

November/
December/
January
2010-2011



Newsletter

A publication of the Oregon Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, a not-for-profit membership organization

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President's Letter

In these difficult economic times our nation is looking to higher education to help us realize our full potential. Increased enrollment and record FAFSA applications have us running ragged, to say the least. And yet, with all these additional challenges, the members of OASFAA dedicate themselves even more to guarantee that the students of this great state have access to a quality education and to sound advice.



As I wind down my term as your President, I can't help but take the time to thank all of the volunteers that make this organization the success that it is. Through our volunteerism, mentoring and partnerships, we are taking part in shaping the dialogue for higher education and financial aid in the State of Oregon. And while I am on the subject of thanks, I would like to thank all of those who participated in the Portland National College Fair, the free event that gave thousands of students the chance to explore over 285 colleges. In addition, through our partnership with OSAC, and due in no small part to the dedication of OASFAA volunteers, College Goal Oregon is poised to once again help thousands with understanding the process of applying for financial aid. The time and energy put into these events by the site coordinators and volunteers is extraordinary, and this state and its students are lucky to have them.

We are also getting ready for our annual conference February 2-4, back home at the Salishan Lodge! Thanks to the hard work of our conference volunteers, this year's event is gearing up to be yet another great opportunity for learning, dialogue and networking. Beautiful location and good company aside, this will allow us all to develop ourselves professionally and increase our knowledge. Register soon to get the pre-conference rate and make your CFO proud!

It has been my honor to serve as your President over the past year, and I have enjoyed the opportunity to get a greater appreciation of the unique, hard-working individuals that make up this field. Your dedication to this profession and to the students of Oregon is an inspiration, and I salute you! I will continue to be rejuvenated by your energy and commitment, using it as a benchmark for my own personal and professional growth. I leave you with this final thought, from Thomas Jefferson: "Do you want to know who you are? Don't ask. Act! Action will delineate and define you."

Patti Brady-Glassman

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Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily of OASFAA, its members, or the institutions represented by the authors.

OASFAA welcomes all views and invites submissions of articles, essays, photographs, or information of general interest to all members. Submissions should be brief and may be edited. It may not be possible to publish all articles submitted. Email items for publication to the [Editor](#).

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Letter from the Editor

by Sue Shogren, USA Funds

There's a light that shines in the middle of January. It's the time when we celebrate the life and teachings of a remarkable humanitarian and visionary: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This holiday doesn't arrive with a whole lot of fanfare, though maybe it should. For an increasing number of people, this day becomes a day of reflection and service to others. If this isn't part of your tradition yet, you might consider it. As we know from the work we do day in and day out, there's nothing quite like seeing the relief and gratitude in the face of someone you've found a way to help, even if it doesn't seem like you did enough to make that big of a difference.

You have an opportunity to make a big difference to a community in desperate need, by participating in OASFAA's Service Project. In this issue, you'll find two articles written by Theresa Schierman. The first article describes how OASFAA's members can help a small non-profit that's making a huge difference in the lives of the residents of Waldport, Oregon. Her second article appears on the back page, where Theresa shares first-hand observations and her reactions to visiting the organization recently, and to witnessing their good works. Please take a moment to read these articles and consider doing what you can to lend a hand.

In this issue, you'll meet a new member of the Oregon financial aid community: Kevin Edge. You'll also find an article about OASFAA's membership. Bet you can't guess how many new members we have!

The scholarship application season is upon us again, which means this is a great time to read Vicki Merkel's article to catch up on the latest news about the OSAC scholarship application process for the 2011–2012 academic year.

Keep sending in your news! Publication of the fall issue is scheduled for April 2011, so we're looking for your contributions by **March 31, 2011**.

Welcome, New Members!

