



Transformation complete for MacLaren’s Moody Building

By [C. J. Drake](#)
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Built in 1948, the Moody Building at MacLaren YCF houses the facility’s vocational programs, offered to at-risk youth in cooperation with the Willamette Education Service District (WESD). Welding, woodworking, engraving and computer-aided design are the primary vocations taught in the Moody Building.

For example, of the 19 youth who graduated from MacLaren’s Lord High School in June, nine also received welding certifications. Hundreds of welding certifications have been earned by youth at MacLaren over the years.

“Work experience helps our youth return to their communities to lead productive, crime-free lives,” explains OYA Education Coordinator Frank Martin. “They learn the importance of punctuality, collaboration, problem-solving and other behavioral skills that employers need. Vocational experience also allows youth to earn professional certifications so they can be job-ready when they leave OYA.”

Earlier this year, OYA and WESD embarked on an ambitious plan to completely renovate the 11,000-square-foot structure, cleaning away clutter that accumulated over the past seven decades. The renovation started in the spring, lasted throughout the summer and involved dozens of staff from OYA and WESD, as well as youth.

The renovation, in addition to cleaning up and enlarging the space, enhances security by allowing staff to keep youth in sight at all times. It also allowed OYA and WESD to form a partnership with a local non-profit group, [Fences for Fido](#), which helps dogs that are chained or tethered in owners’ yards.

Youth design and construct doghouses and fences for the group, which donates them to dog owners, allowing canines to run free in their yards.

OYA and WESD celebrated the renovation’s completion with an open house Nov. 7. Community and agency leaders were invited to attend and meet the staff and youth who participated in the renovation. Fences for Fido volunteers also attended the open house and received materials to build six doghouses. These photos document the progress of the renovation from start to finish.

Part I: The renovation begins



The main floor of the Moody Building as renovation began in spring 2014.



Equipment and materials were relocated to a side room in the Moody Building as the main floor was cleaned.



Staff and youth clear away clutter from the main floor.



OYA Maintenance and Operations Supervisor Steve Babcock on the main floor as the renovation nears completion.



WESD instructor Mike Orias (standing at center) with youth who helped with the renovation.

Part II: The renovation is completed



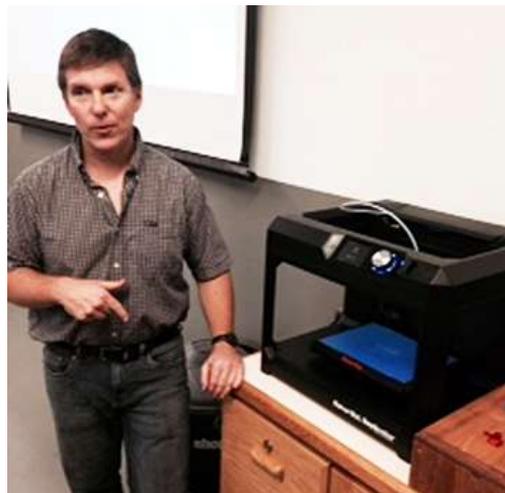
Mike Orias stands on the main floor after most of the clutter was cleared away and before a fresh coat of paint was applied.



OYA Education Coordinator Frank Martin (left) chats with WESD Principal Michael Conn at the Nov. 7 open house for the Moody Building.



Several industrial dumpsters were filled with trash as the renovation went forward.



During the open house, WESD instructor Steve Middleton explains how a new 3D printer will help youth learn design skills.



OYA Treatment Manager Abe Rios watches the 3D printer at work.



OYA Assistant Director for Community Services Phil Cox (left) and Governmental Relations Manager Christine Kirk (center) chat with youth Deshawn at the open house as WESD instructor Mike Orias looks on.



Steve Middleton shows off a plastic chain made by the 3D printer.



A youth shows off his welding skills at the open house for OYA Communications Manager Ann Snyder.



Steve Middleton demonstrates computer-aided design technology at the open house.



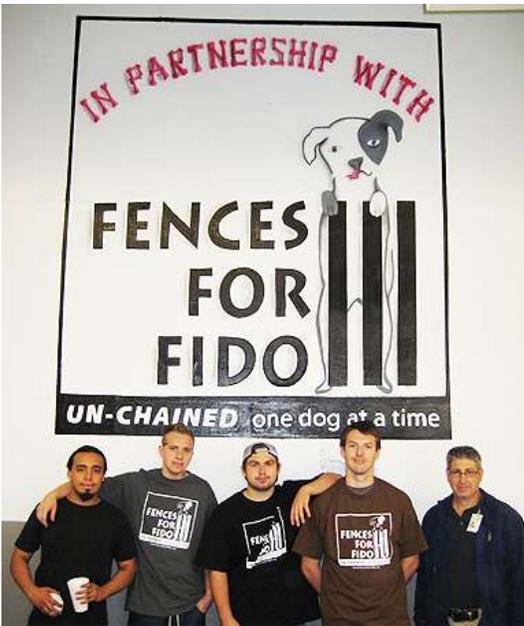
Keith Ussery (left), director of school improvement and instructional services at WESD, with youth Pavel at the open house.



OYA Assistant Director Business Services Jan Dean with a heart welded by youth in the Moody Building.



Youth assemble a fence during the Nov. 7 open house as Fences for Fido volunteers (left to right) Jennifer Adams, Patti Loverink and Larry Buchanan discuss how it will be used.



Youth painted the Fences for Fido logo on the wall of a side room where doghouses and fences are assembled. OYA Vocational Coordinator Jeff Canfield is at far right.



Fences for Fido volunteer and board member Larry Buchanan examines a fence assembled by the youth in the Moody Building.



Youth help load doghouse kits in the bed of a Fences for Fido truck at the Moody Building open house.



OYA and WESD staff, Fences for Fido volunteers and youth after loading doghouse kits at the Moody Building open house. The doghouses will be donated to canine owners in the Portland area.