



# LEO News

## High School Students volunteer at Angela House

So you are a teenager and have free time on the weekend; what do you do with the time?? Watch sports? Go to the movies? Play video games? How about volunteering to interact with young adults with disabilities or do household chores for senior citizens? That's what a group of Issaquah High School seniors called "Dream Catchers" does with their time.

Dream Catchers meets twice a month, on Saturday or Sunday for a couple of hours at LEO's Angela House to interact with the residents. "My guys enjoy it" says Angela House caregiver Evelyn Galasso. "The students interact one on one with the residents. They play video games, chess, checkers, monopoly and other board games or even watch the Seahawks game. The residents also love to show off their hobbies such as animation, braiding with pyrolace, putting together airplane models, paper chain making, etc. It's another way for us to be part of our community. And, I usually make snacks for them".

The club, started by Issaquah High student Jin Kang, was born out of Kang's family background of volunteerism. "We do a lot of volunteer work as a family", says Kang. "My mom is very involved with The Asian American Cancer Fellowship. I help a lot with her work there." Spinning off his own club seemed a natural progression. So, Kang and five classmates formed "Dream Catchers". They began by

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**"Dream Catchers" enjoying weekend time with Angela House residents.**

## Glee Actress' Local Appearance Inspires

Actress Lauren Potter, star of the television show "Glee" visited Bellevue College last month to share her inspiring story of "Living a Glee-full Life". And her message of "Be Exceptional" was heard by a crowd of captivated fans. Potter, who plays the role of "Becky Jackson" in the television series has used her on-screen fame to become both an anti-bullying activist, as well as a Special Olympics Ambassador.

Potter's appearance was sponsored by Parent Map, a Puget Sound-based parenting resource. In addition to Potter's appearance and photo session with audience members, the event included a resource fair for special needs youth and families, as well as guest speakers Steven Ferreira and Ben Wahl. Ferreira, a graduate of Liberty High School and Bellevue College, was born with Cerebral Palsy and has dedicated his life to promoting disability awareness through our schools. Wahl acts as the Program Director of Ryther's Aspiring Youth Program. The program supports children, teens and young adults with Asperger's Syndrome, ADHD, and learning disabilities, by offering a summer Outdoor Leadership camp for children and youth 9- 24 years of age in Seattle, Kirkland, Bellevue and Portland.



*Issaquah High School graduate Brian Galbraith had the honor and responsibility to interview Loren Potter following her presentation. He is seen getting interviewing tips from King 5's Jim Dever, and visiting with Potter.*

*Well done Brian!!*



### *Question and Answers with Glee star Lauren Potter*

1. What does your day look like when you are filming Glee?

*Lauren confessed that her favorite part of the day while on the set is hanging out with the other actors and playing games with them.*

2. Do you see the other Glee actors outside the studio?

*Lauren said that meeting both Betty White and George Clooney were highlights for her.*

3. Which fellow Glee cast member do you most look up to?

*Lauren's answer was her Glee sidekick played by Jane Lynch .*



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working with the Eastside Friends of Seniors, but wanted to expand their reach to working with younger adults. Life Enrichment Options seemed the perfect fit.

The fledgling club approached LEO thru the LEO website. LEO executive director Fred Nystrom referred Kang directly to Galasso. "When Jin first contacted me" recalls Galasso "he was so well spoken and organized I thought I was speaking to a teacher or adviser".

Angela House finds many ways for its residents to be part of the local community. The residents participate in YoungLife events, ICC programs, movies, Zumba classes, and volunteer events of all kinds. But with the Dream Catchers, the community and the interaction that comes with it, happens right in their own home. Dream Catchers is catching on at Angela House.



## Welcome Home and Thank You!

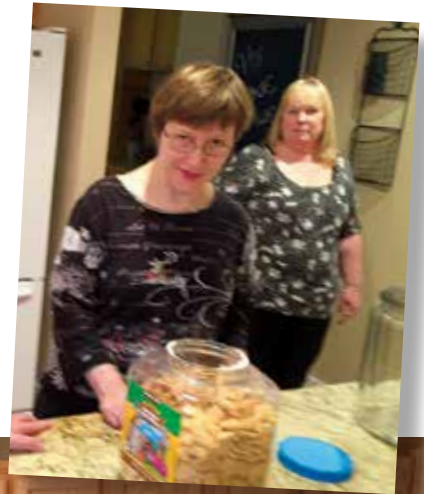
The first home LEO built was back in 2003 and we called her the ROSE HOUSE. After many years of taking care of our residents, Rose House was wilting a bit and in need of some TLC. A huge THANK YOU goes out to the Employees Community Fund of Boeing Puget Sound which awarded us a grant to do just that! Without their generous grant we would not have been able to give the Rose House the care she needed. We will be forever grateful!

