

The Christie Campus News Clue

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Farewell, Great One

In the beginning there was a new staff member - green-as grass - learning the ins and outs of residential treatment at Clark cottage. In the middle there was a charismatic team leader, looked up to and depended upon by both kids and employees. In the end there was a Community Programs Director, developing innovative services such as the MCCRC, which shelters and treats abused children removed from their homes. If one were to research the dusty Christie Archives, one would find photographic evidence of Craig Opperman's diverse involvement in the lives of Christie children, from the young and shaggy Jerry Garcia look-alike playing softball with the kids to the reverent man shaking hands with a U.S. Senator, thanking him for a \$250,000 federal grant. In speaking with Craig about his ideas for improving the mental health field for children, one gets the sense he was born to accomplish remarkable things, to the extent that one ponders the origin of a man with such noble sensibilities. (Craig claims he was part of a secret government growth hormone experiment. More likely, he was a pupil of Mahatma Gandhi.)

Craig resigns from the Christie School on April 16 to become the Executive Director of Looking Glass Youth and Family Services in Eugene. Looking Glass provides an array of services for children, including youth and assessment shelters, day treatment, and after school programs. Mr. Opperman - as he is now called - looks forward to new challenges on his path to sainthood. The real origin of Mr. Opperman may never be discovered, but the effects of his 23 years at Christie will echo throughout history. Congratulations Craig, we will miss you.

Clueless? Email j.kaczenski@christieschool.org or call x220.

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