



EDWARDS CENTER

50 YEARS TOGETHER



ANNUAL
REPORT
2023





I am forever grateful for those childhood experiences that gave my life purpose and propelled me into our field. At an early age, I was fortunate to know that I wanted to make a difference in the lives of those with I/DD. I am also eternally grateful to the original families who joined me to start the Edwards Center over 50 years ago. They are the real heroes. The risk takers. The believers in greater possibilities. They believed in a young 30-year-old's dream of creating normalized lives for their children, who, until that time, had been disenfranchised and not deemed worthy of the same rights to education and services that those without disabilities enjoyed. There were hard times in the beginning and times when it seemed we could not go on. Funds were short, public opinion was negative, and roadblocks seemed unsurmountable.

That's when we had to remind ourselves that what we were doing was worth fighting for. Our vision was more significant than the obstacles we faced. Those original families have all passed on to their heavenly homes. Still, their children, grandchildren, and friends have continued to serve on our board, volunteer in our programs, and financially support us. Edwards Center has always been about families, and we continue the legacy of the original families who wanted the assurance that their children would be taken care of after they were gone. I wish they could be here and experience the joy that I have in seeing how we've grown towards our original dreams and improved our services as we have sought the gold standard over the last fifty years.

We have accomplished amazing things. The corporate energy, commitment to the mission, and hard work of so many have brought us to where we are today. Many people have contributed to our growth. We have had four executive leaders, 11 board presidents, numerous board members, and hundreds of staff members and volunteers who have generously given their time, talents, and resources so we can continue to create a positive quality of life for all our participants. I am happy to have been able to be the visionary and cheerleader for 50 years. My passion for what we do and can do has not waned over the years. I wake up daily thinking about how we can be better.

We started our first day program in a little house on TV Highway, rented for \$1 a year from the city of Beaverton in 1970. Our staff were all volunteers until we received our first grant, which allowed us to hire a director and one staff. It's important to remember that family volunteers initiated and staffed our program for several years, and it continues to be one of our most essential resources.

One of the things that sets us apart from other agencies that provide similar services is our Family Support Network. Attend any Edwards Community event, and you will find family members volunteering alongside staff to make the event successful. Vox, Latin for voice, is the name given to the family members representing each of our program entities. Vox Homes meet regularly to give input to leadership about improvements needed in our homes and doing practical things to help our homes: birthday parties, games nights, staff recognition, and holiday surprises. Similarly, Vox Jobs and Vox Day services have family members providing input into those programs. The founding families would be enormously happy to know that the voice of families is still being heard fifty years later.

Another aspect that sets Edwards apart from others providing similar services is our commitment to those who come to live with us. We intend for the resident to continue as a member of our Edwards family and grow old with us. We look forward to each person aging with us and enjoying the deep connections made in our family over time. Three of our original residents are still alive in their 70s, enjoying a good quality of life, having lived with us for 49 years. An active life helps folks age well.

To sustain the quality of life we provide, we need to raise significant dollars each year. You receive this annual report because you donated dollars, services, or volunteer hours to our organization. I ask that you continue to support us and bring your associates, other family, and friends to be donors as well.



Together, we can continue to do great things!

Jean Edwards
FOUNDER & VISIONARY
BOARD PRESIDENT





EXECUTIVE LEADER REPORT



Embracing Our Legacy, Envisioning Our Future!

Jean Edwards may not have intended to create a legacy; she's far too humble for that. Her steadfast commitment has always been to empower the people we serve by providing them opportunities to reach their highest potential and live self-determined, dignified lives. Yet, after fifty years, it is undeniable that she has indeed forged a lasting legacy. However, this legacy goes beyond Jean; it is about fostering a culture that promotes independence, allowing individuals to work, pursue their recreational interests, and worship according to their own desires. The impact of this culture extends far beyond the confines of the Edwards Center.

Not long ago, it would have been uncommon to witness individuals with developmental disabilities working alongside us in the workplace, sharing a boat in Hawai'i, or sitting in the pew next to us at church. However, thanks greatly to Jean and others in the I/DD community's visionary leadership, these experiences have become more commonplace and accepted in our society. As we move forward into the future, we can anticipate our culture evolving to become even more inclusive and welcoming to the people we serve. This ongoing transformation will only serve to enrich our communities further.

