IVC 2017 Auction—Honoring Our Legacy

“Absolutely unbelievable!” is the only way to describe our 16th annual auction, at Kiana Lodge on July 28th. Our largest crowd ever at 200, raised the most money by far for IVC programs and services.

One highlight of the evening was introducing several of IVC’s founders: Bob and Susan Kuebler, Joyce Veterane and Marcy Daley. Their vision remains at the heart of our vision. Another was the debut of our new video that beautifully captures those IVC origins more than 20 years ago and flows through the essence of where we are today — a caring network of volunteers, care receivers and the community as a whole. If you were not able to join us, the video can be viewed on our website at www.ivcbainbridge.org.

We are truly grateful to producer and videographer, John McKenzie; to Judy McKenzie for her thoughtful insights; and Reed Price, Lynn Murphy and Robin Gaphni for their vision, and editing assistance. We also want to thank all of those who shared their history and stories for the video.

Once again, auctioneer, Matt Smith —our “gift that keeps on getting”—always on his game—convinced people to spend beyond reason to support IVC. Guests commented, “I had so much FUN!” “The food was spectacular.” “What a completely lovely evening, all the way around.” “One of my favorite events!” “The setting was beautiful—everyone enjoyed the evening!”

If you missed out this year, be sure to save the date for July 26, 2018, when the magic of IVC and Kiana Lodge will capture the spirit once again. We want to particularly thank our donors and sponsors and everyone who worked to make this event so special and successful—you are all truly the gifts that keep on giving!

2017 Auction Sponsors:

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Bronze

Supporting

New Motion

Physical Therapy M.S.

Virginia Mason
Meet Allie and Garrett Kimzey (and their mom Stefanie)

Allie and Garrett are our youngest Flowers from the Heart volunteers and they’ve been doing this for FOUR years! Allie, 13, is in the 8th grade at Odyssey Multiage Program and Garrett, 11, is a 5th grader at Sakai Intermediate School.

Allie and Garret have come a long way from their first volunteer stint four years ago when Garrett got stung by a bee on one of their first deliveries, and they had to pull over in the car because he felt carsick. They both admitted that before they volunteered for Flowers from the Heart they thought older people were a little scary. Now they walk confidently up to each care receiver and greet them enthusiastically and with hugs. They have memories of Vince who was a bombardier in World War II and Jan in Suquamish who likes art (and chocolate!).

This year they delivered some flowers to a care receiver at Messenger House. It was towards the end of the day and they had three left-over bouquets that Mom Stefanie thought it would be nice to leave at the front desk. But Garrett and Allie insisted on delivering the flowers to actual people. So a kind nurse gave them the names of three people who never get visitors. The kids said it was amazing to watch each person change when they realized the flowers were for them. They went from being sad and slumped over in their wheelchairs to sitting up straight with huge smiles on their faces.

Allie and Garrett said that now when they see an older person in town they make a point to look them in the eye and say hi. In fact, Allie likes working with them so much she is now going up to the Madrona House and painting nails. When asked if they want to do this next year, they both answered with an enthusiastic “YES!” Kudos to Stefanie and Joe Kimzey for instilling volunteerism at an early age for Allie and Garrett!

Meet Elsie, Dinah and Volunteer Ed

In February 2016, Elsie Horath moved from San Diego to Bainbridge Island to live with her daughter, son-in-law and grandson. It had not been an easy decision to leave her beloved San Diego where she had friends and a busy social life. But her husband had died and it was no longer possible for this active nonagenarian to live alone. Once here, Elsie didn’t want to put too much pressure on her daughter, Dinah, and so they called IVC.

“IVC made me feel so welcome to this community. Everyone treats me like a queen, and it’s been so nice to meet new people,” mused Elsie. Elsie quickly became a regular, as she received rides to the pool twice a week for water aerobics classes, and once a week to the Senior Center for yoga. A self-admitted jock (she played tennis for 75 years), Elsie quickly made new friends with the volunteers and the participants in her classes. “I miss my friends in San Diego, but so many people here are my friends now. I even have lunch with my water aerobics friends.”

We asked Dinah what IVC has meant for her. “I would never have known about IVC if my mom wasn’t here. We are “Betweeners.” I have a child, a husband, 6 part-time jobs, a house and now my mom. When Mom first moved here I was doing it all. IVC came to the rescue, and I realized that I shouldn’t feel guilty about using IVC because their volunteers have the time and energy to do this. It’s helped me immensely.”

