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2007 Helping Hand Awards

Individuals and organizations in our communities support our programs in many way—from joining in fundraising campaigns to organizing gifts and free services for our children. We extend a warm-hearted thank you to the following 2007 Helping Hand Award recipients.

August 24th a luncheon was held at the new Syringa House, The following were recognized for their volunteer and financial support to Northwest Children's Home Syringa project. With tears of joy, Linda Smith, Program Manager, thanked the recipients for their support and commitment.

Teresa Alexander Maxine Horn
Bob & Pat Jacobsen Lynn Borud
B. Edgar Johnson Linda Clark

Bev Montgomery Marti Hales,
Gary Morgan Barry Fujishin
Julie Thomas Vickie Holbrook

Nick Treinen Mary Lee Wood

Pam White

J.A. & Kathryn Albertson Foundation

Special recognition was given during the annual meeting of Northwest Children's Home Board of Directors held in Lewiston September 27th. The following individuals were presented Helping Hand awards for their generosity and on-going support of our boys and girls.

Inland Cellular

Headmasters School of Hair Design

Lewiston Police Department

Larry Kopczynski

Kathy Connerley

Linda Dial

For additional information please contact:

Julene Reed | Director of Development | (208) 465-9936 | jreed@northwestchildrenshome.org Lori Skelton | Director of Marketing & Development | (206) 743-9404 x205 | lskelton@northwestchildrenshome.org or visit our website at www.northwestchildrenshome.org | Donate online or send check to P.O. Box 1288 Lewiston, ID 83501



Opening of the NEW Syringa House

1723 S. Horton Street | Nampa, ID 83686

After years of fundraising, the Syringa House girls expressed excitement about their spacious home as the new Syringa house opened its doors August 24th. "With extra space and game tables, there is more room for us to socialize," said Crystal, a resident. "We have

so much more room here; we can lie on the floor and not touch anything!" explained Amanda, another resident of the home.

Syringa House was previously a 12-bed program located at 1306 E. Karcher Road, Nampa. Over the last 20 years, the home has helped hundreds of special needs children. With the new 14,000 square foot facility, at 1723 S. Horton Street, capacity has doubled. The new home boasts larger bedrooms, bigger closets, new beds and dressers, a new classroom and a group therapy room. The additional space and new furnishings have made life much better for the girls.

In the old house, the girls could not use a hairdryer while the clothes dryer was running or it would blow out a circuit and the coffee and microwave could never be used simultaneously.

The process of obtaining funds and building the facility met many challenges. Throughout it all, the new home would not have been possible without the generosity and hard work of donors and volunteers. Since the Syringa House opened its doors, the community

> has continued to reach out to us and the needs of our girls. But the most important aspect of the new home is being able to serve more girls in need of our care.



Linda Smith, Program Director, Syringa House, ribbon cutting with staff, guests, and the Board of Directors.

Syringa House provides residential, therapeutic and educational services to children ages 11-18 that come from a variety of situations. Many girls come from homes where they have experienced severe neglect and abuse. These children live with us 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. For many, this is the first time in their lives they have had a safe, structured, supportive environment.

If you would like to learn more about our program or visit Syringa House, please contact Julene Reed at (208) 465-9936 or jreed@northwestchildrenshome.org.

The mission of Northwest Children's Homs is to provide quality rehabilitative, therapeutic and educational services for children and families.

A Pause to Reflect

By Executive Director, Rod Wilson & Past Board Chair, Mike McAllister

As we pause to look back at the past year at Northwest Children's Home, we need to examine what truly makes our organization great. What is it that prompts others to give praise for the services we provide abused, neglected and abandoned children? The answer is easy ... it's people who truly care and want to make a positive impact.

A single person or a specific group of individuals cannot be credited for our success. It's all of you who give your time, talent and treasure that enable Northwest Children's Home to achieve excellence. Each of you is critical to our success and the accomplishments of our boys and girls. Without our hard working staff, generosity from the community, direction and oversight from the Board of Directors, our ability to help children and families would certainly be in jeopardy.

