



“Trees in the Forest,” a painting by Vera Gray. Vera is a participant in OSLP’s Arts & Culture Program, which relies on the generous support of donors to make transformative arts and cultural experiences available to individuals with and without disabilities.

Fall 2014  
 CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF  
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 & CULTURE PROGRAM p4

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 Eugene, OR 97401  
 1250 Charnelton St.  
 Oregon Supported  
 Living Program  
**OSLP**

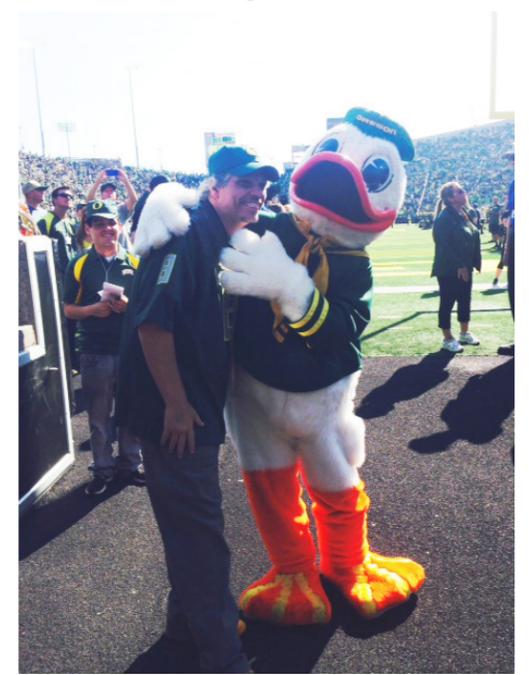
**Our mission** at Oregon Supported Living Program is to enhance the lives of adults with developmental disabilities by providing person-centered residential, vocational and supported living programs with emphasis on the arts and community integration.

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## A Very Ducky Birthday for Rick

Rick P. has been in the OSLP community for over twelve years, and everyone here is familiar with his smile, the joy he finds in his job with Ninkasi Brewing, and of course, his love for the Ducks. Thanks to the generous support of OSLP board member Matt Cox and University of Oregon Athletics, Rick was able to celebrate his 49th birthday in green and yellow, as a VIP guest at the Oregon vs. Wyoming Football Game. The memories of this special day will last for years to come.



Rick had the full tour of Autzen, including the press box and Phil Knight’s private box. He walked the March to Victory with the Ducks, and he watched the team warm up from the sidelines. He made sure to shout encouragement at the players as they went through their drills. Finally, of course, he watched the Ducks rout Wyoming 48-14. The next day, he and his support staff flew to Disneyland to continue the festivities.

Rick’s experiences were subsidized by OSLP’s One Dream at a Time Fund, which supports the travel and cultural goals of the people OSLP serves by helping pay for extra costs and additional staffing. You can support experiences like this at [oslp.org](http://oslp.org).

**Great Success at Oakshire Inspires!**

On August 27th, we had an outstanding friendraising and fundraising event at Oakshire Public House. Oakshire was generous to donate \$1 of every pint sold that night, and between pint sales and individual donations, we raised \$483! Thank you to all of our supporters who joined us and raised a glass to OSLP’s future. All donations benefited our Arts & Culture Program, which also had an exhibit of current works at Oakshire. A special thank you to Oakshire for their generous support of OSLP’s mission.

# Look Me in the Eye Celebrates Five Years!

When Amelia Abel of Eugene addressed a Lions Club over five years ago about her experience living with Downs Syndrome, an audience member hesitantly asked her what he could do to help include people with disabilities. “You can start,” Amelia said, “by looking me in the eye.” We knew instantly that her words, and the message behind them, were too powerful not to share.

