



Attendees, including two individuals served on Shangri-La's original campus, look through photo albums and organizational archives at an in-person 60th-anniversary celebration on May 2, 2023. The gathering was held at Macleay Conference and Retreat Center, the present-day location of the original Shangri-La School started in 1963.

60th anniversary celebrations and documentary premiere highlight story of Shangri-La's founding families

In honor of the organization's 60th anniversary, Shangri-La produced a mini-documentary that told the story of Shangri-La's founding families and their journey to start the organization in the early 1960s.

The documentary debuted at an in-person 60th-anniversary gathering on May 2, 2023, on the present-day site of the original Shangri-La School campus and was shown again during a series of virtual celebrations held the following week.

Three founding families were highlighted in the video -- Ron and Florence Hall (as told by their daughter Judy Kennedy), Howard and Luella Nice (as told by their son Dennis Nice), and Dorothy Monnier.

"As we get farther and farther into our organization's tenure, the less opportunity we have to record its founding history from those closest to it," said Nick McCrea, Shangri-La's digital media specialist, about why he wanted to make the video. "In the coming months, I hope we can capture additional interviews with early families and individuals served on the original campus still in our services today."



Judy Kennedy (left), daughter of founding family Ron and Florence Hall, and Cathie Levin (right), daughter of founding family Vigril and Peggy Long attended the 60th-anniversary celebration. Both had brothers in Shangri-La services.



Watch the Shangri-La Founding Family documentary at:
www.Shangri-LaOregon.org/history

Events and video made possible in part by our friends at:



Permanent generators ready to power homes during electrical outages

Since 2022, Shangri-La has been working to install automatic standby generators, powered by natural gas, at eight residential programs serving individuals with disabilities.

Installing permanent generators became a priority after natural disasters in 2021 and 2022 highlighted gaps in Shangri-La's emergency response plans.

"During the ice storm in 2021 and the windstorm in 2022, we had four homes go without power for almost two weeks," said Robin Winkle, director of operations. "We had to scramble to locate small gas generators in order to keep people safe."

Outside of the common challenges associated with a power outage -- like heat and cooking --, some Shangri-La residential programs face even more significant challenges when without electricity for extended periods -- for example, running and recharging medical and mobility equipment like oxygen machines and lifts.

"During the ice storm in 2021 and the wind storm in 2022, we had four homes go without power for almost two weeks. We had to scramble to locate gas generators in order to keep people safe."

- Robin Winkle, Director of Operations.

to power the generator, Shangri-La selected specific programs, based on needs of the program, and geographic relation to other programs to receive a generator.

"We made the systems large enough to run the full home so that others [from other affected homes] could relocate to a generator-powered home when needed," explained Winkle.



(Left to right) Tom, Steve P, and Steve M stand next to the GENERAC standby generator installed at their home in south Salem. The generator is one of eight generators installed at Shangri-La residential programs.

In the past, Shangri-La tried storing small, basic gas generators for use in case of an emergency but found that when they were needed, use didn't go smoothly for a variety of reasons, including gasoline availability, difficulty delivering generators to programs due to dangerous road conditions, and staff being unsure how to operate the machines safely.

Therefore, Shangri-La applied for a grant and received money from **Marie Lamfrom Community Foundation** to purchase generators. "I contacted Alternative Power Source out of Estacada," Winkle said, "One of the few generator vendors in Oregon, and they were able to order the systems, which took over ten months to become available."

Given the cost of the generators and the need for a natural gas meter

to power the generator, Shangri-La selected specific programs, based on needs of the program, and geographic relation to other programs to receive a generator.

"We made the systems large enough to run the full home so that others [from other affected homes] could relocate to a generator-powered home when needed," explained Winkle.



*Owners of **Chic Skape** helped get napkins into the hands of Mt. Angel residents through their coffee shop.*

12,000 yellow napkins aim to spark conversation about disability among community members

During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March, distribution partners, mainly food service establishments, throughout Marion County distributed yellow napkins featuring five disability awareness and etiquette messages.

