

ESR

The *WORKS!*

www.esrworks.org

East Suburban Resources

October 2007

Fundraising event is ESR first

Night of Dreams seeks support to turn hope into reality for consumers

There's excitement in the air this fall as ESR plans its first major fund-raising event.

"The energy surrounding this event is incredible," said Executive Director Ed Boeve. "There's a lot of anticipation building up, and we've got a great plan in the works."

ESR's Night of Dreams takes place on Friday, Nov. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Prom Center in Oakdale. The event features the Minnesota Jazz

Orchestra, recognition of our American Dream Award winner, and live and silent auctions. Mouth-watering hors d'oeuvres will be served throughout the evening. Tickets are \$40 each and are available by calling 651-351-0190.

Like many nonprofit agencies, ESR must turn to fundraising when other revenue sources are inadequate to meet consumers' needs. Although ESR receives a

portion of its funding from state and federal sources, those dollars do not fully meet the needs of serving 283 consumers and providing daily transportation from their homes to their jobs and back.

"We are changing the lives of more consumers than ever before," said Boeve, "and while we are partially subsidized, the money simply doesn't go far enough in meeting consumers' needs."

Providing employment support for adults with developmental disabilities and other special needs places ESR among an elite group of agencies in the east metropolitan area. With few options for consumers and families seeking supported employment services like ESR's, the demand on the agency continues to grow, with an increasing number of requests coming from potential consumers and families in Washington and Dakota counties.

"Few other agencies provide the level of support in community employment that ESR does," said Boeve. "ESR has consistently been a leader in this area."

The majority of ESR's consumers work in the community, serving in jobs that are specifically tailored to their unique interests and skills. They are supported in their

Join us for ESR's first fundraising event!



Night of Dreams Friday, Nov. 9, 2007

6 p.m. -- Prom Center
484 Inwood Avenue, Oakdale

Featuring

The Minnesota Jazz Orchestra

Recognition of ESR's

American Dream Award winner

Live and silent auctions

Mouthwatering hors d'oeuvres

Tickets \$40 each; advanced tickets only

Call 651-351-0190

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Van maintenance, gas among highest costs

Transportation crucial for consumers' success

Among the obstacles to employment faced by adults with developmental disabilities is transportation. Most do not drive and there are few cost efficient options that meet their needs.

ESR helps consumers overcome transportation issues by providing rides from their residences to work and back. With 30-35 vehicles on the road, from passenger cars to large vans, ESR staff covers more than 3,500 miles every day at no cost to consumers.

"Transportation is the biggest cost the agency has, other than staffing," said Executive Director Ed Boeve, "and it is not totally covered by the state or federal

funding we receive."

ESR's Night of Dreams will provide a much needed boost to the agency's transportation fund. (See cover story.)

Boeve estimated the annual cost of operating a single van to be close to \$12,000, (vans with wheelchairs lifts are higher cost), covering van maintenance, gas and insurance fees. This does not include the driver.

To keep costs as low as possible, ESR's transportation coordinator plans routes carefully. The challenge is coordinating the needs of hundreds of consumers who live in multiple counties and have to report to work in dozens of

By the numbers

ESR serves 283 consumers

ESR's fleet 30 vans

Miles driven daily 3,500

Gasoline per van \$4,000/year
(Wheelchair lift vans cost more)

Maintain each van \$3,300/year

Insurance per van \$1,400/year

different businesses and locations.

"We are serving more consumers than ever," said Boeve, indicating the current roster of 283 people. "Many of them are in independent jobs in the community and face significant challenges in being successful in their jobs. Transportation should not be one of those challenges."

Night of Dreams event offers many opportunities to be involved

The Night of Dreams, ESR's first major fundraising event on Friday, Nov. 9, offers a variety of ways for people to support adults with developmental disabilities.

Become an event sponsor

Join the ranks of area businesses, including Hedron, Inc., American Polywater, the Lake Elmo Bank, the Raleigh Foundation, KV Systems, Inc., and Medical Concepts Development by pledging a gift at one of four sponsorship levels, ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

Fill a table

Gather your friends or family together and purchase a table at the Night of Dreams event. Tables seat eight people for a total cost of \$320.

Donate auction items

ESR is looking for auction items with a minimum value of \$35 for its live and silent auctions. Donate a week at a time-share condo, provide a gift basket of unique items, or provide a one-of-a-kind item made by you.

