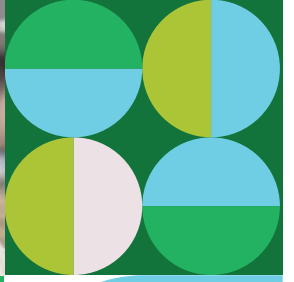
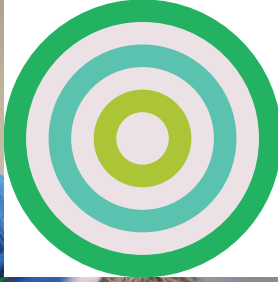


living our
best lives
ANNUAL REPORT



2024





FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

Courage to Explore: Building Lives through Informed Risks

During a recent board meeting, we had the pleasure of sharing photos from some of the exciting trips our residents have embarked on over the past summer and fall. One image stood out: a group of our residents on a snorkeling boat in the beautiful waters of Hawaii. When a board member asked, "Are they out in the ocean in a dive boat?" I smiled and replied, "Yes, indeed!" To his surprise, he followed up with, "Isn't that kind of risky?"

This exchange prompted me to reflect on the concept of risk-taking within our organization. Several years ago, while discussing various safety measures for a resident with a seizure disorder, I found myself pondering whether our steadfast commitment to safety could be inadvertently stripping away the very essence of what gives life meaning. In our efforts to protect, comfort, and ensure safety for our residents with developmental disabilities, we run the risk of limiting their experiences and opportunities for personal growth. When we become overly cautious, we inadvertently halt adventure, self-discovery, and meaningful engagement with the world around us.

At Edwards Center, we are dedicated to promoting independence and empowering our participants to "live their best lives." We recognize the importance of balancing safety with the necessity of experiencing small real-world risks. While past efforts were primarily focused on safeguarding our residents, we now strive to cultivate an environment that prepares them for prudent risk-taking. It is crucial to remember that – "There can be such a thing as human dignity in risk, and there can be dehumanizing indignity in too much safety." This philosophy has led to the flourishing of our activities program, allowing our participants to lead fuller lives while embracing the richness that comes from taking informed risks.

As we celebrate our achievements and continued growth, we acknowledge that our willingness to allow calculated risks has enabled our residents to thrive—truly embodying the spirit of "Living Our Best Lives."

Together, let us commit to fostering environments where independence, dignity, and life's adventures spread joy to our participants and the world.



Thank you for your continued support,

Jean Edwards
FOUNDER & VISIONARY
BOARD PRESIDENT





EXECUTIVE LEADER MESSAGE

Empowering Inclusion Today for a Brighter Tomorrow

At Edwards Center it is our ongoing mission to champion individuals with intellectual disabilities. We are dedicated to creating an environment where they can thrive through caring and stable housing, meaningful employment opportunities, community exploration, and fulfilling social activities. Our efforts over the years have been focused on advocating for the rights and abilities of these individuals, ensuring they are recognized for their potential rather than their challenges. It is with great pride that we share a success story that highlights the strides we have made and the positive changes we are witnessing in society.

Six years ago, our Employment Team worked diligently to persuade the hiring team at a major organization in the medical field to customize a job for one of the people we serve. They took a chance on our assertion that an individual with developmental disabilities could perform legitimate work and provide value to their workplace. Since then, the person they hired has been promoted and has become an ambassador for our community, opening doors for additional individuals to find employment there. Watching this workplace evolve has been nothing short of inspiring.

The company, historically committed to recruiting a talented and diverse workforce, has embraced this new perspective. This was the first time, to our knowledge, that individuals with developmental disabilities caught their attention, and now their team is fully engaged. Both at the organizational level and within individual mindsets, we've seen significant shifts. We believed that change was possible, and we just needed that initial opportunity to prove it.

What's particularly heartening is that this story is not an isolated incident; it is becoming increasingly common. Employers are more welcoming to the idea of hiring individuals with developmental disabilities, and community members are displaying greater openness to including those we serve in their daily lives. During our outings to places like Las Vegas, Memphis, Maui, and Disneyland, the skeptical glances we once encountered have given way to acceptance and support. We are excited to continue pushing boundaries, and this year, we look forward to bringing some of our residents to participate in the Gambler 500—a "mostly" off-road rally where we are confident, they will be warmly welcomed!

We remain steadfast in our vision of ensuring that people enjoy opportunities in all facets of their lives, while preserving their dignity and independence. It is a joyous transformation to witness as our culture evolves, with more individuals recognizing that those with developmental disabilities are people first, deserving of inclusion.

Our team is honored and proud to be part of this important work, pushing forward to create a more inclusive community for everyone.



With gratitude,

Allen Cress
EXECUTIVE LEADER





MEET DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL (DSP) KEDJA NURE

A lifetime of Service & Caring

For the past 21 years, Kedja, a soft-spoken Ethiopian woman, has been a beacon of grace and determination at Edwards Center, serving as a Direct Care Professional for some of our most challenging residents. Her unwavering dedication and love for the individuals she supports shine through in every interaction.



IN HER OWN WORDS

"I am honored to work at Edwards because it does not matter to me what color, what religion, or what disability someone has; I believe we are all one."

This philosophy not only illustrates her inclusive spirit but also highlights the profound connection she feels to each resident and staff member.

Throughout her extensive career at Edwards, Kedja has cultivated meaningful relationships with both participants and colleagues, fostering an environment of trust and support. Her experience spans various settings—including the Bethany Workshop, Oak Street, 138th, 206th Street, Freeman, and Pheasant Homes—each offering unique challenges and opportunities for her personal and professional growth. Kedja's ability to adapt and thrive in these diverse environments has been instrumental in enhancing the quality of care she provides.

One of the most poignant aspects of Kedja's role is her commitment to the residents during their most vulnerable times. She has lovingly cared for individuals on hospice, remaining by their side as they transition to their heavenly home. This long-term commitment allows her to witness the growth and achievements of residents, continuing to support them even as they enter the twilight of their lives. Beyond her professional duties, Kedja treasures the moments spent painting a lady's nails or assisting during bath time, finding joy in the simple acts that convey comfort and connection.

Kedja also enriches the Edwards Center community by sharing her Ethiopian culture with residents and staff alike. She loves to prepare special ethnic dishes, bringing the flavors of her heritage to gatherings and fostering a sense of community through shared meals. For Kedja, Edwards Center is not just a workplace; it is a family. Her warmth, compassion, and commitment make her a cherished member of our team, and her contributions significantly impact the lives of those she serves.

We are incredibly grateful for Kedja's unwavering dedication and the love she pours into her role every day.



Celebrating all our fantastic DSPs,

Michele Dardis

Michele Dardis
DIRECTOR OF INDIVIDUAL SERVICES





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Judy Mark – Our Beloved Dahlia Lady

For over 20 years, Judy Mark, affectionately known as the "Dahlia Lady," has truly embodied the spirit of her namesake flower. The dahlia, a sweet and hardy bloom, carries significant meaning; in the Bible, it represents "gentle" or "slender." Spiritually, the name embodies inner strength, positive change, and commitment—qualities that perfectly reflect Judy's unwavering dedication to our community at Edwards Center.

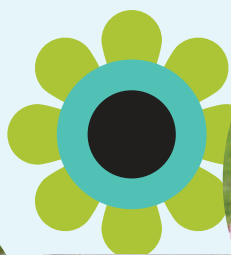
Each year, Judy has consistently transformed a space into a vibrant dahlia garden, continually blessing our grounds with her beautiful blooms. While volunteering in our day program twice a week, she recognized the empty property behind our group home on Kinnaman as a perfect opportunity to grow dahlias for sale at her church, with profits dedicated to supporting missionaries. Judy envisioned a win-win situation: residents could help cultivate the flowers throughout the week, while she would pick them for her sales or deliver them to those in need within her church community. Over the last 12 years, as we built new houses, Judy carefully relocated her beloved gardens to ensure that our community would never go without these colorful flowers. Now, with all five lots completed, she has a designated garden spot at the Marick House that suits her energy level at 82 years young.