Shangri-La, in partnership with **Umpqua Bank** (formerly **Columbia Bank**) started the Yellow Napkin Project in 2022. The original pilot project included 2,500 napkins distributed mainly in Salem. Shangri-La and its 20+ distribution partners, including many businesses in rural Marion County, distributed 12,000 napkins this year featuring messages in English and Spanish.

"We really enjoyed having the napkins in our cake shop. One of the

continued on page 6

better together

Thank you to these donors and volunteers whose contributions helped people with disabilities and families with disadvantages thrive at home, at work, and in our community. We truly are, *better together*.

Better Together Giving Community Members

* denotes new Better Together Giving Community member

Aalicea Dominguez	Jessica Walsh
Allison Myers	JoAnna Edwards
Amanda Valerio	Judy and Jim Kennedy
Amy Korkowski	Julia Frisbie
Andre Veillet	Kelli Rogers
Ashley Erb	Kristen Voyles
Beth Hill	Laurie Phelps
Bradley Leland*	Madeline Mulhern
Carole Hellman	Marlene Carpani
Dan and Robin Winkle	Megan Denison
David Sloves	Michael Kemry
Donna Welch	Michael Norman
Elizabeth Larson	Nick Bender
Fred Duckwall	Rachenda Reynosa
Greg and Holly Crawford	Rhonda Wolf
Heidi Frederick	Roger and Colleen Plott
Holbert and Lynda Myers	Ron and Joanna Stout
Holly Pharms	Rose Wilgus
Irene Tynes	Sally Dvorak*
James Titus	Susan South
James Lindekugel	Theresa Kies
Janet and Ben Yousey	Tiffani Olsen
Janis Frank	Tim and Jeniffer Johnson
JD Welch	Vicki Caldwell
Jeanette Merrick	Winifred Ju
Jennifer Gray	Yvonne Stewart
Jeremy Hill	

Accessible Egg Hunt Supporters

Bearscat Bakehouse	QDOBA - South Salem
Carried Away Entertainment	Salem Electric
Enchanted Forest	Salem's Riverfront
Northgate Bowl	Carousel
Party Perfection	The Kroc Center
Pietro's Pizza	Valley Credit Union
Philip and Susan Coleman	Willamette Dental

This list represents supporter contributions made between November 1, 2023 - April 30, 2023



Security Monster team members hold up gifts collected for the Holiday Wishes Project.

Holiday Wishes Project Tree Hosts and Gift Givers

Tree Hosts

Aldrich CPAs and Advisors
Philadelphia Insurance
Oregon Association of
Disability Examiners
Security Monster
Four Rivers Realty Group
Ankeny Vineyard

Gift Givers

Ashley Erb
Denise & Larry Seith
Elizabeth Fraumeni
Gail and Jorge Dominguez
Holly Pharms
Ida Wrightgasper
Janet and Ben Yousey

Janis Frank
Jennifer Manning
Judy and Jim Kennedy
Kathy Sewell
Lisa Miller
Lorilynn Espinoza
Marcus Manning
Megan Dominguez
Michael Kemry
Patricia Feeny
Steven and Stacy Erb
Vicki Caldwell
Winifred Ju

And the many, many additional donors that gave anonymously.

Fund the Future by Celebrating the Past **MAKE A 60th ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE GIFT TODAY**

- Give \$17** to honor the 17 founding families.
- Give \$30** to match the 30-acre property that housed the original Shangri-La campus.
- Give \$50** to mirror the average monthly tuition for a Shangri-La School attendee.
- Give \$196.30** to celebrate the year Shangri-La was founded.

Give online at www.shangri-la-oregon.org/give or mail donation to: Shangri-La, Attn: CET, 4080 Reed Road SE #150, Salem, Oregon, 97302

60th Anniversary Tribute Givers

David Sloves	Jimmy and Patricia Jackson
Dennis and Darlene McCrea	Joe Mahoney
Donald and Sandy Rosenberger	Tiffani Olsen
Doug Hunt	Wendy and Robert Clark
	Michael Fiala



Students at Waldo Middle School in Salem made a variety of 'be kind' posters to hang around the school alongside napkins from this year's Yellow Napkin Project.



