



LEO News

Why we do what we do

The four cornerstones of our organization are the heart of our mission to support individuals with developmental disabilities. Housing, Employment, Recreation and Educational opportunities all contribute to a fulfilled, inclusive life for people with disabilities. Our goal is simply this: to help build a caring, supportive community for our most vulnerable citizens in order to create a space for them to be engaged in community life, enabling them to enjoy a full, rich life.

Housing is a very important area of focus for LEO. The ARC of Washington State reports that as of November 2012, there were over 2,000 adults with disabilities in the area of King County and south Snohomish County still living in their parents' homes. We receive many calls from these parents looking (often desperately) for a supported living environment for their children. Unfortunately, there are few options and most organizations and homes have substantial wait lists, especially compared to the length of time it takes to get a new home funded, built or remodeled, a caregiver trained, and ready for residents. We want to do more. We need to do more. A property search has begun in the Snoqualmie Valley for our fourth home, with a new home in our sights by 2015.

Employment is a key part of anyone's life journey. And it's especially important to those with developmental disabilities. The



Residents of the Angela House on the porch of their new home.

responsibility of having a job is character building, as well as a positive influence on self-esteem. Interaction with others while working is a way for people with developmental disabilities to be engaged in the life of the community. LEO continues to cultivate meaningful relationships with those organizations responsible for securing these jobs and readily acknowledges and supports those businesses in our community that employ individuals with disabilities. It is through our connection to our community that we

can continue to build on this employment support system.

Recreation and friends are often the glue that holds our lives together. The chance to be actively participating in an activity that you enjoy, and do it with your friends, is a significant part of anyone's life. This is even more important for people with disabilities. Although our partnerships with Issaquah Parks and Recreation and Si View Parks and Recreation provide wonderful opportunities, the classes always fill up immediately, leaving

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Please Join Us at Our Fall Luncheon



"It's About the Journey"
Tuesday, October 22, 2013
11:30 am - 1 pm
Pickering Barn
1730 10th Ave NW, Issaquah

Please RSVP to info@lifeenrichmentoptions.org or call 425.395.6688

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many with no access to this significant part of a satisfying life. LEO is eagerly investigating the possibility of our organization providing activities to supplement those already offered to enable more people with disabilities to stay active and connected to their friends.

Education should be ongoing - for anyone. There's always something new to learn, especially for those whose lives include someone with a disability. We proudly provide presentations from experts in their fields at least twice a year. We also partner with other organizations to provide resource fairs where these families can access information from several organizations in one place, at the same time.

We have worked tirelessly the past 24 years and our efforts have been rewarded with the support of the community allowing us to continue to expand our support to the many families who have family members with disabilities. We hope that you will continue to recognize our efforts and be a part of our caring community by supporting our fundraising luncheon "It's About the Journey" on October 22nd. We have so much more to do. We hope you will consider joining us in our efforts.



Groovin' to the beat in Issaquah Parks & Rec's chorus class.



Volunteering at the Issaquah Food Bank.

Support from car clubs continues

LEO continues to benefit from the generous support of the many car clubs that have become aware of our organization through the numerous car shows at the Triple XXX Drive-in, as well as the annual Father's Day event, "Fenders on Front Street." Many thanks to Marv Nielsen and Jose Enciso for their continued commitment to supporting and sharing the work of our organization.



Jose and Marv.

LEO now benefitting from vehicle donations

LEO is now able to benefit from your donation of a used car, van, truck, boat with a trailer, or recreational vehicle, adding to our sources of funding to fulfill our organization's mission. Thanks to long-time LEO supporters Marty and Stacy Chilberg, we researched the possibility of accepting their generous donation of a 1998 Lexus resulting in our partnering with Melwood Charity Car Donation Center, a non-profit agency, to manage and operate our vehicle donation program. Melwood, since 1963 has provided job training and employment for over 2,000 individuals with disabilities.

All vehicles are accepted regardless of age and condition. Free towing is offered whether the vehicle is running or not, and your donation qualifies as an IRS tax deduction.

To arrange for a vehicle donation, call their toll-free number at 1-855-KAR-CCDC (1-855-527-2232) with the year, make and model of your vehicle, the general condition, the vehicle identification number, and your title and lien.



Having fun at an outdoor concert!



Hiking at Mt. Rainier.



Hanging out at home on a summer evening.

**The residents of the LEO
homes and their friends
had a great summer!
We hope you did too!**



*Volunteering at the Issaquah
Challenge Series Races.*



Fun in the sun, and water, at Family Fun Center.



Getting creative with chalk art.



Life
Enrichment
Options

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➤ To learn more about LEO,
make a donation or
join our mailing list, visit

www.lifeenrichmentoptions.org

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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.