Attend the event

Call ESR, 651-351-0190, for tickets.

Use the enclosed envelope

You can be part of the event even if you cannot attend by sending in your contribution in the envelope enclosed with this newsletter for your convenience.

For more information on these opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others, call ESR at 651-351-0190.

Don't miss your chance to bid on these auction items

Here is a sampling of auction items collected for our Night of Dreams:

- Hand-made stained glass art
- Hunting excursion at private club
- Week-long stay at exclusive Desert Springs resort
- Framed, original artwork by local artists
- Hand-made cards, table settings, miniatures, artwork and more
- Fly-fishing gift basket
- Gift certificates from area theaters, arts organizations
- Themed gift baskets

Learning curve has been high as we plan our first fundraising event

**By Ed Boeve
Executive Director**

I try to learn something new each day. My early morning scan of the sports section probably doesn't count in that the read is pretty much the same each day. A few minutes of each day at the office is reserved for reading some item from a skill development book or from an internet search on a work topic of interest. Some days the learning takes place on the St. Croix River in a fishing boat trying to figure out the location and favorite food of the wily walleye.

My education during the past few months has included instruction and consultation about how to plan and host an effective fund-raising event. The first ESR 'Night of Dreams' scheduled for November 9th has been on our

minds since early this year. With the commitment of an event committee led by Board Directors Vicki Strong and Joe Jungbauer we have been putting the pieces into place for an evening of fun and great entertainment for you, our benefactors. We are confident that the sponsors and attendees at the event will help to make this the first of many successful experiences where we share the stories of ESR consumers and receive support from our friends.

We also continue to learn each day from our consumers and business partners. Part of that learning process comes through asking questions. We recently completed a round of probes and surveys with consumers in our services, with the individuals closest to our consumers, and with

our business partners who provide employment opportunities. We learned of many strong areas identified by our partners. Program staff members were identified specifically by many people for their dedication, hard work, and particularly for the respect and dignity exhibited toward our consumers. We continue to learn more about the meaning of respect and about the many opportunities available in our communities for consumers. We hope to continue and expand our work to support more consumers in different community settings with the help that you, our partners, will provide on November 9th.

Thank you in advance for your support. Hope to see you all at the Prom Center!

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roles by job coaches and others who ensure the consumers have the training they need to be successful while reaching individualized goals that provide skill development and learning opportunities.

Consumers also receive an amazing level of support from the businesses in which they work.

"Our business partners amaze us over and over with their willingness to support consumers in the workplace," said Boeve. "They help drive efforts to integrate consumers into the community, and we appreciate their partnership and commitment to providing these opportunities."

Providing opportunities for

employment goes beyond simply enhancing consumers' independence and giving them income-earning opportunities. The resulting integration benefits the entire community by giving people a chance to interact and develop greater understanding of adults with developmental disabilities and other special needs.

"We all benefit from greater diversity," said Boeve. "Finding employment and focusing on integration for our consumers gives them the chance to become contributing members of the community, their independence is enhanced, their income allows them to become purchasers of other

goods and services and so on. The benefits extend well beyond the consumers themselves."

Funds raised through the Night of Dreams event will be used to support a variety of needs within ESR, including transportation and related costs, and the installation of a ceiling lift at the Forest Lake and Cottage Grove production centers to provide easier access to restrooms for consumers with severe physical limitations.

"Our services change lives every day, and the need is growing," said Boeve. "A successful Night of Dreams event will enable us to continue touching lives, one individual at a time."

The *WORKS!*

Providing quality support in employment and community for people with disabilities and other special needs!



East Suburban Resources
makes a difference

You can, too!

Your tax deductible donation helps adults with developmental disabilities and other special needs find employment in the community, where they can earn an income and increase their independence.



A contribution envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

It's new! It's improved!

www.esrworks.org

Now offering more information and resources than ever before about ESR and the people we serve.

*It's not the same old website.... **check it out!***

ESR is committed to providing quality supports for people with disabilities or special needs making access to their community and employment a reality.

ESR Works! is published four times a year for the friends of ESR by its Marketing and Development Office, 1754 Washington Avenue, Stillwater, Minnesota 55082-7561.

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Your partners for success in employment and community.

ESR

Works!

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mail@ESRworks.org

Please renew your financial support to ESR as we continue offering programs to support people with disabilities and special needs.

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