

News from Edwards Center, Inc.



Jodi Powell scored a pair of green-topped cupcakes at the Edwards St. Patrick's party.

## Please remember Edwards as you manage your estate planning

A variety of opportunities are available for optimizing your estate needs while benefitting Edwards Center. For more information about this, please contact CB Wright at 503-642-1581 x35, [cbwright@edwardscenter.org](mailto:cbwright@edwardscenter.org).

## Inside

- Calendar..... Page 3
- SLP team..... Page 2
- Director's column..... Page 2
- Family Ties ..... Page 3
- Wish List ..... Page 4

## Apartment dweller maintains independence, with a little help

Mike Beer greets his visitor with a wide smile and an upbeat, "Hi, Steve!" before ushering Steve Hopper into his modest Beaverton apartment. Steve returns the greeting as the two friends begin their weekly routine of catching up. "Mike's the boss," says Steve. "I'm just here to help with what he needs to keep on smooth sailing." They sit at the all-purpose kitchen table where Mike has been busy addressing greeting cards. A man slight of build and lank of limb, Mike's warm eyes sparkle from behind large glasses. His rock-band hair curls below his cap. He turns down the Beach Boys, who have been harmonizing from the CD player.

This is the pair's regular day for budgeting and shopping. Steve has calculated how much Mike can safely spend for the week. Mike carefully signs a check so that he can withdraw the week's cash from his checking account.

Mike, age 44, has been a successful member of Edwards Center's Supported Living Program for over 20 years, following his stint at Aloha High School and a very brief time in residence at a foster home. Currently retired from a janitorial job, he values his independence. Happily for him, his apartment's proximity to Tri-Met, and his knowledge of the Tri-Met system, allow him great mobility. By foot or bus he can make the rounds of his favorite establishments. So, if you shop in Beaverton, you may come across him checking out the latest bargains at TJ Maxx or Ross, or maybe browsing Hot Topic or Everyday Music for T-shirts and CDs, of which he has a large and eclectic collection. You may find him at the greeting card shop where he selects cards destined for deserving people. Or, you'll see him at a Starbucks where he often will sit, sip a cup and enjoy the world around him.



Mike Beer

His apartment reflects Mike's fascination for, and deep knowledge of, popular music. The walls are festooned with posters of rock bands. A well-worn air guitar stands against one wall, and the coffee table holds his prized tome, *History of Rock and Roll*, which he consults often.

He fills the blank pages of a large-format, hard-bound journal with his music critiques and other observations. The regular journal-keeping "helps me stay organized and keeps me from getting confused," Mike explains. He got the idea from his mother, who keeps a journal. He also enjoys reading music magazines, and, of course, listening to tunes.

Continued on Page 3

# Supported Living team develops bonds

“Smooth Sailing.” That’s the mantra of two dozen Edwards clients and their team of mentors, Steve Hopper, Dee Yancey and Gleb Velikanov, who together constitute the Supported Living Program (SLP) of Edwards Center. “Smooth Sailing” means navigating the many obstacles encountered in



Gleb Velikanov

everyday living, allowing all of these SL clients to live on their own, free of housemates and constant staff supervision. In Washington

County 22 of these individuals reside in apartments ranging from

Tigard to Forest Grove. In Clackamas County two live in the Milwaukie area.

For Steve and Dee the week usually begins at the sparsely furnished office they share on the second floor of an Edwards group home in Aloha. There they catch up on paperwork and lay out the week’s plans, which include at least one regular visit with each client at his or her residence. They divide responsibility for the Washington County SL group, each mentoring half the clients, consistency being a critical component of “Smooth Sailing.” “Some individuals prefer to deal with me, and some prefer Steve,” explained Dee, who has been on the job since 1992. “We try to accommodate them if possible.”

Gleb uses a makeshift office at Milwaukie Edwards Enterprises. Working with the two Milwaukie clients is only one of his jobs; he also manages Valley View group home.

“Supported Living” means just that. “We try to offer each person enough support for them to live safely and as independent, responsible citizens,” explained Steve, whose

## New manager joins East

Edwards Center has hired Brenda Ylvisaker—formerly of Bridges to Independence and Westside Community Focus—to manage the East Avenue group home in Clackamas County. Brenda comes to us with a lot of experience and energy from her years working as a skills trainer and personal agent to individuals and families in the metro area. She also has a background in special education.

title is SLP Supervisor. Support typically includes help with budgeting, banking and bill-paying, aid in figuring out Tri-Met routes, and guidance in making healthy food choices. It may include driving someone to the supermarket and serving as advisor while walking the aisles with the cart, as well as guidance in maintaining an apartment to basic standards. Support does not include doing *for* the individual. “Last week when I visited one of my clients, she wanted me to fold and hang all of her freshly laundered clothes,” said Steve, smiling. “I drew the line at that,” he laughed.

