



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SUBMIT YOUR Y STORY

SHERI GREENSTONE'S Y STORY

"When we picked up the phone on April 1, and said thank you for calling the Beaverton Child Development Center, parents thought we were pulling an April Fool's joke."

Sheri has been with our YMCA since 2005. She previously worked at a child care center called Tutor Time in Beaverton. But, as of Apr. 1, 2005, our association purchased the center and began operating the Beaverton Child Development Center.

"When I found out my boss was selling the business, I asked who was buying it. He said, the YMCA ... I was shocked, thinking why? The YMCA is a gym, they do sports and camps." So Sheri went home and began researching about the YMCA to see if this was where she would want to continue to work. She learned about the different offerings we provide and felt that "if this company does their mission, this will be a good place to work." Sheri has not only stayed with the Y, but she enjoys the work she does here.

A career in Child Care was not her plan when she was in college. Child Care was the job to help her get through school



times when I thought about changing jobs, and every time the answer was always, clearly no— you're needed here." That was until this summer, Sheri felt something calling her to dig up

**"IT'S JUST SO BIG—IT'S ADAPTING, GROWING AND PROGRAMS ARE CHANGING
... I CAN ALWAYS LEARN SOMETHING NEW HERE"**

and into what she planned—a Masters in Mathematical Sciences to become a middle school math teacher. But, when she met her husband and they moved to Portland, she saw the school system and decided to change her degree into Business Management and continued in child care. "It was comfortable, challenging and I liked it ... But I knew it wasn't my forever job."

Sheri found herself moving up the position ladder to Assistant Program Director, then to Director as she transferred between the Beaverton CDC, Y's Choice CDC then into the Amberglen CDC in 2012.

"I had 20 plus years of experience in child care, but I still didn't know what I wanted to do when I grew up... There were several

the job post for the Accounts Receivable Coordinator at ASO. "I felt something say, now is the time for change." So Sheri applied for the position.

You can find her working at ASO, in Portland, where she is still helping families and program directors. "This was a comfortable yet different change" as she can still fulfill needs of those around her.

Continued on the next page

**"IT'S WHAT I ENJOY DOING AND THERE IS ALWAYS
SOMETHING THAT KEEPS ME GOING"**



It's never been a job for Sheri, "it's what I enjoy doing and there is always something that keeps me going ... I enjoy engaging with parents and families and finding ways to help them keep their children in our programs."

And even though she is not in a CDC anymore, her willingness to help others and give them aid is truly a gift. Especially when

Her excitement for learning is something she credits to her Grandma. "My bonus Grandma as we would call her ... Would always encourage education and reading. She'd say if you can learn how to learn, you can do anything." The ability to know where to look, and get information helped Sheri while she was a Director at the CDCs to encourage her staff to "never tell

"WHEN WE PICKED UP THE PHONE ON APRIL 1, AND SAID THANK YOU FOR CALLING THE BEAVERTON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER, PARENTS THAT WE WERE PULLING AN APRIL FOOL'S JOKE"

working with so many different families and situations. "I wish people understood the different aspects we offer and the good we are doing in the community—helping families ... We try to service as many people as possible and point them in the right direction to find help, whether it is with us or someone else."

Sheri has enjoyed walking alongside families who welcome her into special pieces of their family history. "We never really know what they've been through, but when they open up and let you in, it creates such a sweet bond." She is also grateful for the Christian aspect of the YMCA. "In the public schools system, you can't engage with the children when they tell you their beliefs, but here you can engage and learn their traditions and beliefs."

One of the things that surprises Sheri the most about the Y, is that after more than 13 years, there are still things she doesn't know. "It's just so big—it's adapting, growing and programs are changing ... I can always learn something new here."

someone 'I don't know,' tell them let me get back to you then go find out ...

And if you don't know, then you also get to learn the answer." This piece of advice from her Grandmother has helped Sheri extend her learning process and continue relationships with staff and parents.

When Sheri thinks of the future of the YMCA, she sees the growing need that our families, members and participants have and how the Y can step in to help them. Even "with everyone immersed in their technology and not engaging face to face, the Y can help pull people away from their devices and bring people together." The Y is not a place where people come in, get things done and leave, "we try to help people grow in everything ... It's not only about being fit."

Thank you Sheri for your generous heart to help those in our Y family find a safe place to build a community and belong.

We want to hear from you! How has the Y impacted you or your family's life?

SUBMIT YOUR Y STORY