

(Top Left) The Danebo Home in Eugene received new flooring and furnishings and the garage was converted into a functional staff office.
(Top Right) New flooring and living room furnishings and a complete kitchen overhaul completed the Northview Terrace remodel in Keizer.

'Everyone deserves accessible, vibrant houses', Shangri-La reinvests \$1.8 million in homes

Since the start of 2023, Shangri-La has completed a variety of improvement projects at 18 program locations and offices -- an investment of over 1.8 million dollars. Projects included flooring replacements, kitchen and bathroom remodels, and improvements to exteriors or outside spaces.

Inspections and safety reports identified the list of improvements. Project costs ranged from \$8,000 to nearly half a million dollars. Two of the most significant projects included the extensive remodel of properties that will become new residential treatment homes for individuals experiencing severe and persistent mental illness.

Shangri-La's property management team coordinated the work which external contractors completed.

"We have found that it is faster to use contractors for these big projects because our property maintenance techs often get pulled away to fix other urgent issues," explained

Robin Winkle, director of operations.

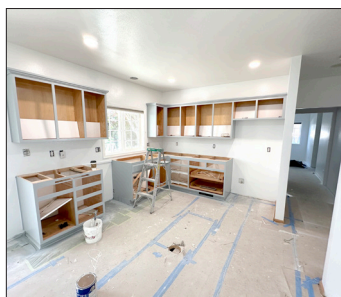
Grant funding and reinvested service revenue dollars covered the expenses for the projects. Additionally, fundraising efforts purchased furnishings for some of the updated spaces.

"Everyone deserves accessible, vibrant houses to call home. Many of our homes are aging and in need of updates to modernize, brighten, and increase accessibility," said Janet Yousey, Shangri-La's CEO. "This has been a goal for the organization for a couple of years, and I'm thrilled to look at the completed project list and see how many spaces we've improved."

Support this work with a direct impact donation.

Give to the Harms Home Beautification and Repair Fund

Donate online at: <https://bit.ly/harmsfund>



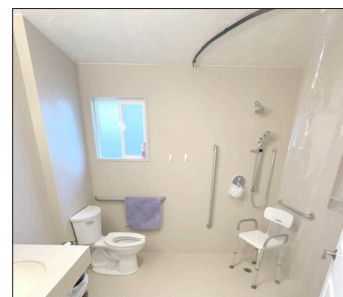
Contractors are working on a new home in Eugene.



A property in Salem received new siding and a fresh coat of paint.



Steve shows off the new kitchen (cabinets/appliances) at his home.



Step-free bathroom remodel at a home in Keizer.



Yellow Napkin Project grows to 20,000 napkins, 40+ distribution partners



Shangri-La's Yellow Napkin Project aims to increase our community's disability allyship through education and awareness that leads to actions that promote a more accessible and inclusive community.

Started in 2022 with just 2,500 napkins, the Yellow Napkin Project distributed 20,000 napkins featuring five disability awareness messages during Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March. The messages were identified using input from:

- individuals with disabilities served by Shangri-La
- employees with disabilities working at Shangri-La

- disability community allies, including Direct Support Professionals and family members of individuals with disabilities

Messages also echo the knowledge Shangri-La has learned from individuals with disabilities over the past 60 years of supporting this community.

The napkins were distributed by community partners who shared them with their customers. Twenty-six new businesses joined the effort this year. The napkins were paid for by a partnership with **Umpqua Bank** and **Shangri-La's Better Together Giving Community**.

message

1

Remember that even if a person with disabilities utilizes support from a support professional, interpreter, or companion, your primary interaction and engagement should be with the individual, not their support person. Then, if assistance is needed, the support person can help.

message

2

Disability does not mean inability. Regardless of their disability, people with disabilities can express themselves, complete daily activities, participate in their community, and make decisions. Some people with disabilities need assistance to do these things. Others do not.

message

3

Disability is common. A disability is any permanent or temporary physical, mental, cognitive, or developmental condition that impairs, interferes with, or limits a person's ability to complete or participate in daily activities. Up to 1 in 4 people in the U.S. have a disability, most of which are invisible.

message

4

Each person's experience with their disability is highly unique, and support needs vary greatly, even among those who share the same disability diagnosis. Always presume competence, seek understanding, and ask before helping.

message

5

Many people with disabilities want to and can work, yet they remain the most unemployed and underemployed population in the United States. Most people with disabilities need no or only minimal accommodations to perform their jobs successfully.

