

# Inside PHCNW

## Did you know?

Our very own PHCI production workers helped to assemble LED lights that will be used to light the 2010 Olympic Village in Vancouver, Canada. The LED lights are a new business line for PHCI and we are working in partnership with Light Power Canada on this new initiative.

**Solar Fact -** PHCNW's solar array produced almost one million kilowatt hours of electricity in 2009.



**Portland  
Habilitation Center  
Northwest**

January 2010

## Connecting Communities 2009 (CC09)

### Marks the Start of a Unique Disability Coalition

On October 16<sup>th</sup> nearly 500 people from all walks of life gathered at the inaugural event of Connecting Communities. Individuals with disabilities, senators, state representatives, county and city commissioners and business leaders united to support and celebrate commonalities, as well as honor the differences. The night marked the beginning of a strong, diverse, effective coalition—the Connecting Communities Coalition (CCC). The event was also a fundraiser for the Returning Veterans Project, a non-profit that provides free and confidential mental health counseling and other health services to veterans and their families of Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns. We raised \$3,712 for the Returning Veterans Project.

Olegario "Ollie" Cantos VII, Vice Chair of the President's Committee for people with intellectual disabilities, was the keynote speaker for the evening. He began his speech by reflecting on the past and a time when people with disabilities were viewed as inferiors, as second-class citizens. "When we look at that change in paradigm, we now view disabilities as part of who we are, but not necessarily representing the whole of who we are," Cantos said with passion. "We instead embrace the civil rights approach and recognize our talents and abilities."

CC09 was a very successful first-time community event that was organized by PHCNW and supported by sponsors and partners. Partner organizations included: DePaul Industries, a non-profit strategies & affairs, City of Portland, Disability Art & Culture Project, Oregon Disability Chamber, Easter Seals Oregon, Job Developers Network, Kaiser Permanente, People with disAbilities Association, National MS Society Oregon Chapter, Oregon Business Leadership Network, Oregon Commission for the Blind, Portland Commission on Disability, and PSU's Office of Assistive Technology.

For CC 2010 event or CCC information, please call or email PR Coordinator Jessica Mallard at [jmallard@phcnw.com](mailto:jmallard@phcnw.com) or PR Director Therese Grayson at [tgrayson@phcnw.com](mailto:tgrayson@phcnw.com). They can also be reached by phone at the main office 503-261-1266.



#### Pictured from left to right

**Top:** Ken Boddie, KOIN Channel 6 News Anchor & Ollie Cantos

**Middle:** Dave Shaffer, DePaul Industries & John Murphy, PHCNW President

**Bottom:** Dancers from the Disability Art & Culture Project

## City of Portland Launches New Commission on Disability *by Jessica Mallard*

Congratulations to our own Therese Grayson and new PHCNW Board member Jan Campbell! They were sworn in at City Hall on October 14, 2009 as Commissioners on the City of Portland's new Commission on Disability.

#### What it means to be a Commissioner:

It means Board member Jan Campbell and PHCNW Director of Public Relations Therese Grayson, through an official resolution, have been charged by the City of Portland to guide the city in ensuring that it is a more universally accessible city for all.

#### The Portland Commission on Disability will:

- Broaden outreach and inclusion of persons with disabilities in Portland
- Represent a wide spectrum of disabilities on behalf of the residents of the City of Portland
- Facilitate increased collaboration and information exchange between persons with disabilities, City bureaus, and the City Council.

#### Guiding Principles:

- Every individual must be treated with respect, and every effort shall be made to overcome misconceptions and biases regarding persons with disabilities.
- Persons with disabilities have the right to attain their highest level of independence, self-determination and self support. In exercising self-determination, persons with disabilities have the right to make and express choices in all aspects of their lives, in all stages of their lives.
- Persons with disabilities have the right to participate in all community activities, and shall have equal access to all programs and services that serve the public.

- There are a broad range of disabilities; therefore, a broad range of needs in the community. Policies shall be flexible enough to address changing and varying needs of persons with disabilities.

If you have questions regarding the Commission, please contact Teckla Anderson, staff support for the Commission, at 503-823-3881 or [teckla.anderson@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:teckla.anderson@ci.portland.or.us). Better yet, Therese is happy to see you anytime in her PHCNW office!