Amanda Bartlett, Warner Pacific College
Tammy Bloomstrom, Warner Pacific College
Lance Chamberlain, Warner Pacific College
Jessica Couser, Warner Pacific College
Brent Dove, USA Funds
Stephanie Goerig, Pacific University
Josette Green, Oregon Student Assistance Commission
David Haggard, Northwest Christian University
Tamara Henderson, Native American Youth and Family Center
Daniel Herman, University of Portland
Nathan Icenhower, Eugene Bible College
Tricia Johnson, Wells Fargo EFS
Chelsea Jones, Portland State University
Rachel Long, Warner Pacific College
Christina Negrete, Southern Oregon University
Chris Potts, East-West College of the Healing Arts
Jennifer Proehl, Warner Pacific College
Dolores Pruett, Portland Community College
Jennifer Richardson, Warner Pacific College
Karen Sellars, Pacific University
Tyler Tietz, Education Finance Solutions
Nicole Tone, Everest College
Sheryl Vanselow, Tillamook Bay Community College
Sara Viemeister, Columbia Gorge Community College
Molly Walsh, University of Portland
Linda Yang, Art Institute of Portland
Elizabeth Zabel, Warner Pacific College

As of January 10, 2011, OASFAA has 304 members for 2010-11. 250 of those are renewals and 54 are new members.

82 institutions (including schools, lenders, guarantors, etc.) are represented with at least one current member for 2010-11.

Total current membership for 2010-11 equals our total membership for 2009-10. So, even though there have been many changes this past year, we have gained many new colleagues and have welcomed back many past members this year!

~ Stacie Englund
OASFAA Membership Chair

Member News

Zack Duffy is a new financial aid counselor at University of Oregon.

Helen Faith, Director Financial Aid at University of Western States, earned a Master of Science in Educational Leadership & Policy from Portland State University.

Daniel C. Herman, formerly with the Residence Life department at Willamette University, joined the staff of the University of Portland as a Financial Aid Counselor.

Kacy Keippela left the Financial Aid Office to work in the Human Resources Office at the University of Portland.

Christina Negrete and Carol Tollefson became financial aid counselors at Southern Oregon University.

Jessica Ormond, Oregon Institute of Technology, is being promoted to Scholarship Officer/Financial Aid Officer with the Financial Aid Office.

Sue Shogren joined USA Funds University as Regional Training Executive serving the northwest and several other regions of the country.

Janet Turner, Director of Financial Aid at the University of Portland, was quoted in an article entitled "Lifelines to Learning" in the December 2010 issue of NACUBO's "Business Officer" magazine.

Molly Walsh, University of Portland, was promoted to Financial Aid Counselor.

If you or someone you know has received a promotion, taken a new job or experienced a significant life event, e-mail: susan.shogren@usafunds.org.

Congratulations to our new 2011-12 OASFAA Executive Council elected officers.

President-elect

Donna Fulton, Klamath Community College

VP Community Colleges

Elaine Robinson, Linn Benton Community College

VP Private Four Year

Russell Seidelman, University of Portland

VP Proprietary Schools

Kimberly Pearson, Concorde Career Institute

VP Public Four Year

Kimberly Lamborn, Western Oregon University

Secretary

Theresa Schierman, George Fox University

Treasurer-Elect

Heather Hall Lewis, University of Portland

OASFAA greatly appreciates all candidates who ran for elected positions and we look forward to their future leadership.

~ Bert Logan
OASFAA President-elect

Membership Has Its Privileges

by Patti Brady-Glassman and Aaron Waldron, Oregon State University

As a member of OASFAA you are part of a larger network of professionals who are dedicated to providing students access to the future, through education. You are a member of an organization dedicated to fostering your development and encouraging your growth, and you are not alone. Who else is a member of this elite group of individuals you might ask? Sure, you met a myriad of people at the last conference, and maybe even made some connections, but where do they all come from? Well, they are from all over...

By the end of 2010, OASFAA had over 294 members and growing, with individuals representing diverse backgrounds and all manner of organizations. For example, did you know that over 75% of our members are female? Or that 5% of our members are from out of state? For those who are curious about where we all come from, we submit the following statistics about our membership:

- 23% work in 2-year public institutions;
- 29% in independent institutions;
- 17% in 4-year public institutions;
- 15% in proprietary institutions;
- 7% of our members work for lenders, guaranty agencies or servicers;
- 2% work for government agencies; and
- 5% work somewhere so secret they would not tell us...

