



Senior Wish Program

Wishes That Came True

The Foundation is proud to feature Senior Wishes that have come true across the state of Oregon thanks to those working in long term care and to OHCF and its supporters. If you have conducted a Senior Wish you'd like featured, please Share Your Story with OHCF.

Ray & Wendy's Beach Escape



Providence ElderPlace at Cully helped make a wish come true for Ray Dingman and his wife Wendy. A weekend getaway was planned for the two of them to enjoy the first vacation they've been able to have in years. The couple enjoyed wonderful hospitality including a beautiful room, fantastic meals, and magnificent scenery while spending time at the Oregon Coast. The relaxing and refreshing weekend did Ray and Wendy's hearts and minds good and was a much needed vacation getaway.

The team from Providence ElderPlace at Cully worked to ensure that all of Ray's needs were anticipated, planned, and exceeded while giving the two of them a fully pampered weekend – including a trip in to the surf via a big-wheeled wheel chair. Big thanks to the entire team for making this wish a reality for Ray and Wendy.

Sharon and Susan Meet Blazers



Tanner Spring's resident Sharon McCaffrey and friend and fellow blazer fan Susan Wilson, a resident at Avamere at Sherwood, had their dream come true on February 1, 2010 when they were treated to VIP treatment at the Blazer game against the Charlotte Bobcats and met team stars. Sharon and Susan have been long time Blazer fans and throughout every game night they talk on the phone and commentate about the game.

The Blazers generously donated some of the tickets, reserved club level seats, and arranged for some introductions and autograph opportunities with former blazer small forward Jerome Kersey, Blazers

Assistant Coach Monty Williams, current Blazer small forward Nicolas Batumi, and former Blazer point guard Terry Porter among other notables. The ladies were also treated to Blazer memorabilia. Tanner Springs and Avamere at Sherwood covered some of the ticket costs and provided transportation for the two good friends to go the game in style.

OHCf also helped fund the evening's festivities that were organized as part of the Senior Wish program by Tanner Springs Activities Director Patrick Cull and Avamere at Sherwood's Community Relations Director Mike Wennerlind with the help of OHCf Volunteer Allyson Famous. Allyson is a Senior Wish enthusiast and trainer who works with staff at various facilities to help them implement the Senior Wish program that fulfills the dreams of seniors.

When asked what the thought of the evening, Sharon and Susan said: Fantastic! Thanks! They had an amazing time!

Fish Fry



Greg Mayne, a resident of Rose Haven, shared with his fellow residents and staff of his community, his wish to go deep sea fishing off the Oregon Coast. The staff of Rose Haven coordinated a plan with Betty Kay Charters Fishing Company in Coos Bay who provided the fishing trip for Greg as well as covered costs for the fishing license.

Right before the trip was to take place the weather took a turn for the worse and Greg's outing was cancelled. Undeterred, the Rose Haven staff rescheduled and the second deep sea fishing plan went smoothly. Greg caught 17 fish during the excursion! Before heading home he was also treated to a celebratory lunch.

Rose Haven held a fish fry so Greg's fellow residents and staff were able to be part of his Senior Wish. He invited some friends from outside the community as well to take part in the feast and was very happy his dream was realized.

Silver Creek Falls



When the staff of Avamere Rehab of Salem asked beloved resident Robert Aldrighetti what he wished for most he said, "to see the falls again." Robert is a former Silver Creek Falls Park Ranger and had dreamed of making another visit to the picturesque falls he'd always enjoyed.

Willamette Valley Transport in Salem was happy to donate the ride to and from the park, while two Avamere CNAs, Shannon Jennings and Ray Hollopeter volunteered their time during their regular day off to assist with the trip.

During the visit Robert enjoyed touring around the park, taking in the scenic views, and was treated to a picnic lunch of his favorite foods courtesy of Avamere's dietary team. The CNAs were even able to take Robert, in his wheelchair, down the path underneath the South Falls for an up close experience.

Thank you to all who helped coordinate this trip and make Robert's dream come true.

Beach Bash



Genevieve Graham, 75, wished to take a trip to the Oregon Coast, relax on the beach, and watch the waves roll in, as she was fond of doing in her past. Brenda Miller, Activity Director of Rose Haven Nursing & Rehab Center in Roseburg, realized that Genevieve was not the only one in the community that dreamed of such an excursion.

With the help of 7 volunteers Brenda orchestrated an outing to the coast for Genevieve and 6 other fellow residents. The group was transported by Rose Haven's community van to Charleston, OR where they had lunch by the beach and enjoyed soaking up the sun and watching the waves. They then visited the Charleston Gardens before making one last surprise stop at The Mills Casino in North Bend, where Genevieve and the resident group were treated to dinner. The Mills Casino was happy to be part of this Senior Wish and donated half the cost of the meal for the entire group, while OHCF covered the remaining portion.