Willamette Career Academy students from the Health Services program filled over 1,000 plastic eggs with trinkets for Shangri-La's Accessible Egg Hunt.

Yellow Napkin Project Partners

- | | |
|---|---|
| Umpqua Bank, formerly Columbia Bank | On Any Sundae |
| Eagle Business Products - NapkinsOnly | Rosie's Mountain Coffee House |
| Marion County Health and Human Services | Route 99 |
| Ankeny Vineyard | Sweetly Baked |
| Third Avenue Eatery | Sewell Sweets |
| Denny's - Woodburn | Stayton T-Mobile |
| Baked and Loaded Potatoes | Silverton Bake Shop |
| Naked Cat Coffee | The Dawg House |
| Beehive Taphouse | The Hub |
| Caffe Capri Reed | The Safe Haven at Chemeketa Community College |
| Chic Skape | Shades of Brew |
| Cozzie's NY Deli | The Easy Otter |
| Heroes Tap House | Urban Grange |
| Keizer Sub Shop | Waldo Middle School |
| Lively Station | Western Oregon University Disability Services |



Tony shows off the quilt he won during Social Club in January. The quilts were made by members of the Mid Valley Quilt Guild.

Volunteers and Service Groups

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Willamette Career Academy Students | Raine Reiber |
| Gail and Jorge Dominguez | Amelia Stuck |
| Marcus Manning | Jason Donatelli |
| Kayley Oka | Jean McCormick |
| Glenn Linder | Dan and Robin Winkle |
| Kate Strathdee | James Lindekugel |
| Melissa Robnett | Nicole Fratangelo |
| Ruth Walton | Haley Mitchell |
| Nathan Martin | Taya Martinez |
| Leeloo Martin | Dominique Schoessler |
| Shana Winn | Robert Miller |
| JD Welch | Christina Deleon Guerrero |
| Tiffani and Carey Olsen | Kiri Watson |
| Charlotte, Ella and Michael Kemry | Deidre Candello |
| Janis Frank | Haley Mitchell |
| Vicki Caldwell | Natalie Klett |
| Janey Beaty | Megan Dominguez |
| Glen Dark | Mike and Aalicea Dominguez |
| Jennifer Gregory | Holly Pharms |
| Archer, Fletcher and Janet Yousey | Seth Pharms |
| Jake French | Kristan Ezziddine |
| | Crystal Arzdo |

Grants / Special Funding Partners

- PacificSource for peer support and case management for homeless individuals and families
- Oregon Department of Human Services for enrichment program transportation
- Oregon Health Authority for clinical supervision expansion

Greatest Need, Special Project and In-Kind Givers

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Caleb & Annie Reynolds | Albert Morgan |
| David and Ruth Braun | The Kitchen on Court |
| Douglas Golden | Mid Valley Quilt Guild |
| Heather Kopperud | Heather Yaple |
| Janet Schmidt | Lisa Santana |
| Roger and Colleen Plott | Lowell and Grace Herr |
| Sue Stalner | Michael and Susan Mahoney |
| Healing Motion Physical Therapy | Rhonda Wolf |
| PayneWest Insurance | |

missionmoments



That's Pretty Egg-cellent!

Presented in partnership with our friends at **Salem Electric**, Shangri-La's 9th annual Accessible Egg Hunt hosted over 100 individuals and families at the drive-thru style event featuring egg-earning games, photos with cosplayers, window painting, and more. "The sense of inclusivity by the volunteers was amazing," said one attendee.



Pizza Chef Jacobi

Jacobi landed one of his dream jobs as a pizza chef. On his first day, Jacobi brought home a pizza to his housemates and was proud that he had made it.



