



# FRIENDS OF RAINIER

Committed to a full continuum of care and high quality of life for those with Developmental Disabilities

## BOARD MEMBERS

- Jeff Carter - President
- Kris Brott - Secretary
- Kathy Craig - Treasurer
- James Meyers
- Rhonda Meyers
- Lynette Stevenson
- Mark Von Walter
- Louise Von Walter

## WEBSITE

FriendsOfRainier.org

Visit often for up-to-date information, resources and more

## ADDRESS

Friends of Rainier  
 PO Box 516  
 Medina, WA 98039

## PARTNERS

- Friends of Fircrest**  
FriendsOfFircrest.org
- ActionDD**  
ActionDD.org
- VOR** (national DD advocate)  
VOR.net
- Rainier Worm Program**  
Fertilives.org

## **WE SAY GOODBYE TO SUPERINTENDENT PEREZ**

Harvey Perez, who has been Rainier School's Superintendent for the last two years, has been promoted. He will now be overseeing the Juvenile facilities for Washington state. Assistant Superintendent Jeff Flessner will be acting as the interim Superintendent until a permanent replacement is chosen.

On his last day, Harvey attended the Friends of Rainier meeting and gave us a synopsis of changes and improvements made during his time here as well as those still in the works for future implementation. Some of those include -

Community Engagement - Clients and employees participated for in the Relay for Life (this year's fundraising goal was \$2K - they raised almost \$6K). Rainier took over the leadership for Buckley's Christmas Tree Lighting event and participated in the Eagle's Decorated Christmas Tree Auction fundraiser.

Employee hiring and morale - A Wellness Center was created for staff use, additional leadership training was begun, the hiring process was streamlined and additional supports were put in place to aid in long term employee retention.

Facilities/Grounds Improvements - There have been improvements made to the cottages such as painting, new windows and heating upgrades. Other buildings such as the gym and canteen, as well as the grounds, have had repairs and upgrades. Plans for a coffee shop remodel are in the works.

Client programs - Summerfest was reinstated as a yearly event, the bowling alley was remodeled and reopened, the Art Center was created, the Worm Farm project was implemented, the Fashion Show was added as a new yearly event and the Camp area that was formerly used for camping, picnicking and fishing is being revitalized for future use.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN -**

- FOR MEMBERSHIP MEETING** - Sun. 11/19/2017 @ 11:30 am - Bill Leonard Rm  
 \*\* Annual Business Meeting - all are encouraged to attend \*\*
- DANCE** - Sat. 12/2/17 - 12:30-2 pm - Canteen
- FOR SPONSORED CHRISTMAS PARTY** - Sun. 12/17/17 @ 12:00 pm - Canteen
- ActionDD LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION** - (Olympia) Tue. 2/6/18 - 10 am-2 pm  
 Washington Room (in the basement of the Pritchard building)

## MEMBERSHIP DUES & FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Included with this newsletter is a form to fill out and send in for our yearly membership dues of \$25.

Dues, as well as any other contributions, can be made by check as usual, but can now also be made on-line through Paypal, on our FriendsOfRainier.org website.

Wondering what your donations help fund? Some examples are -

\*FOR sponsored events such as the annual Christmas party (includes clowns, piñatas and pictures with Santa) and the monthly dances (FOR has been able to purchase needed items such as new speakers and instruments).

\*Rainier School events/programs such as the Fashion Show, the Art Center, concerts, Elvis impersonators, 4th of July fireworks and Thanksgiving purchases.

\*The Longshoremen sponsored annual picnic (we help pay for specific items such as the DJ)

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## CLIENT PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT - THE WORM PROJECT

One of the wonderful programs that Rainier School has implemented in the last couple of years is the Worm Farm Composting Project. Composting worms are placed into large bins and fed food scraps and paper. As the worms create castings (worm poop), the castings can be sold as wonderful compost or in liquid "tea" form for spraying directly onto plants. As the worms multiply, they can also be sold to those who would like to start their own worm farm.

This program has several won-

derful benefits.

Client participation - the clients are absolutely loving helping to gather food scraps and shredding paper to feed the worms as well as helping to package and sell the worms, castings and "tea".

Saves/makes money - By utilizing food scraps, waste costs are cut down. By selling the products, money can be made to put back into other client programs.

Community Partnerships - the model for this program comes

from the Monroe Prison. They built the worm bins for us and helped us get the program started. Students from City University did a fabulous job of creating a marketing program, complete with a brand (Fertilives), a tagline ("Feeding Heart & Soil") a website ([www.fertilives.org](http://www.fertilives.org)), brochures, t-shirts and more. Visit the website today - I guarantee you will be impressed! You can even purchase compost and tea for yourself or your gardening friends (it would make a very unique Christmas gift).

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## IN REMEMBRANCE - JIM HARDMAN

We lost a great friend and advocate for the DD community this summer, Jim Hardman.

Jim was a retired lawyer, professional guardian and a board member for Friends of Fircrest, Friends of Rainier and Action DD.

As a lawyer, Jim fought to maintain a full continuum of care and stand up for the needs of real

people who are directly affected by lawmakers' decisions.

We will miss his warm, mischievous smile, his calm presence and his vast knowledge of the law and politics as they relate to those with developmental disabilities.

We encourage everyone to help us carry on his legacy of commit-

ment to the DD community. We would love to see everyone at our next General Membership meeting on Sunday, November 17 at 11:30 am in the Bill Leonard Room on the Rainier Campus. This is our important, yearly business meeting. We will be electing board member officers, planning upcoming events and discussing issues affecting our loved ones at Rainier School.