The fellow residents were thrilled to share in Genevieve's special day and staff and volunteers who made the trip happen were excited to be a part of an experience that has lifted the community's spirits.

Happily Ever After



The following Senior Wish, realized through Marquis Companies' New Chapters program, came true thanks to the community's dedicated staff and with funding from OHCF. By establishing the New Chapters program Marquis Companies has embraced the Senior Wish concept, spreading the goal of life

enrichment among all its communities.

John and Diane, both residents of Marquis at Piedmont, met and fell in love at their community two years before becoming engaged to be married. Both suffer from a variety of health issues but say they see each other only as people and do not see their disabilities. The staff of the Marquis community were so moved by John and Diane's devotion to each other they were committed to making their dream to get married come true and to creating a magical experience.

This summer John and Diane were married at their community where they fell in love and were surrounded by friends, family, fellow residents and staff members. The special day included all the wedding elements John and Diane wished for; a dress for the bride, tux for the groom, bridesmaids, groomsmen, and donated bouquets of flowers. The reception, held in the dining area featured music, decor, food, and of courses, the cake. John got an extra special gift when his best man and lifelong friend from California was able to make the trip up and share in the couple's day. John and Diane spent their honeymoon week in the community's guest suite, decorated especially for them, where they enjoyed being pampered and receiving special treatment.

The union of John and Diane will not only be remembered by the community as the day a wedding took place, but also as a day residents, staff, and friends came together to celebrate as a true family.

Carol's Naval Experience



Carol Lakin, a resident of Avamere Rehab of Oregon City for six years and a previous employee of the community for 18 years, had always been an active participant in her children and grandchildren's lives until medical conditions began limiting her abilities.

A large part of her son's life that Carol has been unable to participate in is his military career. Twenty years as an Electronic Warfare Technician in the Navy has taken her son, Jason, to multiple countries and dangerous situations. Carol has never been able to welcome her son home after a long tour of duty or even be a part of his initial boot camp graduation.

When the staff of the Avamere community heard that Jason would be retiring from the Navy they began secretly coordinating plans with the family to make Carol's wish to attend her son's retirement ceremony come true. The entire Avamere community joined together to surprise Carol with "the chance of a lifetime" as described by her daughter. Carol was transported by bus to the military base in Bellingham, Washington courtesy of the community's sister facility, The Pearl at Kruse Way, and was hosted for a one night stay at Avamere Heritage Rehab of Tacoma.

Carol and her family were thrilled she finally had the chance to personally share her pride in her son's military service by being part of his last homecoming and honorable retirement from service.

Dick Goes Flying Once Again



Avamere of Rehab's Life Enrichment Director, Donna McCario, was so inspired and informed after attending OHCF's May 14 Senior Wish training session that just two weeks later she'd already finished coordinating plans to make one of her resident's biggest dreams come true.

Dick Wagner, an 88 year old retired air force captain, wished simply to fly a plane once more before joining his wife in heaven. Thanks to the generosity of Diamond LLC who donated the flight, Dick realized his wish in the company of his family as well as a group of staff members of his long term care community who were so excited to be part of the experience that they came to the Salem Airport on their regularly scheduled day off.

Dick was driven from his community to the Salem Airport by Starlight Limousine who partially donated the ride. Upon arrival Dick was greeted by family, staff members, and the KOIN 6 news team who aired his story during their evening program. Accompanied by his two sons, Dick was taken up for a 20 minute flight during which he enjoyed taking control and flying the plane for a period of time.

When asked about his Senior Wish experience Dick said his ability to fly the plane came right back and then asked when he'd get to go up again. Click [here](#) to view the KOIN 6 news coverage.

Bea's Extraordinary Elephant Encounter



Bea Antes, an 87 year old retired nurse and elephant lover, always hoped for an up close and personal experience with the magnificent animals she collected. Known among her community as having an affinity for elephants, Bea was very excited when Activity Director Shelly Lovett began planning a trip to the Zoo to make Bea's wish come true.

The Oregon Zoo generously donated admission tickets for Bea and Columbia Basin staff, as well as arranged for special inside the elephant cage access. Once at the Zoo Bea was surprised and thrilled to be given the opportunity not only to see her favorite animal, but to also go behind the scenes and learn about elephant life. The zookeepers spent time with Bea showing her how the elephants are cared for and sharing stories about individual animals. Bea was introduced to Tusko who demonstrated drinking out of a large hose and performed his daily exercise routine. Next, Bea was invited inside the cage of Chendra, a 1400 lb. female, who got so close to Bea they were practically nose to nose. The elephant was so calm and comfortable in her presence that Bea was even allowed to feed Chendra bananas.