Judy's passion for beautifying the world with dahlias has not only enhanced our scenery but has also provided our residents with opportunities to engage with nature by watering, weeding, and cutting flowers to brighten their dining tables. The dahlia garden boasts a stunning array of colors that delight visitors to the Community Center throughout its three-month blooming period. Judy deeply connects with Edwards Center participants, stating, "God made these special people, and we are all meant to love them. This is my way of showing them love." With a steadfast desire to continue her work, Judy inspires us all to incorporate our hobbies and interests into meaningful acts of service.

On behalf of everyone at Edwards Center, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Judy and her husband, Mark, for the countless hours they have dedicated to nurturing our gardens. Through their efforts—tilling soil, enriching the earth, planting, and nurturing—Judy and Mark have created a beautiful haven for all to enjoy.

Your love and contributions are truly appreciated, and we are grateful for the joy you bring to our community!

Jean Edwards
FOUNDER & VISIONARY
BOARD PRESIDENT



STRATEGIC GOALS FOR 2025

- Initiate the Leadership Academy & Increase Leadership Skills of Exec Team & Managers
- Update the Passport Program & Review with all Managers
- Continue to find ways to grow DSP Fund & continue distributions
- Hold Staff Accountable for Financial Efficiencies
- Increase the Number of CLS Participants Engaged in Community Experiences
- Continue to Place and Train Participants in Community Jobs
- Achieve the Gold Standard in all Homes
- Less than 5% of Employee Shifts Unstaffed
- Remain active in Legislative Action Committee's during 2025's Long Session





EDWARDS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Empowering Individuals & Creating Opportunities

The Edwards Center Employment Program has been making significant strides in empowering individuals with developmental disabilities, and much of its success can be attributed to exceptional leadership and team dedication. For the past six years, Marcie Dearing has played a pivotal role in guiding the program, allowing it to flourish and establish itself as one of the leading employment providers in Washington County.

Under Marcie's direction, the employment team has worked tirelessly to create a supportive and inclusive environment that fosters personal growth and professional development for participants. Their commitment to empowering individuals has earned the program a reputation for excellence and respect in the community. As the program continues to evolve, it reflects the broader mission of the Edwards Center to advocate for equity and inclusion for people of all abilities.

On behalf of the entire Edwards Center, a heartfelt thank you goes out to Marcie and the Employment Team for their unwavering service to this vital mission. We also want to extend our deepest gratitude to the businesses and individuals who have hired our amazing employment participants. Your support not only changes lives but also spotlights the remarkable achievements of individuals who exemplify what can be accomplished with the right support.

Together, we are building a more inclusive community for all!



With encouragement and support,

Laurie Phillips

Laurie Phillips
DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

SOME OF OUR AMAZING EMPLOYMENT PARTICIPANTS & BUSINESSES

- J. Celebrating 23 years with NIKE
- M. Celebrating 4 years with MOD PIZZA
- C. Celebrating 2 years with ARAMARK
- C. Celebrating starting a new job with ABM Ind.
- S. Celebrating 6 years with GENENTECH
- P. Celebrating 6 years with ANDERSON CONSTRUCTION
- K. Celebrating 1 year this April with JIREH SEMICONDUCTORS
- A. Celebrating 1 year with TANASBOURNE VET
- A. Celebrating 8 years with WHOLE FOODS
- R. Celebrating 1 year with TANASBOURNE VET
- R. Celebrating 2 years with MOD PIZZA
- M. Celebrating starting a new job with LEUPOLD & STEVENS
- A. Celebrating 5 years with MOD PIZZA
- J. Celebrating 1 year with JIREH SEMICONDUCTORS
- J. Celebrating starting a new job with NORTEC (previously at GAYLORD IND. for 7 years)
- D. Celebrating 3 years with HOME DEPOT
- M. Celebrating 7 years with JIREH SEMICONDUCTORS
- P. Celebrating 5 years with GENENTECH
- E. Celebrating 1 year with ARAMARK
- B. Celebrating 4 years with ARAMARK
- L. Celebrating 3 years with COSTCO
- K. Celebrating 7 years with VERNIER
- T. Celebrating 7 years with VERNIER





EDWARDS OUTINGS & ACTIVITIES

A Journey of Fun & Growth with Captain Fun

At the Edwards Center, our beloved Jeff Tondreau, affectionately known as "Captain Fun," is making waves in the community through a range of exciting outings and activities. It's truly heartwarming to see the smiling faces of our residents as they thrive and engage in their surroundings. These outings foster community connections and allow our participants to step outside their comfort zones and try new activities for the first time. The joy derived from these experiences is palpable, reinforcing the importance of community engagement for everyone involved. Together, we are genuinely "Living Our Best Lives."