A major component of support is ensuring that all medical needs are met. Steve, Dee and Gleb spend much of their time arranging for, and following through with, medical appointments and treatments.

They provide transportation to and from the doctor. Gleb has been accompanying a client to all of her chemotherapy sessions. All three monitor medications and make sure their clients are able to self-administer as needed.

The trio also helps find jobs, either paid

## She said what?

Many of you have expressed concerns over the economic crisis facing Oregon and what it means for services at Edwards Center. While I cannot reassure you fully that we will be unaffected by proposed cuts, I can say that we are well positioned to weather the storm. State budget projections for FY 10-11 include a \$150 million dollar reduction to Developmental Disability services. This would include a 10 per cent reduction to group home services and the elimination of work programs.

However, everyone, including the Oregon House Ways and Means Committee, agrees that this drastic scenario likely will not come to pass. The actual shortfall may be closer to \$2 million. Edwards Center has benefited from rate increases recently as a result of rate restructuring that had

or volunteer. As a result, most SL clients work outside their homes at least part-time. For example, one works as a grocery store courtesy clerk.

Some volunteer at a rehabilitation center, where they call Bingo games and play cards with the residents. One works as a janitor in downtown Portland. Others work at Bethany Edwards Enterprises.



Steve Hopper

Support also may mean connecting individuals with recreational opportunities. Two men whom Dee counsels have enrolled at Aim High Martial Arts, where they recently earned orange belts. One of Gleb’s clients maintains a membership at an athletic club. Others participate in programs offered by the Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation Department.

It is clear that for their clients—some of whom have no family—Steve, Dee and Gleb provide more than basic support. The trio are valued friends, coaches, and counselors, to whom each of the 24 can turn if something in his or her life hits a snag. It’s all about “Smooth Sailing.”

been planned for some time. This will help to insulate us if cuts are forthcoming. We will continue fund raising and have a small reserve. We are working with other providers state-wide to make our voices heard about the impact the proposed cuts will have on our programs. As we plan for next year, we are optimistic and fully committed to maintaining the high quality services that are synonymous with our name.



Jessica Leitner  
Executive Director  
jleitner@edwardscenter.org

# Homes sport new upgrades

Residents at Florence Street group home couldn’t wait to cook in their newly remodeled kitchen complete with new stove, fridge and microwave. Construction Manager Gary Chapman completed the project in March. The remodel included cabinets, tile countertops, flooring and lights with curtains to match sewn by Vox Representative Shirley Hurrell. New concrete now graces the driveway and front entrance, as well.

Kinnaman group home features a beautiful and sturdy



Alison Dougall was among the dozens who celebrated at the Edwards St. Patrick’s Day party at Aim High Martial Arts in Bethany.

new deck and wheelchair ramp. Hull Street has freshly painted inside walls. Many homes have undergone weatherization upgrades, including vinyl windows, replacement water heaters, and new furnaces.

These and other projects in the works are, in large part, due to financial and hands-on help from the following:

A-Action Heating and Cooling, Business Class Technology, Clow Roofing & Siding, Mike’s Electric, Homer Ames, RichArt Builders, Valley Plumbing, Clackamas County Housing Authority, Community Action Organization Weatherization Program, Hands On Greater Portland, Rebuilding Together, SOLV, and the Washington County Community Development Block Grant program.

We are grateful to them all.

## Important Dates

**May 9, 10 a.m.–Noon.** • Vox meeting, Edwards Enterprises Milwaukie

**June, 26, 6 p.m.** • Artists’ Reception, Eleven O’49 Gallery, Milwaukie

**July 18** • All-Edwards Summer Barbeque, Aloha headquarters

**August 29** • Hike ‘n’ Bike with the Tualatin Hills Park Foundation

## Mike, continued from Page 1

One of four siblings, Mike stays in touch with his family. He is especially fond of his sister Liza, her three dogs and her stir-fry meals, which he enjoys every couple of months when he visits her home in Cornelius. He also visits his mother, Ruth, when possible. Mother and son attend the Waterfront Blues Festival together.

Monday nights are special. It’s then that Mike rides the bus to the drop-in center where he participates in activities such as Bingo, crafts projects, board games and sometimes a talent show. His very favorite times with this program are the group

outings to the zoo and to bowling events, his favorite sport being bowling.

