



# HEART OF OREGON CORPS

*Empowering change.*

“ Heart of Oregon Corps has changed my life and made me a lot more motivated. It's exactly what I needed. ”

- Chyanne, Heart of Oregon AmeriCorps member

## Annual Report 2014

Local non-profit, Heart of Oregon Corps, changes young lives and the Central Oregon community.



ABACUS PHOTOGRAPHY



# Inspiring and Empowering Change through

## DID YOU KNOW?

A **corps** (pronounced "kohr") is a group of people with a common goal or mission.



## What is Heart of Oregon Corps?

We've all had at least one opportunity that changed our lives. Do you remember yours? Heart of Oregon Corps seeks to provide those significant, life-altering opportunities to local young people who need and deserve them.

These opportunities are essential now more than ever, as the odds continue to stack up against our young people. The youth unemployment rate across the four Central Oregon counties we serve is a sobering 33%. Regional graduation rates are below the state average of 72%, *which is the lowest in the country.*

Heart of Oregon Corps is a local non-profit providing job skills training and education to young people ages 16-24. Through the **WORK, EARN, LEARN** model of our 5 programs, we strive to create pathways out of poverty for youth and encourage their self-sufficiency. In addition to benefitting the youth, the projects they work on keep our community beautiful and healthy while the wages they earn stimulate regional economic growth.

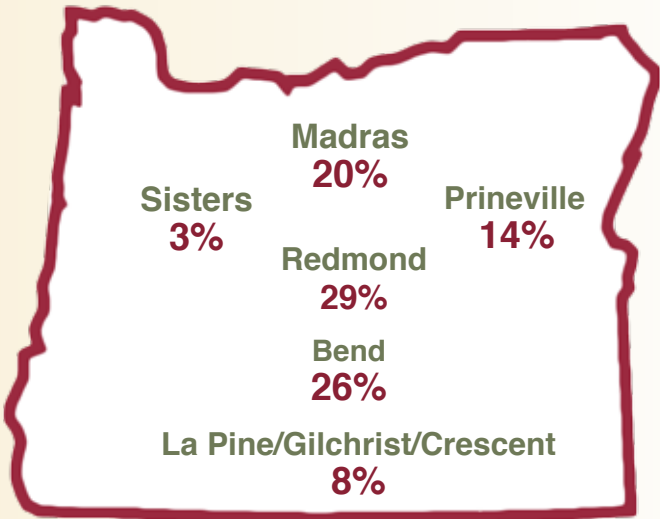
## YOUTH IN OUR PROGRAMS...

**WORK** on public lands conservation projects, reduce fire fuels in neighborhoods, build affordable housing, and run a thrift store, gaining the skills and readiness they need to succeed;

**EARN** money and scholarships for their hard work and build their independence;

**LEARN** while gaining high school credits, preparing for the GED, or taking their first college class.

## WHERE WE SERVE

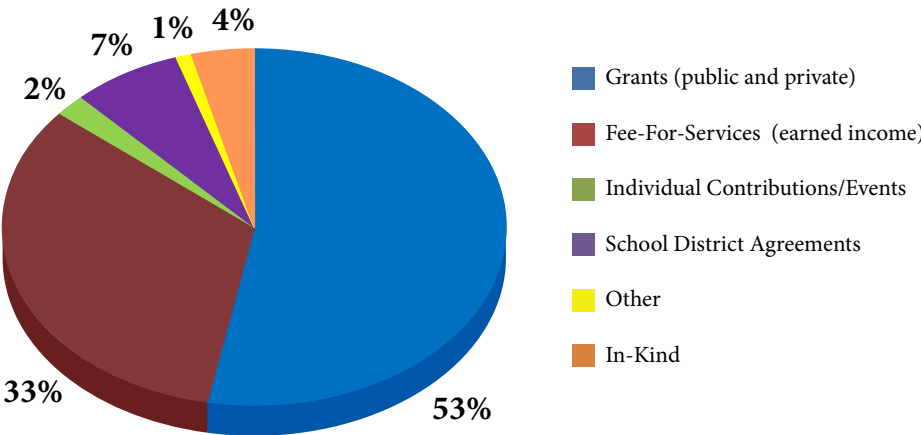


**253** youth served in 2014

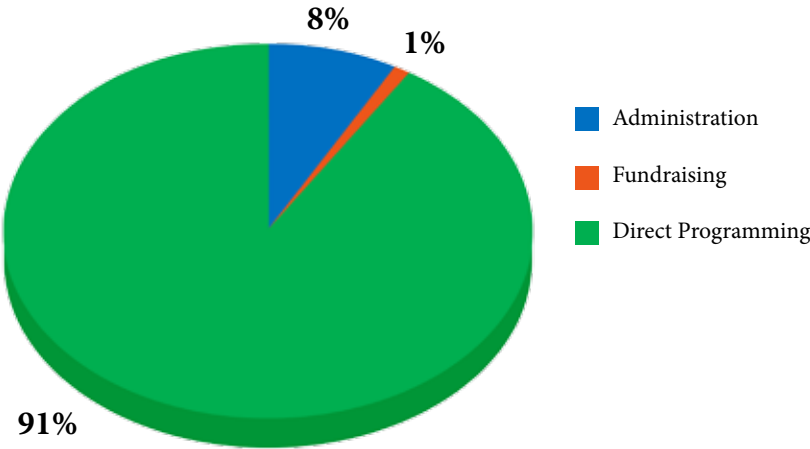
## Financials

(10/1/13 - 9/30/14)

Revenue by type: \$ 2,321,329



Expenses by type: \$2,308,019



**Enrolling Youth Today! Apply at [www.heartforegon.org](http://www.heartforegon.org)**

HOC is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race,color, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, creed, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, disability, veteran status, or any other classifications applicable by law. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.





