

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 as respected members of the community.

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

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**** Inspiring Hope While Supporting Participation in the Community ****



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

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

Summer 2004

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Options expands residential resources

Options Board of Directors has accepted two additional residential resources from The LAMP Inc. Lasting Achievements Mentoring Program, Inc. (LAMP) has worked since 1997 to provide, safe, affordable housing in a supportive drug and alcohol free environment that offered the stability that individuals and families needed to rebuild their lives and move toward self sufficiency. LAMP provided an 18 room men's house on "A" street in Grants Pass, this building is leased from Josephine County and was formerly the Rogue Recovery House. LAMP also owned a 6 bedroom home called Freedom House, a residential program in Grants Pass. LAMP has worked closely with community agencies, Department of Corrections, drug and alcohol treatment programs, Faith based organizations and families to access needed services including employment, substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, education, case management, transportation and child care.

Recent staffing and funding challenges have forced LAMP to reevaluate their capacity to effectively continue their residential programs. In June, Options was approached as a possible recipient of the programs to ensure continuity in the stewardship of these community resources. Members of each agency met to discuss plans to carry on the programs and best serve the special needs of those receiving services. An agreement was reached to develop a transitional strategy that will sustain the LAMP resources under the umbrella of Options for Southern Oregon, utilizing agency administrative staff and systems already in place. Staffing at the existing LAMP residences will be supervised by Options Director and the programs will be evaluated for possible revision and re-scheduling.

Options has had a long and successful collaborative relationship with LAMP and is eager to develop systems that will ensure continuity so that the current resources will be sustained in a more cost effective manner by utilizing Options staff. The Options Board is encouraged that several members of the current LAMP Board of Directors have expressed interest in joining the Board, at least during a transitional period to secure a smooth transition of ownership and responsibility.

Email

If you would prefer to receive our newsletter by email, please give us a call, drop us a letter or email us. This will save Options money on paper and postage.

Phone: 541-476-2373 leave a message for Charlotte or Darrel

Email: cthompson@optionsonline.org



Check out our website: www.optionsonline.org

The LAMP

The LAMP, Inc. provides alcohol and drug-free living for men and women in recovery from alcohol and/or drug addiction. The LAMP offers a built-in peer support group and other opportunities to learn life skills in a clean and sober environment which encourages accountability to the peer group and the community.

The LAMP program has a zero tolerance policy toward alcohol and drug use. Individuals must have 30 days of continuous abstinence from alcohol and other drugs prior to entering the program.

LAMP residents attend 12-step recovery meetings and participate in other activities pertinent to their recovery programs. Residents must maintain full-time employment and/or participation in a recognized educational program. LAMP residents share responsibility for maintaining their residences and 24-hour support is available from their peers in recovery. Residents are encouraged to participate in clean and sober social activities.

Employment Works Grant

Sharon Doshier, Options' Employment Works Program Manager, has just completed the goals of a consulting contract through the State of Oregon.

It began in February 2002 when Oregon State leaders responded to a Request for Proposal from Dartmouth College and Johnson & Johnson Psychiatric Research Center for specific Supported Employment goals. The state was required to secure three community mental health centers, designate an Implementation Monitor and a Consultant/Trainer. In April 2002 Options was approached to provide training to the three selected sites. Initially, Union, Polk, and Douglas Counties were chosen. When Union County decided to not participate in the program, Jackson County was chosen as the third site.

Consulting tasks included monthly on-site visits, weekly telephone consultation with individual sites, monthly telephone consultation with national participants and research data collection for the Dartmouth group. Base-line information was gathered and every six months a review of the implementation process and a progress report was generated following two rating scales. One of the rating scales determined the overall organizational structure while the other was a fidelity scale that measured adherence to the model of supported employment that was in a more advanced research stage. The total consulting grant was for \$48,899, beginning April of 2002 and concluded at the end of June 2004.