With check in hand on this day, Mike joins Steve, who will drive them first to the bank and then to WinCo, where they will purchase Mike’s food for the week. Then they’ll return to the apartment, but not before visiting Starbucks, where Mike will order his current brew of choice, caffè latte caramel macchiato.

Steve is an essential connection for Mike, who refers to him as his “counselor.” “I’m thankful for his help in everything,” says Mike. “Steve is the best good heart.”



Vox representative Ken Davenport, right, advocates for the Canby group home, where his son Marshall, left, resides.

## FAMILY TIES

# Dad keeps the ‘voice’ in Vox

Ken Davenport has maintained a passionate presence for his son Marshall from the moment Marshall re-entered the community from the institution known as Fairview in the mid-1980s. Having recently retired from a 23-year career as an electronics engineer at Tektronics, Ken was able to devote his attention to Marshall’s situation. He made frequent visits to Marshall’s group home, getting acquainted with management and staff. He documented his observations and suggestions in letters directed to Edwards management, and—long before Vox was born—he showed up at every Edwards family meeting.

His advocacy has never wavered. Representing Marshall’s Canby group home on Vox, Ken, now 88, continues to speak up for Marshall, 51, and the other four men who live at Canby.

Ken and Marshall have developed a partnership and routine. For 20 years Ken has been taking his son to Special Olympics events. Although Marshall no longer does the running events, Ken still encourages his participation. These days it is in bocce ball. Special Olympics “Is one of the high points of Marshall’s year,” says Ken.

The pair have a regular Saturday date to go out for lunch, usu-

ally at Wendy’s. Every weekday morning, from his workplace at Edwards Enterprises Bethany, Marshall phones Ken and Fran (his mother) just to talk, and at night he calls them to remind them to take their pills.

Ken is pleased to see progress in what he terms Marshall’s “skills in independent thinking,” and he cites an example: If Ken tries to insert a disc into a video player, Marshall waves him off, expertly able to do it for himself. Ken is happy that his son has “a good place to work, a good place to live, and good friends.”

## Passages

Brenda Mayberry, a longtime resident of Kinnaman house, died suddenly on March 9, 2009, at age 58. The Edwards community celebrated Brenda’s life in a small ceremony March 19 at Aloha headquarters, where she was remembered for her caring, loving personality and for her amply loaded tote bags full of art supplies that she carried everywhere. Brenda had lived at Edwards since 1984, first at Westward, and later moving to Kinnaman when Westward was phased out. She was employed for as many years at Tualatin Valley Workshop’s Access.

## Board of Directors

Dick Hands, President  
 Jean Edwards, Vice President  
 Suzanne Thiel, Secretary  
 John Dougall, Treasurer  
 Elizabeth Bergman  
 Mary Ann Bors  
 David Butler  
 Beth Enos  
 Suzy Gross  
 Kenneth Karalus  
 Sara Marchus  
 Smith Piper

### OUR WISH LIST

- Pressure washer: Heavy-duty, gasoline-powered
- Utility trailer
- Books: *Emotional Intelligence* by Goleman, *Change Your Brain, Change Your Life* and *Making A Good Brain Great* by Amen
- Plantable flowers for group homes
- Outdoor furniture for Valley View group home

If you can provide any of the above, please contact  
 CB Wright 503-642-1581 ext 35  
 cbwright@edwardscenter.org

Joe Hager, manager at Bonnie Brae, sports his fashionable footwear while teeing off during a summer golf benefit for Rebuilding Together. His were featured as the mystery feet in the *Winter Express*.



*The Express* is published quarterly by  
 Edwards Center, Inc., 20250 SW Kinnaman Road, Aloha OR 97007  
 Jessica Leitner, Executive Director  
 Phone 503-642-1581

Contributors to this issue include:  
 Editor and designer, Kathleen Piper  
 Writers, Kathleen Piper, Jessica Leitner, Louise Brown  
 Photographers, Kathleen Piper, Jeff Greer, Betty Coulson  
 Proofreader, Julie Williams

Other principal Edwards Center locations include:  
 Edwards Enterprises Bethany, 16500 NW Bethany Ct. Ste. 130, Beaverton OR 97006  
 Phone 503-466-2171  
 Edwards Enterprises Milwaukie, 4287 SE International Way, Milwaukie OR 97222  
 Phone 503-653-2381

Worldwide Web address, [www.edwardscenter.org](http://www.edwardscenter.org)

edwardscenter.org

PO Box 6269  
 Aloha OR 97007

EDWARDS  
 CENTER, INC.



Non-Profit Org.  
 US Postage  
 PAID  
 Beaverton OR  
 Permit No. 300