Dedication and commitment are essential qualities for working with troubled youth. Direction and course are necessary elements of our strategic plan that focus our efforts. Identifying goals provides us a roadmap toward continued improvement. Our goal to build a new Syringa House, for example, stands out as a major achievement this year. With direction, dedication and commitment we have doubled the capacity from 12 to 24 girls allowing us to better meet the increasing need for female services. Although we take this opportunity to celebrate, we're aware of the importance of looking

Our 2008 centennial is a special year for Northwest Children's Home. One hundred years of continued service for children and families is a wonderful reason to

rejoice. Our planning committee is setting in motion a series of activities and events that will build a heightened awareness of our programs and services. As Mike McAllister we pause to look back at our accomplishments, and as we prepare for our centennial celebration, be assured that your individual and collective contributions are | Deanne Schmitt appreciated and needed as we begin another 100-years of building brighter futures for children and families.

Board of Directors

David Dokken - Chair Roger Lanier - Vice-Chair Dave Biery - Treasurer Christy Hagle - Secretary **Immediate Past Chair** Jay Lunsford Lana Elliott Ann Mattoon Sherry George Nancy Ingram

John Keatts

Betsy Bolland

Curt Hibbard

Seeing the Rewards by Drug & Alcohol Counselor, Liz Hess. Ph.D., LMHC

This is the most rewarding experience I have ever had with young people. I get to see all the beauty and potential of each of our children emerge as we proceed through our substance abuse sessions. The resiliency of a child is phenomenal and all it takes is a caring adult and a decent drug and alcohol program to clear the mind, heal the wounds, and create a new life.

> "Liz, You've shown me a way to love myself and accepting myself for the changes I've made to be sober. You've shown me a new life, Love Vanna."

When she gave me this upon her graduation from our program, I thanked her and let her know that I treasured it.

But I reminded her, "I am just holding your hand while you see the door. Open it, and walk through to a new life and a new you." I am humbled by the strength of the young people I work with and I am blessed by their successes.

Thank Yous!!

Thank you to Bob & Pat Jacobsen who hosted "Building a Home Environment" Fundraising Event, at their home, on Saturday, September 8th

This event raised over \$10,000, and the proceeds will be used toward building a pole barn at the new Syringa House. Plans are being made to begin building this November.

In addition, thank you to Albertsons Boise Open for naming the Northwest Children's Home - Syringa House as one the twelve 2007 Beneficiaries As part of Albertsons ongoing effort to support community-based organizations promoting the health and well being of children and youth in Southwest Idaho, Albertsons has created a formal grant process for the proceeds to be awarded from the Albertsons Boise Open presented by First Health. The grants will be distributed in December 2007, and the funds recieved will be used towards our pole barn.

Thank you to Thrivent Financial Join Hands Day for purchasing and planting trees on the Syringa House property. Shade from these trees will offer our girls a cool, relaxing place to socialize during the warm summer months.



Special thank you to Lutheran Community Services, Northern Rocky Region.

July 13-15, Lutheran Community Services, Northern Rocky Region, sponsored all of the Syringa girls so they could attend Camp Perkins on Altrius Lake in the Sawtooths. The girls hiked, canoed, swam, played volleyball, and made crafts. They sang camp songs around the campfire, and they put on skits. The girls thoroughly enjoyed their first camp experience, and we would not have been able give our girls this experience without the generosity of this organization.



Blackhills Seminars

Each summer, Reclaiming Youth sponsors the Black Hills Seminars in Rapid City, South Dakota. Eight Northwest Children's Home (NCH) Education Center staff members attended this year's seminars. Funding for our staff members'training came from the J.A. & Kathryn Albertson Foundation.