Before leaving the Zoo Bea stopped by a couple other exhibits and then wrapped up the trip with a stop

for lunch at the Olive Garden. Bea's extraordinary elephant encounter has boosted her spirits and inspired fellow residents to begin pursuing dreams of their own.

When asked what she enjoyed most about the day Bea said, my favorite part was feeding Chendra bananas, I never dreamed I'd have a chance to do that.

Katherine's Irish Outing



Katherine Renfro, a 96 year old resident of the Marquis community in Wilsonville, is known among friends and family as having a love for Irish music. When Marquis Vintage Suites at Wilsonville became aware of the opportunity to attend a concert by the Grammy Award winning Irish music group, The Chieftains, they immediately knew Katherine was the one in their building who most needed to go.

The staff and residents of the Marquis community made Katherine's Irish concert Senior Wish even more special by gathering for a sendoff celebration. Katherine was then surprised with a limo ride to Abella Italian Kitchen in Wilsonville where she was treated to her favorite dish of seafood pasta. Afterwards, Katherine was whisked away in the limo to the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall where she enjoyed not only the music, but the visual performance by The Chieftains as well. I loved the glittery dresses they wore. It was a wonderful night, said Katherine.

Thank you to all those who helped make Katherine's Senior Wish come true. The limo ride was donated by Les Johnson Luxury Accommodations, the dinner was donated by Abella Italian Kitchen, and the concert tickets were a donation through an OHCF Board Member.

Martha's Magical Visit



The following Senior Wish, realized through Marquis Companies' New Chapters program, came true thanks to the community's dedicated staff and with funding from OHCF. By establishing the New Chapters program Marquis Companies has embraced the Senior Wish concept, spreading the goal of life enrichment among all its communities.

Martha Mahoney, 84, had been living in long term care for over ten years and had seen nearly 50 Senior Wishes granted to fellow residents of Marquis Care at Centennial before realizing a dream of her own. Susan Bowker, Activities Director, had inquired with Martha over the years as to what her wish might be, but it wasn't until recently that Martha knew exactly what she wanted to do and that was going to Disneyland.

The staff of the Marquis property formed a small team to coordinate the plans to make Martha's dream a reality. OHCF granted funds for the purchase of day passes to Disneyland, the Marquis Companies' Vital Life Foundation funded travel costs and Bob Bowker contributed a new outfit for Martha to wear on her special day at the Magic Kingdom.

While Martha experienced some ups and downs with her health during the planning stages of the wish, her excitement and determination to make the trip, along with support from her community, improved her condition. During the Disneyland visit Martha enjoyed interactions with the characters, went on rides, and wore Minnie Mouse ears. Disneyland employees, inspired by Martha's visit, presented her with a special piece of Disney memorabilia, a photo of Walt Disney and Mickey Mouse.

The magic of Martha's day will be with her forever as it will with the staff who accompanied her, residents of her community, and those who contributed to making her wish come true.

Donna's Coastal Slumber Party



After being diagnosed with cancer, Donna Hewitt, 77 year old resident of Avamere Court at Keizer, wished for nothing more than to simply spend some quality time with her three sisters and reminisce

about days past. Donna's Life Enrichment Director not only saw to it that her wish be granted but that it exceed her wildest expectations.

Donna, a retired nurse from Salem Memorial Hospital, had always enjoyed trips to the coast so when the staff of Avamere Court at Keizer arranged for a slumber party with her sisters in Newport, Oregon she was more than thrilled. Before heading to the coast, Donna was treated to a special champagne toast send-off celebration at the community with all her fellow residents who were just as excited as she was for her wish to come true.

Upon arrival at the Victorian House B&B in Newport, Donna and her sisters were greeted with shrimp cocktails in their cottage and later that evening received an assortment of desserts. Thanks to the in-kind donations from B&B owners Terry and Eileen Obtshka and to funding from OHCF, the sisters enjoyed a special trip complete with an elegant breakfast the next morning. The ladies had plenty of quality time together spent in a beautiful setting where they lounged and reminisced on the sundeck and enjoyed nearby shopping. In addition, Willamette Valley Hospice arranged for a donated dinner from Tidal Raves restaurant in Newport. This is a great example of how the Senior Wish Program enhances lives of seniors.

