

2005 Options Festival of Trees

The Third Annual Options Festival of Trees is right around the corner, happening Thanksgiving weekend at the Josephine County Fairgrounds Pavilion.

Festivities begin on Friday morning as legions of volunteers, decorators, designers and equipment crews roll in to set up and decorate the trees, and simultaneously transform the cavernous space into a fantastic Winter Wonderland. At 5 pm, all ladders and glue guns will be stowed, giving way to a pizza buffet to feed the hungry workers. At 6 pm, the pavilion opens its doors to the public for a dance party. The \$10 per person cover charge provides partygoers with finger foods from a variety of local restaurants, nonstop music from Jes Webb of Sights and Sounds,



People enjoy the beautifully decorated trees, excellent food, auction items, and spirits at the Gala & Live Auction.

and a no-host bar serving wine and beer. All volunteers are invited to stay for the party as Options' guests.

Saturday morning at 10, the Festival opens to general admission for public viewing of the trees, wreaths and other items that will be on display. Once again, we will be featuring Santa's Workshop where children can create their own ornaments and other craft activities. A photographer will be on hand to take children's

pictures with Santa. There will be live entertainment each day on the main stage, and a Candy Cane Café serving baked items and beverages.

There is also a silent auction again this year, with some special new items that are sure to please. New to this year's festival is a raffle for a choice of either a donated Mini Barn from Dave's Mini Barns or a Holiday Table setting for six from Gottschalks.

(see Festival of Trees, page 3)

Options Facts:

- Options offers consultation and grantwriting services in Mental Health programs, Supported Employment, Affordable Housing Development, and Nonprofit Management.
- We served 975 individuals last fiscal year in our various service programs.
- Since the beginning of Options Employment Works program in 2001, we have placed over 278 individuals in employment opportunities.
- The Options Transportation System provided 9,832 employment or medical appointment rides for adults with disabilities.

Options Executive Director Receives Mental Health Award

Options Executive Director, Kim Miller, was recently awarded the 2005 Mental Health Award for Excellence in recognition of his lifelong work expanding opportunities for people with mental illness. Kim has served in this capacity since 1984 and has seen the agency grow and

change a great deal in that time.

This Award, handed out during Mental Health Awareness Week, recognizes individuals and programs who are major contributors to strengthening mental health in Oregon. In 1989 Options was the original recipient

of the award for Program Excellence and we were recognized again in 1993 for creating the Peer Counseling Program. Jeff Krolick, Clinical Director was also recognized in 2001 for his leadership in helping design Options supported employment program.

Options' Board of Directors

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Methamphetamine Early Response Integration Team (MERIT) Begins Program in Josephine County

Options will be working with Josephine County Human Services Department on a three-year project, the Methamphetamine Early Response Integration Team (MERIT), to expand local capacity to reduce methamphetamine abuse among adults in the county. This grant will help adults addicted to methamphetamine by helping them to establish a clean and sober lifestyle, improving their physical health and the quality of their lives, and reducing episodes of criminality, homelessness, and psychiatric crisis. This grant provides an opportunity to develop an effective approach for the treatment of methamphetamine in rural Josephine County.

The MERIT program will identify methamphetamine dependent people through the courts, Child Protective Services, emergency rooms and through other community-based services and will rapidly link them with the program and its services.

Individuals in the program will be provided integrated methampheta-

mine treatment and Strengths-Based Case Management in a coordinated manner between addiction services and mental health agencies.

In addition, the grant will develop a long-term sustainability plan that will address barriers to treatment access in this community.

Barriers faced in this rural area include location of health services and lack of transportation, lack of trained treatment staff, high illiteracy, high social stigma, and a lack of primary medical insurance.

Methamphetamine abuse is sweeping the nation and has reached epidemic proportions in Josephine County and other parts of the rural West. In 2004, treatment admissions for methamphetamine in Josephine County ranked second, only behind alcohol. Last year, 34.5% of all inmates in the Josephine County Jail were held for charges related to methamphetamine. In a nationwide study reported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMSHA), Oregon had the highest rate of methamphetamine

abuse in the nation. Methamphetamine abuse damages various aspects of an individual's life- including bringing on legal problems, child welfare issues, unemployment, lack of housing, and lack of care for medical issues.

The rampant use of methamphetamine makes it critical that effective evidenced-based treatment strategies be developed and implemented. This grant will provide increased capacity to agencies working to provide the best possible addiction and case management services.

"The MERIT program is a major step in dealing with methamphetamine addiction in Josephine County and it will provide us with the resources and tools necessary to help address this serious issue."

