

Fall 2008

Life Enrichment Options

A quality life for individuals with developmental disabilities

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House mates on their way to bowling.

Caring for Each Other at Rose House

A recent story from Amy Summers, the caregiver at the Rose House, really brings home what LEO is about, and our housing philosophy.

This summer one of our residents, who has lived with us for over 5 years, lost his mother due to cancer. The night before I went to visit her in the hospital all the housemates were sitting around the table making cards for her. I sat in amazement as each of his roommates, without prompting, told him that they were his friends that they loved him and would be there for him. One housemate even shared what it was like when he lost his mom and that he understood what he was going through. At that moment, I realized what a gift his mother had given him. She had given him the gift of becoming independent while she was still healthy and strong.

The next day when I visited her in the hospital I was able to share with her how much I appreciated all her help getting her son situated in the house, how much support she had given to all of us, how she was able to help teach me how to love her son and help him the best way I could. I was able to see him surrounded by his friends, in his own home, supporting him at his greatest time of need. How lucky we all are to have each other...

We do have a dream! That is the third LEO house—still only a dream, but we are saving to be able to purchase something to make that a reality, as the wait list grows...

Useful Web Sites

Arc of King County:
Arcofkingcounty.org

Developmental Disabilities
Division, King County:
www.kingcounty.gov/ddd/

Fundraising search engine
for LEO:
www.goodsearch.com

King County Parks:
www.kingcounty.gov/parks

LEO:
www.leoorganization.org

Bridge Ministry:
www.bridgmin.org

Outdoorsforall:
www.outdoorsforall.org

Fathers Network:
www.kinderling.org

*Inclusion of web sites here
does not imply
endorsement by LEO.*

LEO Board of Directors

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Upcoming Events

Nov. 16: Special Olympics Basketball—for ages 8 through adult—several teams to match different abilities. Parents, caregivers, and athletes meet at Issaquah Community Center at 12 N to sign up, and obtain program information. For more information, call Leo Finnegan at 425-392-5682. Skyline High school students, call Paul Brodeur at 425-557-0103. Issaquah High School student call Jiff Searing at jiffsearing@comcast.net. Snoqualmie/ North Bend athletes call Becky Kitz at 425-888-3190.

Nov. 22: Nomination due for Sammamish Employer of the year

Nov. 24: Legislative Forum—6:30-9pm—hear self-advocates, family members and community members present to members of the Washington State Legislature from King County. For more information, call King County Developmental Disabilities Division at 206-263-9061.

Dec. 2: LEO Holiday Party—Tibbetts Manor—6:30-9:30pm. Call 425-392-5682, for board members, and others interested in LEO.

Dec. 18: Sammamish Employer of the Year presentation at the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce luncheon. This will be at Bake's Place in Providence Point. For reservations, go to www.sammamishchamber.org.

Come to the Legislative Forum on Nov 24

By Sherry McNarry

Hello families and friends! This month we all witnessed the power of people, the power of families. We saw a nation united in a dream, determined to make a change. No matter how you voted, we all saw the same thing, history in the making. AND we saw how truly powerful we can be when we work together. Now it is our turn to make the difference.

On Nov. 24 another a very important event is happening, the annual King County Board for Developmental Disabilities and the Parent Coalition's Legislative Forum. This is where all members of the Washington State Legislature from King County hear the concerns and successes from the community with developmental disabilities. This is a huge year for your family members and the organizations that support them. Things are tough and it looks like they will be getting tougher. Now more then ever our voices need to be heard, our numbers need to be counted.

This year, I am not only asking you to attend in order to stand up and be counted, but I am asking you to bring a friend. Someone who has never attended before, someone who knows nothing of our DD world. Ask them to attend, ask them to stand with you. Ask them to stand with us.

You have the power, we will make the difference. See you all on Monday, November 24th!

Time: 6:30pm

Where: The DoubleTree Guest Suites, 16500 Southcenter Parkway

Cost: FREE

We still have for sale note cards designed by our local young artists with developmental disabilities. Contact any board member, or email finneganrm@aol.com. These make great Christmas gifts!

