



Happy Holidays from Noah's Workshop



Special events at Noah's Workshop:

Wisdom from Charlie Brown

Celebrating Christmas

Changes, Changes, Changes...

Highlights:

The Perfect Day Page 3

Note from Sue Page 3



Christmas 2009

Shann is quite excited to get a Charlie Brown pillow!

Wisdom from Charlie Brown

Charlie Brown: Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?

Linus Van Pelt: Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about.

"... And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day

in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord...' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all.'"

That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.

Celebrating Christmas

Secret Santa presents, spreads of delicious food and sweet Christmas cookies, laughter and shouts of excitement were all big parts of the Noah's Workshop Christmas Party this year hosted by Julie Hebert.

On December 17th Core Members, assistants and volunteers, gathered excited to be together in a new setting.

It was a simple gathering, but much fun was had by all. These were some highlights:

- Jodi walking in with her new knees!
- Shann Dell's enthusiastic singing of Happy Birthday to Sue and Sonja.
- The tenderness Agnes and Lu shared with Sharilynn.

- Stacie opening Ricky's present and the rush to re-wrap that followed.
- The presence of Robbie's mother.
- Carie bonding with Diana's "little one" Elizabeth.
- The mayhem that followed the accidental throwing away of a gift certificate.
- Nancy's enjoyment of the various dessert options.
- Julie's wonderful generosity and the hard work of all our gracious volunteers.

In fact, we loved the Christmas party so much it took several hours to convince everyone that the party was indeed over and we needed to go home.



New Assistants

“For everything you have missed, you have gained something else, and for everything you gain, you lose something else.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

In August the workshop went through a time of transition. We had to say goodbye to our Lutheran Volunteer Allison Wisco, but also had the opportunity to welcome a new Lutheran Volunteer and a Jesuit Volunteer. This is the first time we have had both and we are very excited about the opportunities this creates.

Teresa Hershberger is our Lutheran Volunteer. She grew up in Wooster, Ohio and went to school at Bluffton University where she studied Religion: Youth Ministry. She loves ending a day at the workshop with a slow dance in the kitchen and a good laugh.

Mike is our Jesuit Volunteer from Syracuse, New York. He went to the University of Buffalo where he studied Community and Mental Health. Mike has a passion for music which is a gift he shares with the Workshop and enjoys rainbows and waterfalls.

FUN FRIDAY!

Fun Fridays are a wonderful addition to our program week. Diana Busch began coming in to support the Workshop on Fridays and brought with her loads of fun! Abby, a new volunteer joins in the adventures.

Over the past few months we have had many great (and sometimes amusing) Friday adventures.

Some days we go to Ananda where we relax with hot drinks, read stories, play Yatzee and try out different kinds

of movement and dance.

Other days, our adventures take us a little further from the workshop. Once we visited the Zoo at Point Defiance and on another day a few of us went to Northwest Trek. This was a very cold adventure, but Ricky enjoyed the shuttle ride and Carie *loved* trying to intimidate the Bison.

We all enjoy our Friday fun days and anticipate much more to come with the New Year!

Updates in the Workshop Week

Ricky continues to volunteer at both LeMay’s and Food Connection. He also continues to enjoy helping with Community Outreach.

Bobby loves going swimming every Tuesday and has been regularly volunteering at the Franke Tobey Jones Senior Center. We are looking for other opportunities for Bobby to volunteer.

Stacie is forming new friendships with the children at Puyallup Playcare. She continues to create beautiful cards with the help of Rosemary. In the New Year, we plan to explore the option of starting a small business for her card sales.

Sharilynn has her dream job... shopping weekly at Costco for the Food Connection. She has become

part of the woodwork at Catherine’s Place where she is a treasured volunteer and hard worker.

Nancy has been approved for a new communication device - a DynaVox. This will help her communicate and provide new opportunities. We are all excited for the possibilities this presents and anticipate its arrival in the New Year.

Shann continues to both delight and challenge us with her passions in life... the library, cards, Charlie Brown, hot dogs, grilled cheeseburgers...

Carie continues to call us to a deeper understanding of silence and never ceases to amaze us with her full basket of pranks.

Robbie, ever the jokester, brings life and laughter to our hearts with his presence on Mondays at “the shon.”



Sharilynn, Sue, and Stacie enjoy an afternoon at Starbucks with tasty drinks of the season.



Bobby and Teresa also enjoying special holiday treats.



Noah's Workshop
12303 36th Ave East
Tacoma WA, 98446

Phone:
(253) 537-7540

Fax:
(253) 539-9208

E-Mail:
noahsws@gmail.com

(About the snow)
"Well, it's cute, but I
don't like to put my
shoe in it."
~Ricky Durham

**New L'Arche Tahoma Hope
Website!**
Visit us at:
<http://larchethc.org/>

Note of Thanks

Sonja Perez has blessed us with her amazing creativity. She supports Nancy on her office days as well as providing Ricky, Sharilynn and Stacie support with their Pathway to Employment.



The Perfect Day

We all have our passions...the things that make it easier to get up in the morning! One of Stacie's passions is coffee...preferably Starbucks! There was the day when she came into the chapel prior to mass, took off her shoes and centered her empty coffee cup on the altar opposite the candle. After the cup was in the right spot (took a few minutes), she turned with a satisfied smile and said, "There!" as if "There it is!" Stacie went from praying for mochas (preferably Starbucks) each morning to offering it as gift.

There was the day that Stacie got everything she wanted (two mochas, volunteering with her Puyallup Playcare kids "pick 'em up, and MacDonaldis for lunch). By the end of the day, Stacie was doing her version of the wave and shouting, "Yahoo! Yahoo! Yahoo!"

Our hope and prayer for you is that 2010, will bring and abundance of joy and happiness as well as a few perfect "Yahoo!" days.

A special message from Noah's Workshop!

These past months have been a little crazy but oh, so much fun! The folks who are on a Pathway to Employment are getting out and volunteering in areas that nourish their passions. Assistants are being nourished through formation, retreats and creative outlets. We have amazing volunteers who support and love us. Rosemary and Abby are our two newest volunteers this year. Jodi, Carmen, Mara, Sr. Madeleine and Lu continue to give of their hearts and souls. We cannot forget all the love and support we receive from our L'Arche homes. It is with a full heart that we wish you a blessed Christmas and a Joy-filled New Year.

*At times our own
light goes out and
is rekindled by a
spark from another
person.
Each of us has
cause to think
with deep
gratitude of those
who have lighted
the flame within
us.*

*~Albert
Schweitzer*