

ESR

The WORKS!

www.esrworks.org

East Suburban Resources

October 2008

ESR supporters rally, help with gas costs

Higher gas prices were a little more palatable for ESR in August thanks to the generosity of more than a dozen supporters who donated nearly \$1,500 to offset transportation costs.

"We were pleasantly surprised at the number of people who came forward with donations to help with gas prices," said Executive Director Ed Boeve. "Our costs are running well over budget and the donations received will definitely help. We appreciate the response from our supporters."

In helping adults with developmental disabilities find and retain employment in the community, ESR provides transportation to nearly 300 people every day. Most of those served by the agency do not drive and public transportation is limited or costly. The agency believes strongly that a lack of transportation should not be a barrier to employment, so its fleet of 33 vans and cars heads out each day to provide the rides people need to remain employed.

The agency receives some reimbursements for providing transportation. However, the actual cost of fuel far outstrips the funds ESR receives.

Supporters rally to Page 2

Reserve your tickets today!

Night of Dreams

Friday, Nov. 7, 2008 - 6 p.m.

Dellwood Hills Country Club

Featuring

Minnesota Jazz Orchestra

-- Music for your listening and dancing pleasure

Live and Silent Auctions

- Guided fishing trip for four (four days/three nights) on Rainy Lake, including meals and much more*
- Hot-air balloon rides over the scenic river valley*
- Side of beef, packaged and ready for your freezer*
- Diamond and gemstone necklace*

Tempting hors d'oeuvres and more!

Call Jeane at 651-351-0190, ext. 10, for tickets

Tickets \$45 each



Your participation supports ESR's transportation services so unstable gas prices do not hamper the agency's ability to provide other programs providing vital assistance to adults with disabilities.

Don't miss the fun!

From the director

Community integration includes highs and lows experienced by all

The first frost of the season occurred this morning in my yard.

The seasons seem to fly by more quickly with each passing year, but fall is beautiful in our part of the country. The joy of the harvest season remains strong for me, going back to my formative years on the farm. The fishing generally gets better, football season is in full swing, the World Series is coming up, and our evenings are comfortably cool.

Best of all, the second annual Night of Dreams event is just around the corner. Everything considered, autumn is my favorite time of year.

The past few weeks have been dominated by news of economic woes across the country. Each of us is affected in some way by the dramatic swings occurring in our financial markets. Employment decisions everywhere from Wall Street in New York to Washington Avenue in Stillwater are being made in light of real or anticipated

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reductions in spendable income. Retirements planned for the near future are delayed, some retirees are forced to attempt a re-entry into the workforce, and businesses delay or cancel hiring activities. Consumers supported by ESR are not immune to the current economic mood. A number of people face reductions in hours and elimination of their jobs because of business closures.

Some observers might express regret about the circumstance, but my take is that the current situation is a normal experience for people living as integrated members of a community. Integration is a highly held value here. We've worked for years to support our consumers in truly integrated settings. From an employment perspective, our communities are hurting right

now. It would actually be a negative indicator for our service outcomes if our consumers weren't feeling some effect of the economic downturn.

We are proactive in our effort to support maintenance and further enhancement of the elusive integration value. We need your help now more than ever to make sure that services like a consistent ride to work are available to facilitate integrated employment outcomes. My bet is that you will come through for us and that our communities will come through for their own. I am very proud and thankful that so many consumers are a real part of those communities.



Ed Boeve

Supporters rally *Continued from Page 1*

"From 2005-2007, ESR received a four percent increase in reimbursements for transporting those we serve," Boeve explained. "The actual costs during that same period rose 47 percent."

This year started with challenges that were equally significant, Boeve said, with another 38 percent increase in fuel costs incurred January through August.

"Responding to these kinds of increases means taking money away from other areas of the budget, which can place existing programs and services at risk," he said. "Sometimes we have to make difficult choices."

To continue offsetting rising costs, ESR will dedicate the proceeds of its second annual Night of Dreams event, scheduled for

Friday, Nov. 7, to offset fuel costs. (See notice on Page 1.)

"We truly appreciate those who came forward with donations for transportation costs," said Boeve. "We know things are tough for a lot of people in this economy, so we are especially grateful for the help. Thank you."

Sharing a love of cars



Members of the Valley Cruisers Car Club and others with a love of antique and vintage cars showed their rides off at ESR in early October. The car show drew more than a dozen cars and drivers to ESR's Stillwater site. Consumers

from all three ESR sites, which includes Cottage Grove and Forest Lake, were on hand to enjoy the cars, ask questions of the drivers and share in a picnic lunch. Brine's Deli helped sponsor the event by providing meals for the drivers.



Chore Services crews can help area seniors with fall lawn care

The oranges, yellows and reds of Minnesota's fall foliage can be breathtaking -- until the leaves drop on your lawn and have to be cleaned up.

The Chore Services crews at East Suburban Resources are available to help area seniors clean up that carpet of leaves.

The Chore Services program is operated by ESR with grant assistance from the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging as part of the Older Americans Act. The program pairs adults with developmental disabilities and low-income seniors in the area who may need assistance with household tasks in order to remain independent in their homes.

"The program is definitely a win-win for those served by ESR and our community's seniors," said John Watters, ESR staff member who helps coordinate the program.

The "win" for ESR consumers, Watters explained, is that they are paid for their work through Chore Services and given the opportunity to be in the community. For seniors, who are not assessed a fee for the work, Chore Services provides assistance they need to keep up with household chores and remain independent.

For more information on Chore Services, or to register for leaf raking or snow removal this winter, call 651-351-0190, extension 14 (which is Watters' extension) or extension 30 for Karen Lindblom, also a program coordinator.

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The *WORKS!*

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



Maybe someday...

John B. and his dad check out one of the vintage cars at ESR's first car show and dreamed about having one of their own. The show came about after an ESR staff member promised to show her vintage car to consumers and asked a few friends from Valley Cruisers to join her.

ESR Works! is published quarterly for the friends of ESR by its Marketing/Development Office, 1754 Washington Avenue, Stillwater, Minnesota 55082.



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Your partners for success in employment and community.

ESR

Works!

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

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