



# OHCA

OREGON HEALTH  
CARE ASSOCIATION

## THE COMMUNITY LIFELINE

### A Message from Jim Carlson, President, OHCA

Greetings and welcome to The Community Lifeline Newsletter. The goal of this newsletter is to spread the word about the positive side of the long term health care industry. We are collecting positive stories about residents, staff and facilities to share within your communities. These stories include but are not limited to personal triumph, individual profiles, awards received, wishes granted, scholarships and many more.

So start sharing today!



**CLICK HERE**  
to Submit a story!

**Contact Us Email:**

[ogden@pacwestcom.com](mailto:ogden@pacwestcom.com)

Phone: (503) 685-9400

### GOOD NEWS!

RECENT STORIES ON OHCA MEMBERS

#### Cornell Fundraiser Puts Toys and Joy Into the Hands of Hillsboro Area Children

**Community:** Cornell Estates Retirement and Assisted Living  
December 8, 2011



**Cornell Estates News**  
December 8, 2011

On Thursday, December 8th, Cornell Estates kick-started the holiday season in the spirit of giving and friendship as our Executive Director, Debra Van Dyne, presented members of the Hillsboro Firefighter's Random Acts with a check for \$3,300. The money was given to support the Hillsboro Fire Fighter's Toy and Joy Program, which serves over 600 families in the Hillsboro area.

The Toy and Joy Program was created by dedicated firefighters and employees from the City of Hillsboro who believe they can make a difference in the community in ways besides their emergency responses and daily interaction with the public.

Cornell Estates held its 11th annual Christmas Marketplace Bazaar fundraiser on Saturday, November 19th, to raise funds for the Toy and Joy Program by hosting thirty vendors from the Portland metro area.

These wonderful vendors showcased their products to over 500 hundred customers. In addition, Cornell Estates residents and staff members participated in a bake sale and canister drive.

The residents and staff at Cornell Estates are committed to raising awareness and support various charities serving the Hillsboro community.

This story is originally from Cornell Estates News, to see the original story,

please [click here](#).

## **Sweet PEAS Reading Buddies Program Brings Joy to Laurel Parc Residents**

**Community:** Laurel Parc at Bethany Village  
December 28, 2011



**December 28, 2011**

Each week, senior residents of Laurel Parc at Bethany Village are greeted by the smiling faces of local kids eager to learn. For nearly two years, Laurel Parc residents have volunteered their time once a week to help preschool students from Sweet PEAS Kidzone improve their reading skills.

Since Sweet PEAS Kidzone is located just up the street from Laurel Parc, teachers walk a group of about 15 students to the retirement community for the Sweet PEAS Reading Buddies program. The teacher reads a story to kick off the morning, and afterwards the children pair up with seniors to put their reading skills to the test.

Laurel Parc's Activities Director, Patty Bennett, said that the program has really built a strong relationship between the residents and the kids. By the end of the school year they know each other by name.

The Sweet PEAS Reading Buddies program started out as a coordinated effort to provide a new activity for both the seniors and the children, but it has developed into a growing relationship between the two groups. Laurel Parc welcomes the preschoolers to take part in activities with the residents beyond the Sweet PEAS Reading Buddies program. This holiday season, preschoolers and seniors enjoyed singing Christmas carols together. Earlier in the year, kids had fun playing 'dress up' for Laurel Parc's fashion show.

At the end of the school year, residents are invited to attend the preschool's evening graduation ceremony, a particularly rewarding experience for seniors who watched the children grow and helped them build the reading skills that they will need for kindergarten.

Getting residents engaged in the community is one of Laurel Parc's main goals. In addition to working with children from Sweet PEAS, residents of Laurel Parc also regularly volunteer at Terra Linda Elementary, providing one-on-one tutoring in the school's math lab. Working with children at Sweet PEAS and Terra Linda has been a fulfilling experience for seniors who want to stay actively involved in the community. Laurel Parc recognizes the mutual benefits that can be achieved by meaningful partnerships like these and is committed to providing such opportunities for seniors in both independent and assisted living at their facility.

## **Barbara Passarelli of ElderHealth & Living Celebrated for her Outstanding Service**

**Community:** ElderHealth & Living

January 5, 2012



January 5, 2012

ElderHealth & Living's Family Services Coordinator, Barbara Passarelli, was recently presented with the Fred and Barbara T. Merten Service Award at this year's Alzheimer's Association Annual Regional Conference in Springfield, Oregon.

"It has been a rather unique journey," said Passarelli, who has worked for ElderHealth for seven years and counting. Passarelli's mother actually moved into ElderHealth in Springfield when she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's years ago. By the end of move-in week, Passarelli lined up a job that would allow her to see her mother whenever she wanted. It was a bold step that many family members of Alzheimer's patients wouldn't usually take.

Passarelli says her job "doesn't feel like work," because she truly enjoys helping families work through the same experiences she had with her own parent.

Liz von Wellsheim, CEO of ElderHealth and former recipient of the Fred and Barbara T. Merten Service Award, was the keynote speaker and presenter of the award at the November regional conference. Because the conference was held locally, Passarelli was able to accept the award in the presence of her peers. "It was a really special experience," Passarelli said.

ElderHealth & Living's campus is comprised of nine ordinary homes that house about ten residents each. There is also a mental health home on site.

Passarelli commented on how great their philosophy of care is at ElderHealth, saying, "Everyone gets the care that they need, but residents are given the opportunity to be as independent as possible." She said that if the time comes, she would even like to live there herself someday.