



Miss Oregon 2009 Chooses Friends of the Children for her Platform

When CC Barber, the newly crowned Miss Oregon 2009, visited Camp Friends this summer to serve breakfast to program youth, she was swarmed with questions about her new role and came away with many new admirers. The admiration was mutual: CC selected Friends of the Children as her platform for her bid for Miss Oregon in 2006. "I was instantly intrigued by the uniqueness of the Friends of the Children model; as a nursing school student, I felt like the model fit with what I was learning about in child development."

In addition to aligning with her education, the Friends of the Children model hit a personal note for CC, too. The oldest of five siblings born to a mother with severe drug and alcohol problems, CC watched helplessly as her family was torn apart by addiction. When her mother could no longer care for their family, the siblings were separated; CC was sent to live with her grandmother, while the rest of her siblings were separated into foster homes. Thinking back to her selection of the Friends program, CC reflected, "I knew there wasn't anything I could do to change my family's story. But when I heard about Friends of the Children, I recognized there was something I could do to impact the lives of children facing the same kinds of hardships today."

CC will advance to the Miss America pageant this January in Las Vegas, and says she can't wait to bring National attention to the Friends of the Children program. Good luck, CC!

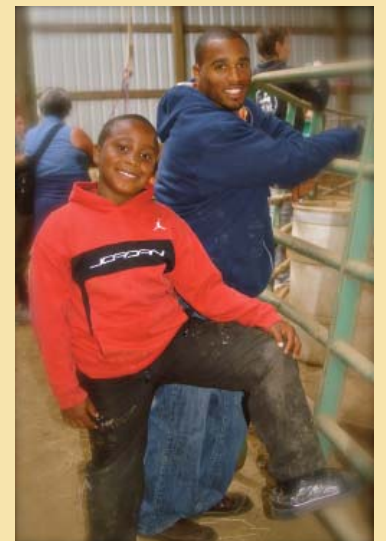
Friend Spotlight — Gary

Gary serves as a Friend for eight young boys, all of whom are entering second grade and facing enormous adversity. Gary chose to work to impact the lives of young people because he's been there—and he imagines he might not be here today without the influence of the person who mentored him.

Gary's parents divorced when he was five years old. He grew up in New Jersey with his father, who served as a very positive role model. When Gary was fourteen, circumstances caused him to relocate to Inglewood, California to live with his mother. Moving away from the guidance of his father at such a pivotal time in his adolescence was tough, and to make matters worse Gary's new home in South Central L.A. was saturated by gang violence. Every night Gary heard gunshots ringing through the streets and within the first few months in his new neighborhood a man was shot in front of his house. Pressure to identify with a gang was intense, and young Gary was certainly at-risk for going down that path.

Luckily, Gary had always excelled at sports, which helped to keep him out of trouble. Still he admits, "I didn't have a halo over my head. I was getting into trouble at school and

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Executive Director Update

Dear Friends,

Although the economy has had its ups and downs during the past year, Friends of the Children has remained steadfast both in our strength as an organization and in our outcomes with youth. We have increased our focus on what we do most effectively - providing our community's most vulnerable youth with intentional mentoring through a relationship with their Friend, a full-time paid professional mentor, for 12-1/2 years. This school year 67 new children in kindergarten and first grade were added to our program, bringing our number of youth in the program to nearly 350.

We have also strengthened our community partnerships with outstanding organizations that provide our youth with additional resources and support. Two examples of our partnerships: Oregon Children's Theatre and George Fox University provided 7 weeks of Camp Friends this summer. Stan Foote, Oregon Children's Theatre Program Director, volunteered two weeks of his time for the 5th year to help our children find their voices and build confidence. Stan shared that it's his favorite two weeks of the year.

Camps lead by George Fox University included 5 weeks of academics taught by students in the Masters in Teaching Program who gained their first experience designing curriculum and teaching in a classroom. Under their guidance, youth made progress in reading, math, and science, and some had a chance to travel to the Oregon Coast and spend the night "sleeping" in the shark tank!

Our Friends, donors and community supporters all play a significant role in helping our youth be successful. We have celebrated 6 graduating classes with 115 youth moving forward with a positive plan for their future. Our independent evaluation continues to show that our program works:

- 82% of our youth graduate from high school or obtain their GED
- 94% avoid the juvenile justice system, and
- 97% avoid teen parenting

Thank you for the support you have shown Friends of the Children. We are grateful for your investment in our program. The heart and the generosity of our community is inspiring.

