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The mission of Smithwright Services is "to provide environments where children and adults with developmental disabilities and autism live, work, and play in their community."

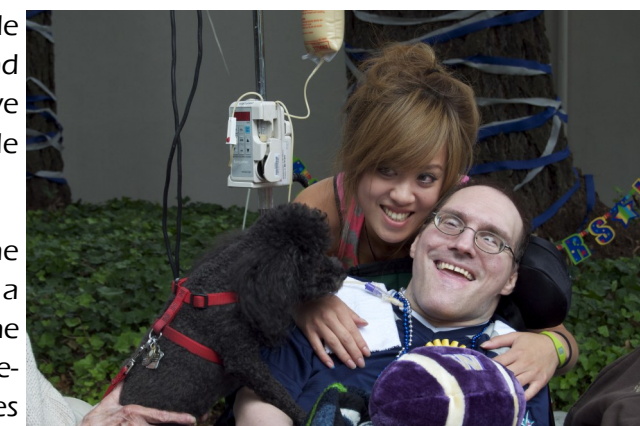
Celebrating 20 Years at Smithwright!

Jeff, our Group Home client was honored this month for being a Smithwright resident since January, 1991. A spirited guy, Jeff; has a great personality and loves country music, Jerry Springer, baseball, musicals, and most of all—his family. Jeff was born with extreme cerebral palsy and contractures and later developed scoliosis, a disorder in which one's spine is curved. Jeff was not expected to live long, according to Bea, his mother.



He was not even supposed to be able to push himself around with a walker, she says. In his early years, Jeff lived with his parents and attended Maplewood School. Jeff's Father, David, was on the original Smithwright Board of Directors and was instrumental in establishing the original group home. When it became clear that Jeff needed more specialized care, Jeff moved there. Jeff adapted well, "He passed his life expectancy," says Bea, "He was treated like a human." Bea explains, "The original group home was set up like a family." She goes on, "Staff would interact with parents and everyone ate meals at the table together."

Jeff experienced many health problems throughout the years. He had several bouts of pneumonia, he regularly choked on food and had to get a G-tube. He also broke his leg. His contractures have caused him much difficulty, "but," says Bea, "He's a fighter. He never complains, despite his pain."



Both Bea and Program Director Kim Walker, who worked in the group home for many years, describe Jeff as a "flirt" and a "jokester." Bea says, "He'll make you come to his room – then he says, "Made you look!" Kim adds, "I call him 'flirty boy.'" Bea describes his other attributes, "Jeff loves his independence. He loves people and animals. He loves it when people acknowledge him. If he trusts you, he'll let you do anything—and he always wears a smile."

Jeff, Happy 20th Anniversary at the Smithwright Group Home!

Thank you for your strength and delightful personality. You are an inspiration to us all!

- Mandy Traut, Resource Specialist, AmeriCorps VISTA

Visit us on the web at www.smithwright.org



Join Us for Smithwright's 1st Annual Benefit Breakfast!

You're Invited

October 25th, 2011
Smithwright Services' 1st Annual Benefit Breakfast

Smithwright Services'
1st Annual Benefit Breakfast
Tuesday, October 25th, 2011
7:00 am Registration
7:30-8:45 am Breakfast & Program

LYNNWOOD
CONVENTION CENTER

If you'd like to RSVP, become a table captain or be a Corporate sponsor please contact:
(425) 775-6801 x13 or deanabayes@smithwright.org

A Word from the Executive Director

Fall is near, and all eyes are on our upcoming First Annual Benefit Breakfast to be held on Tuesday, October 25. Historically, Smithwright Services has had a variety of fundraisers, but mainly relied on funding received from the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to keep its vital services going.



We decided to create an enduring fundraising program—with the annual event being the main focus—for two reasons. One is the obvious financial imperative. DSHS has suffered unprecedented budget cuts, and of course those cuts flow through to providers in all areas of human services. Additionally, we have seen major cuts to Medicaid for essentials such as latex gloves and liquid nutritional supplements, and Smithwright has had to bear the cost of these items. We are now in our second year of a wage freeze. And unfortunately, there are important purchases that have had to be put on hold also, such as: a replacement van for the Children’s Program, updated art supplies and sensory equipment, recreational equipment, etc. It is clear that Smithwright needs a viable, dynamic fund-raising program in order for us to continue to enhance the services provided to our clients. We all hope the economy recovers quickly, but we need to be prepared for the long-haul.

