

CHANGING LIVES

The newsletter for the Joyce L Sobel Family Resource Center



CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN

Approximately fourteen months ago, the Family Resource Center began its “Raise the Roof” campaign to raise funds to expand the square footage of their current facility. The expansion will provide confidential meeting space for clients, a professional play therapy space, security upgrades, and much needed storage and archive areas.

With the help of extraordinary community donors, staff and volunteers, the Family Resource Center has reached its groundbreaking goal by raising the needed 80% of the funds necessary to begin the building expansion.

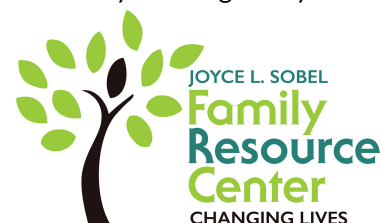
Executive Director Jennifer Armstrong believes the project will help the Family Resource Center breathe life into the future. “The power of the SJI community is the strength of its people. We are all working toward a healthier place to live, connecting families and neighbors, and promoting stability and respect for each other.”

The building expansion was designed by Kathy Cope Design, and the General Contractor contract was awarded to Bobby Ross Construction.

While we are thrilled to have achieved this milestone, the work of the Family Resource Center will continue as the “social service hub” of San Juan Island.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held on Wednesday, September 4.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support as we look forward to a very exciting new year.



BREAKING GROUND

An Era for Joyce's Dream



Construction has begun and that has me thinking about “ground-breaking” – a term that certainly implies hard work. Creating something durable and meaningful isn’t easy – it takes vision, persistence and labor.

No one knew this better than Joyce Sobel, the Family Resource Center’s founder.

WELCOME

Carmen Orozco Joins FRC Team



A big welcome to Carmen Orozco, the Family Resource Center’s new Office Manager! Carmen joined our team in July and has been busy ever since, running our Transportation Assistance and Household Essentials programs, while managing the front desk and bringing her expertise in early childhood education to our Family Support Programs. Her bilingual skills and warm smiles are a wonderful addition to the Resource Center.

Carmen and her husband, Humberto, have lived on San Juan Island since 2003 and are the proud parents of three children.

Joyce saw a need in our community for creating a supportive space where people from all walks of life could go for encouragement, help or just connecting with other islanders. Once Joyce had a vision for her center, nothing could stop her!

In the beginning, the Resource Center operated in a tiny space above the local fitness center swimming pool and held family playgroups in a spare room of the convalescent center. These days, our ground-breaking efforts continue - not just outside on our building expansion, but inside our agency as well. This fall we’re launching one of the first High School-to-Higher Education Mentoring Programs in the state, and also beginning a local chapter of Parent to Parent, a program to provide peer-support services for families who care for a loved one with physical or developmental disabilities. Each step of the way, we thank Joyce for creating something we will continue to build on for years to come.

GENEROSITY COMES IN SO MANY WAYS

Our island community has always been generous, and it’s so much fun to witness the many creative ways people support our mission. Jean and Mike Griffin are the perfect example. Jean has chosen to acknowledge her friends’ birthdays with special donations to the Family Resource Center. She reports that her friends are delighted to receive a personal thank you card from our center, and love being celebrated in such a meaningful way. Jean’s donations are even matched by a workplace giving program that the Griffins are a part of! As if that isn’t enough, Mike Griffin was the lucky winner of the San Juan Island Community Foundation’s Matching Grant raffle opportunity at the San Juan County Fair and he generously designated the \$1,000 raffle prize to our “Raise the Roof” campaign. Thank you Jean and Mike for your enthusiasm and thoughtfulness!



KINDERGARTEN KICKOFF

Meet Aries Unpingco, a proud member of the Friday Harbor "Class of 2032"! Graduation may seem far off, but for new kindergarteners like Aries, the Family Resource Center's Kindergarten Transitions Program is an exciting first step in "big kid school".

Each year, the Transitions Program connects with over forty local families who have children entering kindergarten. With the support of the San Juan Island Community Foundation and United Way of San Juan County, the program sponsors a "Kindergarten Kickoff" event, as well as a summer home visit program that provides kids with kindergarten readiness activities and free school supplies to "practice" with.

As children build confidence in their skills, they feel more excited about going to school: 86% of children who participate in the Transitions program demonstrate a significant increase in positive anticipation of starting kindergarten.



I was extremely impressed with the Kindergarten Transitions program, especially the home visits by Ms. Rice. Because she took the time to visit our home 3 times this past summer, my shy Kindergartener was excited and felt much more at ease to start elementary school. Aries started the year with a familiar face at the school, setting him up for success from the beginning of the year.

- Carrie Unpingco

GRATITUDE CONCERT

A Well-Deserved Evening of Appreciation



Traditionally, the spotlight is reserved for the talented performers on stage. However, on the glorious summer evening of July 31st, it was focused on the invited guests in appreciation of their generosity.

This memorable evening allowed the Family Resource Center to fittingly thank our incredible donors, invaluable volunteers, board of directors, ad hoc and capital

campaign members along with our talented and dedicated staff.

As guests arrived at Brickworks, the pre-concert hors d'oeuvres and wine provided the perfect prelude for the much-anticipated concert featuring Seattle Symphony cellist, Roberta Downey and accomplished pianist Christopher Arpin. Their superb and moving performance was the perfect gift.

An emotional encore invited internationally renowned composer and SJI resident Morten Lauridsen to the keyboard for a cello arrangement of his brilliant *O Magnum Mysterium*.

"This was absolutely wonderful!" "The best experience ever" were some of the enthusiastic and heartfelt reactions to the evening.

The Family Resource Center is grateful to our volunteers and contributors for their valuable support which allows our important work to continue in service of the San Juan Island community.

We would like to extend a special thanks to our valued sponsors; *Kings Market, Mike's Café & Wine Bar and The Friday Harbor Grand Bed & Breakfast.*

ISLAND NEIGHBORS PROGRAM

Lending a hand when a hand is needed

Now in its second year, the Island Neighbors Program is going strong. As a volunteer-based community outreach program for seniors and persons with disabilities, the program helps with needs such as moving, handyman tasks, light household duties, errand running, transportation, and off island medical trips. This program flourishes thanks to a team of amazing volunteers. Here's what one volunteer, Sarah Younglove, has to say:

Have you ever had a time in your life when you felt overwhelmed? Remember how it felt like you wouldn't get through it and you felt confused, frustrated and unable to do simple chores?

I got a call from Ashley asking me if I would be interested in helping a woman who needed to move but was feeling overwhelmed with all that was happening in her life. I was asked if I could help her start to get organized with her move.

I said yes, and that is when I met my good friend, Donna. She just needed someone to say she was ok, let's line up the boxes and identify what needs to be packed. I even gave her some homework, to keep her mind off of her confusion.

She took on the challenge like a trooper. She has since then had to move two other times, but each time (with help from Ashley) her positive attitude grew more.

We are buddies and keep each other posted by text. We have gotten together for lunch and I have visited her in her new home.

Thank you, Ashley, for introducing us to each other and, "Right on Donna!!! It's so great to see you so involved in the community and ready to take on any and all challenges that come your way!! If you would like to participate or volunteer for the Island Neighbors Program, call Ashley Strutz for more information at (360) 378-5246 x202.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Lapsit and Linger

Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10 -11:30 AM
at Key Bank

Open Enrollment for Health Insurance

Begins November 1

Project PAL

Begins November 1

Federally Funded Utilities Assistance

Begins December 1



How Can I Help Today?

- Bring in Kings Receipts
- Donate simple household supplies
- Call to volunteer

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