



# Spotlight

Fall/Winter Edition  
2006

Volume 13 Number 3



## OUR 2006 AUCTION WAS AMAZING!

We hope that everyone who attended agrees with us when we say that our 2006 Auction was our best event ever! Our results exceeded every goal, and we feel as though we are getting closer to having a “perfect formula” for our most critical fundraising event.

Thank you to each of you who attended, and for your generosity and spirit of spending. Our total proceeds were more than \$73,000!

We’re already planning for our 2007 Auction.

**Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 13, 2007!**

We plan to once again hold our event at the Embassy Suites in Bellevue.

The Auction Committee (Cheryl Jordan, Lori Carney, Catherine Carter, Claudia Bean McIntosh, Barbara Barger, Eva Robinson and Suzanne Yoder) worked very hard, but we want to acknowledge the INCREDIBLE work and effort of Suzanne Yoder—we truly couldn’t have done it without Suzanne!

**THANK YOU SUZANNE!!**

Thank You to our  
2006 Auction  
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### Mission Statement

Helping Hands for the Disabled’s mission is to support people with developmental disabilities in achieving their potential, building their self esteem, and enhancing their community involvement. To accomplish this, we commit our energy and resources to developing and maintaining residences and a continuum of program services to meet their needs.

The thing always happens that you really believe in, and the belief in a thing makes it happen. Frank Loyd Wright

# We Can Make A Difference

by Barbara Barger

*(NOTE: Barbara originally wrote this document with the intention for it to be her speech at the 2006 Auction. Unfortunately, Barbara was not able to present this speech, but we are including it here because it contains very serious and important information, and is a pre-cursor to the even more important letter shown on page 4.)*

“Thanks to all of you who came out tonight. We hope you are having a great time.

This past year has left me with many holes in my heart. We’ve had three residents pass away and those losses have been so painful for our staff and other residents. Two other residents whose nursing needs have increased had to move from Champion House and Trail House to Visions.

We currently have two vacancies at Champion House and one at Trail House, and the State DSHS claims to have a shortage of funding for new residents to fill the spots. Our greatest need is new residents who need and want the services we provide.

It becomes more difficult to heal the holes in your heart when they result in huge holes in your budget.

This past summer was the first summer that our residents did not attend a very popular summer camp: Lake Retreat. Lake Retreat requires us to have full staffing, funds for overtime pay for our staff, and funds to pay for the residents to attend. Sadly, we did not have the staffing or the funds that were needed. We know how much our residents enjoy this event, but as an Agency, we had to make a very difficult decision, and when all the factors were weighed, we truly had no choice.

Suffice it to say that this past year has been one of the most difficult years ever.

Usually, we have a specific capital item that we are trying to raise funds for, but tonight we are simply asking you to raise your paddles to MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

The funds raised tonight may be used to pay for: extra staffing that is necessary to accompany our residents on outings or special vacations; pay for residents to attend special camps such as Camp Easter Seal and Volunteers of America; clothing or furniture for residents; medical/dental benefits and incentive programs for staff; and maintenance of our vehicles and/or our homes.

As much as I, and the Board, hate to even contemplate the possibility, if we do not get new referrals for people that we can serve, we will be taking a serious look at closing one of our houses. That makes me very sad when I know there are so many people in our communities who need the services we provide. People who want to apply are being told there is no funding in the biennium for new placements.

We need you to MAKE A DIFFERENCE by:

1. Raising your bid cards for financial support;
2. Contacting your Legislators and **convincing** them to restore funding for new placements and support community programs for people with developmental disabilities.”

## Your 2007 Board of Directors and Officers

The Board of Directors for Helping Hands for the Disabled held its Annual Meeting on November 14, 2006 at the Highland Center in Bellevue. The Officers for the 2007 Board were elected:

**President: Cheryl Jordan**  
**Vice President: Lori Carney / Catherine Carter**  
**Secretary: Julie Hegira**  
**Treasurer: Roland Kipfstuhl**

The Board of Directors currently has nine members: John Beswetherick, Lori Carney, Catherine Carter, Julie Hegira, Cheryl Jordan, Roland Kipfstuhl, Renee Maher, Claudia Bean McIntosh and Ed Meyer.

The Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at Highland Center, and you are always welcome to attend Board Meetings.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, or you know someone who would be, please let us know!

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## 2006 Staff Night Out

Each year, every staff member is invited to a “Staff Night Out” event that typically includes a white elephant gift game, recognition of all staff and awards for specific staff, door prizes and camaraderie with all members of the Agency.

This year, Staff Night Out was held at our Visions facility on Thursday, November 30. Due to the previous popularity of having a potluck with each staff person bringing a dish representative of their heritage, this year’s event was also a potluck. The variety of delicious food was fabulous! We had food from many parts of Africa, Indonesia, Peru, Mexico, Italy, Iran, all 4 corners of the United States and, believe it or not, even Costco!

Door prize winner: Elsa Chavez. (CONGRATULATIONS!)

Staff Awards: Loretta Wiggins, Tara Yoder, Lynn Bartlett and Suzanne Yoder.

Thank you to those who worked so staff could go to the event: Suzanne Johnson and Mildred Berkebile.

We have so many dedicated and hard-working employees.