While it is undoubtedly an honor to work with and draw inspiration from Jean, the true joy for my team and me lies in witnessing the increasing inclusion of the individuals we deeply care about within the shared community. Our profound impact on each other's lives and the positive changes we witness give us tremendous satisfaction and motivate us to continue this important and worthy work.



Here's to the next 50 years,



Allen Cress
EXECUTIVE LEADER



IN MEMORIAM

Honoring the Life and Work of Caryl Knudsen

It was with much sadness that we learned of the death of our second Executive Director in November. Caryl Knudsen died at home from complications from Parkinson's disease.

Caryl was with Edwards Center for 30 years. She worked as our bookkeeper and office manager until 1974 when our First Director, Gretchen Yost, left our agency. Caryl had been quick to adopt a passion for normalization, which was the driving force behind the vision of Jean Edwards and the other founders. Soon the board realized in their search that Caryl had all the important qualities needed to lead our organization. In 1975 Caryl was chosen to take us forward. She grew and honed her skills as a leader and administrator as the Center matured.

Most importantly, Caryl was always able to see the hidden abilities behind our participants' disabilities. She was part of the catalyst creating options for those leaving the institution. She was one of a group of folks in Oregon to create new innovations to meet the needs of our residents leaving Fairview.

Caryl was a tireless advocate at the legislative level and spent a great deal of time in Salem advocating for better services. She was one of the most recognizable names in the state when it came to advocacy for adults with developmental disabilities. Her dedication to this population will be surely missed by the families and agencies she consulted with after her retirement from Edwards.

It is with deep gratitude and sincere appreciation that we say goodbye to Caryl.





MEET DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL (DSP)

JIM CROY

Celebrating the Heart of Service

In a world where compassion and dedication often go unnoticed, one individual stands out for his unwavering commitment to the residents at Edwards Center. Meet Jim Croy, a Direct Support Professional (DSP) who has dedicated 30 years of his life at Edwards, enhancing the lives of those under his care. His perspective on his job is simple yet profound - *"The work that I do is still just life. I like it like that."*



For Jim, being a Direct Support Professional is not just a job; it's a calling. He sees himself as an extension of the residents' will, working tirelessly to ensure their safety and well-being. Daily, he strives to empower residents to live their lives to the fullest, celebrating their independence and individuality.

What truly brings joy to Jim's heart is witnessing the residents actively participating in their own lives, embracing the messy moments, and finding laughter in the simple joys of everyday life. He believes in the power of dignity and respect, understanding that sometimes the best way to help is by simply staying out of the residents' way and letting them take the lead.

"What makes me happy is seeing residents actively and unapologetically participating in their own lives. Pouring their own cereal and making a mess of it. Hearing them say 'Uh-Oh' to the sound of Cheerios spilling onto the floor."

When faced with crises, Jim's approach is unwavering - to provide a solid yet calm presence, coupled with compassion and acceptance. He recognizes the importance of being there for individuals in their time of need, offering support and understanding without judgment.

Jim's dedication extends beyond the daily routines, as he invests time and effort in helping residents overcome challenges and achieve personal milestones. Jim's patience and encouragement have led to remarkable transformations from teaching a resident to form complete sentences to encouraging another to conquer physical obstacles.

"A resident did not speak in sentences but only in fragments - a few words at a time. I stressed to him the importance of putting those few words into sentence form. Whenever he spoke, I would model for him a sentence using his words plus the ones he'd left out. I would commonly state my name, then add the words 'I need' or 'I want.' How proud was I the day he said to me, 'Jim Croy, come here. I want to show you something!'"

Outside of work, Jim finds solace in nature, often spending time near water and trees, hiking, and enjoying the simple pleasures of life. Far removed from the distractions of modern technology (he has never owned a TV or been on Facebook), Jim finds joy in activities like reading and solving puzzles, embodying a sense of simplicity and contentment in his life.

