



News From...

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HOME LIFE

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2020

Farewell to Home Life

It is with great sadness and pride that I make my farewell announcement to the Home Life community. I submitted my resignation to the board of directors on August 27 and plan to leave no later than November 30.



Dave Zaback, Executive Director

After 32 years of living in Corvallis and working in the I/DD community, I am ready for a change and some new adventures. I plan to move to Bend and pursue work in a yet-to-be-determined field.

The good news is that I am leaving Home Life with solid teams at the administrative, management, and direct support professional (DSP) levels. We have fewer staff vacancies than we've had at any time in recent history. I'm also happy to report that our financial position is strong. Please do not take that to mean we have enough money! We need significantly more resources to pay fair wages to our DSPs and to manage our homes and transportation, so please continue to support us.

When I came to Home Life in 2005, there were many familiar faces from my years as a coach in Special Olympics and my work at Cornerstone (then called Open Door). These faces welcomed me warmly, and I was so excited to bring my experience and passion to the Home Life family.

Some of highlights that stand out to me from the past 15 years include:

- 2006: Took over the Great Pumpkin Run from the Kiwanis Club of Corvallis
- 2007: Completed Coho Capital Campaign and purchased four-bedroom condo
- 2008: Robinson House donated, renovated for \$300,000; Teater House donated; Olleman House purchased; successfully applied for vocational services license to provide much-needed job development, job coaching and employment path opportunities
- 2009: Sackett House purchased, 17th Street fourplex purchased
- 2012: Fillmore Fourplex Capital Campaign launched
- 2014: Administrative office building and apartment purchased and renovated
- 2020: Teater House renovated, adding bedroom and accessibility

I do not take credit for the above list. Instead I've been honored to bring my gifts to these team efforts that included the board of directors, the incredible Home Life staff, and the Corvallis community at large.

I want to thank the board of directors for hiring and believing in me, my administrative team, management team, and our direct support professionals team. I especially want to thank the people we support in our homes, apartments, and through our Supported Living and Vocational programs, for their contributions to the Corvallis community and to my heart. I believe in our mission and values and plan to continue supporting Home Life as much as I can into the future.

Thank you to all our donors, sponsors, and families for your support.

Farewell, Home Life Community. I will miss you.

--Dave Zaback

Checking in with Coho and Olleman

Coho House

Friends of the women of Coho speak highly of their kind-hearted generosity and consistent support of each other. In the early days of the pandemic, Bev, Lea, and Bonnie were deeply touched by the stories of men and women in Assisted Living facilities who were unable to visit their family members. They went to work creating arts and crafts and picking flowers from the Community Garden at Coho and Bonnie delivered the gifts and flowers to the homes.



The women of Coho enjoy a picnic. L to R: Bonnie, DSP Kristi Young, Lea, and Bev (Photo credit: Alexa Zaback)

This was a good job for Bonnie, who loves all things related to mail delivery and before Covid-19 arrived delivered mail regularly for Cornerstone. Since it feels risky for her to be out in public spaces right now, she looks forward to getting and sorting the house mail each day and going on walks with her mom twice a week. Program Coordinator Cathy Kennedy **marvels at Bonnie's infectious laughter and the joy she brings to the home.**

Olleman House

Olleman resident Linda Bach lives to make art - and does so with considerable talent and in all kinds of media. In 2018, two different exhibits, a Salon at the Corvallis Arts Center and Storming the Academy at OSU, featured several of her drawings. Besides drawing, Linda also embroiders and paints. Many of her paintings have been purchased at the InSight Gallery at the Arc Thrift Store in Corvallis.

Linda also loves her job at Cornerstone, where she's worked for 25 years. She folds, seals, and stamps newsletters and brochures as part of Cornerstone's mailing department.

Bev, who adores socializing, has struggled with the need to stay at home. Her art classes, a source of great pleasure to her, were cancelled for many months. Recently, however, Cornerstone began offering the classes online twice daily and Bev is thrilled to chat with her friends virtually. Recently, she enjoyed time in



Bev gets creative! (Photo credit: Alexa Zaback)

Millersburg at the Art Barn Sunny Farm Bed and Breakfast while workers installed carpets at her Coho home. She walked around the property and visited the bunnies and farm animals. She also discovered a new creative medium when she found a big box of Legos and started building houses.

Lea relished an overnight stay with her parents and brother during the carpet installation. Her dad made a surprise arrival to pick her up, which delighted her. Lea has some issues with her vision that make it difficult for her to see and use the keyboards and screens on regular computers. Her Coronavirus stimulus check enabled her to purchase a new computer with a huge screen and a keyboard with extra-large keys. Now she can see both the keys and the words on the screen as she practices her typing and the whole experience feels better all around.

Unfortunately, because of Covid, Linda hasn't been able to go to her art classes or to her job.

According to Program Manager Angela

Escobedo, she's going stir crazy. Fortunately, her



Linda Bach (r) painting with support from art teacher, Elizabeth Black



Mary Ruth dresses up for art

art teacher, Elizabeth Black of the Arc of Benton County, is teaching Linda and a few other students online by giving them particular prompts with their art. Linda also enjoys getting out for drives and walks.

Mary Ruth Wilson, who also lives at Olleman, is known as the princess of the house. She's all about

glitter, pink, and watching Frozen. She also loves getting manicures and pedicures. Angela, who has known Mary Ruth since 2009, calls her "the happiest person I have ever met in my entire life," and says she's never once seen her angry.

