



# REPORTS

SPRING 2007

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## *From The Old Executive Director*

In 1976, with help from Jim Crosson, the director of the Northwest Regional Resource Center at the University of Oregon, I wrote a grant proposal to demonstrate something called "Direction Service." The idea of a program to provide family and child-oriented assistance with service planning, coordination and referral came out of a report produced by the Rand Corporation. Gary Brewer, the author of that report, observed that there was no real "system" of services for families of children with disabilities. Rather, there were many systems, not necessarily connected, that constituted a maze facing families who needed the support of those systems but often had trouble negotiating the bureaucracies.

The proposal was awarded in late summer of 1976. In October 1976, I hired Marshall Peter to serve as one of the first "case coordinators" for the new project. We began serving families in January 1977. It's 30 years later and we are celebrating an anniversary. How did that happen? How did this one time University project become a familiar element in the landscape of Lane County services to families and individuals with disabilities?

Most federally funded projects of this type fail. That is, they operate with federal funds for a period of time, but when those funds dry up, so do the services they were providing. Direction Service has survived and thrived for 30 years — contrary to the typical "demonstration project" experience. If I had to identify the key ingredients, I'd say there are two. The first ingredient is dedicated people. When the time came to move from federal project to new non-profit corporation, there were a dozen or so individuals who saw the potential and committed to help that transition succeed.

One year after its incorporation in 1982, Marshall Peter stepped into the role of Executive Director of Direction Service, Inc. The special education directors from Eugene, Springfield and Bethel School Districts, a group of volunteer board members including families, and a few staff willing to work for peanuts made the first couple years possible. Throughout its 30 years dedicated staff (still under-compensated) and an impressive group of volunteer Board members have contributed to the continuance and growth of Direction Service.

The second key ingredient, even more important than the dedicated folks directly involved, has been the community at large, especially the schools and service agencies who work with Direction Service staff to provide the critical support families need to nurture, educate, and support the success of their children with disabilities. Maybe Eugene is a different kind of place — only one of the original 22 Direction Service demonstration projects nationally still exist in something approaching their original form. I can't imagine that having happened without dedicated partners who share a common vision about the presence, full participation, and valued contributions of people with disabilities. Without that kind of community, there could be no Direction Service.

For the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Direction Service, then, I suggest we celebrate as a community what we have accomplished together on behalf of families and individuals with disabilities.

*Dick Zeller was the Director of the Northwest Direction Service Consortium. He now works as a Senior Policy Analyst at CADRE. His many contributions to the organization led to the creation of the Richard W. Zeller Award, Direction Service's highest honor.*

## ***Board Member Changes***

We were sorry to lose long-standing Board member **Martha Walters** who made a terrific contribution to the organization. Martha's new position as an Oregon Supreme Court Justice in Salem makes it impossible for her to continue to be a board member. We very much appreciate all that Judge Walters has done for us and her continued interest and commitment to Direction Service's well being.

We're pleased to welcome **Eduardo Dawson** to the Board of Directors. Eduardo, the Student Body President at Willamette High School from 2005-2006, is a student at the University of Oregon where he has a double major in Business/Entrepreneurship and Pre-Law. Eduardo has a real appreciation for the organization and its work and looks forward to active involvement.

## ***Resource and Information***

### ***Summer Activities***

Would your child enjoy her own Personal Pony? Do you have a future hockey player in your home?

The Direction Service Summer Directory contains information about camps, recreational activities, and educational options for children and youth with disabilities. Visit our website at

**[www.directionservice.org/pg12.cfm](http://www.directionservice.org/pg12.cfm)** or call us at **686-5060** for information about summer activities that match your child's interests.

### ***Lane County Resources***

Looking for childcare? Wondering where to find youth programs for your teen or senior services for your parents? Check out **[www.thelane.info](http://www.thelane.info)** for comprehensive information on these and other resources available in Lane County.

## ***The Northwest Meets the Middle East: Youth with Disabilities Crossing Borders***

Do you know a young person age 15-17 who is interested in learning about another culture, trying new food, gaining leadership skills, and sharing experiences with high school students with and without disabilities from another country?

If so, Mobility International USA (MIUSA) is currently seeking young people with and without disabilities to apply for a 5-day international leadership exchange program.

On July 13 – 17, 2007, youth with disabilities from Bahrain will travel to Eugene, Oregon to join in cross-cultural discussions. To find out more, contact MIUSA at **[exchange@miusa.org](mailto:exchange@miusa.org)**, **541-343-1284** (tel/tty), or go online to: **[www.miusa.org/exchange/us-bahrain-2007](http://www.miusa.org/exchange/us-bahrain-2007)**. U.S. participants in this program will also be eligible and encouraged to apply for a 21-day cross-cultural exchange program to Bahrain in Spring 2008. All expenses will be covered by MIUSA through a U.S. Department of State grant.

## ***Direction Service Endowment Fund Launched***

Thanks to a very generous gift of appreciated stock from local donors, Direction Service was able to launch the Direction Service Endowment Fund in late 2006. The Endowment Fund presented an opportunity for the donors to support Direction Service while reducing the tax consequences associated with a significant capital gain in the value of the stock they owned. The fund is reserved for special opportunities and is not intended to support ongoing operations. For more information on the structure and intent of the fund and how you might participate in it, please contact Marshall Peter at 686-5060.



# You're Invited! Join us and help us Celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

WEDNESDAY  
MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> 2007  
EUGENE HILTON



## Direction Service

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686.5060  
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HELP US CELEBRATE 30 YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrity Roast

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, over 175 attendees celebrated an unforgettable evening of hilarious fun and laughter as we held the Direction Service **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrity Roast** at the Eugene Hilton. Our two distinguished **Celebrities, Ed Ragazzino & Bill Barrett**, got roasted and lambasted by an all-star cast of **Roasters and Emcees, Rick Dancer (KEZI 9) and Dennis Nakata. The All-Star Roasters** included: **Tim Fox & Tracy Berry, Brian Obie, Sid Voorhees, John Ragazzino & Jack Schafroth, Dave Frohnmayer and Dave Weinkauf.**

Thanks to the generosity of event hosts, **Eagle's View Property Management & Newman's Fish Company**, and event sponsors Eugene Hilton, KEZI 9 and Umpqua Bank, as well as other event contributors, the **Celebrity Roast** is an event that is continuing to grow in popularity year after year. Particular thanks for their "behind-the-scenes" efforts to those who volunteered their invaluable time to make this event a success!!! - Emily Wu (pianist), James Cloutier (caricatures), Tim Mercer (photography), the Direction Service Board of Directors and our dedicated staff!

If you are interested in getting involved or in sponsorship opportunities for our **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrity Roast** please contact our Director of Development, Roger Durant at (541) 686-5060.



L to R - seated - John Ragazzino, Ed Ragazzino, Jack Schafroth, standing - Dave Weinkauf & Dave Frohnmayer



L to R - Tracy Berry, Tim Fox, Bill Barrett, Brian Obie (standing)

## Celebrity Roast Sponsors, Hosts and In-Kind Contributors

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 please contact  
 Roger G. Durant,  
 Development Director  
 at (541) 284-4737).*

*Special thanks to these businesses for their contributions to this newsletter:*

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 (541) 484-1515 tkelly@cm-spring.com  
 www.cm-spring.com

**Bourland Printing**  
 545 Monroe, Eugene  
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 www.bourlandprinting.com

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**Direction Service**

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