



News From...

# HOME LIFE

Choices for all. Barriers for none.

Volume 28 Issue 1

2019

## Challenges and Opportunities...

2019 has been a good year at Home Life with a few challenges and many changes that are creating new opportunities. We've faced into the challenges, welcomed new board members and new staff, and raised a significant amount of money for a remodel.

Due to the booming economy and low unemployment rate, filling DSP (Direct Support Professionals) positions has been a huge challenge. Over the last year, we have seen 12-20 open positions at any given time with very few applications coming in. (Applications are picking up now that OSU is back in session.) We made four trips to the state Capitol this year to lobby our legislators for improved funding to bring our average DSP wages to \$15.00 per hour. Although we didn't get what we asked for we did get an increase in of 4% which allowed us to account for the new minimum wage increase but we continue to be woefully underfunded and well below an average of \$15.00. We are hoping for another increase in the second year of the biennium.

Our new staff include Jennifer Cossel, Human Resources Director, Ashley Marcus, Program Director and Tamara Yates,



Development Manager. While Jennifer and Ashley filled existing roles, Tamara is filling a new role to enhance and develop our

donor base as well as writing grants for capital improvement projects. Tamara comes to us with over 8 years as the Director of Development and then Philanthropy at L'Arche Portland.

Tamara has helped us raised \$137,000 toward a \$170,000 project to make our Teater House fully accessible and to increase the capacity from two to three bedrooms.



We have finished the first phase of the remodel, which is to rebuild two bathrooms. The next phase includes wheelchair ramps and a garage conversion. The project will ultimately make it possible for us to support three people in the home.

I'm also happy to extend a warm welcome to our new Board members Kathryn Stoppel and Jaden Emminger. Kathryn is the Director of Communications and Marketing at Oregon State University's College of Public Health and Human Sciences. Jaden is a student at OSU with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and working on a Master's Degree in Quantitative Psychology.

Kathryn and Jaden are also both part of the new Development Committee at Home Life. This group meets once a month to work on our fundraising strategies to fill the gap between what the state pays and what we need to provide a quality service. I feel excited and hopeful about this dynamic group, which has excellent energy and experience for the task.

Despite all the challenges, I know we have a bright future and we will continue to focus on our mission. We made real connections with our Legislators at the Capitol and our Development Committee is sure to make a real difference in our relationship with this wonderful community. I'm looking forward to witnessing the results as we head into 2020!

-Dave Zaback



Uptown Painting proudly donates 10% of each job to one of a few awesome charities, and Home Life is one of those charities! They offer interior/exterior painting as well as holiday light installation in the fall/winter. For more information or to schedule an appointment you can go to their website here: <http://uptownpaintingnw.com> or call the office at (971) 330-3141.

# Program Updates

## Coho House

The Ladies have really enjoyed their summer! Beverly was excited to be a flower girl in her cousin's wedding in late July. Lea has been learning and planting plants along with the other ladies. She has germinated an avocado seed that has sprouted roots and is waiting to plant it so she can gift it to her mother.

Bonnie has been watching shows off Hulu that her mother has gifted to Coho. They all love it and enjoy being able to watch different shows together.



## Koebel House

A lot is happening here at Koebel House. This spring, Amy celebrated her 50th birthday with friends and family at her side. Tom went to Disney Land with Trips, one of his favorite destinations. Mary had her bags packed and ready to go well in advance for her trip to Upward Bound Camp, her most favorite place ever. Dave and Cindy took a trip to Newport where they visited local shops, went to the beach and then warmed up with some local chowder.

## Mumford House

It has been a fun summer with many of us getting away for vacations. From Portland to the coast we have enjoyed the sunshine and fun of Oregon. We've had some sadness as three long-term staff have left Mumford and Home Life, but we're excited about several former staff coming back to the house to fill the empty positions—especially Elizabeth G., our new program manager. And now, as we head into winter holidays, everyone is getting into a festive mood as we pull out the decorations and smell the pumpkin spice in the air.

## Olleman House

It has been a busy summer for all the ladies of Olleman House. We have had beach trips, movies and local excursions to see the wonderful changes of seasons. The ladies have been enjoying planning for the upcoming holiday season—from family visits to holiday outings. August, October and December are the birthday months and festivities to celebrate have been amazing. Carrot cake and princess parties have been just a few of them. Next year's plans have started for trips to Mt. Angel and visiting family in other cities.

