# Neighbor to Neighbor

Eastside Friends of Seniors

A Newsletter of Eastside Friends of Seniors

Eastside Friends of Seniors provides volunteer-based services for seniors facing the challenges of aging.

#### 2012 Auction

## a "BONANZA"

### for the Elderly

This year's auction broke all previous records! We raised \$80,000 to help provide vital services to the elderly in our community. In its fourth year, the annual auction has become a beloved tradition with fun themes, great auction items, delicious food, and fabulous company. This year's theme, "Bonanza", featured hay bales and horses (saw horses), country music and "Gold Nugget Cocktails", and saw attendees enjoying the evening in jeans and boots. And once again, bidders got to go home with fabulous and unique items. An exercise ball bike and bartending party were among the new items and trips to Disney and beautiful Lopez Island made a return appearance.

Eastside Friends of Seniors extends a special thank you to our **Gold Medal Sponsors**:

- Cardwell Consulting
- Sunset Funeral Home
- Swedish Hospital
- The Whitaker Foundation

#### And to Silver Medal Sponsors:

- Aegis Living
- American West Bank
- Bellewood Senior Living
- Kiwanis Club of Providence Point
- Synergy Home Care

The event's success would not have been possible without Brenda Shea, Event Chair, and Shira Firestone, Auction Coordinator. We also thank everyone who donated goods and services or came out to support the event.



#### Eastside Friends of Seniors

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Margie Costello,
Volunteer
Coordinator
Ramona Lawrence,
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Coordinator
Teresa Lalk,
Program Assistant

## **Letter from the Director**

Dear Friends:

I recently heard this story from a friend. Mr. H, was in his mid-80s, fiercely independent, and living on his own. His son and daughter-in-law, living out of state, visited him at Thanksgiving. He seemed be doing just fine back then. They didn't know that he had quit driving distances that were longer than 10 minutes in the car. Mr. H didn't admit this to anyone. He didn't want to give up the freedom that came along with his car keys. But he just didn't feel safe driving, outside of the few familiar miles around the house. As a result, he hadn't been to medical appointments in more than a year.

When his son and daughter-in-law walked in the door this spring, they saw a man a ghost of who he had been just five months before. Mr. H had always been of a wiry athletic build, but now, he had lost about a third of his body weight and was skeletal. They went from the foyer of his house straight to the emergency room. He went from the ER to the hospital, and then into hospice. He shortly after.

What if this elderly man had been a client of ours? Our trained volunteers would have been able to alert our Client Services Coordinator. He would have received rides

to the doctor who could have monitored his condition. He might not have had months of suffering before getting help.

We need your help. If you're reading this it is because you already have a valued relationship with Eastside Friends of Seniors. Thank you. You are in the perfect position to help us spread the word and recruit new volunteers. Lately we have been getting an unprecedented number of requests for transportation to medical appointments. We need more volunteers or we have many service requests that will go unfulfilled. Here are some ways you can help: Can you ask if we can have a table at your church on Sunday? Would you be willing to host a house party where we can tell people about our program and enlist their support? Can you put a notice in your homeowners' association newsletter?

Your support of our community's seniors may save someone's life.

Warm Regards,

Claire Petersky

Claire Petersky, Executive Director Claire@eastsidefirendsofseniors.org (425) 369-9120

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## **Congregations Put their Faith in Action**

Client Willa Hill is in her early 90s, living on a 10 acres in the have tackled both housework more rural section of our service area. She maintains 6 acres of it, with a lovely garden. "I'm out here every day", she reports. But there's some heavier work to maintain the garden she can't quite tackle on her own. That's where our volunteers come in.

In Willa's case, she most recently got help from Sammamish Presbyterian Church members, as a part of their Day of Service. Members went out to two clients' properties to do yard chores.

The congregations that partner with our agency have been making a big difference for our community's elders through one-day service projects.

In addition to Sammamish Presbyterian Church, Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church, and Faith Church have recently taken on projects. A chavurah at Temple B'nai Torah is scheduled to do another one. And City Church's internship program has been a faithful partner, contributing

groups of young adults who and yardwork projects with energy and enthusiasm.

Client Harriet Twitchell used to spend hours in her garden. Now, as full-time caregiver for her husband with Alzheimer's, she doesn't have the time or the energy any more, "The interns from City Church did a great job—thank you so much for sending them to me!"

How do these projects work? We match an elder that can use the help of a group of people for all or part of a day.

For example, due to illness or disability, some of our clients can not tackle heavy housework. A team of housework volunteers can these jobs that still need to get done, such as washing windows or scrubbing baseboards.

