

SPARC NEWSLETTER 2009

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WINTER

Pat's Post

After twenty-seven years of teaching in many capacities at SPARC, I took on the Executive Director's responsibilities in June of 2007. It has been a challenge in these difficult economic times to continue to provide the quality services SPARC has always offered. I have the good fortune of being involved with so many talented and dedicated people who are committed to seeing that the children and their families receive the best possible program. Due to our extremely capable and dedicated staff we continue not only to provide quality services but innovative programs. Our strong collaboration with community partners, such as, Skagit/Island Head Start, enables us to provide services in inclusive environments, enriching the opportunities for all children involved. Sparc joins other program leaders in strengthening and supporting the state-wide emphasis to have all children ready for kindergarten. This year we invited community children to join our classrooms. This concept means including children with a wide range of abilities and strengths within the same classroom, benefitting all. Community donations allows us to continue to meet the needs of our children and families.

SPARC Donors

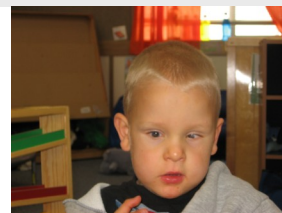
The Children of SPARC are supported by the community through special gifts and programs. Thank you to the following donors and grantors who were among SPARC's supporters this year:

United Way of Skagit County	Burlington Lutheran Church Women	Richard & Susan Cook	Westview Garden Club
Elizabeth Lynn Foundation	Greenwald Family	Jerry & Marilyn Eisner	Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church
Lucky Seven Foundation	First Christian Church The LaConner Rotary	Gerald & Susan Christian	Hilda Holiday
Jansen Foundation	Skagit State Bank	Kirk & Paula Wilson	Susan Wilson
Tulalip Tribes	Whidbey Island Bank	Mike & Lisa Janiki	John Meyer
Bank of America Fund	Creekside Retirement Community	Cheryl Bishop	
		Tim & Hillary Williamson	



Meet Charlie

A huge thank you to Les Birchett and Buster Brewer. These wonderful men organized a poker run and event, to benefit SPARC. . Following



the poker run, everyone gathered at Buster's home for great music, food, fun, raffles and auctions. \$2,600 was donated to SPARC by this group of fantastic people. This event was held August 22, 2009.

This year is the third staging of this fundraiser. The event is inspired by Les' grandson. Charlie was born 3months prematurely, December 2004. He spent the first four months of his life in the hospital. As a result of prematurity, Charlie is visually impaired and had multiple developmental delays. Despite his many challenges, Charlie is an adorable, engaging preschooler. He has received educational and therapy services from SPARC since April 2005. Currently Charlie attends the SPARC-Head Start class at our LaVenture site. In this class Charlie learns and plays with children with special needs and Head Start students. Charlie' family and friends have worked together with SPARC to nurture this special child.

The donation was greatly appreciated. Friends of SPARC, such as Les and Buster, are invaluable and their caring spirits as well as financial support make a difference in many lives.

SPARC PARK

In January of 2009 a group from Leadership Skagit approached Skagit Preschool and Resource Center (SPARC) to propose a community project. The Leadership Team called itself the "It's NUF" Team (FUN backwards) and created the project called the "SPARC Park". They developed a plan for an undeveloped area of the SPARC preschool playground behind LaVenture Middle School. The project entailed a lot of drainage work, creating hills for the children to run and roll down, a playhouse, and a tunnel fixed in the ground to run through and jump off. They planted sod over the whole area. The park was christened at the June end of the year celebration. The children thoroughly enjoyed the activities in the new area and continue to enjoy it this school year. Many thanks to the "It's Nuf" team members: Ellen Johnson, Jody Barnett, Will Reichardt, Theresa Nording and Sandy Swartos. The project was funded by donations from many community businesses and organizations.



SAVE the DATE: SPARC Your Engines Saturday, March 6, 2010 will be the 8th Annual "SPARC Your Engines" fundraiser. The evening will be full of wonderful food, great silent auction items and a live auction to end the evening. For tickets or to find out more information, contact SPARC at (360)416-7570.

Children Served

SPARC Financial Report

During our 2008-09 year :

Birth To Three

- 71 children age birth to three were provided services
- 23 children reached age three and services continued
- 3 children no longer needed services at age three
- 8 children no longer needed services before age three
- 43 additional children evaluated during this year were found to not need services

Preschool

- 115 children age three to six were provided services
- 3 children were exited from program because they no longer needed services

Revenue:

School Districts	520,150
State Contract Services	293,255
Medicaid and Insurance	39,797
Grants and Donations	62,060
Fundraising	59,200
Other Income	4,555

Expenses:

Salaries/taxes/benefits	750,716
Contract/Professional	52,642
Program Expenses	74,653
Occupancy Expenses	51,835
Depreciation	16,000



Spotlight On SPARC Staff: Amy Fox

Of the many things that make SPARC great, our staff is the most important. One of our go to team members is Amy Fox. She is often the first person to arrive at work and the last to leave. Amy puts the needs of the children and families as a top priority. The idea of “that’s not my job” is definitely not part of Amy’s philosophy. Amy’s contributions are numerous but her talent for working with Spanish-speaking families and her willingness to share her expertise with others are a gift to SPARC. When she was asked to provide biographical information for this article she wrote the article for us. It is typical of Amy to take any request to the highest level of response possible. Here’s what Amy told wrote about herself.

Amy Fox has been a speech language pathologist at SPARC since 1998. She graduated from University of New Mexico in 1994 with a degree in communication disorders and traveled back to Washington State to interview with several agencies. SPARC at that time did not have an available speech language pathologist to supervise her. Amy worked at Valley Medical Center in Renton Washington with outpatient pediatrics. This job did not satisfy her desire to work with Spanish speaking families so she traveled to Chile and worked with adults as well as children for a year. At that time she volunteered in Colombia and Honduras with Operation Smile. Amy returned to the United States but SPARC was not hiring at that time. She worked in Salem Oregon with a “birth to six agency”, spending a lot of time in her car but experiencing many different service locations in homes, daycares and Head Start throughout Marion County. Working at SPARC continued to call Amy and finally a position became available. Amy has worked with SPARC on and off since that time, attempting private practice and elementary schools but always returning back to SPARC. Amy feels SPARC offers experiences working with a diverse population of children and families in a variety of environments. On an average day Amy does home visits, individual therapy at the center, circle time in Head Starts, visits to a private daycare and collaborates with teachers, private therapists and parents to develop an appropriate plan for the development and progress of the child. It has been a long well traveled work experience road for Amy Fox but finally she has made it home to SPARC.