Pauline's Harley Dream Becomes Reality



When Pauline Cowan said her life-long dream was to take a ride on a Harley, her facility's activities staff went to work to grant her one of the very first Forget-Me-Not Senior Wishes. Thanks to the Beaverton Harley-Davidson Company and some kindhearted bikers - all of them members of the local Sunset HOG chapter of Harley riders - the 93 year-old was granted her wish. Completely outfitted in proper leather gear and helmet, Pauline took off on the back of a 1998 Harley-Davidson Fat Boy motorcycle driven by the Flyin Hawaiian, a sales associate at Harley-Davidson. Escorted by her newfound biker friends, Pauline roared off for a 60-mile, round-trip ride, never once losing her big smile. There were stops along the way to check on Pauline, but at each stop she told the riders she wanted to keep going. Still grinning at the end of her ride, Pauline said she would do it again!

Kay Finally Gets A Hole-in-One!



Like all golfers, Kay always dreamed of making a hole in one. I always thought maybe this would be my lucky day, said Kay who used to play with a 17 handicap. In 1995, Kay suffered a stroke. During the next several months, she had to learn all over again how to walk, talk, write, feed herself and brush her teeth with her left hand because her right hand was now paralyzed. The Forget-Me-Not program asked the staff of the Riverside Golf and Country Club to find a way to make Kay's dream of making a hole-in-one come true. Soon after, 103 feet of drainage pipe lay on the fairway between the 17th tee and the 17th hole. Family and friends gathered to watch Kay grip a driver with her good hand and hit the ball into the pipe. The ball popped out the other end and into the hole in front of a cheering crowd. Wonderful, said Kay, beaming. Why did it take so long for me to do it?

Eunice Dreams of Painting



Whether your dream is for something big or for something quite small, all that really matters is that it's YOUR dream. Eunice Hunt was asked one day, Is there anything you have wanted to do in this life that you haven't had the chance to do? Eunice smiled and said, I always wanted to paint a china plate but that's never going to happen. Soon after, a phone call was made to Betty at 7-Hands Ceramics and before long, Betty was guiding Eunice as she painted four plates with a different flower on each one. Eunice has four children and she wanted to give each child their very own plate. Some day they will look at their special gift from their mother and remember it's never too late to make a dream come true.

Edith Becomes Queen of Linnton Once More



Edith Pessia Stevens has accomplished many things in her life. She married, raised two sons and ran a gas station with her family. But at 94, there was one more thing she wanted to do: cross the St. John's Bridge once more. To Edith, the bridge symbolized a high point in her life: the time the community named her the Queen of Linnton, leading her to preside over the opening of the St. John's Bridge in 1931. Through the Forget-Me-Not Program, one call lead to another and one Friday morning, holding a bouquet of fresh flowers and wearing a tiara and a sash, Edith rolled across the bridge in a blue 1931 Ford Model A Deluxe Roadster convertible. A 1949 Portland fire truck led the way as Edith waved to the onlookers while three of her great-grandsons grinned from the seat behind her. It seemed like old times, Edith said afterward. It's a beautiful day I will remember for the rest of my life.

Delores Becomes Mrs. Claus



Dolores Kroeker spent much of her life giving to those around her. However, a recent stroke that left her partially paralyzed made it nearly impossible for her to remain active in her community. While in a wheelchair, she wished "to somehow still make a difference in other people's lives". Dolores' wish came true when she was given the chance to play Mrs. Claus and hand out presents to residents of Gresham's Bethany House (for single, young pregnant women) and Shepherd's Door, a homeless shelter for women and children. Dolores arrived at Gresham Station in style in a limo and was followed by Santa Claus in a red fire truck. Dolores collected bags of toys and gifts donated by Gresham Station and other community supporters and was whisked away to do what she loves most - giving to those in need.

Paul Bunny Bennet



Paul Bennett was an all-city quarterback in his days at Jefferson High School, winning the city championship 3 out of 4 years with his talent and speed. Nicknamed Bunny by his teammates because he was faster than the rabbit at the dog track, he continued his football star career when he attended Willamette University in Salem. Bunny wanted to reconnect with some of his old friends and reminisce about their football glory days. Thanks to Bunny's family and the Forget-Me-Not program, several current players and the coach from Willamette University joined family and friends - including Bunny's high school buddy! - for an afternoon of snacks, a football-shaped cake and great stories. The football players even presented Bunny with a WU cap and a football program.