Warmest Regards,

Jerri B. Jorgensen

Special Thanks to:



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www.friendsofthechildren.org/portland

Healthy, Fun Summer

The Healthy Lives Committee at Friends of the Children has the mission to create opportunities for our youth and staff to experience optimal health of body and mind through education, diet, exercise and self care. This includes working to build good self esteem, learning stress management techniques, and building a strong sense of community—as well as a focus on nutrition, physical fitness and hygiene. This summer the committee was busy planning fun activities for our youth to address these issues.



One activity featured a Field Day event in a local park. Youth had the opportunity to get their bodies in motion by participating in over ten different activities including an obstacle course, hula hoop competition, 50-yard dash, and an egg-race. Youth also enjoyed a barbeque that replaced hot dogs and hamburgers with healthier items such as chicken breast and grilled veggies. The event culminated with an awards

ceremony where each youth received at least one ribbon for placing in an event, resulting in a huge confidence boost for our kids.

The committee also planned a Health Fair in partnership with Linfield College's Nursing program, New Seasons Market, National Charity League, and local dentists referred by the Oregon Dental Association. The event consisted of four stations where health professionals gave presentations on nutrition, dental health, disease prevention, and physical activity. Children learned how to look for healthy snacks, which foods are best for cavity prevention, and how to properly wash their hands. Each child received a goodie bag at the end of the Health Fair containing a first aid kit, a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, and other hygiene items.

The Healthy Lives Committee is looking forward to the fall with events such as healthy cooking classes, community dinners, and sports camps.

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then there was the gang pressure. I could have gone down the wrong path. Fortunately, I had Coach Biggs.”

The Coach was never a professionally trained mentor as Gary is now, but he exhibited all of the qualities that a Friends of the Children mentor would display. Coach Biggs would take Gary far beyond his inner-city neighborhood and introduce him to his colleagues. Something that seems so small can have a profound impact on a young person. “It was the only time I felt like people saw me. I was somebody instead of just a kid from a bad neighborhood,” remembers Gary. Coach Biggs played football at USC and he used his influence at the institution to move track practice to the college campus. It was an eye opening experience for the boys, and one Gary knows had a strong influence on his belief that he could go to college.

Just as The Coach instilled positive values in him, Gary hopes to inspire the same in his young mentees. Gary models consistency and advocates for his boys when they get into trouble at school, while still ensuring they remain accountable for their actions.

“I've started to see the light bulb turn on for the boys I work with. Kids learn by observation and I can tell my boys are starting to see their world differently. The other day one of my boys asked me ‘why are you so nice to everyone?’ I told him if you are nice to people they will be nice to you. The look on his face was priceless. I could tell he got it. It's these subtle teaching moments that will change their lives, and it is the same technique Coach Biggs used.”

Gary may have been lucky to have Coach Biggs in his life, but Friends of the Children is blessed to have Gary.

Friends Forever

For 16 years, Friends of the Children has been helping vulnerable children grow into young adults with a bright future. In order to solidify its programs, Friends is working at building a foundation to ensure that the long term commitments (12 1/2 years) made to the children can be sustained.

Do you want to be part of the solution? You can help by including Friends of the Children – Portland Foundation in your will or estate planning. It is:

- Simple – Just insert a few sentences in your will or living trust.
- Flexible – Because you are not actually making a gift until your estate is settled.
- Fiscally Responsible – Make your bequest for a percentage of your estate which ensures your gift will remain proportionate to your estate size.

If you have already included Friends of the Children in your estate planning, call Jim Lillis at 971.340.1419 or jlillis@friendsofthechildren.org





Friends of the Children - Portland
44 NE Morris
Portland, OR 97212

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Holidays with the Trail Band

A Portland holiday tradition is back! The Trail Band concert series benefiting Friends of the Children-Portland returns to The Aladdin Theater this December. For fifteen straight years this event has sold out nearly a month in advance. The Trail Band holiday concert series is a unique event that attracts music lovers from throughout the state. The band's selection of classical and modern holiday music creates a wonderful spirit for the holiday season.

Enjoy amazing performances from Linda Hornbuckle, former Quarterflash singer Rindy Ross, Mike Doherty, Cal Scott, Phil and Gayle Neumann, Eddie Parente and Dan Stueber.

presented by:



CONCERT SCHEDULE

- **Thursday, December 10:** 7:00pm
- **Friday, December 11:** 7:00pm
- **Saturday, December 12:** 3:00pm & 7:00pm
- **Sunday, December 13:** 3:00pm & 7:00pm

Matinee Tickets: \$12.50, \$22.50 & \$37.00

Evening Tickets: \$18.50, \$27.50 & \$37.00



Tickets go on sale Monday, October 5th at 8am
To order call 503-281-6633