For those of you doing the math right now: yes, that is only 98%. Let us not forget the other 2% who indicated they work for "Other," which we are pretty certain is a division of Casio, makers of the fine calculating products we love so much!

Our members are diverse and dedicated, and we are on track to grow our membership even more, which means that you will have access to more networking opportunities, professional development, and experience to draw from. 2010-2011 is on track to be one of our best years yet. To the 70 former members who have not yet renewed, we know who you are and where you work, so please visit www.oasfaaonline.org to renew today. We are positive you just forgot!

"Life it is not just a series of calculations and a sum total of statistics, it's about experience, it's about participation, it is something more complex and more interesting than what is obvious." ~ Daniel Libeskind

OASFAA Conference Update

by Ryan West, Western Oregon University



The 2011 OASFAA conference is rapidly approaching, and there is still time to register. Go to www.oasfaaonline.org for details and registration.

In addition to wonderful breakout sessions by colleagues from near and far, and the expertise of Marianna Deeken and Chuck Hirman from the U.S. Department of Education, we are excited to implement some new activities this year. We will hold two screenings of "Papers: the Movie" (www.papersthemovie.com). This documentary was made by a Portland production company explaining the situation that many immigrant students find themselves facing as they graduate from high school and look for educational opportunities. In addition to the screenings, we will have a facilitated discussion where one of the producers will be present to share information about the creation of the film.

On the lighter side, we will be hosting a Wii bowling tournament for financial aid administrators to prove their skills outside the realms of need analysis. No experience is necessary; those that like to have fun are encouraged to participate. Lastly, WASFAA is partnering with OASFAA to offer a post-conference training entitled "Managing Cohort Default Rates Through Default Prevention" on Friday, February 4, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. More information and registration can be found at www.wasfaa.org.

Please feel free to contact me at westr@wou.edu with conference-related questions.

Training Opportunity

by Sue Shogren and Nichole Doering, WASFAA Training Committee Co-Chairs

Next month, the U.S. Department of Education is scheduled to release draft cohort default rates for FY 2009. Get ready by attending a workshop on "**Managing Cohort Default Rates Through Default Prevention**" on **Friday, February 4**, at the Salishan. We'll talk about reviewing your school's draft cohort default rates and share ideas for influencing your institution's CDR by proactively preventing delinquency and default. Bring your questions and prepare to share some of the best practices you've adopted. Leave with updated strategies and new ideas for helping your borrowers stay on track towards successful repayment.

OASFAA and WASFAA are collaborating to offer this post-conference workshop, and only in Oregon!

For more information and to register, go to: www.wasfaa.org/docs/toc_training.html. Be sure to scroll to the **bottom of the web page** to locate registration for this workshop at the OASFAA Conference.

Contact Sue Shogren to ask about our "buddy system" discount. We're looking forward to having you join us!

OASFAA Annual Conference Service Project

by Theresa Schierman, George Fox University



This year, as part of the OASFAA Annual Conference, we have chosen to benefit **Seashore Family Literacy**. This organization was founded by Senitila McKinley, an immigrant from an island in the South Pacific. She will be guest speaker during lunch on Thursday afternoon of the OASFAA Conference.

Seashore (www.seashorefamily.org) seeks to provide education and opportunities for children and families in the Waldport community. Seashore provides a wide range of services, including free meals and snacks, free clothing, free school supplies, adult literacy programs, after-school care and homework help, and free bike rental. With over 50% of the area's youth considered economically disadvantaged, the need for the programs that Seashore provides is great. Seashore has served thousands of disadvantaged youth and families and continues to provide essential services on the Oregon coast.

As if that isn't enough motivation to participate, the Annual Conference Committee has devised a little "intramural" competition to encourage you and your school to participate. **You don't have to be attending the Annual Conference to be part of the fun.** You will be contacted by your segmental VP as to what donated items are needed and additional instructions for your participation in this activity.

Put donated items in a box or bin and decorate your box with as much school spirit as you can find. Bring your decorated box to the OASFAA Conference at Salishan and participate in the First Annual Community Service Civil War with your rival school. A "spirit award" will be awarded to the school that has shown the most "school spirit" in this activity.