Ways to Help LEO

Donate by saving Front Street Market receipts. Turn them in to any LEO board member. Write us in for United Way or the State Combined Fund Drives. Give a memorial. Use the Good Search web site. Buy note cards with artwork by our own young artists for sale—call 425-392-5682. Of course checks & matching gifts are always greatly appreciated.

In order to help charities further their good work, Congress recently changed the rules for charitable gifts made from individual retirement account (IRA's). If you are over age 70 1/2, the Federal government now permits you to rollover amounts from your IRA to charity without claiming any increased income or paying any additional tax. These tax-free rollover gifts can be of any amount up to \$100,000 in one year. The contribution must be a direct gift from the IRA account to a charity.

We are very thankful to the families of Craig Lang and Shirley North, who designated LEO to receive financial gifts in memory of their loved ones.

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please let us know by sending an e-mail to finneganrm@aol.com.

LEO 2008 Donors

Altrusa International of Lake Washington East
 Paul B. Anderson
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Anderson
 Gary Bissonette
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In Memory of Don Kimble:

Aletha & John Taylor
 Angela & Neal Dews
 Rose Finnegan
 Mike Ernst
 Renee Thornton
 Dennis Wajda
 Cathy Lamb

In Memory of J. Craig Lang:

LEO Board of Directors
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In Memory of Bill Lee:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Anderson

In Memory of Irma Liebetrau:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Anderson
 Paul Anderson
 Judi Cunningham
 Brad & Jodi Anderson

In-Kind Donations

Nate Bean, Integrity Auto
 Nancy Cedar
 Cheryl Matheny
 Linda Matsumoto
 Terri Sharkey
 Ray Weber
 XXX Root Beer
 Dave Uvelli
 Joe & Michelle Folkner
 Sunset Highway Cruisers
 Molly Jester

If we have inadvertently omitted your name from our donor list, please forgive us! Contact LEO so that we can rectify the mistake.



Miss our booth at Salmon Days this year? We took the year off, and instead a few volunteered their talents. Paul and Tim proudly display the Refuse Ranger shirts they got for volunteering.

LEO Mission and Core Values

LEO, a community-based nonprofit organization, advocates for and works to support individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve their life vision and goals through supportive housing, recreation, employment opportunities, and community education. Our core value statements are:

Community Centered: We are grounded in our community.

Integrity: We conduct ourselves honestly and ethically.

Passion: We are deeply committed to our purpose.

Respect: We value and honor all of our relationships.

Caring: We are particularly mindful of those with special needs.

Visionary: We lead with strategic thinking and innovative practices.

All of our fundraising is directed towards the purchase of land or homes, which will be used for licensed Adult Family Homes for adults with developmental disabilities. These homes are managed by a live-in care provider, also licensed by the State. Since this population has an extremely low income, to make these homes sustainable, they must be free of debt.

LEO fosters a community that fully engages people with developmental disabilities based on their individual choices in all areas of community life.



EDUCATION · EMPLOYMENT ·
HOUSING · RECREATION

LEO Life Enrichment Options
P.O. Box 117
Issaquah, WA
98027-0006

Phone: 425-392-5682
Web site: www.leoorganization.org



Nominate the 2008 City of Sammamish Employer of the Year

Recognition for Employing Individuals with Disabilities

LEO Employer of the Year Nomination

This year LEO, Life Enrichment Options, an organization working with Developmental Disabilities will honor a business from within the City of Sammamish that employs individuals with a disability. If you are aware of a business that you believe should receive recognition, please fill out this brief online nomination form and return to Cathy Lamb, clamb27@comcast.net, or mail to LEO, PO Box 117, Issaquah WA 98027-0006. Nominations must be received by November 22, 2008.

Name of Business: _____

Location: _____

Number of Employees (if known): _____

Why does this business deserve the honor of Employer of the Year? _____