Adult children moving their parents here to be closer to them is a noticeable trend on Bainbridge. IVC can be very helpful in taking some of the stress off of the adult children by introducing their parents to activities on Bainbridge or providing companionship. Elsie and Dinah are perfect examples of how IVC has done this. As Elsie said, “I cannot say enough about IVC. I just am raving and raving about it to everyone I meet. It is the greatest organization.”

A care receiver called to say how much she is enjoying spending time with her volunteers,-

"I can't tell you how much this means to me -- it makes me cry, but happy tears"
THANK YOU! Town and Country Markets! IVC was this year’s beneficiary of the Don and Jerry Nakata Memorial Golf Tournament held at Wing Point Country Club. IVC Staff and Board Members demonstrated their excellent salesmanship skills selling raffle tickets and had great fun at the same time! T&C is a very generous supporter of IVC year-round and their support is greatly appreciated. Watch for us on the reader board!

IVC Team: Jan Carey, Janie Ekberg, Lynn Murphy, Rita Elsberry and Carol White

KREAKY KNEES WALKERS have plenty of get up, get out and Go!

IVC’s Life Enrichment program is alive and kickin’! Particularly the Kreaky Knees walking group that meets on Thursdays. This lively and energetic group have trekked over the summer to the new Waterfront Park, Pritchard Park, Battle Point Duck Pond, Fay Bainbridge, and Wacky Nut Farm, and the BHS track where they no doubt set some records.

IVC is off and running with VAN GO! Kreaky Knees and other IVC group activities (film groups, theatre, museums, etc.) will have more flexibility and opportunity with the acquisition of VAN GO!—IVC’s new transportation van that is part of the KitsapTransit VanLink program for non-profits. This will allow us to take a number of care receivers at once around the county to a variety of activities and add to the sociability for our groups. Please let us know if you might be interested in sponsoring a Kreaky Knees outing or activity, or becoming one of VAN GO’s! drivers. Call IVC for more information.

and...Remember...One Call For All

One Call For All—Where in the World is the Red Envelope?

For those of you who may be new to Bainbridge Island, the Red Envelope is a tradition that shows up in your mailbox each October, signaling the beginning of the ONE CALL FOR ALL campaign. One Call For All has been in existence since 1960 as a way for non-profit groups to combine their appeals into one drive. The beauty of it is that 100% of all donations go to the organizations you designate. One Call even pays the credit card fees AND every gift of $20 or more counts towards a share in the Community Fund, which magnifies your gift. Last year was the first time there was an option to split your gift up monthly or quarterly, which is a great way to do it.

All the services that IVC provides are free of charge to care receivers, so we rely on support we receive from One Call For All to fund our programs. In addition to miles and miles of transportation, there are Life Enrichment activities, in-home assistance, support groups and many other things our volunteers do to support the independence and quality of life for people in our community. Although the kick-off is in October, you can make One Call donations to your favorite organizations 24 hours a day throughout the year. So when you get your Red Envelope in October, please remember IVC, our Care Receivers, and our Volunteers!
Our Mission:
Island Volunteer Caregivers works within community to support life-enriching connections between caring people and the elderly and persons with disabilities to enable their independence, dignity, health, and well-being.

Our Vision:
A world of compassionate communities where people of all ages value and care for the elderly, persons with disabilities and others in need.

Motivated by Love: Bainbridge Prepares

“The Bainbridge Prepares Initiative…
...is a unique combination of agency and citizen-led teams, working in collaboration to make our Island community more resilient.”

September was Emergency Preparedness Month and we have certainly seen the value of this as we have watched the events of the past several weeks unfold after the hurricanes that hit Texas, Florida, the Caribbean islands and Puerto Rico.

Several IVC Staff and Board members are working on various citizen-led teams to help us move closer to the goal of Bainbridge Island being the most prepared community in Washington State. We are directly involved with the Vulnerable Populations, Individual Preparedness and Med Surge Teams and are always looking for volunteers to join the effort. There is also valuable information and resources on the bainbridgeprepares.org site so we encourage you to take advantage of this.

There are two wonderful trainings coming up that would be of benefit to anyone and are free of charge on Psychological First Aid:

Join us in learning how we can ALL lend important emotional support to our neighbors, family, and friends, during times of disaster and crisis.

Sunday, October 22nd 12:30-2:00p.m. Location: COBI City Hall -or
Monday, October 23rd 6:30-8:00p.m. Location: COBI City Hall

Stay tuned for more opportunities to help and we encourage everyone to Map Your Neighborhood!

Support provided in part by:

Bainbridge Prepares Initiative…
...is a unique combination of agency and citizen-led teams, working in collaboration to make our Island community more resilient.