The school with the most spirit – as determined by a panel of impartial judges – will win the OASFAA Spirit Stick and bragging rights... until next year.

Continuing a legacy of superior service

ECMC is committed to providing the service that you and your students have relied upon for years from CSAC, EdFund and ECMC. ECMC will actively implement and support student-focused outreach, including:

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- Informative publications
- Financial literacy
- Debt counseling

For more information about ECMC, visit www.ecmc.org.

ECMC



OASFAA FA101 Update

by Leslie Limper, Reed College



Despite the threat of icy roads, another successful FA 101 workshop was held at Reed College on January 12, 2011.

Mike Johnson started off the morning giving the 18 participants a brief history of financial aid. Did you know, for instance, that the first scholarship was awarded at Harvard University in 1643?

Kathy Campbell then discussed the general eligibility requirements for financial aid recipients, and Ryan West reviewed the FAFSA and Student Aid Report. Susan Degen then provided an overview of the Oregon state programs, and Mike gave a lesson on need analysis theory and methodology.



Faculty members (from left): Ryan West from Western Oregon University, Kathy Campbell from Chemeketa Community College, Mike Johnson from Pacific University and Susan Degen from OSAC.



Participants at OASFAA's FA101 at Reed College in January 2011.

After lunch, the participants took a break from just sitting and listening: they sharpened their pencils and filled out a FAFSA. Then they got out calculators and did an EFC calculation -- discovering the complexity of Federal Methodology.

Kathy then discussed the use of professional judgment, and Ryan finished up the day with a discussion of best practices in customer service.

VP Report: Independent Institutions

by Theresa Schierman, George Fox University



It is hard to believe almost a year has passed since first assuming the role of Vice President of the 4-year private colleges and universities. It has been a most rewarding experience as it has enabled me to become more familiar with the importance of OASFAA and the contribution the organization makes to Oregon colleges and universities.

I would encourage each of you, when given the opportunity at the upcoming conference, to volunteer at some capacity. I guarantee you will not only develop some very special relationships with other OASFAA volunteers, but you will experience the rich reward of knowing you are making a difference to our Oregon students, parents and college counselors.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you this past year as VP of our segment. Hope to see you at conference!

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Legislative Committee Update

by Doug Severs, Oregon State University



State Level

Well folks, it will be interesting to see what happens to the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) when the legislature meets this spring. The plan is that the legislature will meet for a day in January and adjourn until the state revenue forecast is received. That's when some tough decisions will have to be made.

With a very large budget shortfall expected, it will be very, very difficult to fund OOG at the level that is needed to meet the huge student demand. The revenue forecast may be so bad that the existence of OOG may be threatened. Even with a bad revenue forecast, I expect that OOG will be funded at near the same level as this past biennium. OSAC will then have to figure how to allocate these limited funds with the ever-increasing demand. We may also see different groups studying how OOG can work better under these funding conditions. OASFAA will make every effort to be part of these discussions.

Federal Level

The situation on the federal level will be mainly tied to funding of the programs and what to do about the Perkins program. I expect funding battles in all of the financial aid programs and we may see Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) eliminated. I believe that Federal Work-Study will continue, but it will be a fight for decent funding. We will also need additional funding for Pell Grant and this will be a challenge.

We will need to keep our students informed as these programs are threatened. You may want to get with your student government legislative representative to see if you can help them be active.

In regard to Perkins, we need to have this program reauthorized. It is not a funding issue, but is a case of the Department of Education wanting to change it and not getting it done. The program is now left in limbo and will end after next academic year. The House of Representatives began a limited reauthorization bill, but it did not pass. If nothing happens soon, we will need to begin the Save-the-Perkins campaign!

Member Profile: Kevin Edge

Kevin Edge is Financial Aid Assistant at Klamath Community College in Klamath Falls. He graduated last year from Oregon Institute of Technology.

How long have you been in Financial Aid?

I actually just started in Financial Aid in May [2010] when I was hired at KCC.

How did you get started in Financial Aid?

I wanted to be in Student Services and KCC was hiring for a few positions, so I applied.

What has your involvement been with OASFAA so far?