Reclaiming Youth Conference

Reclaiming Youth International is one of several American-based organizations dedicated to improving treatment for at-risk youth through research, publications and conferences. Their foundational philosophy is based on the work of Nicholas Hobbs (Re-education of Emotionally Disturbed Youth or Re-ED) and others abuse; resiliency; autism; positive peer support; selfwho pioneered positive-reinforcement and strengthbased intervention for troubled children. In the mid-1990s, NCH Education Centers adopted the Re-ED philosophy of the Positive Education Program (PEP) in Cleveland, OH. PEP, Reclaiming Youth International, and like-minded organizations provide guidance to establish more effective and positive practices for educating our students.

There were more than 40 breakout sessions covering a wide range of topics including: strength-based programs; the brain and group behavior; social and emotional learning; culture in counseling and therapy; healing racism; effective supervision; treating drug



Roy McConaughey's classroom skit



esteem; discipline with dignity; and healing trauma. The NCH staff who attended the conference were extremely impressed with the quality of the presentations and potential of integrating the information into their classrooms.

Circle of Courage Training

In addition to the Reclaiming Youth Conference, several NCH staff attended the Circle of Courage Workshop, also in Rapid City. The Circle of Courage, which is based on the Native American medicine wheel, is the model for the Education Centers' point, level and rating system. Students begin on belonging level, learning how to become a member of the group. They work their way to mastery level (mastering a skill or skills), then to independence, and finally to generosity (level 4). As they progress through the level system, students are given increased responsibilities and extended more privileges. Once a student has successfully completed all four levels, s/he enters the Circle of Courage, wherein minimum staff guidance/ supervision are needed. This program is designed to last 9-18 months.

Free Fishing by Marketing & Development Director, Lori Skelton



A couple of kids head off to the river with fishing poles over their shoulders and Grandpa in the lead - whatever they catch . . . or don't catch . . . you know they're going to have a great day.

Did you know that the Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG) has helped make this kind of experience possible for the kids at the Northwest Children's Home for years? Staff at the Northwest Children's Home has been able to take numerous groups of kids on fishing trips through Fish & Game's educational fishing license program – at no cost.

Fish and Game's Fisheries Manager, Ed Schriever in Lewiston says: "Recruitment and retention of anglers is a big part of our mission." The educational and institutional licenses available through his office enable people to fish who might not otherwise have the opportunity.

Fish and Game also has fishing rods and reels available for loan to help facilitate successful fishing outings. IDFG hopes that the angling opportunity provided to these folks by the Educational Permit will translate into lifelong enjoyment of outdoor recreation, including fishing.

For more information about the program, contact Ed at 208.799.5010.

The Northwest Children's Home has always provided recreational therapy as an important element of treatment for each child. Thanks to support like this, we are able to keep kids fishing on the great rivers and creeks of Idaho.

Tennis Challenge

June 15-17, the Boise Racquet & Swim Club hosted a tennis challenge to raise funds for the Northwest Children's Home. Beginning Friday morning, Syringa House girls were mentored in tennis by area local high school and collegiate female athletes. "It is great for me to share my experiences with girls who have not had the same opportunities," said Rilee Moorehead, one of the mentors. "Growing up in a loving and supportive family, it is easy to forget that there are girls who did not have that luxury." Friday evening the tennis challenge began with five teams competing in rounds that lasted through Sunday morning. Thank you to the following team captains for organizing a team and thank you to all who participated. Team Captains were: Rod Hunt, Jim Gruber, James Grunke, Jenny Grunke, and Julene Reed.









1st Place, Jim Gruber's team, 2nd Place, Julene Reed's team, 3rd Place, Jenny Grunke's team, 4th Place, Rod Hunt's Team

Doing Things Right

We received a copy of a letter from a social worker reporting her visit with a young man at the Northwest Children's Home. We wanted to share these unsolicited compliments about our programs and our staff:

I wanted to let you know how our visit with Gregg went. Gregg's new placement is great! It is a large campus and there is plenty for the kids to do. They have a rec. room, pool, sport court and park to burn off energy. I think that the buildings etc. are nicer than [the place he was previously], in that they are larger and seemed more spacious, of course each cottage houses more kids too. In any event, I feel entirely comfortable with the campus and the facilities. The staff was really on task and present with the kids. Gregg was on campus restriction while we were there and in retrospect, I am glad he was. It gave us a chance to see him in his element.

