and Retirement Plan Service Corp. for providing 401(k) administrative services.



Create a Legacy...

"We have seen Friends of the Children change lives, and we want to know that this program will continue to be there for our community's children far into the future. That is why Friends of the Children—Portland has become a very important part of our estate planning."

—Don and Billie Carlson

What can you do today to make sure that Friends of the Children—Portland will be there for tomorrow's children?

Join our "Friends Forever" giving society, by making an outright gift to our endowment, or by designating Friends of the Children—Portland in your will.

Gifts through wills and estate plans ensure that your financial support for the Friends program will continue indefinitely. A charitable bequest to Friends of the Children—Portland can also benefit you and your family. If your estate is subject to federal estate tax, a charitable gift can save significant tax dollars.



You have the power to make sure our children will always have a Friend.

For more information, please contact Louise Runkle at lrunkle@friendsofthechildren.org or 503-281-6633, ext. 102.

Freedom

By Shawn, Age 14

If you want to fight
Don't take flight.
Listen to the words of Mr. King

Read
Sing a song
Let freedom ring
To the balcony
We can sing
We have pride
And you must not divide
So I tell you all stand strong
Where you belong.

Help a child with math & reading

Many of our children need extra help with their basic subjects at school, such as math and reading. Several of our children and youth have been fortunate to receive weekly tutoring in these important areas and more could use your help.

Our tutoring program not only assists our children and youth in academics, but also gives them another caring, supportive adult in their lives. These relationships are for our children and youth because it gives them an opportunity to interact with role models while getting the extra academic help they need.

We are grateful to our tutors for taking the time to make a difference in the lives of our community's children and we welcome more people to volunteer for this important role. If you are interested in becoming a tutor, please contact Joe Bergen at jbergen@friendsofthechildren.org or 503-281-6633, ext. 159.

The normal time frame between calling us and meeting the child you will tutor can take up to six weeks (screening and matching are done with care). Please call us today!



Want to Continue Learning About What We are Doing?

If you want to receive monthly updates about our children and youth's successes, please contact us to begin receiving our monthly e-newsletter! To begin, contact Vici Wolff at vwolff@friendsofthechildren.org or 503-281-6633, ext. 108.



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Volunteer Spotlight

Anyone receiving our electronic newsletter is familiar with one of the many ways that Ryan Buchanan supports Friends of the Children—Portland. Ryan's company, eROI, provides the services necessary to stay in touch with our supporters via email. But that's just one way Ryan is supporting Friends and getting more people involved.

Ryan and his wife, Shannon, have been donors to Friends of the Children—Portland for several years. They chose to support Friends initially because they know that their support makes a big difference to a smaller organization. But their real focus is getting people involved. To Ryan, it's great that people give financially, but he wants to see more people have the opportunity to volunteer, and to see more people his age supporting non-profits like Friends.

Ryan believed in what Friends was doing early on. But he truly became inspired by the fact that former



Photo by Doubles Blenart

Ryan Buchanan, President, eROI

Development Director Teke Dillender never stopped working for Friends even when she decided to be an at-home mom for her two young sons. Teke is actively involved with the Friend Raiser, and is now collaborating with Ryan on a new Friends event this fall. Her dedication to spreading awareness about Friends prompted Ryan's passion for getting the word out. Today, he is deeply invested in helping the organization reach new audiences and be a place where people can volunteer

in addition to providing financial support.

In an effort to raise awareness of Friends of the Children—Portland, connect potential volunteers to our program and raise funds to support the organization, Ryan encouraged us to host a new event: the Friends Art Fair. Presented by eROI, the Friends Art Fair is a community art event featuring affordable art from some of the top artists and craftspeople in Portland. The event is designed to be a fun, casual way for people to learn more about Friends and find just the right new art addition for their home or office.

With volunteer supporters such as Ryan, Shannon, Teke and the eROI team providing the backbone to this new event, it is sure to be a lively success! For tickets and information, visit the event website at www.friendsartfair.com or contact our events coordinator at epoff@friendsofthechildren.org, or Erica Poff at 503-281-6633 ext. 107.