Bear Raffle Proceeds to Benefit Options

BearFest 2004, a summer-long event sponsored by Evergreen Federal Bank, is back in downtown Grants Pass and will culminate at the *Wild Bear Auction*, to be held at the Josephine County Fairgrounds on September 25th. This year Options will receive proceeds from the *Bear Raffle*, along with local nonprofits Women's Crisis Center and Connect the Dots. The *Bear Raffle* is an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets to win the Fiber Optic Bear, entitled "Z-BEAR-ah & Son, Spot", created by Fiberoptic Lighting and sponsored by Evergreen Federal Bank. You can purchase raffle tickets directly from Options or at one of several retail outlets available throughout Grants Pass. The Fiber Optic Bear will be raffled off at the *Wild Bear Auction* and the purchase of raffle tickets will directly support Options programs and services.

The Fiber Optic Bear is located at the Downtown Welcome Center, 198 SW 6th St., Grants Pass. Besides its obvious entertainment value, BearFest was organized to raise funds and support for nonprofit organizations in Grants Pass. The bedecked, larger-than-life bears start out as plain fiberglass figures. They are then transformed by local artists into colorful, embellished creatures that are publicly displayed on the downtown streets for all to see, touch, and enjoy throughout the summer months.

I V Housing Needs Assessment

Housing need in the Illinois Valley originates from a unique mixture of demographics, housing conditions, affordability, and resident preferences. Financial needs of Illinois Valley residents are among the most critical observed in Oregon and for the most part, are directly related to regional economic factors. Yet, our findings from the Needs Assessment suggest that there are many types of housing needs that can be addressed through local solutions. The Illinois Valley community possesses the capabilities and the local knowledge to address many of the significant housing needs facing Illinois Valley residents.

For this reason, the specific housing needs that exist in the Illinois Valley can be addressed through community-driven activities, solutions, and capabilities. The Illinois Valley Housing Needs Advisory Committee held numerous meetings to identify many existing capabilities within the Advisory Committee and the wider community. An outcome of Advisory Committee discussions was a general agreement that the group should develop and enhance community-based housing and support service capabilities in Cave Junction to better address the housing needs of the Illinois Valley. That sentiment acted as an underlying goal during subsequent Committee discussions.

Cave Junction is considered by many to be the focal point of the Illinois Valley community. Likewise, a multitude of community services, centers, and facilities are based in Cave Junction. Residents and members of the Advisory Committee have expressed a need for and a desire to increase communication and collaboration among local stakeholders, including service providers, officials, developers, and community members. One recommendation is for the Advisory Committee to conduct an asset-based planning process, designed to identify strengths, capabilities, skills, and talents within the community and to share information between community members and service providers and ultimately draw on existing strengths through enhanced collaboration to help meet the housing needs in the Illinois Valley. Options has applied to RHED for a follow up grant to fund this process.

To see the complete results of the Housing Needs Assessment go to www.optionsonline.org and click on the link on the Housing page.

This is the tenth issue of the Options Newsletter and our third year of publication. We wish to thank all the gracious donors who have utilized this avenue to support Options.

We also wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Meyer Memorial Trust, from whom the grant originated to make this newsletter possible.

Options Receives Funding

Despite the current trend toward decreased funding for social service agencies and services, Options has been creative and tenacious in acquiring supplemental funding to sustain and improve the realization of our agency mission. Listed below are the latest resources secured by the agency.

Department of Human Services- Options (Kimberly Whipkey) was selected to provide the Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug services under a contract with DHS and will be responsible for providing assessment and coordination of mental health and alcohol and drug services' information to DHS case managers. The services provided under this RFP will be designed to assist DHS clients with overcoming the barriers to entering employment and participating in DHS self-sufficiency activities posed by diagnosed mental health and/or alcohol and drug issues.

Carpenter Foundation- We received \$10,000 in funding to purchase computer equipment.

Four Way Community Foundation- Four Way has provided a grant of \$2,400 to help cover initial development costs for Options Community Garden.

U.S. Bank- U.S. Bank recently donated to Options \$2,500 in support of our service programs.

Oregon Department of Transportation- Options received grant monies to pay for operating costs and the purchase of two new vans for our trans-

WANTED!

Giant Santa Chair for the Options Festival Of Trees!

We need a giant Santa Chair for Santa during the Options Festival of Trees! Please contact Nancy Driskell, F.O.T. Event Coordinator, by phone (541-955-9793) or e-mail (festival@optionsonline.org) if you have a chair that you could either donate or lend to the Options Festival of Trees, to be held December 2-5, 2004 at the Josephine County Fairgrounds in Grants Pass.

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