Alice's George Strait Dream Comes True



You wouldn't recognize Cinderella if you saw her today. She's 78 years old and her life-long struggle with cerebral palsy has left her hands curled up near her wrists. It's a challenge for her to speak. However, the few words that she utters often have quite an impact on those around her. One afternoon in church service, the pastor talked about the Seven Wonders of the World. Cinderella began to cry and said, "It's not a building or a thing, it's the ability to talk, to communicate". Thankfully, her fairy godmother was sitting next to her and instantly knew the prince who could lift her spirits and make life a little brighter. Today, Cinderella goes by the name Alice Wright. She lives here in Gresham at Marquis Care at Centennial. She's a tiny little thing who could easily go unnoticed. The fairy godmother is Susan Bowker, activities director at the center. Susan was first touched by Alice one day as she painted a fountain in an attempt to turn a dismal plot of space into a meditation garden. Alice scooted her wheel chair up and asked what she was doing. After hearing Susan's plans, Alice told her it wouldn't work. It was too big a job and no one would help. Susan said she'd find someone - Alice was that someone. Even though it's a challenge for Alice to hold a fork, she asked for a paintbrush. That day Susan knew she'd met someone special. Alice loves country music and at the top of her list is George Strait - a handsome hunk of a country singer. Pictures of him are plastered on her walls. She even keeps a poster of him hidden under her bed for safekeeping. When Susan heard Strait would make a stop at the Rose Garden, she knew she had to get Alice to the show - to meet her prince. And, somehow, she would manage to get the prince to spend time with Alice and let know just how special she really is. Susan went to work. The tickets were offered by the Trail Blazers, the pumpkin (limo) was provided by Les Johnson. The gown was trucked over by Dee's studio. A small team of people focused on Cinderella meeting her prince. On the day of the show, residents at the center lined up to see her off. A crowd parted upon their arrival, letting them through to their seats. Maybe it was because of the 6-foot tall fairy wearing wings. Susan may be an imposing woman, but her heart really shows right out through her eyes. No one knew for sure what would happen or if Alice would meet strait. She was a little upset before the show because she was escorted away from her seat. "What did you do now," Alice said in a serious tone to Susan. She was sent to the Blazers' locker room and felt she might miss the show. Several people were there and knew the story. When Strait walked in all eyes were on Alice, not the super star. She'd finally met her prince, who even sang a special song just for her. A small girl who witnessed the meeting said, "I think Alice is in Wonderland". Days later back at the facility, things are still abuzz. When Alice sees her friend Susan, all of her limbs pull up tight, close to her small frame. Her pearly whites have long been replaced by a big grin, but it really doesn't matter now. She simply clutches a small picture book filled with new memories. When Susan started her quest to unite the two, someone from a radio station said very seriously, "Lady, you know you're asking for the moon and the stars". Now it seems as if that's exactly what she gave Alice.

Glenna's Big Jump



A grandmother in Oregon shows you really are only as old as you think you are. 86-year old Glenna Sparks went skydiving with the help of volunteers who make senior wishes come true. Jodi Burroughs from Porthaven Health Care Center, along with the Oregon Health Care Foundation, worked to make Glenna's wish of skydiving come true. Shortly afterward falling from the sky at 120 mph, she was helped back into her wheelchair. Glenna has a history for crazy stunts. When she was a young girl she rode on the back of a motorcycle that jumped over 20 cars. Glenna continues to live a full life that was only made richer through the Forget- Me-Not/Senior Wishes Program.

Harry the Centenarian Celebrates



Harry Abney was featured in the Oregonian, Tualatin Times, and the River Valley Landing Senior Living Community July 2007 Resident Spotlight Article. Harry was honored because he celebrated his 100th birthday on July 28, 2007. After Allyson Famous, Activities Director at River Valley Landing, attended the Oregon Health Care Foundation's Senior Wish/Forget-Me-Not Volunteer training in May 2007, she was excited to begin planning her first wish. Allyson is passionate about the relationships she creates at River Valley Landing. Harry's senior wish was to play golf on his 100th birthday. He began playing at the age of 14 during the Depression, and took a 30-year hiatus to focus on his professional careers in advertising and the shingle industry. Harry had careers that allowed him to travel to every state in the country. Harry retired for good in 1990 and started playing golf again at Summerfield. His goal was to shoot his age on his birthday. "We had a good golf game," he said afterward. "I played six out of nine holes." When people ask Harry how he accounts for his longevity, he attributes much of it to his walking program, which began during his advertising career and has been faithfully maintained. Between the years of 1930 and 1995, Harry said "he would walk one to three miles every night before going to bed". He says, "I got my best ideas at night when I was walking - I was relaxed, that's the right word. When you walk like that, you're relaxed." To read more about Harry, visit his feature story in the [Tualatin Times](#). Read about Harry in [The Oregonian](#).

