



Books donated to New Start Station at MacLaren YCF



Treatment Manager Dave Hanson stands next to a shelf of donated books at New Start Station, MacLaren's treatment mall.

By [Monica Genera](#), Oregon Youth Authority
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Earlier this year, the Latino/Latina Advisory Committee (LAC) helped celebrate the opening of New Start Station, MacLaren's treatment mall. LAC members toured the site and met with staff and youth. This was a great experience for LAC, especially for the members from outside of the agency.

One LAC member, Arturo Vargas with United Way of Mid-Willamette Valley, was especially impressed with New Start Station, but he noticed its bookshelves were without books. Afterward, he informed his fellow LAC members that he and the United Way collected more than 500 books to donate to New Start Station. Several LAC members picked them up from United Way's office and delivered them to MacLaren.

OYA deeply appreciates the generosity of Arturo and United Way, and applauds the cooperation of

LAC members to help bring books and a love for reading to youth who visit New Start Station.

More about New Start Station, MacLaren's treatment mall:

The goal of New Start Station is to centralize treatment options for youth at the facility into a single site where everyone feels welcome and comfortable to participate and collaborate.

The treatment mall approach has many benefits, including building stronger relationships and skills among youth and staff. Although these values primarily drive organizational concepts and services, they also affect the built environment.

The treatment mall's centerpiece is a series of rehabilitative skill-building activities, which directly relate to transition skills, interpersonal development through peer-based social activities, community involvement and treatment specific areas. Development of leisure and recreational skills also is part of the program. The mall's intent is to normalize the daily lives of youth so they can eventually return to the community as productive, crime-free citizens.

With the help of youth, the vacant Holmes Cottage at MacLaren was completely refurbished in early 2014 to house the treatment mall. The youth were asked to give it a name that reflects what it means to them, and they decided on "New Start Station." OYA commends them for this fitting choice, and encourages them to take full advantage of the expanded treatment options offered by New Start Station.

Members of the OYA Latino/Latina Advisory Committee:

- Maria Chavez-Haroldson (director, Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations)
- Marin Arreola, III (Advanced Economic Solutions, Inc.)
- Silbestre Ceballos (Multnomah County Parole and Probation)
- Monica Genera (staff)
- Marisela "Mari" Gonzalez (staff)
- Jose Luis-Garcia (staff)
- Erica Nunez (Portland Community Outreach Services)
- Rolando Ramirez (staff)
- Al Rodriguez (staff)
- Rod Salinas (staff)
- Daniel Sifuentez (staff)
- Griselda Solano Salinas (staff)
- Arturo Vargas (United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley)