

FULL AHEAD

Issue 29

www.sailinc.org

December 2007

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**ALL SAIL STAFF & BOARD
OF DIRECTORS WISH YOU & YOURS
HAPPY HOLIDAYS & A WONDEROUS NEW YEAR!**


News from Sitka 15 SAIL celebrated its *15 year anniversary* in style with a formal banquet and silent auction on November 9th! Master of Ceremonies Kevin Sullivan guided attendees through the evening's events. Guests shared a delicious meal catered by the Hangar on the Wharf, heard success stories from SAIL board and staff, and had a great time bidding on auction items.

This first-time event was highlighted with our guest from Missoula, Montana. Comedian Michael Beers (*pictured at right*) commanded the audience's attention with his wit and humor. Jokes focused on his disability and how spoken English and American Sign Language can inadvertently describe people with disabilities in bizarre ways. "Disability can be funny," said Beers. "It's just like anything else that makes a person an individual. Aspects of that are funny. You can use humor to relate that to people who don't go through that experience."



Guests enjoyed bidding early and often—even against friends and family—on 100 silent auction items and twenty decadent desserts. The room's energy rose to a new high when three outcry desserts raised over \$400! That enthusiasm fueled the audience's competition for live bidding on a Get-a-Away package for two to Gustavus, a week's time-share anywhere in the world, and a priceless Ultimate Party package including transportation, beer, and a band at DIPAC. Between auction revenues and contributions to the annual campaign, we have raised a grand total of \$25,000 *so far*.



Another unique aspect of this night included having all SAIL staff employees from the Ketchikan and Sitka offices attend. Board members also traveled to Juneau for the event. Speeches from Clark Gruening, SAIL's Board President, & Joan O'Keefe, SAIL's Executive Director, welcomed and thanked the audience. For their long-time involvement with SAIL and ORCA on a multitude of levels, Lee and Christy Hagmeier (*pictured at left*) received an official Certificate of Appreciation & Recognition from SAIL along with kind words from our own Executive Director, Joan O'Keefe. Concluding the night was a heart-warming speech from longtime volunteer and advocate, Sioux Douglas.

Very special thanks are owed to all the volunteers, donors, and community members who made SAIL's 15th Anniversary as dynamic as the people we serve. *We couldn't do it without you, Southeast Alaska! Thank you for your continued support!*

MEET THE STAFF!

Ever wonder who that is on the other end of the phone? *We're pleased to meet you!* Take a look:

Top Row Left to Right: Michael Beers, Guest Performer and kindred spirit; Danielle Buster, Administrative Assistant; Brooke Munro, Independent Living Specialist; Cheryl Van Dyke, ORCA Program Director; Sierra Kaden, Development Director.

Middle Row left to Right: Kate Walters, Ketchikan ORCA Director; Pam Mueller Guy, Deaf Services Coordinator; Sarah Bosma, Independent Living & Benefits Specialist; Emily Buck, Sitka ORCA Coordinator, Jeff Irwin, Independent Living Specialist.

Bottom Row: Kevin Gadsey, Ketchikan Independent Living Specialist; Jen Bergman, Vista Volunteer-Ketchikan Development; Jenifer Shapland, Financial Manager; Joan O'Keefe, Executive Director; Shannon Bell, Jesuit Volunteer-ORCA Program; Amy Christel, Jesuit Volunteer-Sitka Independent Living Specialist; Willow Griffin, Sitka Program Director.



A Fun Fall with Juneau ORCA

Rain, wind, sun, and snow, ORCA has had fantastic Fall. We ended the summer with a very windy and rainy campout at the Mendenhall Glacier, but spirits were high, marshmallows were still roasted, and good times were had. The start of school has meant the return of our after school Adventure Clubs. Our adventures have included treks on the Rainforest Trail and Spaulding Meadows, exploration of Sandy Beach, bowling, and hanging out at Jumbo Gym.

Our Healthy Choices crew has also had a very eventful Fall. We spent an evening at Perseverance Theatre watching a performance of the musical "Yeast Nation" and there was also a great turn-out for our showing of the movie "Door to Door" at the Silverbow as part of Disability Employment and Awareness Month. We've also ventured into the worlds of budgeting and cooking, and look forward to more events centered around these topics. With the snowline creeping down the mountains, we are excited for the beginning of winter activities including ice skating, sledding, snowshoeing and, of course, SKIING!!