The Magic Kingdom Comes to Miramont Pointe



Alice's Disneyland Dream is a Reality at Miramont Pointe. Therese Lambert, Marketing Director, planned a special event for her resident Alice. Therese discovered that Alice had always dreamed of going to Disneyland. Along with her family, she put together a little Disney magic by bringing the Magic Kingdom to Miramont Pointe. Mickey, Minnie, and the whole gang attended the event to celebrate. Alice's granddaughter recruited 17 friends and a costume shop to help make the dream a reality. Cinderella's carriage was made out of balloons, and the giant wheels were generously crafted by Jason from Anderson Vending. Residents had their pictures taken with the various Disney characters. This event was truly contagious, and support was also provided by Janelle from Stargazer Baskets, who donated a collectable Cinderella Glass Slipping with the purple pillow and display that it sits in. Therese is a member of the Senior Wish/Forget-Me-Not Steering Committee and volunteers her time to train activities directors and other employees at long term care facilities on how to complete a Senior Wish/Forget-Me-Not. Her enthusiasm and passion for the program is inspiring to caregivers across the state, and her impact at Miramont Pointe is invaluable.

Ruth Robertson the Poet



Allyson Famous has worked to make another senior wish come true! Ruth Robertson will be turning 100 and has lived a full and rich life as a poet, mother and professional. Rick Bella, with the Oregonian, met with Ruth and writes the following about her upcoming senior wish: [See story here.](#)

Margo the Model



Jodi Burroughs at Porthaven Healthcare Center, a Prestige Facility, learned that an 84 year old young lady had always dreamed of becoming a hand model. Without hesitation, the staff worked hard to make sure the Margo had her moment in the spotlight. Margo explains that one should, "Never grow old!" OHCFC assisted with funding this Senior Wish/Forget-Me-Not project. [All That Jazz Photography compiled a slide show of the photo shoot that showcases the beautiful and talented Margo!](#)

Morry Sattgast was Born To Be Wild



Activities Director Susan Bowker of Marquis Care at Centennial knew she had a resident who was Born to be Wild. 83 year old Morry Sattgast challenged Susan to come up with a more exciting activity for him to participate in. "I will never play Bingo, find some other activity for me to do!" were the words that inspired Susan to come up with something that would really spark his interest. Morry had been riding motorcycles since age 10 and would have continued to do so for the rest of his life if the aging process and decline in his health hadn't gotten in his way. In March 2008 Morry was granted another chance to ride with help from John Cole of Wingman Enterprises along with a group of bikers from the Portland Rose City HOGS. After getting outfitted in official motorcycle gear and being transferred from his wheelchair to the bike, Morry and the gang hit the road for the ride of his life as family members, friends, and residents of his long term care community gathered for a grand sendoff celebration. Susan's plan accomplished more than she had anticipated, although it was what she had hoped for. Since the

motorcycle ride Morry's spirits have been lifted to the point where he now takes pleasure in socializing within his long term care community and participating in everyday activities- even Bingo!

Pat Walling Experiences Blazer Mania!



Activities Director Tonya Brown of Avamere Court at Keizer began noticing that during Basketball season one of her residents Pat Walling, often ducked out of dinner a little bit early. Upon following her to her room one evening, Tonya discovered Pat's love of watching the Portland Trailblazers games. Tonya and Pat started watching Blazers games together regularly, inspiring Tonya to consider granting a Senior Wish for Pat. Due to health reasons a trip to watch a Blazer game would be too difficult for Pat, so Tonya decided instead to bring Blazer Mania to Keizer by throwing a viewing party for all residents and staff members to attend. When Tonya asked Pat if she would like to be the center of a Blazer themed Senior Wish, Pat insisted that she'd done nothing to deserve such a celebration and did not want anyone going to too much trouble over her. Pat agreed that the only reason she'd go along with the Blazer party was that so everyone involved could enjoy the game. However, Pat had a change of attitude on the night of the Blazer party held at Avamere Court which was decorated in a basketball theme and included pizza donated by Papa Johns and special team memorabilia donated by the Blazers. During the party Pat was presented with an autographed team pennant, a Greg Oden bobble head, and it was when she was given the Blazer jersey that Pat leaned over to Tonya and said how happy she was that the party was put together for her. As she was swimming in the oversized Basketball jersey, Pat made the comment to the group that there was room enough for Brandon Roy to be in there with her, after which she blushed. When Pat heard the Blazer announcer mention her name and her Senior Wish viewing party on TV she just giggled and smiled as the entire group gave her a round of applause. While before the party, Pat did not consider attending a live game as feasible for her, afterwards she said that if the Blazers made it to the National Championship she would definitely have to go to that game.