The story of Jim Croy serves as a testament to the power of compassion, dedication, and selflessness in making a positive impact on the lives of others. His unwavering commitment to the residents at Edwards Center embodies the true spirit of caregiving, reminding us all of the profound difference that one individual can make in the world.



Celebrating all our fantastic DSPs,

Michele Dardis

Michele Dardis
DIRECTOR OF INDIVIDUAL SERVICES



The “Home” Stretch

Edwards Place's journey began in 2013 with the renovation of the Aloha Community Center. Since then, the board, families, staff, and donors have worked together to provide inclusive housing options for individuals with diverse abilities. Generous donations from the JTMF Foundation, Reser Foundation, and Kuni Foundation have been instrumental in this endeavor.

Now, Edwards Place is thrilled to announce that the final home at Edwards Place is set to be completed in June 2024. This five-person group home aims to offer a seamless living experience with a single-level residence that meets ADA accessibility standards. Well known designers Bruce Bridgess and Barbara Goetze have carefully crafted a floor plan that prioritizes comfortable aging in place, fostering independence and community.

What sets this final home at Edwards Place apart is its dedication to serving individuals who have been on the waitlist for five or more years. Recognizing the pressing need for housing, Edwards Place is committed to making a meaningful impact in the lives of those with diverse abilities. Each construction project builds upon valuable design knowledge and insights gained from previous efforts, ensuring continuous improvement.

Edwards Place takes pride in being the nation's first community to provide a diverse mix of housing options for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their parents. From cottages and apartments to single-family and group homes, this community creates an environment of togetherness and support, fostering a warm and accepting neighborhood.

Residents benefit from convenient access to the Community Center, where regular social gatherings, workshops, and recreational events occur. This vibrant hub enriches the lives of residents and their families, promoting a strong sense of community. The active involvement of families as dedicated volunteers further strengthens the bond within Edwards Place.

The exceptional partnership between Edwards Center and 4th Avenue Homes, the builders, has been crucial to the success of this unique project. With an unwavering commitment to the community's mission, 4th Avenue Homes has constructed a high-quality home while adhering to timelines and budget constraints. Their collaborative approach has been invaluable throughout the construction process.



Building for a stronger future,



Jim Parker
PHILANTHROPY & COMMUNICATIONS
PROFESSIONAL



STRATEGIC GOALS FOR 2024

- Increase Leadership Skills of Exec Team & Managers
- Update the Passport Program & Review with all Managers
- Finalize DSP Fund Guidelines & Start Distributions
- Strengthen the Board by the Addition of New Board Members with Financial & Employment Law Skills
- Hold Staff Accountable for Financial Efficiencies
- Increase the Number of CLS Participants Engaged in Community Experiences
- Continue to Place and Train Participants in Community Jobs
- Achieve the Gold Standard in all Homes
- Less than 5% of Employee Shifts Unstaffed
- Develop In-House Inclusion Training
- Create an Active Legislative Action Committee Preparatory to 2025's Long Session





EDWARDS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Alison's Journey: Cultivating Fulfillment through Career Crafting

Alison has been working with Edwards Center for many years; during that time, she has participated in many employment-related programs that included a sheltered workshop, small groups, and volunteer work. Each of these work experiences provided Alison with opportunities to build skills, confidence, and independence.

All of this contributed to Alison's recent success of getting her first what she calls her "real job," when she was hired to work at Tanasbourne Veterinary Emergency (TVE) in the laundry room, a job Alison identified as something she enjoyed doing during her career exploration.

I think hearing from those supporting Alison best captures the value and impact a "real job" can have for those who didn't believe it would ever be possible.

"My time working with Alison at TVE has been wonderful. She is focused on her tasks and observant of her surroundings. She is learning to navigate the building and follow her routine. When I asked her what she thought about her new job, she said, 'I like it.' I asked what she liked most about it; she said, 'I like the laundry and the people.' She continues to work on building her relationships with coworkers each day. Alison said yesterday, 'After my vacation, I want to work alone with RH.' I asked, Do you want us to not be here with you as much? Alison replied, 'Yeah. I want to do it myself, and you guys just check on me.' I told her I was proud of her for feeling confident in her work and that we could start stepping back a little more. She folded and put away items with little guidance and raised her hands in the air when I said, 'You did it, whoo-hoo!' I turned around, and her coworker was also raising her hands and saying, 'Good Job, Alison,'" said Debbie Sketo, Edwards Lead Employment Professional.