When we first got there we went into a family room in the rec. center and had a few hours to just chat He had good eye contact and seemed to understand both his actions and what the consequences were. I always brace myself when talking to Gregg about his misdeeds because I know that they can trigger one of his nuclear meltdowns. He didn't lower his head to his chest or turn red or start to shake, he just spoke calmly and looked at us directly.

Again, I was really impressed with how interactive and fully aware the staff was. They were definitely present in the moment with kids and gave them good direction and boundaries.

I feelsomuch better knowing his surroundings and seeing the staff.... I am happy to say that I left reassured that this was a place that Gregg could grow and thrive. The staff's constant modeling and interaction played a big part in my opinion too.

Sincerely, Social Worker for a Quest Program Resident

P.S. Gregg... is going to church and he gets to sing! I asked if he "had to" go to church and he said no, they let me. I love that he is there because he wants to be there.

Clinically Speaking By Clinical Director, Scott Mosher

The past year was a challenging and productive year for the Clinical Programs and Services at Northwest Children's Home. Residents received treatment through a variety of methods including group, individual and family counseling.

Our Drug and Alcohol Counselor provided educational and treatment services to both our children and the community children attending the Education Center.

The Recreation Program is instrumental in assisting the children to develop new play skills and learn arts and crafts at the campus Craft Shop.

Program reviews have been initiated as an internal

Quality Assurance mechanism. Internal reviewers analyze and critique the treatment and operations of the respective programs and provide written requirements and recommendations that are intended to produce positive results for our kids.

Site reviews were conducted by the State of Washington, Idaho Dept. of Health and Welfare and the Idaho Dept. of Juvenile Corrections. The number of children that we serve through our license was increased from 80 to 92. The State of Washington was especially complimentary in their review and stated that we are one of the most professionally operated children's residential programs that they work with.

Independent Living Program

This summer, the Syringa House girls completed a 10-week independent living program designed to give our girls lessons in being able to live on their own once they transition out of our care or foster care into adulthood. This past summer, an art exploration curriculum was added to the program.

Here is what one resident wrote: "I loved the experience and hope to have another chance to do this again. It really changed my view of art and helped me to think outside the box and know that art isn't just a pretty painting but also an expression of emotions and can be just about anything."

Another resident was able to express herself by writing poetry.

A Lost Family

I am so mad I hate my dad

He was never here Here goes another tear

I wish I had a good dad That way I wouldn't be so sad

My head is like a bomb Where is my real mom?

I feel so alone Is this her bone?

I feel like she is dead That can't be she is in bed

Where did my mom and dad go? Yep, now I know I'm going solo

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lewiston Events

- Sunday, December 2nd, Cut-A-Thon, Headmaster's School of Hair Design, Lewiston
- Friday, December 7th, Christmas Coffee with the Girls, Quality Inn, Clarkston, 10 A.M. Noon

For more information, contact Lori Skelton, 208.743.9404 x205 or lskelton@northwestchildrenshome.org

Treasure Valley Events

- Friday, November 30th, Holiday Snow Ball, The Basque Center, Boise, 6 P.M.
- Sunday, December 9th, Linden House Open House, noon-2 p.m., 815 N. 7th Street, Boise
- Mark Your Calendar! Afternoon Tea with the Syringa House girls, February 13th

For more information, contact Julene Reed, 208.465.9936 or jreed@northwestchildnrenshome.org

Coming Soon
Celebrating 100 years of service

Work Experience Program (WEP), Nampa, Idaho

The Northwest Children's Home Work Experience Program has been going strong for 15 years and has collaborated with 126 worksites. WEP has served over 650 students with much appreciated support of foundations and local businesses. This program is supported by grant funds, and special thanks go to recent grants received from U.S. Bancorp Foundation and Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.