



# Cohousing in Corvallis

An E Newsletter from CoHo Ecovillage  
Corvallis, Oregon

Issue 33 April 2007



Remember when your best friend lived right next door?

## The Big "C" in Cohousing

If you asked CoHoots who've been working on our project for 7 weeks, 7 months, or 7 years why they are motivated to share their energy, time, and lives in this collaborative adventure, you'd likely get the same answer—**connection**. That's why one of the most enjoyable parts of community living is welcoming visitors and new neighbors and deepening our connections with like-minded folks.

We've crossed paths with many visitors over the years who learned about our journey and were intrigued. Some joined us, while others continued on their own paths. As we take the final steps toward move-in this fall, we are still eager to make heartfelt connections with folks who share our vision and values.



Connecting with CoHo can take two routes—pursuing membership or becoming a Friend of CoHo.

### Connecting as Members

We won't be "sold out" until the last unit closes, so we are still actively recruiting folks who'd like to become members and create a home in CoHo Ecovillage. Based on the experience of other cohousing communities, we know that there is likely to be turnover prior to move-in. That's why it's important for those with a serious interest in CoHo to step up now and start the membership process so they have the greatest chance of getting a home now or later when there are resales.

There is a Waiting List set up for folks who complete the membership process and are waiting for a home that meets their needs to open up. People on the Waiting List are encouraged to be active contributors to the community and enjoy building connections with CoHoots right away--there's no need to be on the sidelines watching the action.

Members who have pursued the CoHo path for years understand the hesitance of committing to a project when you don't know if or how things will work out. Working together, CoHo members overcame significant risks and obstacles to make this dream a reality. Some pioneering members worked on the project for years with no guarantees.



Folks joining CoHo now have a shorter time frame to decide if CoHo is right for them, and far fewer uncertainties.

### Connecting as Members of CoHo

To begin our 4-6 week membership process and join the "queue," folks read our Vision and Values statement and our bylaws (available online at [www.cohocovillage.org](http://www.cohocovillage.org)), meet with a CoHo buddy (a member assigned to help with

questions), attend a community meeting (held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month), submit a short application and a nonrefundable check for \$100/adult. During their 4-6 week membership process, applicants attend more meetings, meet CoHoots, read minutes and decision logs, review financial paperwork, spend more time with their buddies, and ask lots and lots of questions. At the end of that time, they have a clearness committee with their buddy and one or two more CoHoots to carefully review their hopes, dreams, and concerns before making a final decision to either take more time in the queue, become members of the community, or withdraw. Folks can go on our Waiting List if a home that meets their needs isn't available.



### Connecting as Friends of CoHo

Folks who want a strong connection to CoHo but are not able to purchase a home in the community can become Friends of CoHo. Friends are welcome participants in most aspects of community life, such as joining committees, pitching in on work days, and sharing in meals and social activities. To become a Friend of CoHo, folks read our Vision and Values Statement, attend at least one social event, become familiar with NVC (non violent communication), pay a one-time fee of \$30, sign the Friends of CoHo Agreement, and pay annual dues of \$25.

If you crave the special **connections** that draw folks to make a powerful commitment to living as cohousing neighbors...reach out NOW.

## Deciding if the CoHo Connection is Right for You

Explore previous issues of our CoHo newsletter to see a range of topics that might be helpful in deciding if CoHo is right for you:

- Does Cohousing Make \$en\$e Financially?
- It Takes A Village (raising kids in cohousing)
- Saying "YES" to Cohousing
- Living in a Giraffe Community (non violent communication)
- Countdown to "Sold Out!" and Sneak Preview of Life in CoHo
- Working Together and Playing Together
- The Path to CoHo
- Saving and Investing Your Time
- CoHo in 2006—A Year of Challenges, Changes, and Chuckles



## CoHo Connection Opportunities—Welcome Weekend

Connect with CoHoots at a series of activities April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>:** Stop by our booth at the EarthFaire; look for our annual entry in the noon Procession of the Species—our CoHo salmon (see photo at left).

Get an overview of cohousing and our project at our 5:00pm orientation.

Then join us in making “CoHo history” by sharing in our first vegetarian “real meal” prepared by a Meal Crew of CoHo members at 6:00pm.

**Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Join us for brunch at 11am followed at 1pm by a Tour of our construction site with Bruce, our Project Manager (this special site tour is open only to folks who have attended a CoHo orientation--either on April 21st or any earlier orientation; for safety reasons, site access is permitted only during scheduled tours).

Please RSVP to Anne (541-974-1739) by Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> to attend the orientation, meal, brunch, and site tour.