The impact of these outings extends beyond just participation; we are witnessing a remarkable response from the community and invaluable feedback about our activities. Residents are now taking the initiative to reach out with their own suggestions and trip ideas, demonstrating their enthusiasm and eagerness to get involved. This newfound confidence is wonderful to see, and it highlights the collaborative spirit that is growing among participants. Watching relationships flourish and new friendships blossom during these events has been a magnificent aspect of this initiative.

Jeff's passion for helping participants experience new opportunities is evident, and he expresses profound joy in witnessing their growth and success. He acknowledges the incredible support he has received from family members, fellow staff, and administration, which has been instrumental in the success of these outings. Together, they are creating an environment where everyone can learn, grow, and have fun. For Jeff, the best part of his new job is seeing the joy and empowerment that come from these shared experiences—truly a testament to the transformative power of community engagement at the Edwards Center, as we all continue "Living Our Best Lives!"

We want to thank everyone who pitches in to make these outings happen!



Keep thriving through empowered adventures!

Jim Parker
PHILANTHROPY & COMMUNICATIONS
PROFESSIONAL





TREASURER REPORT



Commitment Financial Strength

We are pleased to report that Edwards Center is in a very strong position, thanks in large part to the generosity of our donors. Their investments are not only appreciated but are also managed with great responsibility, ensuring that every contribution is maximized for the benefit of our participants. This careful stewardship allows us to maintain and enhance the quality of care and opportunities we provide to those we serve.

Each year presents new challenges, yet Edwards Center remains steadfast in delivering exceptional care and support to our residents. A notable achievement this year was the completion of Marick House at Edwards Place, which has allowed us to welcome new participants into our family. This expansion is a testament to our ongoing commitment to providing inclusive and supportive environments for individuals with developmental disabilities.

While we hope for potential growth to accommodate additional participants, we remain focused on achieving positive monthly revenue to ensure that our existing residents receive the appropriate support they need. This balanced approach is essential for our continued success and sustainability as we strive to enhance the lives of all those in our care and allow us all to "Live Our Best Lives."



Working to protect the future,

Diana Sullivan

Diana Sullivan
BOARD TREASURER

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Vox & Volunteer Hours	1,023
Board Volunteer Hours	2,509
Total	3,532
x	\$33.49/per hour*
=	\$118,286.68!

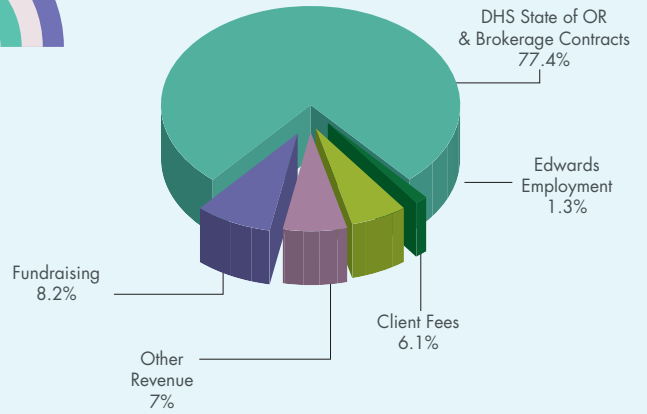


*INDEPENDENT SECTOR, WITH THE DO GOOD INSTITUTE ESTIMATES THE 2024 ESTIMATED NATIONAL VALUE OF EACH VOLUNTEER HOUR IS CURRENTLY \$33.49.

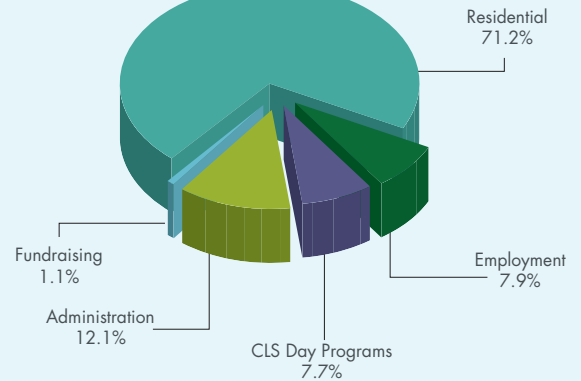
Volunteers - Making it Happen!