**Our staff and management deserve a huge round of applause!**



## An Important Letter to the Division of Developmental Disabilities

(Please see Barbara Barger's Article "We Can Make A Difference" at page 2 for more information and background on this matter)

This letter will be sent during the week of December 8, 2006. None of us at Helping Hands for the Disabled is happy about the necessity or purpose of this letter. Unfortunately, however, we are not able to continue our current level of operations if we do not have residents to fill the vacancies we have at Visions and at Champion House.

We welcome any comments or ideas that you may have in regard to this issue. We also encourage you to talk to anyone you know who might be able to help us find a solution.

December 11, 2006

Ms. Marybeth Poch, Regional Administrator  
Division of Developmental Disabilities  
N46-6, 1700 East Cherry  
Seattle, WA. 98122-4695

Dear Ms. Poch:

Helping Hands for the Disabled currently operates two group homes which were built with HUD 202 funds, and both of them have project based Section 8 Rent Subsidies for the people who live there. We also operate the Visions Intensive Support program in two locations. We take great pride in the quality of care and support we provide to the people we serve.

This has been an extremely traumatic year for us due to the deaths of three of our residents and the declining health of other residents. We currently have two vacancies at Champion House and one in our ITS.

We've had many inquiries about the vacancies and I always refer them to DDD to have their referral package sent to us. They are being told they cannot be referred unless they are on a waiver, so they are being left un-served.

The fact that we are literally begging for referrals and getting little response has forced us to look at our financial future and the impact the vacancies are having on our other residents and our agency.

At our Annual Meeting on November 14, 2006, our Board of Directors voted to notify DDD that we will start the process to move the two women who live at Visions ITS/Trail House to Champion House, and to close Trail House. This action will diminish three openings that people in our community sorely need. This letter serves as notice.

We have spoken with the guardians of both of the women who live at Trail House and they are understanding of the situation, but are upset that referrals are not coming, and the disruption of their daughters' lives.

I am sending copies of this letter to Governor Christine Gregoire, Robin Arnold-Williams, and several Legislators. I hope that someone is going to respond to this situation before it is too late. I feel our system should be embarrassed that the two openings have sat at Champion House since February and April and no referrals have been made. Two vacancies have sat dormant in a beautiful house, in a thriving neighborhood, with services a block away, plus rent subsidies. It is shameful.

Marybeth, we are asking for your support and leadership to act on our behalf in expediting appropriate referrals to our programs.

I can be reached at 425-644-4344, 425-765-7630 or email at [bbhelpinghands@comcast.net](mailto:bbhelpinghands@comcast.net).

Thank you.

Barbara A. Barger  
Executive Director

**CHECK OUT OUR NEWLY-REDESIGNED WEBSITE!**

Thank you to Laura Jordan for her work in redesigning our website. Take a look and let us know what you think!

[www.hhftd.org](http://www.hhftd.org)



*We have so many wonderful supporters!*

Please go to our website at [www.hhftd.org](http://www.hhftd.org) for information on a wonderful program that will truly bring bright smiles to many faces!



**Hello from Africa!**

The trip to South Africa is worth whatever it goes for at the auction! It is truly something you should reward yourself with for all your years of hard work. We are having the trip of a lifetime. It is a dream come true!

I cannot say enough about the beautiful people of South Africa and their customs. The food is great and the hospitality we are receiving is out of this world. South Africa Airlines gives service that is superior to any we have ever seen. Renee Mills, "Mama Africa" at Mills Tourism Consulting has done a fantastic job in setting up our entire itinerary. We are being taken care of every inch of the way!

I have visited the famous DeBeers Diamond mine in the Johannesburg area. Oh! My God! If only I were rich! However, the diamonds you buy from the mine are discounted 25% and are below the price we would pay in any of our jewelry stores in the first place. At the mine, you can buy the famous Cullinar (sic) 66 faceted diamonds (the "star" diamond). All other diamonds are 58 facets. This is the only place in the world - and only from the mine itself, that you can buy this diamond. I can assure you it is more beautiful than any diamond you have ever seen! (I have their phone number - when I get rich, I will phone in my order!)

S-o-o-o.....bid up a storm at the auction for this trip. You will NEVER be sorry. Your rewards will be two-fold. You will be treated royally to the vacation of a lifetime and benefiting the clients served by Helping Hands for the Disabled all at the same time.


I hope this years auction is the most productive in the history of the agency. My only regret is that I won't be there this year - as I am in the middle of my African vacation and thoroughly enjoying every wonderful and magical minute!

Gail Provo

Do you give through **United Way** at work?

You can designate your donation to **Helping Hands for the Disabled** during the **United Way Fall Giving Campaign**

Here is how.....

Check the "OTHER" box and write in our **United Way** designation number **1826**. We are not a United Way Agency, but we are registered with the State of  Washington and you may designate all or a portion of your donation for us. Many times employers will match your donation.

Our Washington State Employees Combined Fund Drive # is **549**.

*We appreciate your support!*



*Happiest holiday wishes from all of us at Helping Hands for the Disabled!*

*Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2007 for all of us!*



APPLICANTS FOR HOUSING PROGRAMS OR EMPLOYMENT ARE WELCOME WITHOUT REGARD TO SEX, AGE, HANDICAPPING CONDITIONS, RELIGION, VETERAN STATUS, RACE, COLOR, CREED OR MARITAL STATUS.

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**SPOTLIGHT**

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