

BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL Imagine!

That

Fall 2003

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Newsletter of Imagine!

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Imagine! Seeks to Purchase Six Homes for Consumers

We all have reasons for needing housing. Randy Young came from a homeless shelter and now has a place to call home. Mike Hoover was happy living with his parents but wanted to see what it would be like to be out on his own.

Bell Whorton and Leah Walter came from loving homes where their families realized that there were

very definite rewards and

Randy Young (left) and Mike Hoover help at Broomfield Days. having the young women live independently and gain additional life skills. The women even helped choose their new house!

Imagine! currently oversees 53 homes where 111 people with developmental disabilities live outside of their family home. Of these 53 homes, 40 are host homes where individuals live with families, and two are apartment buildings where residents live with a minimum of support. The 11 other homes with 24-hour-a-day staff include three group homes (4-8 consumers each) and eight Personal Care Alternatives (2-3 consumers each). While this wide array of living alternatives is laudable, the current cost associated with leasing five of the homes makes



it financially difficult to make these programs work.

Imagine!, with the help of the Imagine! Foundation, has therefore set a goal to purchase six homes in the next 12 to 18 months to answer some of these needs now and in the future. The Foundation will raise money for the down payments, and Imagine! will take advantage of the low interest rates to trade in its leased properties for ones that it will own and to provide additional housing for its consumers.

Most important, consumers will have a place to call their own. A parent

recently said, "My daughter considers your house her home now. When she told me she was ready to go 'home,' I knew she felt happy, safe, and fulfilled there."



Included in

Bell Whorton (left) and Leah Walter (right) share a laugh with live-in staff IS a remittance person Caron Sargent.
envelope. We hope that you will help support Imagine! as generously as you can for the benefit of all of our consumers both now and in the future.

Imagine! Meets the Mountains

by Betsy Janowak, 18th St. Station Lead Counselor



Donna Farichild's smile shows she has no fear of belaying LQ the ground, and she trusts she won't be lying Qll the ground.

It was ropes and rafts this past August 23rd and 24th. An obstacle course 100 feet in the air and three boats floating down the Upper Colorado River. It was a Saturday morning when seven Imagine! consumers and three Imagine! staff members drove up to the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center (BOEC) for a weekend adventure course. We went to get to know each other better. We went to explore ourselves and to explore the great outdoors. We went to have fun.

Upon arriving at the Griffith Lodge, a large, wheelchair accessible wood cabin, we were met by three BaEC staff members welcoming us to our course. We unpacked, created nametags for ourselves on round woodcuttings, made some lunch, and walked over to our first activity, the High Elements Ropes Course. We geared up at Lock 1, Lock 2, their safety awareness area, and prepared ourselves for the adventure.

One of the most important guidelines of the ropes course is "Challenge by Choice." That means that although the staff will encourage the participants to challenge themselves, it is completely up to the participants to choose how far they want to go. We wanted to go far. Every participant made it across the shaky suspended bridge to the first wooden platform.

Chairs were provided for those who needed a rest. "It was scary being so high, but neat," stated Doug Schmalhorst, an Imagine! consumer.

The ropes course consists of three wheelchair accessible elements and then many more that can be experienced with assistance. For the grand finale, some participants chose to be belayed down to the forest floor below. "I thought it was awesome," exclaimed Donna Fairchild, an Imagine! consumer and member of Imagine!'s Board of Directors, regarding being lowered down from the course. (*Note: Since returning home, Donna is still vividly recalling the endeavors of each of the other clients and their successes*). Once everyone finished, we were on our way back to the lodge to rest and to draw out our favorite aspects of the day on a huge piece of paper. Each person shared his or her successes with the group. It was a day and night of personal accomplishment and teamwork. For dinner, we all helped make burritos with all the fixin's! And for dessert? S'mores and stories around a campfire.

But the adventure wasn't over. ..Sunday, we woke up, made French toast for breakfast and slopped on a lot of sunscreeR. It was rafting time! We were ready to see some white water and get wet! It was another fun day full of new expenences.