*The lives we are touching are forever changed!*

The old adage "It takes a village to raise a child" is truly embraced by our community! We began our project back in June and with the help of many vendors, local businesses and friends, it was completed in September. Tom Schmoe's Construction Team was amazing, precise, diligent, caring, and truly a pleasure to work with. Benjamin Moore Paints, Home Depot, and Best Buy were our go-to local support businesses. Friends Jeff and Helen Glenn donated a week of their time to carefully craft most of the mill work, making Rose House look like a home that will last a lifetime. People like Deborah and Mike Donohoe gave many hours of their time transporting furniture, hanging pictures and bringing their laughter and spirit to the project. Jessica Lakeru and her father, Tom Clinton, tirelessly helped move personal belongings in and out of bedrooms for an entire day while new carpet was being installed. The Rose House caregivers, Gary and Renee Taylor, put their lives on hold while workers and volunteers came and went all summer long! Their flexibility, willingness to help with the remodel and patience during this past summer was truly a gift. Our

residents were patient, helpful, loving and so appreciative, especially when their new big screen TV arrived!

LEO, with the help of all of you, is able to do amazing things here in Issaquah, Sammamish and the Snoqualmie Valley! The lives we are touching are forever changed! We are honored and proud to work with all of you! Dreams really do come true! Rose House is blooming once again.



## Well Known Local Banker Appointed to the LEO Board

The Board of Directors of Life Enrichment Options (LEO) is proud to announce that Robert Ittes has joined the board.

Robert Ittes currently serves as the Senior Vice President and Commercial Team Leader for Heritage Bank's East King County region. Ittes is a veteran of more than 37 years in the Pacific Northwest Banking community having served in many senior management capacities, which included the founding President of Issaquah Bank and Issaquah Community Bank.

Ittes holds a Bachelor's degree from Laverne College and an MBA from Seattle University. His local civic affiliations have included the Issaquah Historical Society, Issaquah Schools Foundation, Issaquah Chamber of Commerce, and the Issaquah and Sammamish Rotary Clubs.

Ittes states "I am very excited to contribute to the good works of LEO in the greater Issaquah community. I have been impressed with the fact that LEO has constructed three Adult Family Homes in Issaquah and provides safe, comfortable and long-term living choices for 15 individuals. I look forward to continuing to work with LEO and the local Rotary Clubs to host the Challenge Series Races in Issaquah, Sammamish and Snoqualmie."



Life  
Enrichment  
Options

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➤ To learn more about LEO,  
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[www.lifeenrichmentoptions.org](http://www.lifeenrichmentoptions.org)

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**Please  
consider these  
opportunities  
for you to help  
us continue  
our mission  
of supporting  
individuals with  
developmental  
disabilities**

- **Donate your used vehicle**, regardless of condition, by calling 1-855-527-2232
- **Shop at Fred Meyer** and LEO will benefit from their Community Rewards Program. Simply link your Fred Meyer Rewards card by going to [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards).
- Designate LEO when contributing to the **United Way**
- Designate LEO when contributing to the **Washington State Combined Fund**
- **In-kind donations** by contacting LEO @ 425-395-6688
- **Leave a legacy** by contacting LEO to receive more information
- Use *GoodSearch* and identify Life Enrichment Options as your search engine and use *GoodShop* when you buy something via the internet. LEO will benefit both ways.

Your charitable gift to Life Enrichment Options helps us fulfill our mission to support individuals with developmental disabilities. Donations to LEO go to fund supportive housing, employment opportunities, recreation and community education, leading to secure and satisfying lives in their community.

*If you prefer to receive our newsletter via e-mail, or would like to be removed from our distribution list, please e-mail us at [info@lifeenrichmentoptions.org](mailto:info@lifeenrichmentoptions.org).*

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