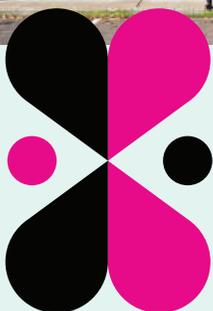
Alison learned quickly what she was being taught every day; she listened when staff corrected her on a task she might not have done correctly, and she was observant of the details of her tasks. I love seeing how happy she is to work, and everyone who sees her says hi and tells me how happy they are to have her. They love her personality. When I asked her if she liked her job, she said, "I love it," and jumped up and down and laughed. I asked what she liked best, and she said, "Laundry and the animals."



With encouragement and support,

Laurie Phillips

Laurie Phillips & Edwards Employment Services Team
DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES





EDWARDS COMMUNITY CENTER

The Magic of Music

In a world that often focuses on our differences, it is truly inspiring to witness individuals coming together to celebrate the power of music. This heartwarming story revolves around two exceptional supporters, volunteer Steve Hoag on the piano and Saige Martinez leading the songs while playing the ukulele. This inclusive gathering encourages everyone to participate in their unique way, whether it's singing along, listening attentively, tapping their feet, or clapping their hands in unison.

Music has a magical quality that transcends barriers and connects people profoundly and emotionally. It provides solace, joy, and a sense of belonging. This is especially true for individuals with diverse abilities who may face challenges in their daily lives. Participating in a sing-along allows them to express themselves, interact with others, and experience the transformative power of music.

One of the most striking aspects of this sing-along event is the sense of community it creates. Attendees are encouraged to support and uplift one another, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment. Steve and Saige's heartfelt dedication creates a safe space for individuals to express themselves and helps break down barriers and build connections among people who may have otherwise felt isolated.

Through the remarkable efforts of Edwards' friends like Steve and Saige, sing-along events for individuals with diverse abilities become an empowering and uplifting experience. As they come together to celebrate the joy of music, barriers dissolve, and a profound sense of unity emerges. These events serve as a reminder of the transformative nature of music.

Jim Parker

PHILANTHROPY & COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSIONAL





TREASURER REPORT

Seizing Opportunities with Fiscal Responsibility

Every year brings new challenges for different reasons and Edwards Center continues to provide excellent care and opportunities to the residents. A few residents moved to new homes as vacancies were filled and one home changed their focus to be compatible with the Edwards Center Mission. The vacancies kept the board focused on the financial perspective as we navigated through 2023.

Edwards Center remains in a strong financial position with support of the Oregon Department of Disability Services (ODDS) grants, and donors. While Edwards continues with capital construction to support more residents, the focus is on having positive monthly revenue so existing residents are appropriately supported as well.



Working to protect the future,

Diana Sullivan

Diana Sullivan
BOARD TREASURER



FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

REVENUE & EXPENSES

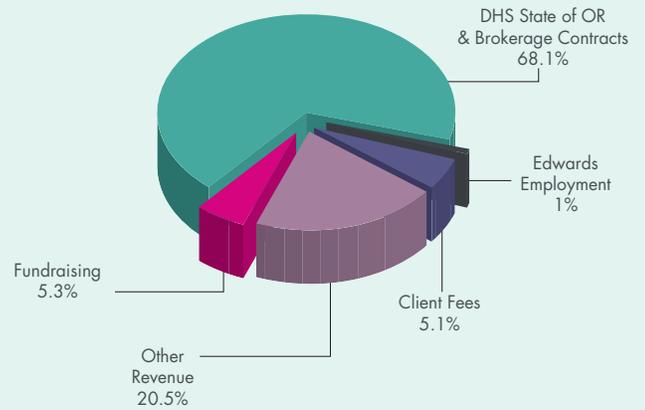
REVENUE:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| DHS State of OR & Brokerage Contracts | \$12,755,342 |
| Edwards Employment | \$150,141 |
| Client Fees | \$956,954 |
| Other Revenue | \$3,880,399 |
| Fundraising & Gifts In-Kind | \$997,587 |
| Total Revenue | \$18,740,423 |

