



LEO News

It's complete!

The official ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of LEO's newest adult family home for those with developmental disabilities was held under gray skies but the smiles couldn't have been brighter! This wonderful accomplishment was celebrated with the current residents of our two other homes, future residents, their families, and the numerous friends and community supporters of our organization.

The attractive 3,000+ square foot home has been named the Angela House, in honor of founding board member Angela Dews. The dedication of our project manager, LEO board member Jiff Searing, resulted in a perfect structure while LEO board member, Laura Maloney, completed the home with her amazing decorating skills. We would also like to thank Laura Vincent Interior Design for advice and assistance in choosing the home's furniture which was purchased with a generous grant from the Employees Community Fund of Boeing Puget Sound. The five housemates will hopefully be in place in time for the upcoming holiday celebrations!



Jiff Searing and Angela Dews cut the ribbon at the dedication ceremony of The Angela House in Highlands.



“LEO’s Heart is Here”

In the journey to continue to work towards our goals of supporting individuals with developmental disabilities achieve their life style aspirations, LEO is launching a fundraising campaign in mid-October: “LEO’s Heart is Here.” We are asking for community support for our mission of providing disabled adults and children in our community with housing, employment, recreation and educational programs. Please help us help them—*dreams really can come true!*

Donations can be made by mail or through our website.

Recognizing our community supporters

LEO partnered with AtWork! to create the “Caring Community Award” given at the city of Issaquah’s annual Community Awards Banquet. The award honors members of the Issaquah community who engage and support those who have developmental disabilities.

Michelle Bretl was recognized for volunteering as a coach for a Special Olympics basketball team for three years, while also mentoring a girl with developmental disabilities through the Athletes for Kids program. Michelle coached a coed team comprised of athletes that were four to twenty-six years older than her, developing the diverse group of athletes into a cohesive team that placed second in the

2011 regional Special Olympics basketball tournament!

Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH) received recognition for their collaboration with AtWork! and the Issaquah Community Network in providing internships this past year to three students with special needs who assisted the organization in keeping the grounds and facilities clean.

Recently a four-year special needs volunteer who entered data to track volunteer activity was given his first ever job by this caring organization. Additionally, two other individuals were welcomed as volunteer intern greeters, providing assistance to



Leo and Rose Finnegan with Michelle Bretl (center). Photo: Teresa Bretl

hatchery visitors and giving out self-guided tour maps. Welcoming people with disabilities to this organization has been beneficial, not only to the students and interns, but to the hatchery visitors and other volunteers. It’s definitely a win-win partnership!



LEO enjoys another summer of art and conversation

We welcomed two artists-in-action, Wil and Kendall, to the LEO table at the Issaquah ArtWalks this summer. This display of their creativity drew more attention to our organization, resulting in more conversations about LEO with those attending the ArtWalks. Many thanks Wil and Kendall for helping us increase awareness of our organization!

“Life Beyond the Nest”

Thursday, November 8th, 7 to 9 pm at Tibbetts Creek Manor, 750 17th Ave NW, Issaquah. This presentation is free and no pre-registration is required.

Join us in a conversation with Pam Blanton of Partners4Housing about an innovative housing model where families, housing providers, and support agencies join together to create affordable, sustainable housing for people with disabilities. In this model, families form housing “clusters” to share housing and coordinated services.

Skills for independent living will also be discussed to help discover the skills that are needed for your son or daughter to successfully live in various housing options.

Community contributes to the discussion of the future goals of LEO

We would like to thank those in the community who took the time to contribute to our discussion of what the needs are of those with special needs, and their caregivers, in our area. We received useful ideas and suggestions from a LEO sponsored community gathering event in June and via email. This input will greatly assist our organization in determining the direction that LEO should be pursuing.

If you would like to contribute your thoughts to this conversation please visit our website at:

www.lifeenrichmentoptions.org.



Gravity cars race into more cities for more fun

These wonderful community events provided approximately 200 children with special needs, from across the state, a day full of fun and excitement.

New this year were events in Snoqualmie Valley, Bellingham and Richland, bringing the total number of races held to seven! Many, many thanks to Rose and Leo Finnegan for their tireless efforts in working with service

clubs throughout the state to put on these opportunities that are not only fun for the participants, but raise community awareness of those with disabilities.

Thank you's also go to all the service clubs, community volunteers and parents who contribute to these special days for special kids.



Fred Meyer joins race sponsors

We welcomed the Issaquah Fred Meyer store as a sponsor of the Issaquah and Sammamish gravity car races! Their collaboration with LEO and the Rotary was celebrated with the display of the Fred Meyer car in the Issaquah store, spotlighting our organization and its efforts in the community. As part of the official event at the Issaquah store, Fred Meyer offered LEO the opportunity to have a "root beer float fundraiser" which gave those with special needs the opportunity of making the floats and interacting with the Fred Meyer customers while they were enjoying their cool treat!



Community involvement includes volunteering

Rose House residents volunteered their time and enthusiasm to help with the PCC Food Packaging Party at the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank in July. They partnered with other community members to bag the bulk food that is distributed to the many local families that the food bank serves. Those with special needs are welcome to participate in this two-hour project that takes place just four times per year. For more information on volunteering, contact Chris Weber at: chris.weber@lifeenrichmentoptions.org.

Interested in Getting Involved with LEO?

New members are always welcome to join our Issaquah and Snoqualmie Valley Outreach Committees. The committees meet just four times each year, planning the spring and fall educational presentations, sharing information about LEO at the Issaquah ArtWalks, and participating in the Salmon Days and Festival at Mt Si parades. The committees are an important way for LEO to connect with the needs of the community. For more information, contact Chris Weber at chris.weber@lifeenrichmentoptions.org or visit our website at www.lifeenrichmentoptions.org.

And, we always have a need for volunteers of any interest or skill, for individuals as well as organizations. For more information, contact Becky Kitz at becky.kitz@lifeenrichmentoptions.org.

We apologize if we have inadvertently sent this newsletter to you. We are implementing a new database and have made all attempts to keep records in sync. If you would like to be removed from our distribution list please email us at info@lifeenrichmentoptions.org.

Life Enrichment Options is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered with the Washington State Secretary of State. For verification of this registration, call the Washington State Secretary of State's Charities Hotline at 1-800-332-GIVE.



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www.lifeenrichmentoptions.org