



EQUITY, PEOPLE, & CULTURE NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

This March, as we celebrate Women's History Month, we aren't just looking back at the past; we are looking at the girls sitting in our Clubs today—the future leaders, entrepreneurs, engineers, activists, and artists of Portland—and the incredible women on our staff who show them what's possible.

This month's newsletter highlights some of our very own community of leaders, the girls and women who are shaping our spaces every day. Their voices, their courage, and their ambitions are the "history" we are helping to write in our Clubs and in the greater Portland Metro region.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: EVENTS IN PORTLAND

"Finding Our Way" Exhibit in Hillsboro

When: Now - March 20

Where: Walters Cultural Arts Center

Details: Explore the complex layers of identities of womanhood and motherhood, as well as cycles of joy and grief, through a powerful collection of paintings and photographs.

Mundo de las Mujeres (Women's History Month Festival)

When: March 11–21

Where: Milagro Theatre (525 SE Stark St.)

Details: Now in its third year, this festival centers Latina/e voices through oral storytelling, staged readings, and stand-up comedy. It includes a free visual arts gallery at El Zócalo and "pay-what-you-will" tickets for performances starting at \$5.

BGCP'S RISING STARS

CELEBRATING THE BRILLIANCE, LEADERSHIP, AND VISION OF FEMALE-IDENTIFYING MEMBERS AT OUR CLUBS.

INUKAI: LORENA



“My teen is Lorena Tepoxteco, I wanted to feature her in this month’s spotlight, she has been getting out of her comfort zone. She is a shy girl and last school year she started cheerleading. This year she got the courage to go for cheer captain on the JV team and got it. Recently she just got in the varsity team. I am really very proud and amazed of the courage she has taken to get out of her comfort zone. She is one teen that showcases what empowerment looks like. “

- Jenny, Inukai Club Director

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CARE OREGON: LORYN



"There are so many wonderful things to say about Loryn. She began attending CareOregon at the Rockwood Boys & Girls Club during the fall term of 2025, and in a short time she has already made a meaningful and positive impact on me and the other members of the club. The Teens' side would not be the same without her.

Loryn consistently shows up with a positive attitude. She is often one of the first teens to arrive, and it's wonderful to have her help set the tone for the rest of the group as they trickle in throughout the day. I truly appreciate how comfortable she feels checking in and sharing about her day and the stories she has to tell—she is an incredible storyteller.

She is also a thoughtful and attentive listener. Many of the teens turn to her to confide in when they need support, and she offers thoughtful advice when asked. Loryn is highly intelligent and has an impressive understanding of the world around her. She is deeply passionate about making the world a better place in her own way. She stands up for what she believes in and encourages others to do the same.

Loryn is also very confident in herself and is not afraid to use her voice and express herself authentically. She does so with such intention and sincerity that it leaves me in awe of the positive influence she has on the other teens—and on me as well. I truly feel inspired by her. She reminds me to love myself more and motivates me to be a better leader each day.

In addition, Loryn regularly takes the initiative to support both staff and members of all ages—on the Teens' side and the Youth side—whenever help is needed. I have no doubt that she carries this same leadership and care with her outside of the club as well. She is extremely self-aware and holds herself accountable. She demonstrates emotional intelligence, responsibility, resilience, and many other admirable qualities.

When challenges arise on the Teens' side, Loryn approaches them with maturity, empathy, and care. She is truly an incredible presence in our club community, and we are so fortunate to have her!"

-Ms. GiGi, Lead Coordinator at CareOregon Club

THE HISTORY-MAKERS AMONG US

CELEBRATING WOMEN ON OUR TEAM WHO TURN "POTENTIAL"
INTO "REALITY" EVERY SINGLE DAY.

PAOLA DE LA CRUZ

YDC at Blazers



How do you create an equitable space for girls at your Club?

I work to create an equitable space for girls in my club by being really intentional about who and when certain members are given space, voice, and visibility in the room. I make sure girls, especially girls of color and queer girls, see themselves reflected in our activities and feel encouraged to lead, speak up, and take creative risks.

What is one piece of advice you'd give to our female-identifying members today?

One piece of advice I'd give to female-identifying members today is: don't shrink yourself to make others comfortable. Your voice, your ideas, your boundaries, and your ambitions are not "too much." Through my time I've learned the importance of taking up space and bringing your own chair to the table.

What is a 'mantra' or quote that keeps you grounded during challenging times?

A quote that keeps me grounded is from bell hooks: 'What we do is more important than what we say or what we say we believe.' It reminds me to stay action-oriented, to let my values show up in how I lead, how I show up for young people, and how I build community. Integrity over optics.

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MAGALY CHANOCUA

Front Desk at CareOregon

Who is a woman from history (or your life) who inspires you, and why? How have they shaped who you are today?

A woman in my life who inspires me is my friend Kim Cortez. She is Hispanic like me and is currently attending school at Harvard for Computer Science. Seeing someone with a similar background achieve something like that really motivates me to keep pushing in school. She reminds me that opportunities like higher education are not out of reach for the Hispanic community. Because of her, I've learned that if I stay focused and put my mind to something, I can achieve big goals too! Growing up with Kim, she encouraged me to always have a positive mindset on whatever life threw at me. She was a big part of my journey growing up and I'm so happy I can continue to go through life with her as a close friend of mine and as someone who inspires me.



How do you create an equitable space for girls at your Club?

At the CareOregon Boys and Girls Club, I try to make sure girls feel just as seen, heard, and supported as everyone else. Even though I'm a receptionist, I try to create a welcoming space where girls feel comfortable asking questions, having a safe space up front or the peace lounge, and expressing themselves so they can show up like their true selves. I also try to uplift girls by encouraging their interests, recognizing their achievements little or big, and making sure their voices are respected and heard. Small things like listening and supporting them help create a more equitable space to leave a big impact.

Which woman in history would you most like to have coffee with, and what is the first thing you'd ask her?

The woman from history I would most like to have coffee with is Dolores Huerta. She was an important leader in the farmworkers rights movement and fought for better working conditions and equality for Latino communities. The first thing I would ask her is how she stayed strong and motivated while fighting for justice during times when people tried doubting her or silencing her voice. I think that question matters a lot right now because our communities today are still going through a lot, and we still need strong leaders like her who are willing to speak up for those who can't and push for a change.

BGCP STAFF BOARD

NEW HIRES

Lawrence Scroggs -
Maintenance Technician

Diana Leon - Front Desk at
Blazers

BIRTHDAYS

Rachel Jeffreys 3/4

Tanisha Zeno 3/20

GiGi Saechao 3/23

Abraham Pasion 3/30

JOB OPENINGS

None this month!

WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Pearl Moon - 8 years

Lisa Meersman - 5 years

Rachel Jeffreys - 5 years

Jenny Sagrero - 4 years

Rida Arain - 3 years

Emmi Stonier - 3 years

Kailani Dineros - 1 year

EXITS

None this month!

PROMOTIONS/TRANSFERS

None this month!