



October 2017
Fall Update



Our Season Of Support

We all need a little help every day, and a lot of help from time to time. That is what Imagine Possibilities provides to its participants. We provide the help they need to enjoy their day and expand their world. This can mean finding that special place that ignites an imagination such as a game store, music store or nursery, or it can mean helping a participant to pick out something at a store, wait their turn to pay for it and exchange a greeting with the clerk. The simple sort of moment that can remind someone they have a place in the world, they count and they can try new things.

The board and staff of Imagine Possibilities do so much. From Mary Bennett organizing professional scale fund raising events to Emily Nodland coaching, coaxing and encouraging staff and participants to share their ideas for new events, activities and destinations it takes all of us doing all we can to make Imagine Possibilities the special place it has been and will be.

The participants who attend Imagine Possibilities are at the center of a vital circle of support. Some of them require constant supervision for their medical needs, others need someone standing by to make sure they safely step out of a vehicle and on their way to the adventure of their day. Our staff do all this and more. Here are some of our latest achievements and adventures:

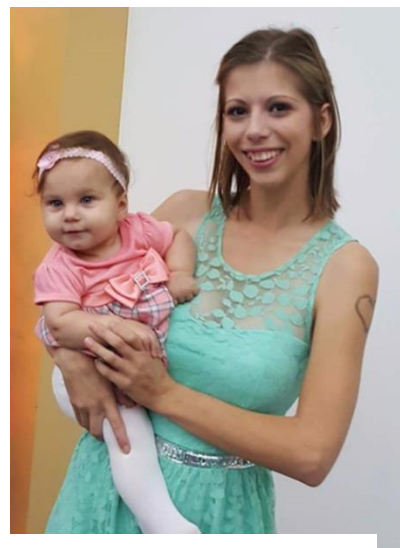
- Coffee with a Cop, (see the attached photos) a chance to bond with law enforcement officers and build a greater community.
- A launch party for our Sensory garden. A great garden is always a work in progress and you are all invited for a tour to see how our garden is flourishing under the leadership of Peg Falconer. We're still going on our popular Pumpkin Patch Outing, but topping Peg's giant Sensory Garden pumpkin vine will be hard to do.
- A group of us have been participating in Everybody Athletics, a supported work out program in Tigard.
- We have added new groups to our daily activities, including gardening, (see more attached photos) Spanish, jewelry making and more.

All of this is made possible by you, our supporters, We hope to see many of you this weekend at our annual charity auction. Our mission is enhanced by your support, and because of you we are on a winning streak.

W. Kevin Burke, Executive Director

Staff Spotlight - Emily Nodland

Emily first came to us over two years ago. She had formed a dream of becoming a Special Education Teacher when she worked as a Volunteer Teacher's Aide at St. Helen's High School. She also came with one of the most interesting notes to her resume of all our staff - she was the 2012 Rodeo Queen of Columbia County.



Emily started at Imagine Possibilities as a Direct Support Professional. She has carved a reputation for caring, for competence and for being alert to the small changes in participants' mood or manners that can mean they might be needing extra help. She earned a promotion to a Lead Staff position and just recently took over designing the schedule.

Emily makes sure that each participant gets to help choose our community outing schedule. She encourages staff to offer their ideas and observations so that our monthly, weekly and daily schedules reflect the wishes and interests of our participants. She has made arrangements for our community to visit a berry farm to pick the supplies for cooking group. She makes sure that even our most shy participants have adventures in the community and that our staff know their ideas count.

While it's tempting to say you can't have too many good ideas for helping our participants enjoy their lives, Emily is the one that makes sure that we don't get overwhelmed by our possibilities. She transforms our enthusiastic notions into scheduled events. If necessary she rewrites the daily schedule to make sure everyone gets their chances. Whether it is making sure that Spanish Group gets to go out for lunch at an authentic Hispanic restaurant or assuring that a participant who lives to pick out magazines gets to go to Barnes and Noble, Emily is always ready to arrange the details and make things happen for our community.

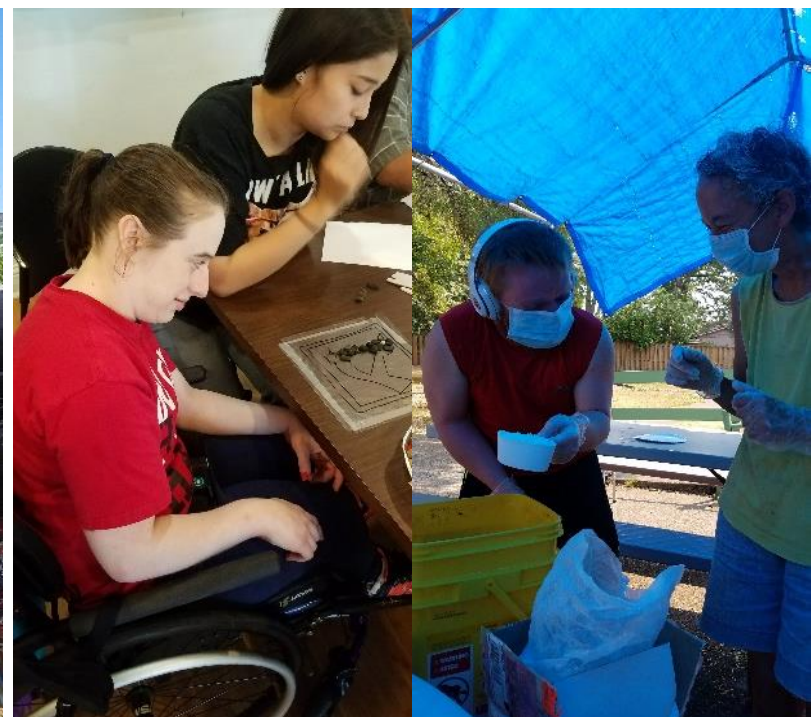
We are so lucky to have Emily and hope that the work she does here will be part of her achieving all her life dreams. And we love seeing her two year old daughter Addison when she drops by for a visit and scampers down the halls.