Wishes Granted

Donors fulfilled 215 gift wishes for 111 individuals and 12 families through the 2022 Holiday Wishes Project. Joe loved his new yellow jacket!



Mental Health Matters

In addition to distributing 1,000 green-colored light bulbs for the annual Light the Way for Mental Health campaign, Shangri-La also gave out 'mental health matters' bracelets during Mental Health Awareness Month in May.



Striking Up Conversation

In May, over 50 people hit the lanes for a Social Club bowling meet-up in Keizer at The Rec. Thanks to our friends at **Healing Motion Physical Therapy** for their support of the event.



Works of Joy

Kari installed her artwork in the Benson Family Gallery at Shangri-La's Salem office. Her show features diamond art, drawings, and paintings. Kari said creating is very therapeutic for her, and she finds a lot of joy in sharing it.



Ready To Grow

Sam has been busy readying his gardens for the summer growing season. He and his housemates have several raised beds and grow a variety of vegetables and flowers.



\$1,040.39
AND COUNTING!

Thank you to everyone who has filled a BottleDrop Give blue fundraising bag for Shangri-La. Your bottles and cans have really added up! These funds will help support activities for individuals served, like Social Club. Want to help? Need more bags? Go to:

www.shangrilaoregon.org/give

CAPITAL CITY
CORNHOLE CLASSIC



9/9/2023

Cornhole for Everyone.
- a fundraiser supporting Shangri-La -

Registration Opens 7/5 at:
www.shangrilaoregon.org/capitalcitycornholeclassic

Advocacy for increased DSP wages is priority of current legislative session

During the current legislative session, Shangri-La, the Oregon Resource Association, and many other providers across the state have advocated for state funding to increase wages for direct support professionals (DSP), specifically the Policy Option Package (POP) 132.

Increasing DSP wages is a critical step in addressing a significant workforce shortage. Many providers report a DSP vacancy rate of 23% or higher.

"The pandemic and changing workforce have continued to diminish our progress on wages," explained Amanda Valerio, a residential manager at Shangri-La. "On July 1, the minimum wage [in Oregon] is set to take another giant step up – and our wages must match this [increase] because DSP jobs are not minimum wage jobs!"

POP 132 includes wage inflation and rate increases that would improve DSP wages from around \$17 per hour to an average of \$20 per hour for the next biennium.



Shangri-La team members supported the 'Value the Work. Raise the Wage.' campaign at the Ways and Means Roadshow hearing on May 3 at the Oregon State Capitol.



Yellow napkin project; continued from page 2

more in-depth conversations [we had was] with a mother of a grown autistic son who was thrilled to see them," said Cat Sewell, owner of **Sewell Sweets** in downtown Salem.

The napkin messages were selected using input from individuals with disabilities

served by Shangri-La and direct support professionals (DSP) who support individuals at home, at work, and in their community. Several messages also mirrored sentiments from "Demystifying Disability", written by Emily Ladau, a disabled person and disability rights activist.

One of this year's top-selected messages read: No matter how significant a disability is, a person with disabilities can still learn, think, and feel. With the right support, people with disabilities can express themselves, participate in their community, and make their own decisions. *Learn more at: www.shangrilaoregon.org/yellownapkinproject.*

Members of the **Ankeny Vineyard** hospitality team hold up yellow napkins in their tasting room. Ankeny Vineyard, **Lively Station**, **Urban Grange Coffee**, and **Route 99** each distributed 1,000 napkins this year.

At Our Core

Mission: Serve individuals with disabilities or disadvantages so they may recognize and achieve their full potential.

Vision: Communities where all people are accepted for their abilities and celebrated for their successes.

Become Better Together

Visit Shangri-La's website to learn more, donate, volunteer or see current job openings.

www.ShangriLaOregon.org

If you no longer wish to receive the Shangri-La quarterly newsletter or have questions about this publication, email: community@shangrila-or.org or call 503-581-1732, x328.

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Shangri-La is a 501c3 non-profit human services organization, tax identification number: 93-0509414.