## A Home for Mike—“Brick by Brick” by Debby

Even though CoHo homes aren't made of brick, we think it's a great metaphor to show the progress of our fundraising efforts for A Home for Mike, the first project for A Home in Community. This new non-profit organization was formed to increase awareness among cohousing communities and people living with disabilities about the mutual benefits of living in community together, and to provide support and assistance to make it happen. We plan to soon have a model of Mike's future home available at CoHo meetings to show how many “bricks” we've raised.



We're delighted to report that donations of more than \$54,000 have already come in. Early money is particularly helpful, as it encourages other people who don't personally know Mike to contribute. When I mentioned A Home for Mike the other day, a friend immediately wrote out a \$300 check!

To make a donation, send checks payable to A Home in Community to PO Box 1733, Corvallis, OR 97339-1733; 501(c)3 status is pending, so let us know if you'd like to receive notice about the status. For additional information, contact Juva at [Juva@Alyrica.Net](mailto:Juva@Alyrica.Net) or 541-908-5882, or check out our new website [www.AHomeInCommunity.org](http://www.AHomeInCommunity.org).

## What's In a Name?

Our group's legal name is CoHo Ecovillage, Inc. but to tap the greater awareness about the “cohousing” concept, marketing materials used the name CoHo Cohousing. The group recently decided to use our original name, CoHo Ecovillage, again as a reflection of our eco values and features, plus an inspiration to live even greener lives. We're the same cohousing group, but with an old/new name!

## Jessica, Jeremy, Shoshana, Rachel, Debby and Ron Are On Their Way!!!



When this three-generation family made the commitment to join CoHo in February 2006, their goals were clear—finding a job for Jeremy was their number 1 priority. They knew that as soon as Jeremy had a job in Oregon, the Grooms could move from California, and then Debby and Ron (Jessica's parents) could move from Maryland. So they turned to Corvallis CoHoots for help.

With their networking contacts, CoHo members provided job referrals and even direct connections to people in Jeremy's field (including his new boss!). Jeremy adds "Dennis coached me on interviewing tips and preparations. Many folks gave me encouragement. Susan, Juva, Dennis, and Zeke gave me lodging. CoHohians came out to wish me well at dinners. And, to top it all off, Juva is even helping us drive north to Corvallis from San Diego!!"

When the job offer came through, everyone celebrated (the wiggling fingers in the photos signify applause). Jeremy shared "Is there any part of this job-seeking experience CoHo has not helped with? When we announced that I'd gotten the job, one of the best feelings was the cheer that came from the community. It's like we were already home."

Meanwhile, Debby and Ron plan to head our way in July. Debby's been connecting with CoHoots mostly via conference phone calls and quips "if I have trouble recognizing anyone in person, I'll just close my eyes and remember the voice!"



"Who you know" can make a difference in job-hunting success. When you have a "CoHo connection," you've got an extra boost.

### **A Friend of the Family**

Folks who won't be part of the on-site community living in CoHo but want to be connected to CoHo are still an important part of our extended family. Maureen is an active Friend of CoHo who cheerfully pitches in on many community projects and activities.



Maureen, one of several Friends of CoHo who are members of our Landscape Committee, coordinates agenda-setting and facilitates meetings. Many of her contributions are also very "hands on"--she helped mill logs on our site, documented photos of our unit interiors, and has helped set up and clean up at community potlucks, plus greeted visitors at our CoHo booths at Farmers Markets. She's also enjoyed one of the extra benefits of being a Friend of CoHo—attending free classes in NVC (non-violent communication).

Maureen enjoys staying connected with CoHoots, "just like I would with any friends." She likes being part of a circle of like-minded folks who share similar visions and values. Maintaining good friendships is a priority for Maureen and she's looking forward to even more extended family get-togethers with CoHo after move-in.

In the meantime, Maureen is making a home for Bow and Button, two formerly feral felines who refrained from wiggling and wriggling just long enough for a quick photo. CoHo cat lovers have stopped by to meet her furry companions and welcome them to the CoHo clan.

## Sustainability in Action

CoHoots are committed to using natural resources carefully. So when trees were cut on our property in order to start construction of our homes and Common House, the Landscape Committee stepped in.

They requested that all organics (including trees) be kept on site. Trees were recently milled into lumber to be used for a variety of building projects around the community.



## To find out more about CoHo Cohousing

Website: [www.cohoecovillage.org](http://www.cohoecovillage.org)  
Email: [cohocontact@cohoecovillage.org](mailto:cohocontact@cohoecovillage.org)  
Phone: [Anne Arquette @ 541-974-1739](tel:541-974-1739)



Anne, dreaming of a soothing connection with a warm bath in her new CoHo home

Click [HERE](#) to read issues of previous newsletters on our website.  
Share this link with someone who may be interested in CoHo!

