

PRESS RELEASE

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“Newly Created Family Services / Volunteer Coordinator Position”

Anna Wendt travels cross-country to accept position

Hillsboro, OR (April 2009) - Willamette West Habitat for Humanity is pleased to announce the hiring of Anna Wendt for the newly created position of Family Services/Volunteer Coordinator.

Anna will work with two critical constituent groups: the hardworking family's we serve, and the hundreds of volunteers who work with them to build simple, decent homes. She'll support all aspects of family services, including qualifying and training a diverse group of partner families and assuring the success of our homeowners. She is also responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining a vibrant volunteer program, as well as managing our efforts to recruit, retain, deploy and recognize our volunteer workforce.

Good friend Sarah Armstrong, who works for Portland Habitat, told Anna about the Hillsboro opening and suggested she apply. Originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, Anna flew out here for an interview and ultimately beat out 120 other applicants for the position.

Now that she's here, what are her plans for this newly created position? Simple: spread the mission of Habitat to families in need, connect volunteers and partner families, and make sure volunteers enjoy themselves on site. "I'm so excited to be a part of the WWHFH team, and looking forward to working with the great families and volunteers who come to this organization!"

As a graduate from Creighton University with a B.A. in Spanish and History, Anna was looking for an opportunity to put her degree to work. Plus, she'd experienced things from the other side as a volunteer at "Centro de Información y Recursos" in Minneapolis, a resource center connecting the Latino population with social services. After that she served as an AmeriCorps volunteer in the Family Services Department for the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity. This experience made her the natural choice for the newly created position.

Office staff has been very impressed with her take charge attitude and her ability to quickly remember people's names. "She got 12 family members together at the worksite recently and introduced me to everyone of them without looking at any notes or forgetting anyone," commented Construction Manager Mike Wille.

As a newly-minted Oregonian, Anna has hit the trails, spending her weekend exploring what the state has to offer. She loves the "unique" atmosphere here and has participated in such diverse activities as the pillow fight in downtown Portland, the Garibaldi Crab Races and a visit to the Tillamook Cheese Factory. She loves being close to the coast, being settled in nature and likes driving home at night and seeing Mt. Hood framed against the sky.

We think she's a terrific addition to our team and are looking forward to her enthusiasm and creativity rubbing off on everyone she gets in contact with.

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About Willamette West Habitat for Humanity

Willamette West Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to generating homeownership and benefiting our community by building simple, decent, affordable housing with an emphasis on building neighborhoods. Since 1988, we have built 51 homes in Washington County, and look to complete five more in 2009. Habitat works in partnership with low-income families, volunteers, donors, and organizations to receive donated materials, volunteer labor and generous financial gifts. Qualifying families receive a zero-percent interest rate and monthly payments structured to their income. Mortgage payments go into a fund which is then recycled back in to the community to build additional houses. For more information, visit us at wwhfh.org

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