

PRESS RELEASE

Shangri-La Corporation

For Immediate Release
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Salem, Oregon



Local Human Services Organization Celebrates 50 Year Milestone

Shangri-La to commemorate 50 years of service to the community with birthday celebration

The Beginning

In 1963, 15 families from across the United States established a place called Shangri-La that would nurture and educate their children with special needs. Yearning for better care for their children with developmental disabilities than institutions of the time could offer, the families pooled their private resources and purchased a 30-acre rural property just east of Salem, Ore. The existing farmhouse was converted into several classrooms, and a larger school building was completed in 1965. For the first 12 years of operation, Shangri-La was funded privately, and staffed by volunteers and a few direct-care workers.

Shangri-La Today

Over the last 50 years, Shangri-La has transformed into a diverse human services organization providing supports and services to individuals with disabilities, mental illness, or economic challenges. Every year, over 1,500 people benefit from Shangri-La services.

Shangri-La currently:

- Provides services in 9 Oregon counties.
- Employs approximately 550 Oregonians, 150 of whom have a disability.
- Delivers services and supports through 9 different programs.
- Operates 7 businesses that employ people with documented disabilities.

50th Birthday Extravaganza on June 22, 2013 in Salem

On June 22, 2013 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Shangri-La will open its doors to honor this milestone with a birthday celebration and barbeque for employees, persons-served and other invited stakeholders.

Karen Rutledge will give her inaugural address as Shangri-La's new CEO. A ceremony will honor the service of previous board members, long term employees and persons-served for their role in Shangri-La's success. Attendees will be able to tour Shangri-La's Salem Office and participate in other games and activities.

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Shangri-La is a 501(c)3 non-profit human services organization dedicated to providing "Homes, Jobs, and Supports ... one person at a time" to Oregonians with disabilities, mental illnesses, or economic challenges in Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Linn, Benton, Washington, Clackamas, Lincoln and Lane counties.

Shangri-La Corporation

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