



# The Gary Plumery Foundation

Enhancing the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

Newsletter

Summer 2009



## Gary's Corner

What a wonderful time I had at the Christmas Gift Giving Party in December! It was so much fun visiting with the Developmental Pathways clients, and brought back lots of wonderful memories of Gary's school days. Some of the clients attended First Creek School and Overland High School with Gary.

While talking to Debbie B., I was reminded of one particular incident when Gary was running for Student Council. I remember walking into First Creek School that day, and seeing Gary on the stage giving a campaign speech. He was telling his fellow students that if they voted for him, he would get a pool table for the school. Then Debbie B. stood up and asked Gary if she voted for him, would he stop kissing all of the other girls. Gary immediately replied "No Way - I like kissing all of the girls" Gary was elected, but as a typical politician, did not keep his campaign promise regarding the pool table for the school.

—Sylvia Plumery

*If you would like to submit stories for inclusion in Gary's Corner, email Rich at Plumery@aol.com.*

## Annual Holiday Wish List Campaign

The Gary Plumery Foundation sponsored the Christmas Wish List Party for clients at Developmental Pathways clients on December 11, 2008, with over 100 clients attending. Santa Claus (Rich Plumery) greeted the clients with his Elves – Carissa, Brittany and Andie. The clients had their pictures taken with them, and then decorated picture frames, which they took with them as a remembrance. Next, the clients were treated to a special dinner, featuring salad, pasta and meatballs, Italian bread and Christmas goodies.

After dinner, to the delight of the clients, the Christmas wish list gifts were distributed. Gifts included TV's, furniture, bedding, jackets, gloves and various other clothing. This year the foundation gave certificates for Airline tickets to two sisters, Angie and Lorraine, so that they could visit their mother, whom they have not seen in many years, in a nursing home. Some of the clients took their unopened gifts with them to open on Christmas morning.

After the gift giving, it was Karaoke time! The clients had a wonderful time, singing and dancing to the music. One of the clients, Serena, stood up and sang Silent Night as a solo. The tears streamed down her cheeks and she said that it was the best Christmas of her life!

Austin Kassner said he had the best time helping wrap and distribute the gifts and loved the smiling faces of the clients. We received feedback regarding some of the clients' reactions, and were told that they were so overwhelmed that someone would take the time, effort and money to buy them something for Christmas.



## Mardi Gras and Earth Day Celebrations

The 2009 Mardi Gras celebration was held on Friday, Feb. 20. Nearly 80 clients attended this event, and everyone appeared to be having a great time. DJ Jeff was there, and there were prizes for floats in the parade.

The Earth Day Dance was held on Friday, April 24. Again, nearly 80 clients were in attendance for this dance. DJ Jeff was there, and there were lots of necklaces and prizes to win for creating a useful item out of recyclable material.

## Barracudas Bowling

The Gary Plumery Foundation sponsors the Barracudas Bowling League each year. Seventy-four clients participated in this weekly bowling event from September through February. At the end of the season, each bowler was given a tie dyed t-shirt (dyed by Developmental Pathways clients) to take home instead of a trophy.

The End of the Year Banquet for the Barracudas athletes and coaches was held on Friday, Nov. 14, 2008 at the Knights of Columbus Hall for the Queen of Peace Church, and there were several volunteers from the Knights of Columbus helping to cook and serve the spaghetti meal. Following the meal, awards and certificates were given to the athletes and coaches. The Gary Plumery Foundation funds this event each year.

## Fund-raising Party at *A Classic Design*

Dawn Josey hosted a party for the Foundation at *A Classic Design* in Highlands Ranch, CO on December 1, 2008. It was a great place to do Christmas shopping since the store has so many unique gifts. The store provided the guests with snacks and drinks while we shopped. A fun time was had by all. *A Classic Design* donated 10% of the sales that night to the Foundation. The Foundation received \$113.81 from this event. A special thanks to Dawn Josey for hosting this party for the Foundation.



## Excursions and Adventures

The Plumery Foundation has sponsored several outings for Developmental Pathways clients. On January 23, twenty one clients and staff attended the Denver Stock Show. This was a fun trip. The clients attended a petting zoo, where they could feed the animals, saw a rodeo and did a lot of walking, looking at exhibits and animals.

Twenty-two Developmental Pathways clients and staff attended a tour of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, Nov. 21, 2008. The highlight of the tour for everyone was observing the preparations for a show in the Ellie Caulkins Opera House and actually standing on stage in the Buell Theatre!

Eighteen Developmental Pathways clients and staff attended the Denver Zoo Lights on Friday evening, Dec. 19, 2008. In spite of a

cool night, the group enjoyed the trip and all the lights.

On Friday, March 5, ten Developmental Pathways clients had the opportunity to ride on and drive the dog sleds at Good Times Adventures, near Breckenridge. This is always a fun trip!

On May 22, twenty-six Developmental Pathways clients and staff went to the Wildlife Experience in Parker. They enjoyed looking at the exhibits and attended a movie on Elephants. The weather was great, and this was a fun trip.

## Classes Sponsored

Line dancing lessons are as popular as ever, with thirty participants turning out for five weeks of lessons taught in April and May of 2009. Also, on the first Wednesday of every month, a group of nearly twenty clients meets for lessons at the Stampede Dance Emporium in Aurora.

## Upcoming Events

### \* Golf Tournament

Please join us on Monday, July 27, 2009 at the Pinery Country Club for our 8th Annual Gary Plumery Foundation Golf Tournament. The four person scramble will begin with a shotgun start at 8:00 am. The fee covers a cart, greens fee, range balls, clinic admission, prize money chances, light breakfast, lunch, and entertainment provided by Jolly Demis. Prizes are awarded for the two lowest gross scores.

### \* Summer & Fall Activities

**Camping:** There are three camping trips planned for this summer:

- July 10-12: 10 clients will travel to the Winding River Resort near Grand Lake for

Ceramics classes were taken by 23 Developmental Pathways clients throughout the winter. The Gary Plumery Foundation helped by purchasing greenware pieces for the clients, which they cleaned and fired, then painted and glazed! The clients were amazed to see the finished product that they had created!



two nights of tent camping. This trip will feature a half-day raft trip on the Colorado River with the National Sports Center for the Disabled and a hike in Rocky Mountain National Park

- July 31 - August 1: camping at Wilderness on Wheels

- August 23 - 25: camping in a cabin and a yurt at Golden Gate Canyon State Park. There will be hiking, fishing and games on this trip.

- The Harvest Moon Dance will be held on Friday, October 2, and the Monster Mash is on Friday, October 30.

- This year's Barracudas Special Olympic End of the Year Banquet is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 13.

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**Developmental Pathways, Inc.**

Developmental Pathways is a non-profit agency created to serve persons with developmental disabilities and their families. Pathways provides a broad array of services so that participation in community life is attainable for every individual with a developmental disability.

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