I went to the Summer Drive-In Workshop at PSU in August. I'm looking forward to more, but that is it so far.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

I always like helping the students, especially when they thank you for helping them with whatever they need.

What case/student will you be most likely to remember for the rest of your life?

The one that stands out is while working at OIT for their new student registration, I had a student and his parents who were all from Hawaii. They had to drive back to Medford that night and knew they would be going late. I actually got them through to see an advisor and be done with registration about 3 hours early so they could drive back. They thanked me repeatedly, and even remembered me a month later for orientation. That was the time I knew I really wanted to help students.

What is the most difficult aspect of your job?

Learning all the tricks to the trade. And sometimes those students that will not work with you; they want it their way or no way.

How do you cope with stress on the job?

I actually find that I work harder and if it really is that bad, then I talk to my coworkers or friends. It's a part of the job; you have to deal with it.

Who has been the biggest influence/mentor on your career?

I'd probably say my parents. My mom has been working in Higher Education for 27 years, so I've always been around it. And both of my parents have always said to find a job that you don't hate going to every day, and in Student Services, I have found that.



What is/was your favorite volunteer experience?

My work at OIT that I volunteered for was priceless; it taught me so many things about the career I want and how you should handle students. Without that, I don't think I would be in the position I am now.

What do you do when you are not working?

I actually am going back to school. I'm doing my MBA through Marylhurst University online, so that takes up a ton of time. Other than that, I pretty much just spend time with family and friends or watch sports.

What do you like about living in Oregon?

I like the scenery and wildlife, and also how you can live in a

small town or big city. I also am a huge Beavers and Mariners fan, and am close enough to go to a few games.

What is the most unusual place that you have traveled?

It was probably Williams, MA. I had a friend who went to school there, and it is literally a small town around a college on the far western side. Neat towns all around there, though!

What is your favorite restaurant?

I would have to say any good Chinese or Mexican restaurant.

What was the last book you read?

Actually it was the book for APA format for my MBA. Boring read, but it was needed.

Who is your personal hero?

Probably my parents, since they were always there for me and worked so we could do anything.

If you could change anything in our industry, what would it be?

I would have to say the one thing I would change is how hard it is to get into it. I was the person on the outside, and any higher education job is hard to get, especially if you don't have any "full-time" experience at a different school.

Do you have any advice for your fellow financial aid administrators?

If you are new, don't get discouraged. It is a hard job to learn, but it can be really rewarding.

If you were not in financial aid, what would you be doing now?

I'd probably be working in sports or opening my own business of some sort. Both of which, actually, I would like to do at some point.

Scholarship Season Begins for Oregon Students

by Vicki Merkel, OSAC

The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) recently announced the opening of its scholarship application season for students planning to attend college in the fall of 2011. OSAC administers more than 400 private scholarships and public grant programs to help students pay for their college education.

This year's eApp allows students to search and apply for OSAC scholarships by using one application. It saves time and is **free**. Students can apply online for up to 20 scholarships from among more than 400 scholarship programs administered by the agency, using OSAC's electronic application known as the eApp, available at www.GetCollegeFunds.org.

With the rising cost to attend college, applying for multiple scholarships on one application helps increase a student's chances of receiving more than one scholarship to help cover their education expenses.

Oregon philanthropists want to help all types of students and partner with OSAC to create scholarship opportunities. Scholarships are available for 2011 graduating high school seniors, college and transfer students, older adults, single parents, and students with

specific needs. Students can search online to find scholarships based on the high school where they graduated, academic and career interests, specific needs, and employer/membership-sponsored programs. OSAC also partners with The Oregon Community Foundation, The Ford Family Foundation, and banking institutions to administer private scholarships.

This year's eApp has been streamlined for the convenience of the student by providing options for submitting transcripts electronically, uploading other required documents, and completing the entire application online, rather than sending OSAC paper documents.

The *2011-12 Oregon Scholarship eApp Workbook*, containing a listing of scholarships and a worksheet to help students prepare information for applying, is available at all Oregon high schools, college financial aid offices, public libraries, and employment offices, or by downloading at www.GetCollegeFunds.org. Students without access to the Internet can request a paper application by contacting OSAC at 800-452-8807.