Before the pandemic hit, Mary Ruth attended a vocational program called Gateway, where she enjoyed arts and crafts,

lots of singing, and her favorite dance, the Twist. These days her social interactions are limited to Zoom, and she struggles to understand why she can't go to her program.

Barb Boss, the third Olleman housemate, adores listening to the radio and, more specifically, to 99.1, the classic rock station out of Eugene. She is a bit of a savant and can always name the song playing, the band performing it, and the year it came out. Her happy place is lying in her bed and talking to herself about all the things she's seen and heard that day.



Barb listens to her favorite radio channel, 99.1

Barb also loves visits from her sister Beth. Before Covid, she would look forward to spending one weekend a month at her sister's house. Since Covid-19 became such a threat, her sister comes to visit Barb at Olleman House instead.

Donor Corner



Ruth Olleman

We are honored and excited to announce that the Ruth Olleman Trust made an incredibly generous gift of \$200,000 to Home Life to support our mission and work during the Covid-19 pandemic and into the future. This is not the first time the Olleman Family has stepped forward to provide much-needed support to our community.

Ruth, who passed away in March 2019, lived for many years in what we now call Olleman House. Her parents, Betty and Roger, initially purchased the home to create a faith-based group home where Ruth could live with others. They later sold it to Home Life for far less than its market value.

Now, in 2020, when we've been facing so many challenges as a result of the pandemic, Ruth's siblings reached out and offered this amazing gift. These funds will provide engagement opportunities for the supported individuals in

our Residential and Supported Living Programs during this extended time of having to stay at home. We will also use part of the gift to create a Quality Assurance position at Home Life to ensure that supported individuals receive the highest quality of care.

Thank you so much to the Olleman Family for the difference you've made and will continue to make at Home Life! And thank you to *all* donors who have offered financial support.. For a complete list of those who gave in our last fiscal year, go to www.homelifeinc.org/newsletter. We hope others will be inspired by your generosity!

Survey Enclosed!

[Click Here!](#)

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed questionnaire. We'd love to know more about what aspects of our work are important to you and how you came to care about these critical issues. Your input means a great deal to us. Thank you!

Contributors for Fiscal Year

2018-2019

Amaral, Anthony	Judd, Judith & Don	Scandiffio, Celeste
Andrews, John	Kiff, Adam	Schoolcraft, Toni Lee & Pauline
Anstadt, Antoinette	Koebel, Art & Mary Beth	Schuetz, Stephen & Patricia
Baisinger, Glen & Nancy	Koski, James & Carol	Schulz, Karen & Martin
Ball, Deborah & Peter	Krantz, Jerry & Vida	Searcy, James & Julie
Beach, Gary & Mona	Kuehlwein, Thomas	Seimer, Priscella
Bernhard, Robert & Peggy	Kurtz, Louis & Julie	Seville, Mary
Berra, Harold & Patricia	LeTourneux, Jeanette & Steve	Shaub, Fred
Berry, Merle & Carol	LeTourneux, Joyce	Slezak, Linda
Bertalotto, Kimzy & Carolyn	Leman, Nancy	Smith, James & Sandra
Binder-Vitti, Megan & Tyson	Li, Hiram & Judy	Sparks, Herb
Blackcrow, Dorothy Mack	Long, Celeste & Lenora	Stebbins, Robert & Monine
Brooks, Michael & Sara	Long, Patrick & Sue	Stephens, Leland & Donna
Cihak, Michael & Susan	Long, Steven	Strickling, Michael & Beth
Colley, Relan	Lystra, Wayne	Stroppel, Kathryn & David
Collins, Douglas & Kathryn	Maddux, David & Lydia	Swanson, Anne
Collins, Jeff	Martin, Carmen & William	Swigert, Kathy
Cook, Blaine & Betty	Martinsen, John & Linda	Tacke, John
Cooke, Brian & Andrea	McConaughy, Alice	Thomas, Marjorie & David
Cutting, Nichols	McKay, Alvin & Kathie	Traber, Biff
Davis, Don & Nancy	McLane, Michael & Kathleen	Trow Living Trust, Cliff & Jo Anne
Dooley, Margaret	McQueary, Jo Ann & Tim	Van Vliet, Tony & Louise
Gelser, Peter	Miller, Paul & Emily	Wadlow, Ben & Terry
Gilroy, Barbara	Modrell, Linda	Wadsworth, Spike & Sherry
Gomez, Richard & Brenda	Molthan, Evelyn	Weibel, Kathie
Groesz, Nancy & Jerry	Morse, Michael & Tari	Wilson, Paul
Hammond, Rachel & Nathaniel	Mykrantz, Jack	Winkler, Judy
Heathcote, Laine	Myrtue, Jeanice	Wittrup, Richard & Patti
Heck, William & Annie	Nusrala, James & Maryann	Wolfenbarger, Lynda
Hobbs, John & Susan	O'Connor, Neil & Kim	Wyatt, Ralph & Lianne
Houglum, Lyla	Oakes, Daylin	Yates, Dan & Mary
Howell, Anthony & Patricia	Parker, Phoebe	Yates, Tamara
Hubbard, Thomas & Shareinea	Pawlowski, Brent & Andrea	Young, Lorrie
Hull, John	Phillips, Wayne	Zaback, Charles & Kay
Humphrey, Trevor & Caitlin	Pliskin, Leslie & Nancy	Zaback, Dave
Huntington, Michael & Carol	Prevost, Ronald & Mary	Zaerr, Joe & Lois
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