



Cohousing in Corvallis

An E Newsletter from CoHo Cohousing
Corvallis, Oregon

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Remember when your best
friend lived right next door?

Finding Community--Everyone's Dream CoHo Cohousing--Home Life's Reality

By Gina Vee (consultant to Home Life and member of CoHo's Marketing Committee)
plus Pam and Ben Wald (Bonnie's parents)

Finding community is easier for some than others. As teens we search for our group, as adults we join associations of others like ourselves. It is our social nature to belong.

Persons with developmental disabilities have special barriers to finding community. Lack of independence is one of those barriers. Often persons with developmental disabilities live with their aging parents until the parents can no longer care for them. Rarely do they have an opportunity to connect and become part of a community.

To make real the dream of community for persons with developmental disabilities, Home Life has mounted a successful capital campaign to purchase a four bedroom home in CoHo. Home Life is a local nonprofit agency that assists people with developmental disabilities to enjoy active, productive and independent lives.



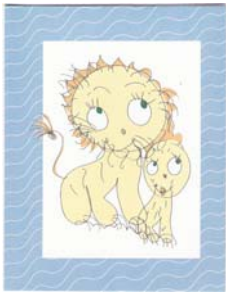
Ben, Bonnie and Pam at April 18th
Groundbreaking Ceremony

Bonnie will be a resident in the Home Life unit in CoHo and her parents, Ben and Pam Wald, share their perspectives on Bonnie's new home.



Our daughter Bonnie has a developmental disability called Cri-du-chat Syndrome - this means 'cry of the cat' in French. When she was diagnosed at age 3 we were told that she would not have intelligible speech due to underdeveloped vocal chords. Pam and I can thankfully share that Bonnie loves to engage socially and verbally with everyone.

Bonnie loves to read books, leaf through magazines, enjoys all forms of humor from Charlie Chaplin, The Three Stooges, Laurel and Hardy, David Letterman, and has a special love of Seinfeld and Cheers. This past year she began to participate in Special Olympics with swimming and track and feels sad when the seasons are over. She loves camping and will attend 'Upper Bound' camp for a week in late July.



During her early years Bonnie had very limited speech to express herself. She began to draw faces and little by little she taught herself to draw characters with the full range of emotional expressions. She became so adept at drawing different characters we decided to develop greeting cards with them. We have spoken to artists about her work and they say that she is very creative and has a very special style of her own. (Bonnie drew the picture at the right in 20 seconds.)



Bonnie is really looking forward to living at the Home Life group home in CoHo. It will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with the community in so many ways--caring protective neighbors who have made a conscious choice to share their lives with people with disabilities. We feel that it will be a very positive experience for everyone.

Welcome to CoHo and Welcome to Corvallis



Two households joining CoHo within the last year moved to Corvallis within the last few weeks.

Robert, Marcy, Nathan (and Buddy the wonder dog) moved from Texas (just in time for a few days of 100 degree weather in Corvallis!). Buddy attended his first community meeting in person (hmm...should that be "in dog"?). Buddy is noted for sharing extremely timely and heartfelt comments when Robert and Marcy called into community meetings using our phone conferencing set-up.

While mom, dad, Buddy and helpers handled the fun stuff (unloading the moving truck), Nathan took on the major tasks of checking out the swimming pool at their apartment complex plus the playground equipment at Central Park with his new CoHo buddies.



The whole family is getting into the Corvallis spirit very quickly. Robert started his new job in facilities management at Oregon State University, Nathan is taking swimming lessons, and Marcy has been blueberry picking.

Maureen had been a frequent visitor since joining CoHo because she lived in West Linn, Oregon (a suburb of Portland). But now she has made the transition to full-time residency in Corvallis and is eagerly joining the Landscaping



Team. Her green thumb will be put to work on our natural area management plan. Her management skills were evident early as she organized carpools to our July 1st Wellness Retreat. In photo at left, she is taking part in the web of trust at our retreat.

July Welcome Weekend

July is a great time to enjoy outdoor activities in Corvallis. Make plans to visit any or all of our Welcome Weekend events on Saturday, July 8th and Sunday, July 9th, whether you are local or out-of-town. Call us to RSVP so we know how many folks we'll be hosting and can let you know of any last-minute changes in the schedule. The line-up includes: slide presentation about cohousing and CoHo with Q&A, potluck at Avery Park (outdoors), brunch (indoors/outdoors), land walk (outdoors), and community meeting. Three households have already made plans to join us.



Help us fill up this LOOOOONG picnic table at Avery Park!

Corvallis 4th of July Parade... Small-Town Living at its Best!

A parade with no marching bands, no floats, only one horse, and more participants than spectators? You bettcha!!! It's the 15th Annual All-American Everyone-Can-Join Fabulous, Fantastic 4th of July Parade. A small CoHo contingent happened upon each other and fantasized about a CoHo entry next year (perhaps a brigade of button spinners!). And then, at the last minute, a CoHo entry appeared. Karen and her brand new granddaughter, Nina, joined the parade just before the final fire truck!





Is it time to make your dream of living in community come true?

The clock is striking 7, marking the time that 7 homes are still available in CoHo!

This clock is on the Benton County Courthouse in downtown Corvallis. Built in 1889, it is the oldest active courthouse in the state of Oregon.

To find out more about CoHo Cohousing

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Susan, [Jennie](#) (kissing canine), and Juva

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