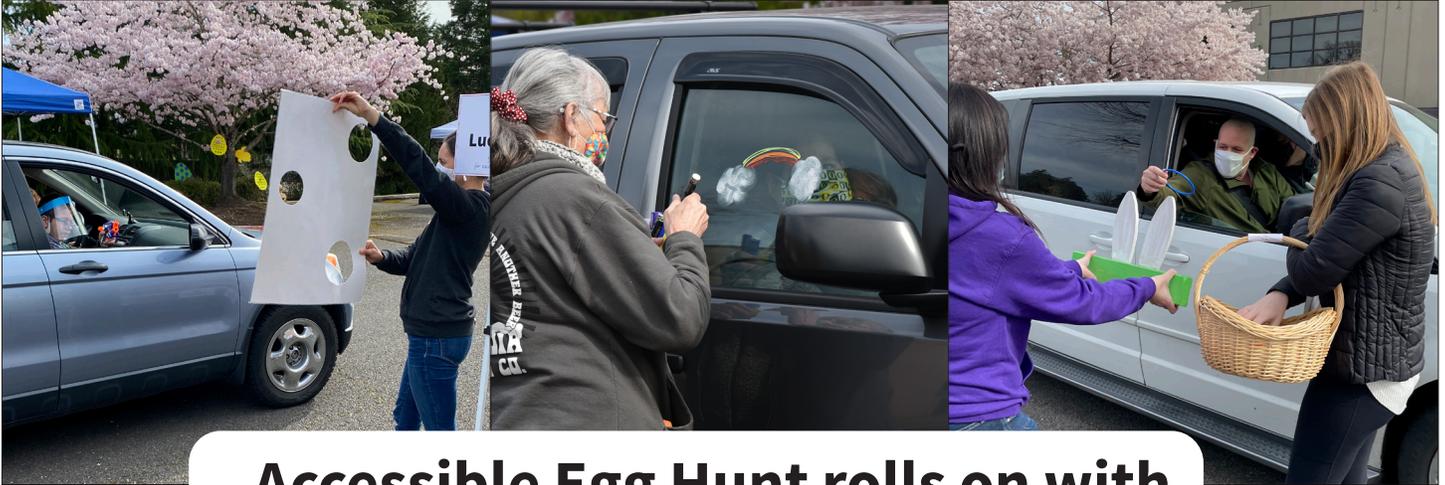




SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, September 11
Registration opens July 5
See page 2 for more info.



Accessible Egg Hunt rolls on with drive-thru format and COVID-19 precautions

After canceling last year due to the pandemic, Shangri-La's Accessible Egg Hunt, made possible by a partnership with Salem Electric, celebrated its sixth year with a drive-thru format as Shangri-La's Salem office the Saturday before Easter.

"It was a tough year. Loneliness and boredom were too common, especially for individuals in the disability community. We knew this year's event would have to look a lot different than previous years, but when your organization is all about making accommodations and modifications, it was time to rise to the challenge and create something that brought people safely back together," explained Jennifer Manning, Shangri-La's community engagement coordinator and egg hunt event organizer.

From the safety of their vehicle, event guests could participate in a photo booth, hug Cesar the No Drama Llama, wave at the Salem Electric Easter bunny, and play games for eggs filled with candy and trinkets as their car made its way through various stations in Shangri-La's parking lot.

A team of over 30 energized volunteers, many from Dutch Bros and Willamette University, quickly modified each activity to the needs of each individual participating and ensured thorough sanitation happened between each car.

"[The] attention paid to each individual [by the volunteers] was greatly appreciated. It made the event a topic of conversation for days and days," said one event participant.

Despite the changes to this year's event, organizers believe the event still honored the event's original purpose: to model for

"We knew this year's event would have to look a lot different than previous years, but when your organization is all about making accommodations and modifications, it was time to rise to the challenge and create something that brought people safely back together."

- Jennifer Manning, event coordinator



continued on page 4

PRESS PLAY

WATCH THE VIDEO



Kathleen's story was featured in this year's Better Together video. Kathleen experiences chronic mental illness, but with the supports she receives from Shangri-La, Kathleen is maintaining her recovery and engaging with her community.