Group volunteers also help clients with yardwork. Many clients had winter storm damage to their properties, and some are still waiting for help with broken and fallen tree branches and shrubs.

Group projects can also address security concerns. One client has his pick-up truck regularly washed, even if no one drives it anymore—it gives the impression that someone active is living in the house. Another client needs to have shrubs trimmed back so potential burglars don't have cover and can be seen on the street.

If your congregation would like to give a day of service, why not to one of seniors? Contact Margie, our Volunteer Coordinator, at 425-369-9120 and find out who needs your help today.



#### **Bonanza Auction Item Donors - Thank You!**

Frankie's Pizza

Fred Meyer

Fit One

Fine Wine & Cigars

Fitness Together Issaquah

12th Avenue Café 59er Diner 5th Avenue Theatre 88 Kevs Accounting Professionals Ace Hardware **Active Transformations** Adriatic Grill Italian Cuisine and Wine Bar Adventure Kids Alpine Acupuncture AMF Sun Villa Lanes Andelcare Anonymous Anthony's Restaurants Applebee's **Argosy Cruises** Bagpipediscs.com Barbara Roser Photography Bear Creek Country Club **BECU Credit Union** Bed Bath & Beyond Bequette Heating LLC Bill Speidel's Underground Tour Black Horse Art Studio Boehm's Candies Bright Now! Dental Build-A-Bear Canlis Restaurant Canvas On Demand Cashmere Museum and Pioneer Village Cedar Grove Compost Christophe LLC Civilized Nature Columbia Fitness Sammamish Cookies by Design

Friends of Dave Reichert **Gallery Concerts** Good Samaritan Episcopal Church **Great Clips** Great Play of Redmond Green Mountain Coffee Gymboree Half Price Books Henri P. Gaboriau, M.D. Hollyhock Lifelong Learning Center Huntington Learning Academy Icicle Outfitters and Guides, Inc. Inn at the Market Ivar's Janie's Nails Jazzercise Issaquah Community Center Jenny Pho John Howie Restaurants Kahler Glen Golf and Ski Resort Kalalach Lodge King 5 Television LA Fitness Lakeside Memories Lazy River Winery Mary Oueen of Peace Book Club Marymoor Self Storage Massage Envy Spa Creatively Yours Ceramic Master Chorus Eastside Michael's Chevrolet of Belle-Painting Studio Delille Cellars viie Dirk's Drycleaning Microsoft Store Bellevue Disneyland Mode Organic Salon Dreamshare Media Moore Bros. Music Dry Clean USA Motel 6 Issaguah Elements Therapeutic Massage New York Cupcakes Next Step Archery - Issaquah Eliott's Oyster House Nice Cuts **Experience Music Project** Northwest Chamber Chorus

Northwest Outdoor Center Office of Senator Patty Murray Olympus Spa Pacific Bicycle Pacific Learning Center Pacific Marketing International Pacific Science Center Paradiso Olive Oils and Vinegars Parlor Billiards and Spirits Patty's Hair Design Petticoat Junction Pine Lake Ale House Plateau Motors Progressive International Providence Marianwood Providence Senior and Community Services Redmond Inn Redmond Work and Western Wear Rhonda Newton DDS Ristorante Simone Rotary Club of Sammamish Roy Spain Salon Sabra Limo, LLC Salon 74 Salon Ciba Salsa N'Seattle LLC Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church Sanctuary Choir Members Sammamish Family Dental Clinic Sammamish Highlands Veterinary Clinic/Hospital Sammamish Hot Yoga Sammamish Point Espresso

Sammamish Presbyterian

Sammamish Symphony

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Silver Age

Silver Platters

Seattle Pro Musica

Sherwin Williams

Shakti Vinyasa Yoga

Church

Sleeping Bull Dog Bed and Breakfast Smith Brothers Farms Stila Cosmetics Tefft Cellars The Anabella Hotel The Crab Pot Tom Bihn, Inc. Tom Estes Mt. Si Stables TPC Snoqualmie Ridge Trader Joe's **Tutoring Club** Vacation Internationale Washington Federal Savings Bank Wheel of Fortune White Horse Toys Wings Aloft Woman Spirit Center Women of Faith World Mark by Wyndham Yo Plateau



keeps the peace.

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#### Second Half of 2011 Donors—Thank You!