CONGRATULATIONS KATE!

Congratulations to Kate Walters who was promoted to the ORCA Program Director position. Kate comes to the Juneau office from Ketchikan where she served as the Ketchikan ORCA Activity Coordinator. We are very excited to have Kate here in Juneau!

Deaf Community News

Dates to Remember! By Pam Mueller-Guy

My TTY phone number at work is 907-523-5285. It is an auto-answer machine while I am away from my desk or out of the office, with news, events, and more! Also, Video phone number is same as TTY number, but hearing callers call can use Video Relay Service (VRS) number 1-866-327-8877. If I am not available, then you can use other VRS number to leave email message: 1-800-915-9831. My email is psmguy@sailinc.org. After hours, holiday & emergency IRL pager is 907-463-7490.

Dec 7, 8, 9, and 10, 2007 7PM please attend Singing Xmas Tree at Bethel Christian Center, interpreted by Brenda Stearns.

Interpreter Support Group: Jan 12, 10AM at Heritage coffee shop in Mendenhall mall. Please contact Pam Mueller-Guy at the SAIL office or by email (see above) to discuss future workshops or for any other feedback.

Juneau's Taxi Program is Back!

Effective November 1st, the Juneau office reinstated the Discount Taxi Fare Program. We are sorry for the break in availability of this program, but due to the late notification of the grant award we were unable to continue offering the tokens until proper notice was received regarding our grant. However, we are thrilled to be able to offer this program to persons with disabilities and persons over age 60 once again!

The newly enhanced program features taxi vouchers instead of tokens. As always the vouchers are non-transferable and a person must be signed up for the voucher program in order to use the vouchers. Applications must be done in person at the SAIL office. The vouchers will also be tracked this fiscal year with numbering and will expire June 30, 2008.

While the tokens have been available to use during this hiatus, it is now very important that folks use up their old plastic taxi tokens ASAP because plastic tokens won't be usable for taxi rides beginning January 1, 2008. If you won't be able to use the tokens in time, please call our office to make arrangements to exchange them for the new vouchers.

Lastly, as a reminder, always:

- 1) Call us (586-4920) before coming in to buy— we may still sell out before the end of the month
- 2) This taxi voucher program is meant as a SUPPLEMENT to, not a replacement of, the Capital Transit Bus System and Care-A-Van; please only use the taxi vouchers when the existing transportation systems are unavailable because of their hours of operation, service areas, or other factors such as an emergency. (This was heavily impressed upon us at our grant review, and our funding absolutely depends on it.)

If you would like to receive this newsletter in an electronic format, via email, or need it in an alternative format (i.e. large print), please alert your local office (see back page for contact info).

Career Mentoring Day: Sitka Style

Monday, October 22nd was Career Mentoring Day in Sitka. This day allowed students to job shadow a professional in their career of interest. We had 12 mentored students participating this year with many businesses in town serving as mentoring sites.

In speaking to the students' teachers, Career Mentoring Day was very successful. One of the students came back to school "all fired up" after his time at the Police Department. He informed his teacher that "the police do fingerprints, catch bad guys, and help people who call 911". A couple of students stayed even longer than their designated times to continue learning about their desired professions. With positive experiences like these there is no doubt that future Career Mentoring Days will be successful!

Willow—You Will Be Missed!



'Bon Voyage' to SAIL Sitka's Program Director, Willow Griffin. Willow will be leaving SAIL (and SE Alaska) at the end of the calendar year to pursue graduate studies and to travel abroad! On behalf of all of SAIL, we'd like to say,

"GOOD LUCK WILLOW - YOU WILL TRULY BE MISSED!"

News from the Ketchikan Office

The SAIL Ketchikan team is quite grateful to the volunteers who assisted with various projects this autumn. Volunteers ran our health fair booth in November as staff was in training in Juneau that weekend. Many friends of ORCA also assisted with preparing dinner for the first ever SAIL Community Appreciation Night in October! On a dark, stormy night, about 30 people came out to hear about SAIL services and enjoy delicious soup and yummy desserts!