2024 Yellow Napkin Project Partners

- On Any Sundae, Salem
- Beehive Station Taphouse, Salem
- Waldo Middle School, Salem
- Keizer Sub Shop, Keizer
- Urban Grange, Salem
- Don Froylan Creamery, Salem
- The Bread Board, Falls City
- Route 99, Brooks
- Third Avenue Eatery, Stayton
- The Vault Bar and Grill, Salem
- Sugar Js, Corvallis
- Cafe Brarlin, Independence
- Denny's, Woodburn
- Retro Burger Company, Jefferson
- Silverton Bake Shop, Silverton
- Marion County Health and Human Services, Salem
- Manna Japanese Comfort Food, Salem
- NY Squares, Independence
- Suzy's Taqueria, Stayton
- Redline Birrieria, Salem
- Stomp by Croft Vineyards, Salem
- Icarus Wings and Things, Salem
- Cozzie's NY Deli, Salem
- Adams Ribs Smokehouse, Salem
- Lively Station, Salem
- Sewell Sweets, Salem
- Willamette Valley Pie Company, Salem
- Miller's BBQ, Salem
- Quesadilla Wizards, Salem
- Chic Skape, Mt Angel
- Night Deposit Whiskey Library, Salem
- Black Sheep Cafe, Salem
- Heroes Tap House, Salem
- Ollie's Pizza and Game Center, Salem
- The Sippery, Monmouth
- New Morning Bakery, Dallas
- YMCA Cafe, Salem
- Gracie's Sweets and Treats, Salem
- Willamette University Community Service Learning/The Bistro, Salem
- Ankeny Vineyard, Salem
- 255 Madison, Eugene
- Ixtapa Restaurant, Stayton
- Umpqua Bank



Accessible Spring Festival provides an alternative to the traditional egg hunt experience



Shangri-La's annual event, formerly the Accessible Egg Hunt, got a makeover this year. The eggs were retired, but participants were welcomed by five community agencies that offered games, giveaways, and resources for families. Capitol Dental gave away oral hygiene kits, the Oregon State Fire Marshall provided information on fire safety, and the Salem Kroc Center offered families a membership discount.

The switch came after event organizers identified that the event could be a fun and engaging platform to connect individuals and families to local resources.

"The eggs were fun, but they also posed some accessibility challenges for some in attendance," explained event coordinator Jennifer Manning about the event's new direction. "So, we decided to do away with the Easter and egg hunt focus and go all in on a spring-festival-like environment with games, music, and community booths."

This year's event served over 100 cars and engaged individuals with disabilities of all ages. Post event survey respondents said the event's 'ease of participation' was its best feature. "Everyone got a chance to participate," said one event attendee in the survey.

Accessible Spring Festival Partners



- Salem's Riverfront Carousel
- United Way Good360
- Kettle Chips
- Jamba Juice - Commercial St.
- Bullwinkle's Family Fun Center
- Bowlero Corporation
- The Kroc Center - Salem
- Salem Fire Department
- Capitol Dental
- Salem Parks and Recreation
- Keizer Police Department

Grant will provide employment services to individuals from Ukraine

Shangri-La's Youth and Family Services Program (YFS) was awarded an \$85,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to provide employment services to Ukrainian humanitarian parolees. The grant's purpose is a natural extension of the work the YFS Program is already doing for parents with barriers to employment receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

To ensure services are delivered in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner, Shangri-La hired two Ukrainian-speaking career coaches who are originally from Ukraine. The career coaches will provide vocational assessments, resume development, job search, job training, and job coaching. Shangri-La will also connect program participants to re-certification or re-credentialing services for licenses, credentials, or certifications they held in Ukraine.

Shangri-La is expected to provide services to at least 15 individuals by September 2024 but hopes to continue offering these services beyond the grant period.



Shangri-La has partnered with Oregon BottleDrop Give to turn bottles and cans into funds that will help individuals supported by Shangri-La.

Pledge to be a Frequent Can-tributor

Pledge to fill 4, 8, 12, 16, or 24 blue BottleDrop bags per year. Return the filled bags to any Oregon BottleDrop redemption center. Your bags are credited to Shangri-La's BottleDrop account.

Sign-up at:
bit.ly/slabbottledropgive

missionmoments



WWE and BBQ Collide

Thank you to **Miller's BBQ** for hosting Shangri-La's Social Club for a viewing of WrestleMania 40 on their big screen.



Wild West Wanderings

The guys from Garlock House enjoyed a taste of the wild west lifestyle during their vacation to Tombstone, AZ.



Songs from the Heart

Social Club's valentine karaoke (valen-oke) event had everyone belting songs from the bottom of their hearts.



D is for Diamond Dotz

Kari taught a small group how to paint with diamonds during her Diamond Dotz class in January.



Wishes Granted

The 2023 Holiday Wishes Project provided 221 gifts to 84 individuals and 45 families served by Shangri-La.



Made the Nice List

Mr. and Mrs. Claus took time out of their busy schedule to visit Shangri-La's Life Enrichment Activities Program (LEAP).



Space for What Matters

Lance purchased a shelf to store his 300+ collection of Bibles. "[Now,] I can keep [them] neat. It makes me happy," said Lance.



Happy Birthday Oregon

LEAP appropriately celebrated Oregon's birthday with a trek through the rainy woods in February.

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.

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

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- Ashley Erb, Director of Community Engagement
- James Lindekugel, Director of Employment and Day Services
- Tiffani Olsen, Director of IDD/APD Residential Services
- Robin Winkle, Director of Operations and Homeless Services
- Bradley Leland, Director of Behavioral Health Services

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