When we pulled in to the take out, everyone was sad to see the trip end. Beaming smiles filled many faces, however, as we thanked the BaEC staff for the incredible experience and pledged to come back next year. We may even return this winter for an adaptive ski weekend! The possibilities are endless and the potential ours to explore. Maybe you know someone who'd like to join us sometime? If you have any questions or are interested in getting involved, please e-mail the 18th St. Station at 18THST@imaQinecolorado.org or call Betsy Janowak at the Station at 720-565-6976. You can also contact the BaEC directly by calling Cindy Wetherald at 970-453-6422. It's about discovering new options...



Doug Schmalhorst, in forefront, being so high, but neat. "

"It was scary

Why I Like Working at Imagine!

(Submitted Anonymously)

Oh, I could go on for a long time about this. ...
When Tundji saved a man from drowning I thought, "Would you look at that. I work with a local hero." No sooner had that thought entered my mind when I thought about Nancy who had certainly been the person to train Tundji in CPR, so she's a hero, too. And what about those employees who might nQt perform CPR on someone but have recognized some symptoms of illness in a consumer and taken them in for medical care? Or the people who have realized that someone would be much happier if he or she just had a job, and so they found the perfect job for the person who was "unemployable"? Or provided a family with the supports needed to bring their sick child home from the hospital?

I work with a lot of heroes. I will guess that you do not work here for the money. Or the glory because the general public does not often recognize the efforts of an individual employee. You work here because you believe it is important. It is often physically demanding, often unpleasant, and often very tedious. But here you are, doing whatever you can to make other people's lives more satisfying, or helping someone achieve a goal that others thought was impossible. Or maybe you're just trying to make someone a little more comfortable. You probably believe that making the world a little better is a worthwhile endeavor. I work with remarkable people.

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Two Imagine! consumers, Peggy Ackerman (left) and Susan McNutt (right) at work at the Hungry Toad Restaurant in Boulder. The Hungry Toad has employed Imagine! consumers for more than twelve years.

Imagine! Employee Is a Life Saver

"Everyone has had the same training, and we can all do this. "
Olatundji Akpo-Sani



Local Hero Tundji

In March, Olatundji Akpo-Sani (Tundji), helped rescue a man from Boulder Creek. The man had fallen into the creek

and was unconscious in the water west of Eben G. Fine Park. Someone came running towards Tundji yelling, "There's a body in the water," and Tundji responded by running to the creek. Two men were already in the creek when Tundji went in, and the three of them got the man onto the creek bank. Tundji began performing the breathing part of CPR while another man performed chest compressions. The man was taken to a local hospital and has recovered.

When asked about his heroic role in this rescue, Tundji was humble and concise. "I don't really think about it that much," he stated. "When I do think about it, I feel lucky that I was put in the position to do something good and responded in the right way." When asked about his CPR training, Tundji mentioned that he has gone through CPR certification almost every year since he was 16 (he's now 28). He most recently completed the CPR training at Imagine!, with Imagine! nurse Nancy DeKlyn teaching the class. Tundji stressed the importance of taking the class year after year and stated that, "It could be compared to typing. The more you do it, the better you are. You can do it without really thinking about it." When asked if there was anything he would like his coworkers to know about his experience, he said, "I hope if anyone is in a similar situation that they would do the same thing. Everyone has had the same training, and we can all do this."

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We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who supported Imagine! and the Imagine! Foundation with cash and in-kind contributions during fiscal year 2002-2003 (7/1/02-6/30/03).

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Ron Kelly and Charley Diederich in Charley's Ride

Cent-i-cycles in Charley's Ride

More than 100 motorcycles rode on a chilly, cloudy day to benefit Imagine!. Charley's Ride, a 94-mile ride sponsored by The Denver Mint Motorcycle Riders Club, was a fund-raising Poker Run held on Saturday, September 6th. The Second Annual "Charley's Ride" honored Charley Diederich, who receives support from Imagine!.