We are profoundly grateful for our remarkable volunteers, board members, and the VOX Family & Friends Support Network. Your extraordinary commitment and generosity have culminated in over 3,532 hours of invaluable support—helping our participants "Live Our Best Lives."

REVENUE



EXPENSES



FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

REVENUE & EXPENSES

REVENUE:

DHS State of OR & Brokerage Contracts	\$11,226,997
Edwards Employment	\$181,588
Client Fees	\$890,915
Other Revenue	\$1,020,573
Fundraising & Gifts In-Kind	\$1,176,405
Total Revenue	\$14,496,478

EXPENSES:

Residential	\$9,429,267
Employment	\$1,048,772
CLS Day Programs	\$1,017,597
Administrative	\$1,614,720
Fundraising	\$139,950
Total Expenses	\$13,250,306



Warm regards and balanced budgets,

Kathleen Autrey

Kathy Autrey
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE





DONOR LISTING BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2024 AND DECEMBER 31, 2024

Anonymous	Bruce Bridgess	Stephanie Drews	Susan Inman
4th Avenue Homes	Wayne Bridges	Barbara Duerden	Jackie Givas
Achterhof Healthcare Pharmacy	Amanda & Kevin Brinkley	Jean Edwards	Julie Jacobsen
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Vicki & Bill Brickley		Ian Mauer	Susan Kornahrens



DONOR LISTING BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2024 AND DECEMBER 31, 2024

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Kuni Foundation	Elizabeth Menashe	Michelle Reser	The Brinkleys
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Malcolm Hodge	Bob Park	Mayurika Sheth	The Pipers
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Mark Chism	Gerald & Diana Parker	Jerry & Konni Skaggs	Irene & Mojtaba
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Carole McAdams	Judy Powell		Tom Potter & Karin Hansen
Mary McCarter	Nancy Prouty		Virginia Tondreau



DONOR LISTING BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2024 AND DECEMBER 31, 2024

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Cynthia Varadi

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Grant Yerke Boderick Group

John Yerke

Harold Zamora

Margaret Zuercher



*If your name is missing from the list, please contact Jim Parker at jparker@edwardscenter.org.

2024 EDWARDS HOMES “GOLD STANDARD” IMPROVEMENTS

At Edwards Center, we are dedicated to maintaining our Gold Standard in residential living, a commitment exemplified by the constant efforts of our maintenance team and the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who care for our homes as if they were their own.

In 2024, we made significant strides in enhancing our facilities, reflecting our promise to provide top-notch living conditions for our residents. Here are some major improvements that have taken place this year:



Century House: Thanks to a generous gift from the Kuni Foundation, we completed a full kitchen remodel, ensuring it is functional and accessible for residents with wheelchairs and walkers. This upgrade allows all residents to engage in daily living tasks fully.

Matthew House: We designed and built a wheelchair access ramp that also serves as an emergency exit. This thoughtful addition provides residents with direct access from the parking area to the backyard, promoting independence and ease of movement for all.



Shaw Apartment #1: The kitchen received a complete remodel, featuring new cabinets, a stunning quartz countertop, a modern sink, and updated hardware. This upgrade enhances the kitchen's functionality, allowing residents to prepare meals and spend time together comfortably.



Freeman House: We replaced the outdated oven/microwave in the kitchen, ensuring residents have access to modern appliances for meal preparation.



These improvements and many other projects, underscore our ongoing commitment to homes where every individual can thrive. The dedication of our maintenance team, alongside the compassionate care of our DSPs, reflects our mission to provide high-quality residential support for our participants.



Striving for the “Gold Standard,”

Edén Guerra
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS





EDWARDS CENTER'S MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities by helping them reach their highest potential through training, education, employment, housing and social opportunities in safe, healthy and stimulating environments.



2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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FOUNDER & PRESIDENT
EDWARDS CENTER
UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR
EMERITA



Chris Monty
VICE PRESIDENT
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