

Spring 2008

Life Enrichment Options

A quality life for individuals with developmental disabilities

LEO Sponsors “Be Strong and Safe” Event Featuring Internationally Known Speaker — Shirley Paceley

By Carol Weisbecker

As parents, one of our greatest concerns is the safety of our children and adults with special needs. Statistics indicate that this population of people are vulnerable and therefore victims of various kinds of abuse and deception. Life Enrichment Options wants to help prevent this from happening and is therefore proud and excited to bring an internationally known speaker to Issaquah.

Shirley Paceley, from the Blue Tower Training Center in Decatur, Illinois, will speak at Issaquah Middle School the evening of May 22, as well as to the Issaquah School District staff earlier in the day. In addition, she plans other speaking engagements in Seattle through Disability Rights Washington, and will be at the Sexual Abuse conference in Spokane just prior to her trip to this area.

In addition to being a trainer with over 30 years experience, Shirley is also a counselor, consultant, writer, advocate and visionary. She has dedicated her life to empowering people with disabilities, to sexual abuse prevention and intervention, and to developing and supporting self advocacy. In fact, she will be co-presenting with a young woman with developmental disabilities. Her guiding philosophy is that by educating these individuals and their parents, loved ones and teachers, they are less vulnerable.

The evening of May 22 is for teens and adults with developmental disabilities and their parents. Parents of younger children are also encouraged to attend, for we know the importance of this training starting when the children are young. For additional information about this evening or the other speaking engagements in the area, contact Carol Weisbecker, 425-747-3039, c.weisbecker@comcast.com or Rose Finnegan, 425-392-5682, Finneganrm@aol.com.

We are grateful to the Issaquah School District, Young Life-Eastside, and Altrusa International of Lake Washington East for their support of this this program.

Mark your calendar with these other important upcoming events:

July 19: Issaquah Challenge Gravity Race sponsored by LEO and Rotary Club of Issaquah.

August 16: Sammamish Challenge Gravity Race sponsored by LEO and Rotary Club of Sammamish.

To register for either of these events call 425-392-5682.

Inside this issue:

IRS stimulus package information	2
Web sites	2
Ann House thriving	2
Ways to help LEO	2
LEO board of directors	2
LEO donors	3
LEO mission and values	3
Living with Asperger's group starts	3
Employer of the year call for nominations	4

Useful Web Sites

Summer Camp Directory:
The Washington summer camps and programs for children with special needs is updated for 2008. Download it here: www.cshcn.org/resources/campcalendar.cfm?intro=yes

A checklist of Tax Benefits for Parents of Special Needs Children: www.specialneedsanswers.com/resources/article.asp?id=5678§ion

Arc of King County: arcofkingcounty.org

Developmental Disabilities Division, King County: metrokc.gov/dchs/ddd

Fundraising search engine for LEO!! www.goodsearch.com

King County Parks: www.metrokc.gov/parks/

The inclusion of these web sites here does not imply endorsement by LEO.

LEO Board of Directors

Larry Kimble, President
Rose Finnegan, Past President
Angela Dews, Vice President
Natalie Brodeur, Secretary
Becky Kitz, Treasurer
Ann Dennis
Mike Ernst
Susan Halperin
Jiff Searing
Mary Cline-Stively
Renee Thornton
Nancy Whitaker
Cathy Lamb
Dennis Wadja

This Ann House Stable and Thriving



Mikel plays with one of the friendly dogs at Ann Dennis House

By Helene Gilroy

A recent visit to the Ann Dennis House on Highlands Drive finds evidence of a group of young and middle-aged adults living with great humor, high spirits, and a sense of community. Staff person Laura Austin is proud of the house, and proud of the members who live there. It is obvious that the residents like their home, like each other, and like Laura in equal measure. Resident Paul Martinez, who's been there the longest, recounted Easter dinner's menu and the work that people did in

IRS Stimulus Package Open to Most!

The IRS is mailing package 1040A-3 to every Social Security (SSA) and VA beneficiary in the nation. This package tells individuals with benefits how to fill out an abbreviated version of Form 1040A to request a payment. Individuals can also file online at www.irs.gov. Many individuals who have low earnings and/or who only receive benefits such as VA or SSA are not required to file annual tax returns. However, to receive the \$300 economic stimulus payment the person must file the abbreviated 1040A for tax year 2007. The IRS encourages everyone to file as early as possible. Tax returns for a stimulus payment must be filed by October 15, 2008.

Some qualifiers: Individuals claimed as dependents cannot file for their own stimulus payments. Individuals who only receive SSI are not eligible.

The Medicaid and SSI programs will not count the stimulus payment as income towards these benefits in the month of receipt. The money from the stimulus payment will become a countable resource if it is not spent before the third month following the month of receipt.

preparing it. He was packing his suitcase in preparation for a trip to see his brother and sister in California. Tim, Paul, Adam and Mikel opened the doors to their private bedrooms to show how they'd fixed the décor personally.

All the residents work at various jobs around Issaquah and Bellevue, using Metro or Access for transportation. Coordinating those bus rides has to be a major part of the staff person's job in addition to coordinating the workings of the house, shopping, and meal preparation along with laundry and myriad other tasks. The two dogs make their presence known as well, romping playfully with anyone who will give some attention.

The overall impression is one of warmth, comfort, and joy. This is a great place!

Ways to Help LEO

Donate by saving Front St. 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.



