

LEO News

Third Home Moves from Dream to Reality

The excitement is building as LEO's third house moves closer to being called home by five young adults with developmental disabilities and their caregiver. Since the groundbreaking in July, construction has progressed nearly seamlessly, with just the finishing touches left to complete.

Interest in the progress of the house, and our organization, generated feature articles in the most recent "Issaquah, Sammamish and Beyond..." magazine and the December issue of the Issaquah Highlands monthly newspaper, "Connections".

We sincerely appreciate the many businesses and individuals who have helped us reach our goal of a third house, especially the anchor benefactors of the project—Polygon NW and Milbrandt Architects. We eagerly look forward to joining the Issaquah Highlands community that has been so supportive and welcoming.



Photo: HG Photography

Fall Luncheon is a Huge Success!

The many supporters of Life Enrichment Options came out to celebrate and support our organization at the Harvesting Hope fundraising luncheon on October 20th.

Pickering Barn was the scene of the beautiful fall decorations and the warm hearts that gathered together to help us continue our organization's mission to support those with developmental disabilities.

Master of Ceremonies John Curley kept the attendees entertained and engaged. An especially heartwarming and poignant part of the event was the presentation of the *Wizard of Oz* by several young adults with developmental disabilities organized by the very talented Howard McOmber. The words and songs from that classic tale spoke to some of our organizations cornerstone beliefs: the feeling of inclusion and of course, safe and secure housing.

We greatly appreciate all who attended and/or so generously donated to support our work of providing a quality of life for those with developmental disabilities. Your support makes the dreams of these people we love and care about so much come true.

The nest egg to build our fourth adult family home, which will make dreams of independent living come true for five more young adults, is on its way because of your generosity.



Harvesting
2011 LUNCHEON Hope

We Are Growing!

Our organization has grown (thanks to the many supporters and volunteers) to the point of adding paid staff! We welcome Susan Halperin as our Administrative Assistant and Chris Weber as the Development Assistant.

As the Administrative Assistant, Susan will be responsible for office management including phones, email, banking, document organization and implementing and maintaining the database.

Susan has volunteered with the LEO organization for several years and has previously served on the board as secretary and treasurer. Her employment experience includes working with variety of software — implementing, training and supporting

clients — and setting up and managing a small startup office.

Chris is a long-time volunteer with the organization. In her position of Development Assistant she will be concentrating on fundraising, communications and donor relations.

Chris' involvement with LEO includes sharing information about the organization at the Issaquah ArtWalks and LEO educational events. She was one of the original members of the Advisory Board and has served as chair of that board. Chris' background includes public relations, marketing and fundraising with both the Girl Scouts and 4-H, and four years as the news assistant at the Issaquah Press.



Welcome Chris (left) and Susan (right).

Fenders on Front Street Provides Opportunity to Share LEO

This expanding classic car show that encompasses the length of Front Street through downtown Issaquah proved to be a great opportunity to share the LEO organization with the many visitors. Especially attractive for the children was the opportunity to sit in the Issaquah Police sponsored gravity car while their parents had a chance to take a photo and learn more about our organization.



LEO Issaquah Advisory Committee Hosts Issaquah ArtWalks

Once again the Issaquah ArtWalk proved to be a successful way to inform the community about our organization as well as sell some of our notecards designed by local special needs individuals who contributed their beautiful and creative art for the project. The advisory committee members look forward to participating in the monthly event again next summer.

Coinstar Employees Volunteer at the Ann House

Employees from Coinstar's field operations network spent a very busy spring day at the Ann Dennis House cleaning up the yard and flower beds, pressure washing and painting the garage. The results of their hard work made it possible for the residents to better enjoy the back yard during the summer months. The company also made a generous donation to our organization.

Stay Connected with LEO

Be sure to look for our upcoming revamped website. You are invited to also check out our new Facebook page (Life Enrichment Options) to keep up with the progress on the third house and our many other activities.

www.lifeenrichmentoptions.org

Parent Education Evenings Provided by LEO

LEO's Issaquah Advisory Committee presented two parent education evenings in September. The first presentation brought Dr. Jean Edwards to speak about teaching social sexual skills to those with developmental disabilities. The second presentation featured a panel of LEO board members and parents discussing the various housing options available for those with special needs. The advisory committee is always interested in ideas for speakers. If you have a suggestion, please email Chris Weber at: chris.weber@lifeenrichmentoptions.org

Girl Scouts Plant Veggie Garden at Ann House

Girls with special needs from Girl Scout Troop #50121 enthusiastically planted the vegetable garden at the Ann Dennis house for the second year. The girls enjoy helping the Ann House residents enjoy a bountiful harvest of fresh veggies all summer long.



Participation in Parades Pays Off with a Trophy!

LEO participated in two local parades, the Salmon Days parade and the Festival at Mount Si parade, where they won the award for best entry for an organization! Our parade participants enjoyed the cheers of the crowds and support from both communities.

Gravity Gets it Going!

The Issaquah and Sammamish Rotaries continued their efforts in organizing and sponsoring yet another successful year of gravity car races for those with special needs.

Encouraged by their typically developing drivers, many children overcame their fear to get in a car and were rewarded with a thrilling ride. The "thumbs up" sign and ear-to-ear grins showed how proud they were of their accomplishments. Every rider was a winner, getting his or her trophy and certificate with a photo of themselves in one of the cars.

Participants and volunteers are already anxiously awaiting next year's races!



Supporting LEO

There are several ways you can support our organization: employer matching funds, United Way, Washington State Combined Fund Drive, and now, Celebrated Chefs.

Celebrated Chefs is a unique dining program that allows you to support our organization when you dine at one of their participating restaurants. Enrollment is free and includes the exquisite Celebrated Chefs cookbook featuring a signature recipe from each participating restaurant. To enroll, simply contact Chris Weber at chris.weber@lifeenrichmentoptions.org or visit our website at www.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.



Life
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