The Commissioners and City Staff on the City of Portland's Commission on Disability. Therese is on the steps third row from top. Jan Campbell is first row bottom right.

## 2009 PHCNW Annual Awards Celebration

The 2009 PHCNW Annual Awards Celebration took place on Saturday, July 11th 2009 at the Oregon Zoo. We had great weather and most of our employees attended. This annual event included terrific raffle prizes, a delicious BBQ lunch, two fabulous MC's, departmental awards and an afternoon at the zoo.

Department awards were awarded to 16 outstanding employees:

- PHCI - Charlie Doan & Stephen Hanson
- Clerical - Donna Seals & Lisa Harris
- Keystone - Massoud Mollaghaffari
- VDC - Dan Fountain
- Landscape - Bryan Delano
- Building Maintenance - Davina Self, Phuc Nguyen, Mark Gisch, Adam Pinckney, Larry Funk, Jason Weixel, Leonor Vasquez, Lyudmyla Tkachenko & Richard Berube

Thanks for being part of the PHCNW team!



## Portland Habilitation Center Northwest

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**PHCNW Mission:** To train and employ people with severe disabilities.

Check us out on the web:  
[www.phcnw.com](http://www.phcnw.com)

### PHCNW Policy Corner

In each PHCNW newsletter a PHCNW policy is published to help keep our employees updated and informed.

#### Whistleblower Protection Policy:

It is the policy of PHCNW that any employee shall be free without fear of retaliation to make known allegations of alleged misconduct existing within the Company that he/she reasonably believes shows:

- An abuse of authority, gross misconduct, or gross waste of money; or
- A substantial and specific danger to public health or safety; or
- A violation of the law.

A representative of the company shall not take any personnel action as retaliation against an employee or applicant who discloses truthful information regarding misconduct under this policy or who following such disclosure, seeks a remedy provided under this policy or any law or other Company policy. This policy does not apply to a disclosure that is specifically prohibited by law.

Good faith complaints should be communicated directly to Ann Forster in PHCNW's Human Resources Department at 503-261-1266, ext. 225.

The OHSU Center for Women's Health is offering free clinical screening exams (free Pap tests, clinical breast exams, clinical pelvic exam) on an ongoing basis. These are SCREENING appointments only. They only provide the exam. If abnormal results are found, then they help people connect with other care for the medical issue. Call 503-346-1212 to make your appointment the first Wednesday of every month, 8 AM – 4 PM.

#### VIDEO: Creature Discomforts -

Every once in a while something comes along that "breaks the mold" around a disability issue. These videos do that brilliantly! They are a series of TV advertisements from an organization in Great Britain. They have created engaging cartoon characters in little scenarios that "change the way that you see disability". Turn up the volume and prepare yourself for a treat! If you find the accents hard to understand, click on "subtitles" and experience another advantage of captioning. If you want an extra treat, click on "Sign Language" and watch the sign language interpreter inserted into the video you are watching.



Consider not stopping at the videos – explore the site – watch the "Making the Ads" videos – see "Behind the Characters" – check out "Fun and Games". This site offers an experiential breath of fresh air in the world of disability awareness.

For more Information visit: <http://www.creaturediscomforts.org>

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#### Human Resources REMINDER:

The first of the year is a good time to update your emergency contact information and add/change beneficiaries on life insurance through your supervisor. PHCNW offers life insurance as part of your benefits for non-union, Landscape, and Army Corp Mailroom staff. Employees can request a new Life Insurance Form from their supervisor to make the necessary changes. For SEIU Local 49 members please contact WC Earhart Company at (503) 282-5581 to change or add a beneficiary.

#### Tax Help COMING SOON - Late January, Early February 2010 FREE Tax Preparation Sites In the Portland Metro Area

Phone: (503) 243-7765 (CASH Oregon)  
1 (888) 227-7669 (AARP)

Online: [www.cashoregon.org](http://www.cashoregon.org) or  
[www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide)

#### Bank of the West Employee Rewards Program:

PHCNW employees qualify for the Bank of the West Employee rewards program. Free personal checking account with free box of checks, free online banking, special discounts on personal loans and credit, free safe deposit box, and more. Please contact Rebecca Clements at 503-261-1266 for a flyer and more information on this offer.