OSAC added a new feature to the application by allowing students to begin their scholarship application, activities chart, and personal statements year-round, rather than just a few months each year. This new feature also allows high school juniors to begin their application during their junior year, and then update and submit it during their senior year.

Another new online feature is the ability for the student to export the eApp data directly to other online scholarship applications using Scholar Snapp.

Both the eApp and paper applications must be received by OSAC no later than **March 1, 2011**. Even though students may submit their application anytime after November 1, OSAC reminds high school seniors and current college students to wait until their fall semester transcript is available before submitting their application.

Students who submit by the Early Bird Review deadline of February 16 are entitled to an early review of the application, and if there are errors or missing data, OSAC will notify the student to submit corrections. Applications that are error-free will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 scholarship award.

For the 2009-10 academic year, scholarship programs administered by OSAC generated more than \$17.6 million in both private and public scholarship awards to Oregon students. OSAC also administers the Oregon Opportunity Grant, the state's need-based grant.

In addition to state and federal grants, private donors, employers, and membership organizations provide many of the scholarship opportunities that OSAC administers. We are grateful for their gifts that benefit so many Oregon students pursuing a college education.

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NELA USA Funds

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Students wishing to keep apprised of new scholarships, tips, and deadlines, can follow OSAC on Twitter at [Twitter.com/OSAC](https://twitter.com/OSAC).

For further details, visit www.GetCollegeFunds.org or contact OSAC at 800-452-8807.

On the OASFAA Calendar

Feb 2	Executive Council Meeting
Feb 2	Annual Conference (3 days)
Feb 4	WASFAA Post-conference Training
Mar 31	Newsletter submissions due

In Closing... Truly an Inspiration

by Theresa Schierman, George Fox University

“Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to self-reliance for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and your self melting away.”

~ Mahatma Gandhi

My husband David and I had the opportunity to pay a visit to the Seashore Family Literacy facility in Waldport over Christmas break. Since the OASFAA Conference Committee chose the organization for our community service project, I thought it was important to get a better understanding of the services they provide to the community. Needless to say, we both left inspired and awed by what we witnessed.

Their brochure and website doesn't come close to fully describing what they do for the community of Waldport.

Seashore Family Literacy was born from the vision of one very humble and dedicated woman, Senitila McKinley. An immigrant from a tiny island of the Kingdom of Tonga, Senitila, herself, once faced the humiliation and challenge of not being able to read simple forms in order to enroll her own children in school.

Senitila soon discovered the lack of resources for adult literacy programs in the coastal region, and vowed she was going to do something about it.

Waldport is one of the more impoverished areas and school districts in the state of Oregon. Illiteracy is just one of the many faces or symptoms of poverty.

Senitila personally seeks out families in need of basic resources, food, shelter, clothing, etc. Often, families are referred to Senitila by school counselors or other community service organizations.

It is no wonder why the Waldport community refers to Senitila McKinley as “the Mother Teresa of Waldport.”

Seashore provides a welcoming atmosphere of hospitality providing families with a Saturday morning breakfast each week, in addition to weekly “family night” dinners where families are encouraged to read together or play games. Seashore offers English for Speakers of Other Languages classes, after-school study groups, a writing center, art classes, computer classes, music, etc. All of these programs are run by volunteers and financed only through private donations.

Seashore has developed a “green bike” program that provides free access to bicycles for tourists or residents of Waldport to use as needed. Rich, our “tour guide,” is the director of the bike program and teaches bike restoration and repair to many of the students that Seashore serves. During our visit, a couple of teenage boys were working on some of the broken bicycles that have been donated to the program. It is evident these



teens take great pride in their work and ability to be constructive and useful. It is also evident that Seashore has provided a safe haven for these “high risk” young people who may otherwise engage in drugs or some other compromising activity.

Seashore Family Literacy mentors, teaches and inspires, opening the door of hope and opportunity for many who may have lost the ability to envision a dream for their future. The OASFAA membership can feel proud to contribute to Seashore Family Literacy as our 2011 community service project.

If you would like to be inspired, make time to visit the Seashore Family Literacy Resource Center, located just 34 miles south of Waldport.

You'll be glad you did!