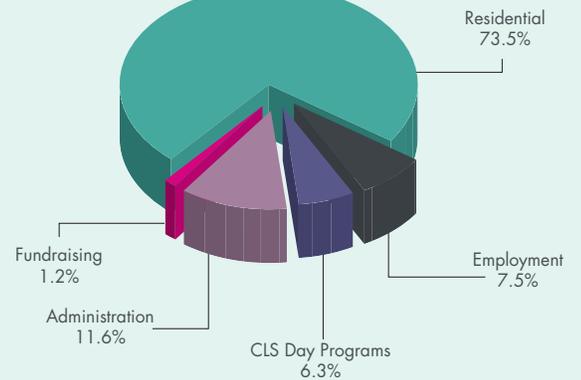
EXPENSES:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Residential | \$9,318,131 |
| Employment | \$952,897 |
| CLS Day Programs | \$793,964 |
| Administrative | \$1,468,108 |
| Fundraising | \$148,600 |
| Total Expenses | \$12,681,700 |

REVENUE



EXPENSES



VOLUNTEER HOURS

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Vox & Volunteer Hours | 724 |
| Board Volunteer Hours | 2,382 |
| Total | 3,106 |
| | x \$31.80/per hour* |
| | = \$98,7708.00! |

*INDEPENDENT SECTOR, WITH THE DO GOOD INSTITUTE ESTIMATES THE 2023 ESTIMATED NATIONAL VALUE OF EACH VOLUNTEER HOUR IS CURRENTLY \$31.80.

Volunteers - Making it Happen!

Edwards Center is profoundly grateful to our volunteers, board members, and VOX Family & Friends Support Network, whose extraordinary dedication and generosity have created over 3,106 hours of support - a mosaic of kindness touching every aspect of our work. From sending heartfelt cards to helping with monthly events and from serving at social gatherings to delivering cookies, your efforts embody the true essence of community. We can't thank you enough for being the driving force behind our mission; your spirit of giving extends far beyond your countless acts of kindness. It is the joy and the very essence of what we achieve together. The impact of your generosity is immeasurable, and we are eternally appreciative.



Warm regards and balanced budgets,

Kathleen Autrey

Kathy Autrey
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE





DONOR LISTING BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2023 AND DECEMBER 31, 2023

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Aaron Meyer | Carin Schroeder | Donald Nelson | James & Barbara Beck |
| Achterhof Healthcare Pharmacy, LLC | Carl & Clara Foleen | Donald Stanley | James DeWeese |
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| Calderon Family Trust | Dick Hands | Jacquelyn Ford | John & Tami Marick |



DONOR LISTING BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2023 AND DECEMBER 31, 2023

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| John & Susan Hughes | Kimberly Shaar | Mary Ann & George Bors | Posey Salon |
| John B Kleinheinz / Kleinheinz Capital Partners | Kirstyn Gregory | Mary Jane Sawai | R.B. Westling |
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| Joseph & Marsha Belusko | Kristi Cabrera | Mary Lou Scheidt | Re/Max Equity Group Foundation |
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| Joyce Sering | Kuni Foundation | Michael Brady | Reser's Fine Foods |
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| Kathleen & Kass Walsh | Marcia Randall Foundation | Pam Judge | Roy & Judy Burge |
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| Kedja Nure | Mark & Laura Yockey | Patricia A. Klee | Scott & Angela Nedelisky |
| Kelly & Tony Lucarelli | Mark Olson | Patricia Reser & Bill Westphal | Scott & Stacey Cumley |
| Kelly Toepperwein | Marla Kleinheinz | Patrick Castle | SE Cook |
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| Kendell Geister | Marlene Burns | Paul Bowers | Sharon Bech |
| Kevin & Amanda Brinkley | Marlis Tjaden | Paul Costello | Sharon Conyers |
| Kimberly Bech | Mary & Jim McCarter | Philip & Lynn Nelson | Sheila Barker |