This September, we celebrated the five-year anniversary of Look Me in the Eye, a campaign that seeks to increase visibility and inclusion for people with disabilities. A partnership with Full Access, Look Me in the Eye has been recognized as one of the most impactful and significant educational campaigns in Lane County. In 2012, Mayor Kitty Piercy proclaimed September to be “Look Me in the Eye Month,” and we celebrated with the Mayor and many other supporters at a luncheon at the Valley River Inn on September 9th. We also had a robust entry in the Eugene Celebration Parade on August 23rd, and our Arts & Culture Program held a special exhibition featuring OSLP and community artists responding to the prompt: “what does Look Me in the Eye mean to you?”

At the luncheon, Tracy Berry of New Country 93.3 served as our Emcee, and Mayor Piercy joined us to read the Look Me in the Eye Proclamation. We were also thrilled to recognize several community members who have been instrumental in advancing Look Me in the Eye around Lane County.

## Look Me in the Eye Community Award Winners

- Amelia Abel, our Look Me in the Eye Star
- Rick Dancer, the “Look Me in the Eye Guy”
- Phacelia Cramer, founder of South Eugene High School’s Look Me in the Eye Club
- Lane Transit District



Amelia Abel and Phacelia Cramer



Tracy Berry, Emcee



OSLP artist Perry Johnson presents Mayor Piercy with a Look Me in the Eye painting, with Margaret Theisen and Gretchen Dubie



OSLP board members Matt Favreault, Dave Lindelien, Merrill Levine, Paula Clark, and Kathy Dancer



Margaret Theisen, Rick Dancer, and Gretchen Dubie



LTD board member Gary Wildish accepts award, with Gretchen Dubie and Margaret Theisen



Members of the OSLP and Full Access communities have marched in the Eugene Celebration parade together since 2010.

# Two OSLP Staff Receive Works of Heart Awards from OR Rehabilitation Association

OSLP is proud to introduce you to two of our outstanding staff



Mark Turner (on right, with Tony of Almaden House) has worked with OSLP for ten years, and has spent much of that time at Almaden House, where Dione Mode, his supervisor, recognizes him as a calming constant in a residence that has undergone major changes and a disruptive remodel. Dione explains that “The bond he has built with the clients is one of trust, respect, history and genuine care.” Mark loves taking the individuals he supports on trips, whether up the McKenzie to fish, or to the Space Needle in Seattle. Mark estimates that he has been on over 15 trips with different individuals. “To see their faces when we arrive somewhere they’ve wanted to go their whole lives--that’s the best part of my job,” Mark says.

Chris Schmidt (right) has been with OSLP for over two years, but has quickly been recognized as a major contributor to OSLP and as the type of staff member who improves the profession as a whole. Chris’ supervisor George Williamson wrote that Chris is “successful at motivating individuals to participate in personal or shared responsibilities, which leads to a sense of accomplishment and ownership, reduces instances of isolation, and increases well-being among the men in the house.” Chris also has fantastic rapport with the families and friends of the individuals he supports in the Sunny House. “It is the small everyday tasks that we do on a daily basis that help the people that we support live the most independent lives they can, and sharing major life experiences is just the icing on the cake,” Chris says.



# Board Spotlight: Jocelyn Burdick, LMT



Jocelyn Burdick joined the board of OSLP in February 2014, and her passion for the organization is huge. Not only does Jocelyn serve OSLP as a board member, she also provides massage and body work to individuals that OSLP supports, in the Arts & Culture Program and in some residential homes. Jocelyn has been offering massage for individuals supported by OSLP for over two years and has volunteered at every Pedal for People event.

For Jocelyn, having the opportunity to connect more deeply with OSLP staff while she visits houses to provide massage has been especially meaningful. “Being in the houses providing massage is an amazing experience, because I get to see the direct support professionals doing such hard work. They are so person-centered, and so warm and friendly. I was intimidated at first, because I am going into people’s houses and places of work, but I love being a part of it now that I’ve been visiting for so long,” she says.

We are delighted to name Jocelyn Board Member of the Year in recognition of her incredible service to the individuals OSLP supports. Thank you, Jocelyn!