Featured Group of the Month



Our featured group of the month is **gardeninggroup!** Participants have spent all summer potting plants, painting pots, planting strawberries, herbs, and other plants in the Sensory Garden, and harvesting various kinds of vegetables and fruit from our garden.

Participants also hand crafted stepping stones to go into the garden, and even used fruits and vegetables they grew themselves to make delicious snacks in our weekly baking groups.



Board Spotlight - Mary Bennett

Our second profile this month is of another person who has that special something that just gets things done. Mary Bennett, our Board of Directors' lead fundraiser, is the driving force behind our annual golf tournament and charity auction (***Sly reminder***, the Auction is this week and it's not too late to sign up to attend! See the end of this newsletter for more information.)



When Mary joined our Board of Directors in 2006 she was lead administrative assistant for Applied Materials. Her job required her to support and organize 350 engineers and production people who were producing machine tools for the semiconductor industry. She is the devoted mother of sons Chris and IP participant Jason, and daughters Jennifer, a math teacher at Aloha High School and Melissa,

a medical assistant. She has four grandchildren, three girls and a boy for those of you who are counting, and her family is a vital part of the IP community.

In her work on the board Mary has shown a passion for helping IP not just survive uncertain times, but thrive into an exciting future. She provides energy and focus that have netted \$40,000 a year to further our mission. When it was time to purchase a new van to get our participants out into the community Mary's leadership provided the financial backbone that let us move ahead.

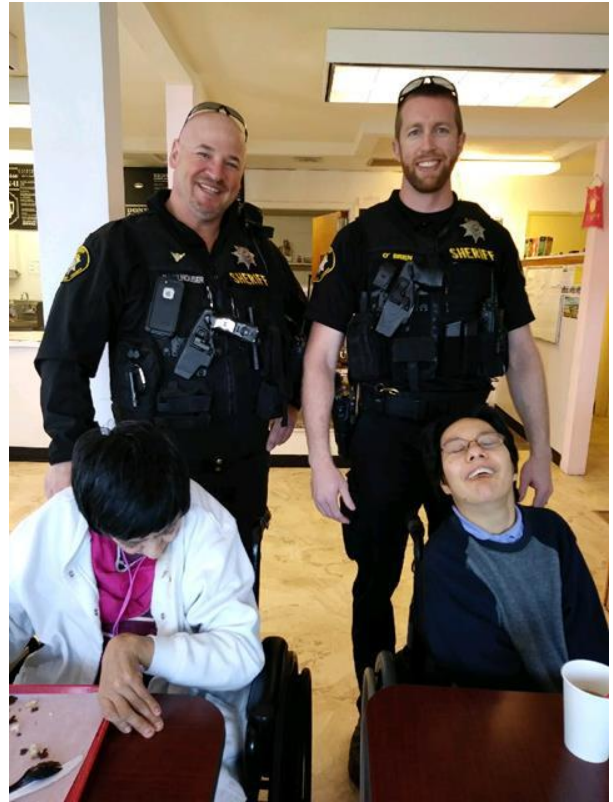
Since she retired in 2012 Mary has devoted even more of her time to helping realize our shared vision of IP as a place where participants thrive, where they are reminded that they count and they can surprise themselves. She is one of those people it is hard to say no to and we are so glad she has said yes to IP.

In her own words:

Being involved with Imagine Possibilities board is a privilege and is certainly inspired by my special needs son Jason. This has exposed me to a whole world of special needs and the treasures they unlock in the universe. The simplicity, the pure joy and laughter, the basic human desire to want to be acknowledged and accepted, and most importantly, to be loved. Pretty basic to all of us I'd say. And I get a first-hand glimpse into that world. I'm the lucky one. Are there challenges, meltdowns, times of frustration, extra care needed, sacrifices – most certainly and every day. But doesn't every single person have challenges to meet throughout life? What defines us is the grace with which we rise. Being part of the board helps me rise to be part of something bigger than myself. I get to be part of the vision.

Mary

Coffee with a Cop



Imagine Possibilities participants recently participated in the 'Coffee with a Cop' event, where they got to sit down and drink coffee while visiting with local Washington County law enforcement. We had a great time - thank you officers!

"Because of You" 2017 Charity Auction

Imagine Possibilities' 2017 charity auction is fast approaching! Join us on October 14th for a night of delicious food, good company, and a chance to win all kinds of prizes and gifts to benefit Imagine Possibilities and help us in our mission to provide high-quality care and community engagement for people with disabilities in the Aloha-Beaverton area. Follow the link below to register or donate items. We're excited to see you there!

[**Click here for auction registration and information!**](#)

Imagine Possibilities

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