Nellie Arndt Rocks Out



In getting to know Nellie Arndt, a resident at River Valley Landing, Activities Assistant Allyson Famous discovered her to be a very special lady. Nellie, 81 years young, has lived an amazing life so far as one of her proudest accomplishments is founding a Christian radio station (KGRV in Winston, OR) with her late husband, Lyle, during the 1980's. As the station grew it was eventually turned over to new management; however Nellie's love for all Christian music, including contemporary hits, continued on. As Allyson became aware of Nellie's musical interests she realized an opportunity to make Nellie's dream of attending a Christian Rock Concert come true. With help from Marketing Director Jordan Smith at KFIS-The Fish radio station, Allyson got donated tickets for Nellie, her family members, and River Valley Landing staff to attend an upcoming concert by The Newsboys, a popular Christian rock group. In the midst of planning Nellie's big concert outing, Allyson also made contact with KGRV, the station founded by Nellie and her husband years ago. The station manager was so thrilled to hear from Nellie that he did a telephone interview with her. During the interview Nellie inspired listeners by speaking of her passion for life, music, and joy of reaching out to others. In preparation for The Newsboys concert Nellie was treated to a makeover from her daughter Joan (a makeup artist), a champagne sendoff toast from her fellow River Valley residents and staff, and was presented with a gift bag from KGRV. She was then surprised to be escorted into a limousine from Northwest Limousine and Town car Service. After arriving at the Rolling Hills Community Church, where the concert took place, Nellie was greeted by volunteer media coordinator Nathan Han, who presented her with a VIP nametag. During the two-hour concert Nellie could not contain her excitement as she was literally dancing in her chair. Afterwards, Nellie went backstage to meet The Newsboys band members who autographed her nametag, exchanged jokes with her, and even told her she was one of the best looking ladies in the crowd! The following morning Nellie admitted she didn't get much sleep the night before, but continued to glow for days afterward as she recounted her experience to all of her friends in the community. Nellie credits this Senior Wish come true with bringing a sense of fun and excitement back into her life and is already getting ready for her next concert.

Connie Spani Tackles Football Dream



Connie Spani, resident of Porthaven Care Center, was honored on her birthday at the game of her all-time favorite sport- football. Connie spent her 71st birthday realizing her dream of being on the field of a professional football team by leading the coin toss at a Portland Shockwave game. The Shockwave is a full contact Women's professional football team and as an advocate of Women's sports Connie was thrilled to attend her first game. Connie first fell in love with the sport by following the career of her cousin, Gary Spani, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2003. In addition to the coin toss, Connie held the flag during the National Anthem, received flowers along with an autographed football and had the entire stadium sing Happy Birthday to her.

Pat's Senior Wish Performance



Pat Braxton, 84 years old, was born to perform and grew up dancing, acting, singing, and playing the piano. She even toured throughout the Northwest with the Braxton Trio, the musical group she formed with her husband during the 1950s. With the help of her long term care community, Marquis Care at Centennial, Pat was able to relive the old days on stage during a benefit concert for Marquis' Vital Life Foundation. Pat played the piano and was accompanied by her son, Robert, on drums and a high school student on the sax. The concert, held at Reynolds High School, also featured musician Reggie Houston.

Tony Gentile Reunites With the Sea





Vietnam War Veteran and former sailor/fisherman Tony Gentile, a resident of Porthaven Healthcare Center, was reunited with the sea during his Senior Wish fishing adventure. It did not take long before Activity Director, Jodi Burroughs, began planning the special trip after Tony told her he wished once more to go on a boat and fish.

Andrea K. Charters in Garibaldi, Oregon helped make the trip possible by accommodating the party and arranging the perfect vessel allowing for Tony's wheelchair to come aboard, while Metro West Ambulance generously provided transportation to and from the coast. At the end of the trip and after catching his limit of sea trout and black bass, Tony just sat back and smiled as his fish were cleaned and filleted.

Once back at Porthaven Healthcare Center, Tony enjoyed sharing his Senior Wish during a celebratory fish fry feast for residents and staff to enjoy.

Beverly Andreason Visits Catalina Island



Beverly Andreason, a 73 year old cancer patient with macular degeneration and described as very caring with a sharp sense of humor, is a treasured friend of both residents and staff of her community, Emerald Valley Assisted Living. So when Beverly expressed her lifelong desire to visit Catalina Island in California, Lifestyles Coordinator Jenny Graves got right to work.

After much planning in conjunction with OHCF and many generous in-kind and cash donations totaling over \$3,500 from both local and California businesses, Beverly's trip started off with a bang. Her Senior Wish surprise was revealed to her during a Bon Voyage celebration held at Emerald Valley for the entire community to enjoy. Just a few days later Beverly, along with a private caregiver, departed for the 4 day adventure. Beverly enjoyed taking in the beautiful California setting, touring the island, and making new friends everywhere she went.