DONOR LISTING BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2023 AND DECEMBER 31, 2023

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Sheila Mullen | Sue Kornahrens | Target Employee Giving | Umpqua Bank |
| Shelley Edwards | Susan & John Shaffer Giving Fund | Ted & Penni Piper | United Way |
| Sheri Woodin | Susan Cooksey | Ted Morgan | US Bank |
| Sherrie L Holliday | Susan Furnish | The Cook Family Revocable Trust | Vernon & Lois Chartier |
| Sigrid Walker | Susan Gates | The Stephen S Smith and Paula K Smith Family Foundation | Vickie & William Brickley |
| Stefan Krupelak & Jim Lowenstien | Susan Iverson | The Tom & Sue Gideon Family Fund | Al M & Virginia Degrood Rev Liv Trust |
| Stephanie Summer Drews | Susan Lambert Gates | Thomas Howes | Walter & Rebecca Kluser |
| Stephen & Anne Andersen | Susan Pearce | Timothy Erickson | Wayne Bridges |
| Stephen Hoag | Susie Strassmaier | Toni Doane | William & Christine Krauch |
| Steve & Lindy Rance | Suzanne Bowers | Tony Schuler | William & Melinda Maginnis |
| Steve & Paula Smith | Suzanne Mason | Tony & Kelly Lucarelli | William & Nancy Brewer |
| Steven & Lael Gorsek | T.J. Westling | UKOGF Foundation | William G. Gilmore Foundation |
| Sue Colleknon | Tamara Rivas | | |

*If your name is missing from the list, please contact Jim Parker at jparker@edwardscenter.org.

2023 EDWARDS HOMES “GOLD STANDARD” IMPROVEMENTS

- **Aloha** - New generator, HR office remodel, outside lighting added, outdoor covered area refinished, and a new coffee air pot brewer installed.
- **Oak Street** - The yard tree was removed, new grass was put down in the backyard, and a new front porch was installed.
- **Lynne** - Crawl space redone w/new sump pump, new gravel path to get into the backyard, a fresh coat of stain on the fence, repainted the interior of the house with beautiful two-toned kitchen cabinets.
- **Candice** - A new bidet was installed, as well as a new roof and new skylights.
- **Parkwood** - New bidet and all new interior blinds.
- **Starr** - New roof, new flooring throughout common areas, all new interior paint, new fridge, new living room furniture, and upgraded to cellular fire monitoring.
- **206th** - Tree removal and a new built-in closet insert installed.
- **ECM** - New toilets installed in bathrooms.
- **172nd** - New wash machine.
- **Matthew** - New flooring throughout the house with new living room carpet, all new interior paint, landscape refreshed, new fence installed, new living room furniture, refinished built-in entertainment center, door, and door trims received a new fresh coat of stain, new music room windows and kitchen windows, new bedroom doors and frames installed.
- **Shaw** - New gutter guards and a new fire system were installed.
- **Pheasant** - New flooring installed throughout the house.
- **East** - Tree was removed in the backyard.
- **Edwards Place** - New fence in lot #2's backyard and the new house and cottage on lot #3 are finished.
- **Torbank** - New roofs, new water heaters in all units, new crawl space w/sump pumps under both buildings and a bathroom remodel.
- **Maginnis** - New flooring and carpet throughout and new paint throughout
- **Hart** - New carpet, larger bedroom window installed, and butcher blocks in kitchen refinished.



Charting a course for excellence,

Amber Langdford
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS





EDWARDS CENTER'S MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities by helping them reach their highest potential through training, education, employment, housing and social opportunities in safe, healthy and stimulating environments.



2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jean Edwards
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT
EDWARDS CENTER
UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR



Chris Monty
VICE PRESIDENT
REALTOR
RE/MAX EQUITY GROUP



Diana Sullivan
TREASURER
FORMER CFO
& RETIRED ACCOUNTING
& FINANCE PROFESSOR



Kristi Cabrera
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Amanda Brinkley
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Jennifer Hurlburt
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