

Committed Employees Making a Difference



Above: Debbie Ferrante chats with a resident of Courtyard Fountains.

Courtyard Fountains, a premier retirement community located in Gresham, employs three of OESCO's hardworking clients as part of their housekeeping team. Supervised by John Bufton, each client is responsible for performing different housekeeping tasks. Debbie Ferrante, hired in 1999, dusts all three floors of the facility. Employed since 1998, Maria Duanes works in the laundry room, folding and putting away clean sheets. Kevin Murphy has worked at Courtyard Fountains for five and a half years. His job duties include taking out

garbage and recycling containers as well as vacuuming the facility's dining area. Each client is scheduled between six and twelve hours per week.

At least twice a week, OESCO staff Mary Jo Kessinger visits Courtyard Fountains to check in, perform quality assurance, and assist with communication between her clients and their supervisor as well as with administrator Mary Beisley.

"I like my job and I want to work all the time," says Kevin Murphy about his position at Courtyard Fountains.

Sadly, Maria passed away in November at the age of 53. She was an OESCO client for 10 years and will be deeply missed by those who knew her.

Right: Kevin Murphy with his supervisor, John Bufton



Holiday Closures 2009

Please be aware that all OESCO offices will be closed on the following dates:

New Year's Day
January 1st
Martin Luther King Jr.
January 19th
Memorial Day
May 25th
Independence Day
July 3rd
Labor Day
September 7th
Veterans Day
November 11th
Thanksgiving
November 26th
November 27th
Christmas
December 24th
December 25th

In addition, all OESCO sites will be closed on the following Fridays for staff in-service training:

February 13th
April 10th
August 14th
October 9th

BOARD APPOINTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Congratulations to Gerald Pearce, who was named executive director of OESCO following an assessment by the board during his 15 months as interim director. In a note from the board, chairman Kurt Shusterich writes, "We believe that Gerald's commitment, dedication, and his record of successful outcomes shows he is well suited to continuing the mission and spirit of OESCO."

AWARD HONORS BOARD MEMBER'S DEDICATION At Kaiser Permanente's National Diversity Conference in October, OESCO board member Kurt Shusterich was honored with the R.J. Erickson Award, which recognizes Diversity Champions. Kurt received the award in recognition of his work with the Diversity Council and OESCO. Congratulations, Kurt; your hard work is greatly appreciated!

NEW ADDITION TO OESCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS Welcome to Ann Smith, manager of communications for XPLANE, who joined the OESCO Board of Directors in September.



The Spirit Is Able

by Yvonne Jordan

On October 28th, OESCO staff along with the support of our parents and Barbara Dirks of Kaiser's diversity group presented "The Spirit is Able." A generous number of refreshments were baked and available to all attending the open house event.

The work group at Enclave Services was in attendance to meet and greet their current and potential clients from different departments throughout Kaiser.

I was able to be there that day. My son, Michael Jordan, works at Enclave Services and I see a sample of his team's work as it slides through my hands at the mailroom in Central Interstate. Michael and I carpool part of the week and he also uses Tri-Met to switch between volunteering at Red Cross and working for wages at the



Enclave employees and friends enjoy the open house (from left to right): Athena Wade, Ben Woodruff, Paul McCormick, Michael Jordan, Kevin McGinnis, Suzanna Vucek, Laura Betnar

Kaiser Permanente Building.

The pride my son shows in his work breaks through when we pass KPB while showing out-of-town guests around. The first words out of his mouth are always "my Kaiser."

For those of you who were unable to attend, you can also schedule a viewing of "The Spirit is Able" by contacting Barbara Dirks. The movie highlights Kaiser employees from Colorado who have disabilities and are sharing their views about maintaining a job and their reactions to other employees and the work environment. Gather a group, break out the treats, and enjoy a movie worth viewing!

Watch for another Open House event next October – the month that recognizes individuals with disabilities who are employed.

OESCO's Board of Directors

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