**\$168,000**



in AmeriCorps college scholarships



**107,500**  
hours served

**2,300**

acres improved



**\$1,426,000**  
paid in wages/stipends

**16** homes built or  
rehabilitated since 2009



## Community Impact 2014



Local young adults proud of their hard work protecting their community from wildfires and maintaining a healthy environment on the Deschutes National Forest.

**60%** placement  
rate post-program in  
school or work

**80%** retention rate  
(placement still continued  
9 months later)

**86%** of court-  
involved youth had no  
further offenses after  
HOC programs



### *Michael's Story*

That's Michael pictured on the left. Five years ago, Michael was 16 and on a path to self-destruction. Drugs, delinquency, and recklessness were his way of life. He had dropped out of school and his viable options were dwindling. "I didn't care about anything at that point in my life," says Michael, now 21, reflecting on his younger self. He was out of control, headed for jail or worse. Heart of Oregon Corps (HOC) was one of Michael's last alternatives. He joined a HOC program four different times; each time a troublesome incident forced us to let him go early on. After any one of these failures, it would have been easy for Michael to give up, but he made the hard choice. He made that choice again and again and kept trying until one day it finally stuck. On that day, Michael was a 20-year-old father on parole with six months of sobriety under his belt. Still refusing to give up hope, we welcomed him back into HOC's

YouthBuild program. This time Michael maintained his sobriety, worked hard to earn his GED, earned a wage to help support his family, and found a meaningful connection in building affordable homes. He encountered countless challenges but was able to overcome them with determination and HOC support. His accomplishments allowed him to realize his own abundant worth both as an individual and in his community. At the end of his 9 month term with us, we didn't hesitate to recommend Michael to a local painting company. He used the resume and interview skills he learned at HOC and left our program for his first real job. Michael's journey is proof that the right opportunity can make all the difference. He says it best: "the program truly changed my life. If I didn't do YouthBuild I would probably be in jail." Transformations like his are what inspire us, what we strive for. Michael had potential in him all along; perhaps what he needed most was a place like Heart of Oregon Corps to show him change was possible.



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Follow us on Twitter: (@HeartofOregonCo)





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ABACUS PHOTOGRAPHY

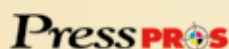
## *A Warm Thank You to Funders and Supporters!*

- AT&T Foundation
- Autzen Foundation
- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Bend La Pine School District
- Bend Parks and Recreation District
- Bill Healy Foundation
- BLM-Prineville District
- Braemar Charitable Trust
- Burning Foundation
- City of Prineville
- Cluster Cabins and Wildflower
- The Collins Foundation
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs-Pine Creek Conservation Area
- Corporation for National and Community Service-AmeriCorps & Social Innovation Fund
- Crevier Family Foundation
- Crook County Crooked River Watershed Council
- Crook County School District
- Department of Labor-YouthBuild
- Deschutes County
- Deschutes County Solid Waste
- Deschutes Land Trust
- Facebook- Prineville Data Center
- Firewood Customers
- Gordon Elwood Foundation
- Harvest Foundation
- Herbert A. Templeton Foundation
- Housing Works
- Individual Donors of 2014
- Intel-ENCORE Fellows Program
- Jefferson County Habitat for Humanity
- Jefferson County Little League
- Jefferson County School District
- JELD-WEN Foundation
- Juan Young Charitable Trust
- Kiwanis Club of Prineville
- Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund
- Mt. Bachelor Charity Ski Weeks
- Mt. Bachelor Village
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Norcross Wildlife Foundation
- Oregon Community Foundation-Latino Partnership Program
- Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention
- Oregon State Parks
- Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation
- Oregon Youth Conservation Corps
- Pole House Condos
- Pronghorn Resort
- Redmond Habitat for Humanity
- Redmond School District
- Rotary Club of Crook County
- Sisters School District
- Sunrise Village Association
- Thrift Store Donors and Customers
- Trust for Public Land
- United Way of Deschutes County
- US Bancorp Foundation
- US Forest Service- Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests, Crooked River National Grasslands
- West Family Foundation
- Wild River Homeowner's Association
- Youth Transition Program-Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## *Affiliations*

- 21st Century Conservation Service Corps
- Bend Chamber of Commerce
- Better Together
- Central Oregon Builders Association
- Children's Forest of Central Oregon
- The Corps Network
- Homeless Leadership Coalition
- Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
- Non Profit Association of Oregon
- Redmond Chamber of Commerce
- Sisters Chamber of Commerce
- United Way of Deschutes County
- YouthBuild USA
- Volunteer Connect

## *Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors*



YouthBuild is partially funded by a grant awarded under the YouthBuild Grant Initiative, as implemented by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration.



## Invest in Central Oregon Youth Today!

*Donate at [www.heartforegon.org](http://www.heartforegon.org)*