

Our Promises

Our Promise #1: Long-Term Commitment

From kindergarten to high school graduation.

Our Promise #2: Trained Volunteers

All Friends are volunteers who have finished background checks, classes and monthly trainings.

Our Promise #3: Positive Expectations

Because we believe in them, they will grow to believe in themselves.

Our Promise #4: Manageable Numbers

Each Friend works one-on-one with a child, spending time on a regular basis with the child.

Our Promise #5:

Experience=Opportunities

A world of opportunity awaits our children. We help them discover it.

Our Promise #6: Evaluation

We make a real and measurable difference in every child’s life. Each of our promises is individually important. Taken together, they represent a comprehensive and integrated approach, which includes professional evaluations.



Save the Date: May 18th 2016
Time: 12pm-1pm
Location: The Belfry
302 E. Main Street in Sisters

RSVP to: debbie@acircleoffriendsoregon.com
(541) 588-6445

Discover how you can become part of Circle of Friends and support children in our community.

>>> Spring Salon Series @ Hood Ave Art
Gallery

May 19th @6:30 Featuring Patchwork Players

Contact us at 541-588-6445

In the five years since it began, Circle of Friends has come along side more than 30 children in our community to nurture, support and help them thrive!

Building success in children, one child at a time, is how we do our work. That work is only possible because of the dedicated people who have stepped up to volunteer as mentors. They are changing lives and we are so thankful for their commitment! It is an investment that will pay off over and over in the lifetimes of our children.

We are also very thankful to a community that values the work of Circle of Friends. We see it continually in the willingness of community members and businesses to support our operations with financial assistance and donations. In addition, Circle of Friends has built strong partnerships with numerous organizations

www.acircleoffriendsoregon.com

SISTERS, OR 97759

PO BOX 1718



Circle of Friends

ISSUE
SIX

One Person, Over Time, Can Turn A Life Around

SPRING 2016

Dedicated Friends

Victoria Graves Boucher

Jeff and Loriel Cook

Diane Cooper

Greg Gass

Nick Gill

Dave and Donna Godfrey

Sydney Harrison

Erik Himbert

Kay Johnson

Susie and Makenzie
Johnson

Shirley Lalli

Jan Martin

Kelly and Troy Martin

Marcy Narzisi

Jim and Diana Prichard

Susan Prince

Steve Pyke

Virginia Rhett

Virginia Silvey

Jim and Joan Upshaw

Debra Vogt

Debbie West

Circle of Friends Celebrates 5 Years

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Annie Painter

March was ending--stubbornly as usual at a breezy fifty degrees--as three young Circle of Friends “mentees” met with artist Annie Painter in her new Sisters art studio. Sunlight frequently streamed in, brightening the prints being readied for a showing at Circle’s annual May fundraising luncheon.

Painter, a veteran educator who knows a single crayon or pencil stroke can open a world, held up one image and wondered aloud, “Now, what would make this look *stronger*?” The two middle-school girls on hand--we’ll call them Carrie and Amber to protect their confidentiality--replied with a few helpful words, then turned back to their work. The boy in the group (call him Douglas) only watched quietly.

This little class was at midstream in a process called printmaking. The children were learning to manage the entire process—from soaking paper, to rolling non-toxic inks onto shapes cut from found materials, to operating the hand-crank press and “pulling a print.”

Such projects come out best--and most rewarding for Circle of Friends--when young artists have begun to release bits of what lies within their minds and hearts. This doesn’t always come quickly: their backgrounds may have shown them that anything they value highly stands to be taken away. Many of the “at-risk” children Circle helps have lives that have been marked--sometimes nearly broken--by adult problems such as divorce, poverty, homelessness, depression, addiction and even crime.

Physical and emotional abuse and neglect have surrounded some children, hampering their progress through school and toward positive adulthood. Others with less severe problems, but with overburdened single parents, badly need caring and accessible adult buddies for one-on-one time as they mature. Circle of Friends mentors can step in to hear and support these various youngsters, showing them new choices and broadening their views of life.

The grand objective of this effort is to help needful children find real hope for their futures and build on it. Many donors to Circle of Friends provide funding and other gifts that help mentors fill gaps in the lives of the children. This support can range from dollars to fix a broken bike to occasional movie tickets to picking up an ice cream cone now and then.

Over the past three years, Annie Painter has donated much of her time and use of her home and now her studio to art education for the children, with Circle chipping in for some materials.

Small but great things were evident in the studio that recent almost-spring day. Carrie, for one, had blossomed in her artistic printmaking, becoming “very focused, very helpful and collaborative,” in Painter’s words. Amber had taken a number of classes and had made clothing and dolls and more; listening to instruction, she sometimes was raising a hand to say, “I’ve got it. I’ve got it.”

Amber’s mentor, Virginia Rhett, could attest to the power of a few happy words from a child. She recalled asking Amber one day what she liked most about making art. “Her answer was simply, ‘I like Annie’s class because I get to express my feelings, and it’s fun,’” Rhett said, her eyes sparkling. Carrie, too, had simple praise for her experience, telling her mentor Diane Cooper: “I really like art, and Annie is really good.”

As for Douglas, who had been more restrained--well, he had decided art printmaking was just not for him. But that was okay: his mentors were planning other activities he’d enjoy. They’re part of a unique commitment: Circle of Friends promises to stay with every child until his or her high school graduation. Often, when a child can hold onto even a few good experiences that *stay*...it works.



Kelly Davis Martin is the new Associate Director of Circle of Friends. As a “homegrown” Sisters girl, she is excited to be able to share her talents in her hometown. We are delighted she has joined us!

Kelly recently returned to Sisters with her family, after living and working for the past five years in New Zealand. With an 8-year-old daughter and a 10-year-old son, her family chose Sisters as the best place to experience the next steps of their lives.

Kelly is committed to supporting children and Circle of Friends is how she decided to make it happen in Sisters. She originally approached Circle of Friends with interest in being a mentor. She, along with her husband Troy and both children, wanted to experience mentoring as a family. As she learned more about the organization, she expressed interest in applying to be on the Board of Directors, then applied to be the new Associate Director.

Kelly graduated from Sisters High School in 1997, and went on to earn a Bachelors degree in Sociology and then a Masters Degree in Public Health, Advocacy and Social Change. Before going to New Zealand, she was employed as a professor at Central Oregon Community College, and is a professionally certified Health and Wellness coach.

Since returning to Oregon last summer, Kelly has continued her work as a health/wellness consultant. She also coached JV Volleyball at Sisters High School, youth volleyball at SPRD and assisted with the Outlaw Ski Team this year. She has a passion for mentoring and supporting others to reach their goals. She still plays volleyball, and is an avid runner.

When asked about what she likes best about her new position, Kelly says that ...”I am most excited about making connections in our community - with youth, families, mentors, teachers, employers and other like-minded groups- to improve the lives of children. Improving the lives of the kids in our community improves all of our lives.”

Circle of Friends welcomes Kelly! Please stop by and get to know her!!!



KellyDavid Martin

During the winter of 2015-16, Circle of Friends was the proud recipient of over \$20,000 in financial support from 5 local and national organizations and foundations:

1. **Bank of the Cascades - \$3,000**
2. **The Crevier Family Foundation - \$3,000**
3. **The Silver Family Foundation - \$7,500**
4. **The Nara Fund - \$7,500**
5. **Sisters Kiwanis - \$500**

In addition, our local community provided over \$11,000 in 2015 year-end support.

We are so thankful to be part of this generous community!

