



AUGUST 2007

## Coalition for Kids Announces Leadership Transition From Board Chair, Dennis Webber

The Board of Directors is excited to announce the appointment of Gina Marie Agosta as Executive Director of Coalition for Kids. As Program Specialist, and most recently Deputy Director, Gina Marie has worked closely with the board and staff, always demonstrating her passion and excitement for the mission. In her new role, she will lead Coalition for Kids with her vision and goals for the future.

Gina Marie is a graduate of the University of Portland with degrees in both Organizational Communication and English. Since her return to Grants Pass, she has served in various capacities on community boards and organizations including the Josephine County Cultural Coalition, the Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, and as Vice President of Communications for the Grants Pass AAUW Board.

As we celebrate this new direction for the organization, we want to recognize Don Gray for his many years of service to Coalition for Kids. Don originally succeeded Carolyn Kohn, CFK's founding director, in 1996. He continued to serve on the board even after leaving the Coalition to serve as the

Superintendent of the Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility in 1998. He returned to CFK to serve a second term as Executive Director in 2004. Don will continue with CFK in an advisory capacity for the next several months as the organization transitions its leadership team.

This leadership transition comes at an exciting time for CFK. Having recently sold the "Hamilton House," CFK has positioned itself to creatively consider new ways to "Create opportunities for children and families to flourish." If you are interested in being a part of this creative process through hands on involvement in programming, contributing toward the cost of these programs, or possibly serving in a leadership position as a board member, please call Gina Marie at 479-1929.



*New Executive Director  
Gina Marie Agosta is a  
native of Grants Pass.*

## Volunteers Have Fun While Helping Children Build Self-Esteem to Succeed in School Margaret Henry Enjoys Spending Time With Kids Who Need A 'Special Friend'



Margaret Henry has been a Special Friends volunteer since 1989. When her family moved here from southern California, her daughter began attending Highland Elementary school. Margaret was immediately asked by a teacher to help out in this program. As busy as she

is, 18 years later, managing the front office at KAJO/ KLDR, she still devotes 1 lunch hour each week to be a Special Friend and can't imagine not doing it.

Margaret feels the Special Friends program is still very much needed by children that may not have a 2-parent family, a parent in the armed services, are shy, lack self-esteem or just need a friend to be with.

Turn to **SPECIAL FRIENDS**, Page 3

Look for another Special Friends Profile in the September issue of the Sneak Preview!

**COALITION FOR KIDS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2007**

**Dennis Webber, Chair**  
*Pastor, Parkway Christian*

**Sherry Branch,  
Vice Chair**  
*Care Coordinator, O.H.M.S*

**Dan Smith,  
Secretary/Treasurer**  
*Principal,  
North Middle School*

**Robert Ward**  
*President,  
Home Valley Bank*

**Craig Dent**  
*Executive Director, Pacifica*

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**CFK STAFF**

**Gina Marie Agosta**  
*Executive Director*

**Peggy Lawless**  
*Business/Childcare Director*

**Don Gray**  
*Development Assistant*

**Marla Kasdorf**  
*Program Specialist*

**Donald Gray**  
*Janitor/Maintenance*

**CFK TEACHERS**

Alicia Fear  
Jennifer Chamalbide  
Shonnah Ivie  
Tina Gunderson  
Amy Robertson  
Susan Baker  
Tasha Carr

**CFK VOLUNTEERS**

Joe Viveiros  
Grandpa Lowell Blair  
Kathleen Bennett  
Frank Lang  
Johan Van Raay

**Coalition for Kids Eliminates Debt, Seeks Support for Mission-Based Programs**

**Loss of United Way Funding Makes Your Support More Vital Than Ever**

What's more exciting than being out of debt? The opportunity to grow and find new ways to help children and families flourish! The sale of the Hamilton House this May puts Coalition for Kids in a financially stable position with great opportunity for growth. The Board of Directors has been working since its strategic planning retreat in 2004 to reduce CFK's debt load and made the final decision to sell the Hamilton House, thereby enhancing opportunities to serve families in our community.

Coalition for Kids exists only because individuals like you support its mission. As a non-profit, the services we provide require strong community support. This year our Annual Campaign and Raffle fell 37% short of our goal and the agency need. Facing the loss of United Way funding and increased competition for grant money, your continued support and that of the community is important, now more than ever.

We thank all of you who help sustain our mission, "Creating Opportunities for Children and Families to Flourish," and look forward to a long partnership with you as we implement that mission.

**Congratulations To Our Car Raffle Winner!**



*Photo used courtesy of the Grants Pass Daily Courier.*

Greg Kelley, standing with Lisa Wilson, was the lucky winner of the 2007 Toyota Prius in our Car Raffle.

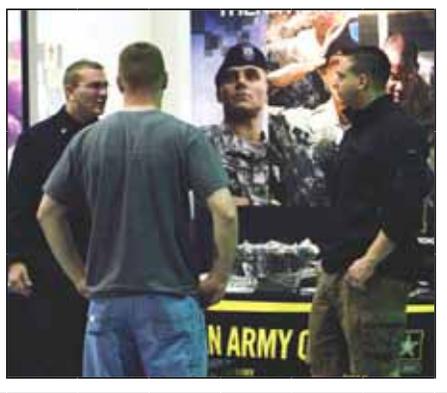


# Images from Jobapalooza! 2007

*Below: A high school senior talks to Army recruiters about career opportunities in the military.*



*Below: Students from North Valley High School speak with representatives from Rural Metro Fire.*



*Above: Patti Brickenden from the YMCA tells students about summer job opportunities at the Y.*

## 40 Local Businesses Had Chance to Meet Over 100 High School Juniors and Seniors Great Chance For Employers to Share Passion and Prepare Their Future Workforce

On April 20th, juniors and seniors from all 4 local public high schools were invited to the 2nd annual Jobapalooza! Teen Career Fair to speak with representatives from 40 businesses and organizations, ranging from health care to the military.

Many students completed job applications onsite, signed up to volunteer with one of 9 nonprofits agencies, and spoke with college admission counselors.

The career fair is a great chance for students to learn about the many opportunities available to them after graduation. Many thanks to all those who made the event a success.

### SPECIAL FRIENDS from Page 1

Friends of the students Margaret mentors often run up to her for their hug and many former students stop by to say hi. One of her most memorable moments was when a 10 year-old boy she was friend to, shot a basket from mid-court during her weekly visit. He was short for his age, so the smile didn't leave his face for days.

If you are interested in spending 45 minutes each week with a child in grades K-5 at their school, please call Marla at Coalition for Kids 479-1929.

## “Becoming a Love and Logic Parent” Classes Have Moved to Options of Southern Oregon

### CFK Partnering to Offer Funding for Child Care

After nearly 15 years of teaching “Becoming a Love and Logic Parent,” 12 of them at Coalition for Kids, Ruth Peple is retiring (we’ll believe it when we see it). Coalition for Kids thanks Ruth for her years of wonderful service to parents and families in this community and wishes her well.

CFK is now partnering with Options to promote the parenting classes and to help provide funds for child care during the classes. Leigh Anna Peden has stepped forward to fill Ruth’s shoes to teach the “Becoming a Love and Logic Parent” class.

The first session at Options will start August 21, 2007. Classes run for six consecutive Tuesdays, until September 25, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Options, 1215 SW G Street.

For more information, or to register, call 472-9880 or 479-1929. Registration is still \$50 per couple.





## Thank You To Those Who Have Helped

### ...with Jobapalooza!

- Parkway Christian Center
- Dr. Vicki Purslow
- The Career/Counseling Centers of Grants Pass, Hidden Valley, Illinois Valley and North Valley High Schools
- Three Rivers and District 7 School Districts
- Albertsons
- and over 40 local businesses and organizations

### ...with Special Friends

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| • Julie Allen    | • Debbi Orton                            |
| • Diane Busald   | • Jeanie Skokan                          |
| • Jody Conrad    | • Jessi Vischer                          |
| • Susie Graham   | • Terri Zeutzus                          |
| • Jolie Kern     | • Marlane Zerby                          |
| • Lois Kessler   | • and over 100 Special Friend Volunteers |
| • Rondi Martin   |  |
| • Patt Martinson |  |

### Grants Received Since Last We Spoke

- d **Carpenter Foundation**...\$14,000...for operations and board development
- d **Commission for Children and Families**...\$19,258...for quality child care for low income families
- d **Four Way Foundation**...\$2,500...for facility renovations
- d **United Way**...to be allocated...for operations



**Coalition for Kids**  
**Family Resource Center**  
 223 SE "M" Street  
 Grants Pass, OR 97526

Nonprofit Organization  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
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