The Ketchikan Low-Vision Group had some great meetings in early autumn but is currently regrouping to find a time to meet that works for everyone during the day! A few LV members visited the Art Gallery to view art based on State Parks in Southeast Alaska, testing head-worn magnifying glasses the Art Gallery had purchased years ago but never used.

During the winter, the SAIL team will continue to work hard to provide peer-support and community-building options in Ketchikan, Metlakatla, and Prince of Wales communities.

Ketchikan ORCA World

It's been a very busy fall in Ketchikan. We squeezed every ounce of sunshine we could into Adventure Club; hanging out at Ward Lake, walking the bike path, and tailgating a Kayhi Football game (we must have been the lucky charm, Kayhi scored twice)! Once the weather cooled down and the rain came, we turned to cultural events around town to keep us busy. Volunteering for the First City Players, we were able to watch *Beauty and the Beast*, the musical. ORCA members did a stellar job handing out flyers and collecting tickets! ORCA also attended an amazing bluegrass concert at Kayhi, tapping our toes to Barefoot, a nationally known band from Anchorage.



Please keep an eye on your upcoming calendars. We will be holding an ORCA planning meeting, and need everyone's

input! Consumers and care providers are encouraged to attend. Also, the planning meeting would be a great day to bring a friend interested in joining or volunteering for ORCA!

Ketchikan Spring Break Trip Alert!!!!

The Ketchikan ORCA program will be running a ski/snowboarding trip to Juneau in late March, the weekend of spring break for Kayhi. This trip is open to all levels of skiers/snowboarders. More info for this trip will be available in February. **Please begin saving money now if you are interested in taking this trip!**

A farewell note from Kate: Thank you Ketchikan ORCA family for making my first year in Alaska a good one! I've enjoyed every moment of working with you! While I am moving to Juneau to help ORCA in all of Southeast, know that Ketchikan ORCA will always hold a special place in my heart! Thanks again ~Kate

Network of Care, A New Comprehensive Online Tool serves Alaskans looking for information about care options, different health conditions, assistive devices or how to make a difference in legislation that affects our lives, among many other things (we're still learning all about it ourselves!). The new website was recently launched to serve Alaskans with disabilities & seniors, as well as act as a clearinghouse of information for service providers, family members and friends. This powerful tool covers all of Alaska, offering interactive event calendars and plenty of information for you to make informed choices. **www.networkofcare.org**



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Fundraising Corner

Did you know that you can earn money for SAIL just by shopping online? Or even by surfing the internet? Goodsearch is one of the search engines that we told you about in our last newsletter that pays the nonprofit organization **of your choice*** (like SAIL) every time you use their search engine tool. Sound easy? That's because it is! But even better than just surfing—they have now added GoodShop, an online shopping site that literally has hundreds of stores to shop from. Every time you shop at one of the stores **linked from the GoodShop website**, you can earn money for SAIL!
Be sure to spell out and choose Southeast Alaska Independent Living when selecting your charity!



<http://www.goodsearch.com/> or
<http://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx>

Other Donation Tools Available

Not an internet shopper? Prefer to keep your money local when you holiday shop? Here is another easy way to donate to SAIL. We are pleased to announce that you can now make your donation using your credit card! We offer 2 ways to use your credit card (all major credit cards are accepted at this time). The first way is to go to our website, www.sailinc.org, and simply click on the “**Donate**” button. If you have a PayPal account you will be prompted to log in to PayPal. If you don't, it's ok—you can still donate through PayPal without an account! The second way to donate is by returning the enclosed donation envelope to us with either your credit card information, a check, or a money order (please do not send cash). To make a cash donation, please stop by your local office. **All donations are tax-deductible and stay right here in Southeast Alaska!**

Thank you for Giving Disability a Possibility!

SAIL Board of Directors

- ▣ Robert Purvis, President ▣ Gale Vandor, Vice President ▣ Paul Douglas, Treasurer
- ▣ Suzanne Williams, Secretary ▣ Elena Rath ▣ Clark Gruening ▣ Mary Gregg

Public Participation is encouraged at the monthly board meetings! For more information:

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