"Thanks for including us, Beverly was a hit with the entire staff!," expressed Wally, owner of Cafe Del Rey where Beverly was treated to a special menu. This Senior Wish not only fulfilled Beverly's dream of seeing Catalina Island, but touched the lives of all involved with making it possible. Special thanks to the

following generous donors:

Alaska Airlines/Horizon Air
Revera In Home Care and Concierge Services
Jan Nixon at Emerald Valley Hair Salon
Greg Veralrud
Cafe Del Rey
El Torrito
Marina Del Rey Hotel
Sally's Waffle Shop
Abed's Limo Service
Sweet Life
Environment Control
Super Shuttle
Organic Panificio
Art, Caps, n' Designs
Catalina Island Inn
Catalina Adventure Tours

The Strellman's Ashland Concert



After attending her first OHCF Senior Wish Training Session Life Enrichment Director, Josie Wilmoth, was so energized that she wasted no time putting the program into action in her community. Fortunate for residents Evelyn and Dick Strellman of Avamere at Waterford in Medford, Josie was already aware of their wish to attend a concert in Ashland's Lithia Park. The Strellmans lived in Ashland for over 40 years before moving to Waterford and missed experiencing live music.

With determination and an enthusiastic spirit Josie planned an evening the Strellmans would never forget. On the night of the concert staff and residents of Waterford gathered for a festive send off before Evelyn and Dick were given a surprise limo ride to Ashland. At the concert, Ashland City band director, Don Bieghler, arranged special seating for Evelyn and Dick, announced their names during the concert, and played the couple's favorite song that was rehearsed specifically for them. The Strellmans were also treated to a champagne toast and given a bountiful food basket to complete this magical wish.

'The evening you have given to us was just wonderful! A complete surprise to both of us. Thank you many times over,' wrote the Strellmans to Josie after their Senior Wish experience.

This wish was featured in Oregon's Young at Heart newspaper and on Medford's Channel 10 News.

Bessie's Fire Truck Ride



Bessie Caldwell, a resident of Columbia Basin Care Facility in The Dalles, had a simple request for her 100th birthday. She wished to relive one of her favorite experiences from her childhood, which was going for a ride in a fire truck. Shelly Lovett, activity director, began planning the birthday Senior Wish and contacted the local fire department who was more than happy to help.

On Bessie's big day she was surprised by a visit from the Mid Columbia Fire Department Chief who presented her with a big red fire fighter hat and then took her for the ride of a lifetime. Back at her community Bessie was presented with a fire-themed birthday cake thanks to Safeway as staff and residents gathered to celebrate her special day.

Bessie's Senior Wish fire truck ride energized her so much so that on her next birthday she says she hopes to celebrate by riding a bull!

Margaret Sanford Keeps on Truckin



When Margaret Sanford decided to share her secret lifelong dream of taking a ride in a semi-trailer truck her Activities Assistant, Allyson Famous, knew exactly what to do for her upcoming 90th birthday. With the help of the Oregon Trucking Association Margaret was taken for the ride of her life on the morning of her birthday. Charlie Tindall of Blue Line Transportation Co. picked her up at her facility where fellow residents of River Valley Landing gathered around for a champagne send-off celebration. Once Margaret was helped up into the high cab of the truck her adventure was underway and she thoroughly enjoyed hearing stories of life on the road from driver Charlie.

Hennie Page Sets Sail Once Again



Hennie Page, a resident of Avamere at Sherwood diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer in April 2008, was given only a few months to live. Through talking with Hennie about his life experiences Caryn Meier, Director of Marketing at the Avamere property, learned of Hennie's dream of going sailing once more. Years ago Hennie, a South African native, spent 7 years building a 90 foot charter sail boat in which he sailed tourists around the Caribbean for 8 years. Caryn contacted De Henderson of Island Sailing Club at Jantzen Beach who was moved by Hennie's story and was happy to host a sailing trip. In June Hennie's dream came true when he was joined by his daughter and grandsons as they set sail on the Columbia River. Before the trip was underway, Hennie was even treated to his favorite meal of filet mignon and a Heineken. Thanks to the granting of this Senior Wish, Hennie was once more able to experience one of his greatest passions in life, while inspiring those who hear his story. The Oregonian, Koin 6 News and KGW 8 News all featured Hennie's Senior Wish sailing adventure.

Judy's Senior Wish Home Run





Judy Gascon, a resident of Avamere at Keizer, did not keep her love of the Volcanoes baseball team a secret. Because she is such a big fan, Tonya Brown, activity director, wanted to make Judy's wish of attending a game possible. During fourth of July weekend Volcanoes' stadium held a "Senior Night" at one of the baseball games and Tonya Brown had contacted the community relations department for the Volcanoes who made arrangements for Judy to be the guest of honor.

Before the big night Judy was surprised by a visit from the Volcanoes mascot who came to pose for pictures and which generated excitement amongst the entire community including fellow residents who accompanied Judy to the game. At the game Judy's name was announced, she got to throw out the first pitch, and received special team memorabilia to top off the night.