Charley's parents, Ron and Rose Kelly, do pretty much all of the organization for the ride. About one and one-half years ago, Ron and Rose were approached by some of Ron's friends from the Denver Mint who expressed an interest in organizing a ride to benefit Charley. Ron and Rose suggested having the event benefit Imagine!, for as Rose put it, "Imagine! has helped support not just Charley but many of his friends, too." Charley is 23 years old and approaches life with such enthusiasm that even something as common as eating pizza with a couple of friends or family members is a party to him. Charley likes to rise at 6:00 am so he can enjoy a leisurely morning before going to his job in the cafeteria at Centaurus High School, where he has worked for five years.

Charley's Ride started at the EAGLE Grill (the co-sponsor of the ride) in Longmont where the riders had a delicious, filling breakfast buffet. The scheduled stops were at the Rocky Mountain Saloon at Highway 66 and I-25, Johnny's Sports Bar and Grill located in Lafayette, and Red Hill Motorcycle Werks in Lyons. At each of those stops, door prizes were given, and each rider picked a playing card. The ride ended back at the EAGLE Grill with a barbecue. There more door prizes were distributed, and cash prizes were awarded for the best, second best, and worst poker hands drawn.

Ron, Rose, Charley, and the Denver Mint Motorcycle Riders Club are already planning next year's Charley's Ride, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 11 th, 2004.



Robin Nolan Trio at the St. Louis Jazz Festival

Jazz Band Rocks CU for Imagine!

A lively crowd of 250 people was treated to a delightful evening in the cozy, comfortable MCDB Auditorium at the University of Colorado campus recently. On Saturday, September 27th, the Robin Nolan Trio performed a jazz concert to benefit Imagine!. The concert, sponsored by the University of Colorado at Boulder's Psychology Department, raised \$8,050 for Imagine!. Following is information about the Robin Nolan Trio from their website www.robinnolantrio.com

"The Robin Nolan Trio (RNT) was fanned in London during the summer of 1992 after returning from an inspirational weekend at the annual Django Reinhardt Festival in Samois-Sur-Seine, France, where the legendary gypsy guitarist is laid to rest. Relocating to Amsterdam later that year, RNT regularly rehearsed on the streets of the Leidseplein Square for several years where they sold their self- produced CDs and managed to book themselves on an international scale. Appearances at the Montreal Jazz Festival, Barcelona Jazz Festival, and the North Sea Jazz Festival paved the way for RNT to play in 15 different countries including Poland, Iceland, Japan, and the United States. Two of their original compositions -"And Then There Were Three" and "From The Banks Of The Odra" were featured in the recent MGM motion picture *Autumn In New York*, starring Richard Gere and Winona Ryder.

This past year they played for the guests (including Tom Petty, Tom Hanks, and fonner Beatles Ringo and Paul) who gathered at George Harrison's house to honor the first anniversary of his death. The Robin Nolan Trio has performed at George's house many times in recent years. They also opened this year's Django Reinhardt Jazz Festival in Samois, France, and were a feature act at this year's New York Django Reinhardt Festival."

Imagine!
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All the material you need is there. Thanks for your assistance in making this a successful opportunity for us.

The Imagine! Celebration Dinner and Auction will be on Friday evening, January 23rd, 2004, at the Millennium Harvest House Boulder. More details will be in the Winter *Imagine! That* newsletter. If you have any auction items you would like to donate or know of any businesses that might want to contribute an auction item, please contact Allen Feld at 303-926-6402.

Thanksgiving Dinner at Zolo Grill

On Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 27th, Dave Quez, owner of the Zolo Grill on Arapahoe between 28th St. and Folsom in Boulder, is donating a free Thanksgiving dinner for Imagine! consumers and staff, and ~hei~ fFilies/friends. The ,:ait staff is ~lso volunteerIng ltsstme. Dave, an ImagIne! FoundatIon board member, said he'd like to make the day a little easier for people associated with Imagine!. Please reserve your seating for either the 11 :30 or 1 :00 meal by calling 303-665-7789, (first come first served).