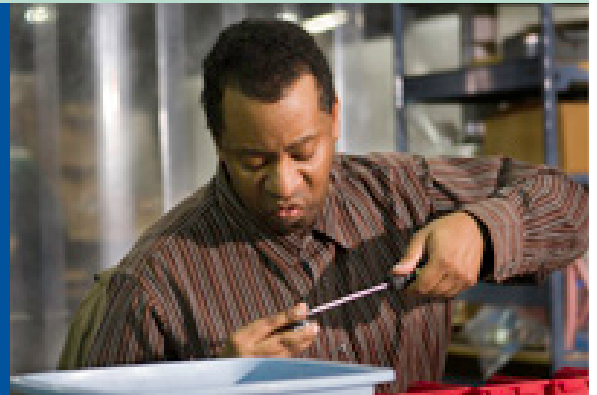


Northwest Center promotes the **growth, development and independence** of people with disabilities through programs of **education, rehabilitation and work opportunity.**



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A Message From President & CEO Tom Everill



In my previous role as a Northwest Center board member, I experienced firsthand the success of our programs for people with disabilities -- and our innovative social enterprise model for funding those programs. Now we plan to challenge the community to join us in creating broader, systemic change.

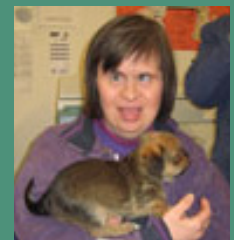
So Northwest Center isn't just working to fill the gaps, but fixing society to eliminate the gaps.

The kind of change Northwest Center is seeking can only happen if we work together. We invite businesses to buy our products, hire people with disabilities and invest in sustainable change. We invite families to join their voices with ours, so we can create strength and power through public advocacy. We invite individuals to fill our big blue trucks with clothing and household goods. Most importantly, we invite every one of our friends, partners and supporters to change the world through collaboration and hard work. We are better together!

The world we're seeking is one where people with disabilities experience justice rather than charity, service rather than help, inclusion rather than pity. It's a world of activism rather than acceptance and a world where people share fully with each other what it means to be human. It's the world as it was meant to be.

Spotlight: Katie

Katie is the perfect example of how a Northwest Center client can boost the morale of an entire staff. She started volunteering at the King



County Animal Care and Control (KCACC) facility in February and quickly made friends and fans of all her colleagues. Which makes sense, because it's pretty hard to resist someone whose favorite phrase is, "I love it!"

The warm and compassionate environment at the shelter makes it a great fit for Katie and her abilities. She folds the laundry five days a week —and even finds time to hold the occasional puppy. Her job coach is always onsite to offer whatever training and support Katie needs, and she has truly blossomed in the position. She loves going to the shelter every day and hopes that her hard work will eventually earn her a paid position.



Katie's volunteer job was developed when a staff person at KCACC knew about Northwest Center's services and thought the shelter would be a great place for a person with disabilities. It sure was! If your business or organization could use a great worker like Katie, please contact our employment specialists at 206-378-6374 for a free consultation.



Annual Golden Hearts Luncheon Highlights Best of the Best

What a terrific day! Last Thursday, we presented five awards to exceptional individuals and community partners at this year's Golden Hearts Luncheon. Everyone had a great time—especially the winners and the 360 business and community leaders who came to cheer them on! Even Governor Gregoire was on hand to offer a keynote address and personally recognize the award-ees. We're thrilled to report that we raised \$105,000, all of which will go right back into our programs for kids and adults with disabilities.

Although it was difficult to narrow down the pool of program participants who deserved an award, we came up with three stellar individuals this year. Toby Glick, a four-year-old who is thriving in our children's program, received the Heart of Northwest Center award. In addition, Sandy Danielson, employed at the Seattle Athletic Club, and Theresa Gorjance, working at American Data Guard, received Employee Achievement Awards.

We know that our success depends on the support of our community partners, so we also recognized an organization and an individual who make a difference. Our First Annual William O. Ellison Community Partner Award, in memory of business partner Bill Ellison, went to Dennis Bounds for his tireless support of local organizations, particularly those that serve people with disabilities. Our Outstanding Employer Award went to Sam's Club for their commitment to employing and supporting people with disabilities.

Northwest Center thanks the many sponsors who made this event possible. If you didn't get to sponsor or attend the event, but still want to show your support, just contact us at 206-378-6379, and we'll take care of it.



Child Development Program Launches Family Fun Fair

Over 300 kids, parents and community members attended the first annual Fun Fair at our children's program in Queen Anne on Saturday, September 27. The guests enjoyed a fun day of crafts, live music, children's activities and a silent auction. We rocked to the live music of the Whateverly Brothers and the Assessments, munched on delightful baked goods from a bake sale, and got to know each other better over face painting and dinosaur digging for the kids.

Our silent auction boasted over 60 items, including a Slapjack donated by ATT, Naturopathic wellness visits donated by David Labriola, Carpet cleaning by J&T Cleaning Services, unique gifts from satchandsol.com and a gorgeous custom designed skirt by glamspoon.com. We also offered gift certificates from the Woodland Park Zoo, Premier Golf Center, Color Me Mine, Arts West Theatre, Creation Station, Pier One Imports and Intiman Theatre.

The event was a great opportunity to build community awareness for our inclusive programs of early learning and early intervention. Families, neighbors, professionals and other supporters came together for a fun-filled day to support programs for children and families. We look for-



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Our Doors Are Open!

Visitors to Northwest Center are about to discover our renovated—and much more accessible—lobby space. Come on by, so you can see for yourself all the exciting changes!