## Robinson House

It's been a hopping summer at Robinson House. In June, Daniel and Dennis went together to Disneyland. It was Daniel's first time ever and they had a blast. Daniel and Jeremy each also attended Kiwanis Camp. Daniel was thrilled by a successful canoeing adventure and they were both happy to make new friends. Dennis attended Camp Hope at Rockaway Beach in mid-August. Alex was super excited to get a job at the Marriott downtown! Unfortunately, he later rolled his ankle and had to rest it for much of the summer. Mike is looking forward to a trip to Eugene where he can do some shopping and go out to eat.

## Sackett House

Andy loves to go for van rides and enjoys his bi-weekly trip to Shari's restaurant. He also enjoys helping staff, drinking his hot cocoa or coffee and Snapchat. Allen's favorite activities include watching sports with his mom and eating! He loves to paint and you can ask him anything about the weather in Oregon and he is sure to know. Mike is a super social guy, he loves getting to ride the train to go see his family and loves hanging out with his friends. He takes delight in working in his garden and listening to music on his phone. Mike

also enjoys playing jokes on his staff and friends.

## Teater House

Stefan has been volunteering through Collaborative Employment Innovations (CEI) and Home Life's Vocational Rehab Program. He walks dogs and works regularly at a community garden in town. He enjoys being able to ride the bus to and from CEI. Crosby has also been working with CEI doing some job development. He has submitted a number of applications for jobs and is excited to begin interviewing. He still loves working at Calapooia Brewery, where he is a powerhouse when it comes to dishes!

## Vocational Program

At the Vocational Program, individuals have the opportunity to learn skills that will assist them in finding employment in the community. We volunteer at local animal shelters, Love INC, Vina Moses, The Arc, community gardens and Habitat for Humanity. Once the person is ready for a job, they move into job development. A job developer will then work with an individual to find a job that fits their goals. Within the last six months, seven people have been placed in community positions!

## Woods House

Woods House has had a very busy summer welcoming new resident Lucy to the house. Everyone has had a great time getting to know one another while attending the fun festivities of the summer including the Benton County Fair and Special Olympics. We are very grateful to the many staff who have helped us out during this transition time!



# Donor Corner

## Donor Appreciation Picnic



Our first annual Donor Appreciation Picnic, on July 28<sup>th</sup>, was a huge success! Almost 40 donors, clients, Board members, and staff gathered together at the Rotary Shelter at Willamette Park for burgers, hot dogs, Calapooia beer, and delicious Strawberry

Shortcake cupcakes made by former Board member Karen Shulz. We are so grateful to our donors for helping fund the gap between the State funding and what it actually costs to

provide Residential, Supported Living, and Vocational services to the clients we serve. If you couldn't come this year, we hope to see you at next year's picnic. To learn more about the impact you make or can make by donating to Home Life, contact Tamara Yates at 541-753-9015.

**Leave a gift to Home Life in your will**

Avoid paying taxes and make an impact on future generations of adults with intellectual and /developmental disabilities. To learn more contact Tamara Yates at 541-753-9015.

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## Contact Us

Home Life, Inc  
2068 NW Fillmore Ave  
Corvallis, OR 97330

Phone: (541) 753-9015

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.homelifeinc.org](http://www.homelifeinc.org)



[Facebook.com/homelifeinc.](https://www.facebook.com/homelifeinc)



## Thank you for making the 2019 Oregon State Credit Union Great Pumpkin Run such a huge success for Home Life!

We are enormously grateful for all the friends, clients, families, staff, and sponsors who came together on October 5<sup>th</sup> to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. And what a difference you made!

Our generous sponsors gave over \$17,000 to the run

69 runners registered for the 10K

331 runners participated in the 5K

41 children made their way through the obstacle course

72 volunteers helped to make the event happen seamlessly

Participants donated \$1,800 to Home Life's mission and work

We raised almost \$30,000!!



These much needed funds will go straight to our work of assisting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to enjoy active, productive, and empowered lives. Because State and federal contracts cover only the very basics in care, the generosity of community donors is a crucial part of our capacity to provide the support that our clients need and deserve. Many, many thanks.

If you didn't get a chance to participate in this year's Great Pumpkin Run but would like to be a part of ensuring quality care for the people with disabilities whom we serve, please send in a check today! We need and welcome your support.

Home Life assists people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to enjoy active, productive, and empowered lives.