LEO 2007, 2008 Donors

ACE Hardware—North Bend
 Altrusa Club Of Lake Washington
 East Foundation
 Bill & Suzanne Anderson
 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Anderson
 Jennifer Bauer
 Patricia Bernstein
 Sam Besser - Pacific NW Camaro Club
 Natalie Brodeur
 BMW CCA Puget Sound
 Boeing Stratocruisers
 Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Baker
 Natalie Brodeur
 Dianne Burr
 Gary Bissonette
 Mike Carr
 Cascade Cougar Car Club
 Cedar Family Foundation
 Mary Cline-Sively
 Stacy Chilberg
 Joyce L. Cranford
 Linda Daly
 Daryl Deutsch
 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Deschenes
 Federico DeLos Santos
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ernst
 Jose Encisco
 CMCS Corvette Marque Club of Seattle
 Mr. & Mrs. Leo Finnegan
 Corvairs NW
 Fletcher Bay Foundation
 Fiat Enthusiast NW - Dan Rian
 Pat Giorgetti
 Diana Gay
 Mr. & Mrs. John Gilroy
 Andrea Finkelstein
 Robert Greenberg
 Ms. Lee Gaber
 Susan Halperin
 Mr. & Mrs. John Hardy
 Gary Halperin
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry Hayes
 Wendi Hitchings
 Mr. & Mrs John Hayes
 Vladimir Hostas
 Mr. & Mrs. Clark Henderson
 Issaquah Women's Foundation
 Mr. Dan Janikula
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kitz
 Mr. & Mrs. Ed Loranger
 Pat Luckman

Mr. & Mrs. Mel Mabray & Scott
 Jim Martoza
 Mr. & Mrs. Kent Meisner
 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Maloney
 Mustangs Northwest
 Mountains to Sound Car show
 Mopars Unlimited
 Susan Nielsen
 NWCC Chevy Club
 Barbara Lock
 Mr. & Mrs Joe McNabb
 NWGTO Legends
 Pacific Northwest Camaro Club
 Sarah Peterson
 Bon & Ampy Pineda
 Ms. Jennell Reece
 Pat Rowen
 Richard Russell
 Sarah Riley
 Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Searing
 Robert Southern
 Margaret Shute
 Chantel Stevens & Dennis Wadja
 Linda Summers
 K. Schlomer
 Sammamish Rotary
 John & Aletha Taylor
 Mr. & Mrs. John Thorpe
 Bruce & Jean Sillers
 Karen Van Amburg
 Malik Saleem
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Walch
 Michael R. Warren
 Whitaker Foundation
 Steven Yach
 Polygon Northwest Company
 Front St. Market

In-Kind Donations

Ruby Bennett
 Mitch Boss
 Marge Bonconowitz
 De-El Enterprises
 Emmanuel's Rug and Upholstery
 Clare & Larry Hayes
 Issaquah Lumber Company - Geoff Grant
 Terri Sharkey
 Cheryl Matheny
 Helene Gilroy
 Dave Uvelli
 Mel Mabray
 Ray Weber

XXX Root Beer
 Starbucks-Gilman Meadows
 LEO Board members & families

Remembrances

Jack & Jeanette Giorgetti
 -Mr. & Mrs. Don Irvin
 Margaret Galer
 -Mr. & Mrs. Don Irvin
 -Helenanne Botham
 Clare Ernst (mother of Mike Ernst)
 -Susan Halperin
 -Mary Cline-Stively
 -Angela Dews
 -Becky Kitz
 -Cathy Lamb
 -Mr. & Mrs. Larry Kimble
 -Ann Dennis
 -Rose Finnegan
 -Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Gow
 -Mr. & Mrs. Reinhardtsen
 -Stuchell Enterprises
 -Ernst Fluid Power
 Robert McNellis
 -Margaret Boehme
 -Violet Corr
 -Mr. & Mrs. Jim Liebetrau
 -Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Frank
 -Rose Finnegan
 Helen Conlon
 -Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Frank
 Bunty Wardle
 -Mr. & Mrs. Neil Dews
 The wedding of Lisa Kennedy & Bernie Lucking
 -Mr. & Mrs. Gary Connelly
 -Judy Smith
 -Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Obar
 -David Hayden
 -Therese Wonlorek
 -Mr. & Mrs. Leo Finnegan

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

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please let us know by sending an email to dennisw@ihmail.com.

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.

Families Living with Asperger's Group Starts

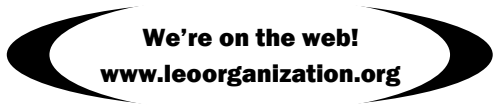
Families Living with Asperger's Syndrome offers clueless family members strategies to live more happily with loved ones who have A.S. Topics include self care, coping with the diagnosis, organizing and structuring the home, setting realistic expectations, communication strategies, and like topics. This would be helpful for families whose siblings are coping with coexistence, whose A.S. members need social skills or help with problem behaviors. The group runs from April 3-May 1 on Thursday mornings from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. The group is facilitated by Steve Becker, Ph.D, of Becker and Associates, located at 22815 Pacific Highway South, Suite 5, Des Moines, WA 98108. Cost is \$150 for any two people within a family. For information or to register, call 206-824-1525.



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 Issaquah Employer of the Year

This is the eighth year that LEO will honor three* companies in Issaquah that employ people from the greater Issaquah area who have a disability. If you are aware of a business that you believe should receive recognition, please fill out this brief nomination form and return it to LEO at P.O. Box 117, Issaquah, WA 98027-0006. **Nominations need to be received by *May 1, 2008*.**

*One award will be given in each of the following three size categories: Large Company: 250 or more employees, Medium Company: 26 to 249 employees, Small Company: 25 or fewer employees.

LEO Employer of the Year Nomination

Name of Business: _____

Location: _____

Size of company, *if known* (see above criteria): SMALL MEDIUM LARGE

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

Your name: _____

Your contact information: _____