The second reason for creating an annual event, is to celebrate our successes, and to spread the word about the wonderful work done by Smithwright staff. There are small miracles occurring every day, every week—inspired by the strengths of our clients and fostered by the commitment of our staff. And those stories need to be heard. In the early 1980’s when Smithwright was born, it was the only agency in the State of Washington providing its particular kind of service. And now, 30 years later, that legacy of uniqueness continues.

Please put Tuesday, October 25th from 7am-9am, Lynnwood Convention Center on your calendar!

Board of Directors

- Robert Griffin, President
- Shayne Nagel, Vice President
- Courtney Holland, Secretary
- Shelley Hawkins
- Erin Pankow

Windermere’s Community Service Day

On June 17 nearly 40 volunteers from Windermere Real Estate (North) on Alderwood Mall Boulevard in Lynnwood chose Smithwright Services as their focus for their Community Service Day project. They engaged in an ambitious landscaping job and interior painting project to brighten up and improve our Edmonds group home.

Tonya Tye, the coordinator and one of Windermere’s managers, explains that they chose Smithwright because it was a local non-profit agency. She says they were also impressed by the care and dedication provided to the residents by the program staff.



Says Tonya, “We loved the feeling of true care that is given to those that live there. It seemed to be very important to the staff that the residents were told why we were there, what we were going to do and made them a part of the day.”

Tonya continues, “The staff treated us like kings! They provided breakfast items and made a homemade marinated chicken lunch with all the fixings and plenty of drinks to keep us going. The experience for us was amazing! The appreciation was overflowing.”

Indeed, their hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed! Spirits and energy were high, and the volunteers looked great with their specially made Smithwright T-shirts. Staff and residents are all grateful to all the Windermere volunteers for the day they devoted to making a better, safer, and more welcoming home for our residents!



Wellness News — Deb Corlis, Director of Wellness

Many individuals served by Smithwright have medical issues that require ongoing monitoring and intervention. To ensure clients receive the best medical attention possible, a Director of Wellness position was created. The individual in this position is a Registered Nurse who provides assessments, ongoing monitoring medication oversight, and staff training.

The much anticipated walking/exercise group is finally getting underway. After much thought and discussion, three clients have been chosen to start. We intentionally decided to start with specific clients to closely monitor their progress and health. Over time, we will certainly open this up to include others. These three particular clients have all been cleared by their primary doctors and are all appropriate for this program.

The plan: starting July 28, the group will meet one afternoon each week at a local school track and walk 2 laps or ½ mile. Each participant will have his/her pre/post vitals checked, along with lower leg/foot assessment following. Data will be recorded each week, per client. Weight will also be closely monitored. To reward clients as well as provide variety, once monthly we will go to a local park and walk on a nature trail. Given successful participation, increased days/times and distances will be added. It is our hope by years end to be up to 1 mile each session with 2-3 sessions occurring weekly.

A special thank you to Kim Walker who has agreed to assist me in this new adventure.



Supported Living News — Kim Walker, Program Director

In the Supported Living Program , we have been working with TL. He LOVES to work, so when he recently began slowing down at work and couldn’t tell us why, we took him to many medical appointments and begin eliminating possible medical reasons for this, along with his shortness of breath and fatigue. When all tests were completed we were down to a sleep study for possible sleep apnea. Sure enough that what the problem was. So he has a C-pap machine now and we are on the 3rd type of mask due to it coming off during sleep.

His work performance and stamina has improved. The other day I asked him “T - do you feel better at work these days?” He replied...“yeah because of my C-PASS!” Never a boring moment and the laughter is a fringe benefit for me.



Congratulations to these staff members, recognized for their outstanding work!

Children’s: Larissa Brown, Matty Sey, Kathy Williams, Mary Bolger, Christian Resurreccion, Nicole Hostetter, Lamin Jammeh, Adama Nyass

Supported Living: Tammy Pullis, Joseph Mendy, Krista Garrett, Louris Shafik, Awa Ceesay, Lamin Kanyi, Isatou Secca

Group Home: Carol O’Neal, Isha Samake, Daniel Condrea, Renee Stowe, Marna Little, Yonatan Boset.

Thank You Donors!

Thank you to those who supported Smithwright Services this quarter!!

- Sailaja Arani
- Deana & David Bayes
- Liz & Jill Braun
- Deborah Corlis
- Lori DelaTorre
- Dean & Kathleen Koball
- Rob & Crystal Griffin
- David & Bea Groll
- Cathleen Ito
- David Moena
- James & Dorothy Monroe
- Robert Moore
- Vendula & Marek Novy
- Mandy & Alon Traut
- Kim & Will Walker
- Sherwin Williams
- Windermere Real Estate