Kim Miller, Executive Director, Options for Southern Oregon

Johnson & Johnson and Dartmouth Film Crew Visits Options

Johnson & Johnson, Inc. and the Dartmouth Community Mental Health Program are filming a video in Southern Oregon featuring the Options Employment Works program. The purpose of the video, entitled "Face2Face", will be to demonstrate the unique skills associated with good job development and Johnson & Johnson hopes to develop a solid job development and employer partnership training tape.

The video will also be used to demonstrate the skills, competencies and activities of good job development for employment specialists, of developing effective partnerships with employers and to provide political and business support for these efforts.

The video focuses on the skills and techniques that have been used effectively by Employment Specialists in each of the target states, Oregon

and Kansas. Production of this video will also help to build support and momentum for supported employment services in states that have not been part of previous video projects.

This video will also be used as a job development and employer partnership training tape which will be used throughout the United States. Local print and television media provided coverage of their visit.



Festival of Trees *(continued from page 1)*

Raffle tickets are being sold in advance and will also be on sale during the event. The drawing will take place Sunday at the close of the Festival.

Saturday night is the Gala Dinner and Live Auction, which gets under way at 6:30 pm. Participants will have the chance to bid on the decorated trees and other valuable items, including Rinascere statues, while dining on a sumptuous meal provided by Star Catering. Muscial entertainment from "Something Old, Something New" will precede and follow the auction.

Sunday, public viewing hours begin again at 10. The Teddy Bear Picnic for kids (separate admission charge) will start at noon, with songs and other entertainment as they take tea and sandwiches with their own Teddies.

Tickets for most events and General Admission and the Teddy Bear Picnic are

available at several outlets in downtown Grants Pass, including the Ol' Champion Outlet, Brick Oven Bakery, Chamber of Commerce and the Options office. Prices are \$10 pp for Friday night, \$4 adults/\$2 kids/\$10 families for general admission, and \$5 for the Teddy Bear Picnic. Adults may accompany their children to the picnic at no extra charge, unless they are eating lunch too. Gala Dinner tickets are \$45 per person, \$80 per couple or \$300 for a full table of eight. Gala Dinner tickets must be requested directly from Options.



*Don't miss this year's Festival!
Plan to get into the Christmas spirit with
a weekend full of holiday fun.
If you'd like to volunteer at the Festival,
please call Ellen Johnson at 471-0317.*

*Wayne Liska of Liska
Auctioneers runs the Live
Auction at the Gala Dinner.
Attending the event is a
wonderful way to come out
and support Options.*

Options honored with Re-Integration Award!

Options' Employment Works Program recently was notified that we received first place in the Eli Lilly and Company's prestigious Reintegration Awards in the On the Job Award category.

This award recognizes "those who help individuals to develop the skills needed to find a meaningful job and the determination to keep it." The award comes with a \$5,000 grant for the Employment Works program and two people will receive an all expenses paid trip to be honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in November.

The Reintegration Awards honor individuals and groups who support people living with severe mental illness; the achievements of people living with severe mental illness who offer hope to others facing similar

challenges; and local and national efforts to improve services and decrease the stigma of mental illness.

"The Reintegration Awards are all about acknowledging the role that people with mental illness and their providers play in helping themselves and others realize their own potential," said John Lechleiter, Ph.D., Executive VP of Pharmaceutical Operations, Eli Lilly and Company. "These awards are one of the ways Lilly celebrates the phenomenal achievements that have been occurring in the areas of reintegration and recovery."

The awards chairperson, Ralph Aquila, M.D., added that the Reintegration Awards are especially important in that they highlight the need for complementary recovery-oriented approaches, including efforts

to help individuals find and keep jobs, have comfortable places to call home and sustain meaningful relationships with friends and family. "The Reintegration Awards are inspiring not only for the winners, but for the mental health community as a whole. They help us see the many diverse ways people with a mental illness are succeeding at moving their own and other people's lives forward."

Receiving the Reintegration Award is an honor for the Employment Works program and acknowledges our perspective that returning to work can be an integral part of the recovery process. Furthermore, as Employment Works staff gains credibility and public respect, the opportunity to create more jobs for consumers increases.



OUR MISSION: OPTIONS FOR SOUTHERN OREGON offers consultation, training and innovative programs to serve low income individuals and people with psychiatric disabilities to inspire hope while supporting their participation in the life of the community.

Options for Southern Oregon, 1215 SW G Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526

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**** Inspiring Hope While Supporting Participation in the Community ****
Your partnership is needed

Options' spacious meeting room is available
to rent for community events, retreats or other gatherings.
For details, call 476-2373

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