Learn more, watch Kathleen's video, or donate to support this project at:
www.ShangriLaOregon.org/bettertogether

Thank You Better Together
Event Partners



Better Together Week raises \$21K to help open a new residential treatment home

"Mental health recovery takes more than four walls and a roof, but it's a good start" -- this was the mantra of the 2021 virtual Better Together: Mind the Mission week. Held in late May, the event raised over \$21,000 to help open an additional residential treatment home to give individuals with chronic mental illness a safe, stable, and supportive place to attain and maintain prolonged recovery.

Oregon has the highest prevalence of mental illness in the United States. On average, over 150 adults with complex mental illnesses are awaiting access to a residential treatment home (RTH) on any given day. Rather than getting a placement at a RTH, many of these individuals are released from acute care facilities without the necessary supports to work towards recovery, which contributes to increased rates of homelessness, substance use, and deaths of despair.

Shangri-La currently operates six residential treatment homes in Marion, Lane, Linn, and Benton counties.

"Given the need in our community for these services, coupled with the success we have seen these homes have in helping people experience prolonged recovery, we're ready to expand this part of Shangri-La's services," explained CEO Janet Yousey. "Once we decide on a location, we are hopeful to have the new RTH open within 12-18 months."

Funds raised as the event will be coupled with organizational savings and additional fundraised dollars to help offset the costs of purchasing and furnishing a 5-bedroom home.

"It's not just funds for the cost of a downpayment. It's everything that goes into making a home," explained Ashley Erb, Director of Community Engagement. "It's filling the pantry and purchasing appliances to make homemade meals. It's purchasing everything for five bedrooms. It's wall art. It's a kitchen table and board games for game night."

Once opened, the home will serve five individuals. Most individuals will receive on average 18-months of support before they transition to more independent settings.



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Learn more and register at:
www.shangri-la-oregon.org/capitalcitycornholeclassic



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better together

This list represents supporter contributions made between March 1 - May 31, 2021

Thank you to these donors and volunteers whose contributions helped people with disabilities and families with disadvantages thrive at home, at work, and in our community.

We truly are, *better together.*

Better Together Giving Community Members

* denotes new Better Together Giving Community member

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Nick Bender
David Briggs
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Aalicea Dominguez
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Ashley Erb

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Accessible Egg Hunt Partners

Carried Away Entertainment
Susan Coleman
Caroline Cummins
Ashley Erb
Gilbert House Children's Museum
Jennifer Manning
Mike Norman
Salem Electric
Salem's Riverfront Carousel
Sonic - Salem
Lancaster location

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Robbie Daugherty
Ruth Walton
Sarah Connor
Tiffani Olsen
Tracy Beck
Vicki Caldwell
Winifred Ju

missionmoments



Invaluable

In March, Shangri-La hosted three virtual screenings of "Invaluable", a documentary about the importance of Direct Support Professionals.



Million Dollar Smile

Kent was a bit nervous about his dentist appointment, but with the support of his staff and his dental team, he was all smiles after his appointment.



Olaf You Forever

After months of planning, Amber brought home her new best friend, Olaf -- the four legged pup that stole her heart and brings her so much joy and comfort.



Wings and Wander

Steve recently adventured to nearby Dallas, Oregon to find the 12 wing murals painted throughout the city's downtown.

Egg hunt, continued from page 1

the community how minor adjustments can make an event accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities. In fact, in some ways, the drive-thru format improved the experience for guests with mobility issues by removing the challenge of getting in and out of a vehicle or walking around the event.

"This is a great way for clients with mobility issues to stay connected in the community," said another guest about the ease of this year's format.

Event organizers haven't decided which format to go with for the 2022 egg hunt, but "maybe we can figure out a hybrid model, so it's a win-win for everyone," said Manning.

Reynosa joins board



Rae Reynosa joined Shangri-La's board of directors as the newest member in April. Rae has over 36 years of finance, procurement, and human resources experience working for the federal government

She is currently the business manager at the Chemawa Indian School. She is also a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon, has operated an adult foster home for many years, and is active in community service activities, including cultural activities and the elder program with her tribe.

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@shangri-la-or.org or call 503-581-1732, x318.

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