

2010 at the Courtyard

We are set to finish our third school year strong with one of the finest group of young men and women at the Courtyard. We spent last summer updating all of our remaining windows and exterior doors and improving our heating systems. We started the fall term with 48 residents, a packed house, almost 50%/50% men and women.

For the last three years, we have been blessed by the Lord to have Stephanie Volbeda as our chef. She is a blessing both by her ability to pack love into her meals and to care for both the residents, guests and the needs of the organization. Stephanie also caters for groups throughout the year.

Also for the last three years, Chris Zauner has been our house Director. Chris came to us through prayer and an e-mail from the Young Life network. Young in his faith, but teachable and eager to serve the Lord, Chris threw his life and physical strength into cleaning up the Courtyard the first season and has grown with us in his knowledge of resident life; but more important, Chris has grown in his spiritual life which he has fully yielded to walk daily with Jesus. In June, Chris will sadly be leaving the Courtyard to serve at Grace City Church. His ministry at the Courtyard has been a blessing that has reached deep into the lives of residents, guests and those who have been impacted by the Lord's work at the Courtyard. So, again, we are back on our prayer quest for a house Director to work full time; meeting the operational needs of the Courtyard, and mentor the men that live there. Please join us in prayer.

To begin the current year, we hired Jessica Erhardt as our Women's Director. She is attending Cornerstone School of Ministry deepening her understanding of God's Word and His love for the world. Jessica has filled a needed position in mentoring our young women as they face the ever tugging world while attending college.

What's ahead for the fall of 2010? Daily we receive spring applications for the fall. We will be busy right after spring break with interviews and prayer in selecting the applicants that the Spirit of God moves us to accept. We anticipate about 4-8 more spaces being available than last year due to a couple of weddings, a senior graduation, military service, transfers to nursing school, and our usual upper classmen changes.

Most important is what won't change. Relevance will operate the Courtyard as a cooperative housing option for the development in Christian life, leadership, and service. The house will be open for many other ministries like Navigators, outreach to international students, a church on Sunday mornings, Bible studies and more throughout the week. The Courtyard continues to be the living room of Corvallis.

We are blessed to be a part of the ministry efforts that are transforming lives and creating lasting relationships and serving our community with the love of Christ.

Holding to the Rock that never changes,

Walt & Kim Griffiths