Our donors from 7/1/11—12/31/11:

#### Over \$10,000

**Employees Community Fund** of Boeing

#### Over \$5,000

City of Sammamish City of Issaguah Khaki Foundation

#### \$2,000—\$5,000

Kawabe Memorial Fund Sammamish Presbyterian Church

#### \$1,000—\$2,499

Microsoft Matching Gifts Program

#### \$500—\$999

Dexter Horton Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America The Ridge Women's Golf Club

#### \$100—\$499 Acar Bill

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Patricia Welles

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### REMEMBER...

Please give the office an extra week's notice to arrange rides and services on National Holidays. The office will be closed on July 4 for Independence Day and September 3 for Labor Day.

**Neighbor to Neighbor** 

#### Thank You, Volunteers for the Second Half of 2011

Brownie Troop 43279
John Abercrombie
Dorothy Amidei
Ronald Andresen ☆
Dan Aznoff ☺
Matthew Bailey
Linda Beahan ☺
Brianne Bennett
Rebecca Berg

Carol Bergan
Michael Birdsall ☆
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Jasmine Crowder

Sharon Dahl

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Sonia Izquierdo ©

Noriko Kilambi © Esther Kile Marie Krack Jillian Kraker Conlan Kroes Marion Krueger ☆ Nannette Krueger Ronald Krueger Teresa Lalk Ulrich Lalk Felice Lam

Ramona Lawrence **☆ •** 

Eun Jin Lee Man Jae Lee David Levine Lon Lindo ☆ Hiroko Lindsey Nathan Long Peggy Loshin @ DeeAnn Maher Sara Mathy Trenton Mathy Patrick McClintock Theresa McHenry Kim Meissner Korina Mever John Mizenko Makyla Morrison Marilyn Morrow © Michelle Moss

Ken Mozlowski

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Andrew Newbold

Raney Newman ©

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Herbert Roberts ☆
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Margaret Rosenow �
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Margaret Waldron ☆
Madeline Wall
Brian Walsh
Doug Watson
Tim Wells
Ruth Winbauer
Martin Wood ☺
Shannon Wood
Susan Wood ☺
Vincent Wu ☺
Rochelle Wyatt ৵
Scott Wyatt
Helen Yantus
Ashley Young ☺

Chris Vernon

#### Symbol Key

- New volunteer in 2nd half of 2011
- **10** or more years of service
- ☆ Super Volunteer 50 or more hours contributed in the 6 month period.

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## **Friendly Visitors Provide Much Needed Support**



Making a new friend enlivens your life.

Joyce lives by herself in a modest home. She eats cheerios for breakfast, a bologna sandwich for lunch, and a frozen dinner for supper, every day. She doesn't leave her house except to go to the grocery to shop for these items, and to go to medical appointments. She reports having no friends. Her only family, a sister in Florida, visits her a couple of times a year. She otherwise is alone. Her days consist mostly of watching TV.

Joyce started out preferring being alone. But after the snow storms we had in January, the power went out. For three days, she sat by herself in her cold dark house, without being able to turn on the TV, and without the ability to heat up her frozen dinner. It made her think. After that, she called Eastside Friends of Seniors. She told us she'd like to have a friendly visitor come by, "so if I died here in the house, someone might notice".

When Ramona Lawrence, our Client Services Coordinator came by to do the home visit, she noticed that the house could use some cleaning, too. Joyce didn't do a lot of housework for a long time because there was no one to keep it up for - she had no visitors. It just slowly got worse and worse, and then it just became overwhelming. It got so bad she felt like she couldn't have anyone over. She was embarrassed.

It took a while, but Margie Costello, our Volunteer Coordinator, found a friend for Joyce. They gave it a trial, and it's working well enough that we're calling it a match. Joyce may still prefer mostly being alone, but now she also has a friend that stops by regularly. Someone who can give a hand around the house, but more importantly, provide a human connection in Joyce's life.

Our volunteers give our clients rides, help with shopping and chores, and provide companionship, for seniors living independently, who face the challenges of aging. Do you want to join them? You can make a difference in someone's life. Please call Margie at 425-369-9120, or email her at Margie@eastsidefriendsofseniors.org.



While Eastside Friends of Seniors provides services, our clients return to us the gift of their stories, their spirits, and their lives.

Losing a client is difficult for staff and volunteers. Our circle is made smaller by the loss of the following individuals:

- Jeanne Bononcini
- William Shonk
- Rosemarie Olsen

We honor the memory of each one, and share with family and friends our condolences.





#### Put Light into a Senior's Life-Give the Gift of Independence

Give the gift of independence to the seniors in our community. Please give to Eastside Friends of Seniors If you are receiving this

Mail this to: Eastside Friends of Seniors, 1121 228th Ave SE, Sammamish WA 98075