

Family Living

St. Vincent dePaul Announces Comerford Award Winner:

Betty Roberts help establish newly opened Training Center

Betty Roberts has been named the 1997 winner of the Comerford Award, developed to honor a person who has made a profound contribution toward providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Roberts is director of the new St. Vincent dePaul Training Center, a facility that provides customized office skills training for disabled people.

The Comerford Award is presented annually in memory of Bernard "Barney" Comerford, a long-time leader in Portland's volunteer community. More than 25 years ago, following his own retirement, Comerford founded St. Vincent dePaul Rehabilitation Services of Oregon, an organization providing vocational training and jobs for adults with disabilities. Typically, the award goes to people in the community. This year, St. Vincent dePaul Rehabilitation chose to honor one of its own employees for her role in the creation of its training facility.

"Through Betty's persistence, we've been able to offer office skills training to people who might not otherwise get training," said Roy Soards, executive director of St. Vincent dePaul Rehabilitation Service. "Her devotion to her work shines through each day, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge her role in implementing programs which provide indi-



Roy Soards, Executive Director, Betty Roberts, Training Center Director
St. Vincent dePaul Rehabilitation Service, Inc.

vidual with a variety of disabilities an opportunity to find meaningful employment."

Roberts joined St. Vincent's more than five years ago with the mission of starting the

training center. She built it from the ground up - designing the program, selecting the site, overseeing construction, developing curriculum and assisting with fundraising.

Portland General Electric Assists "Project Child Support"

The Campaign for Equal Justice, an organization dedicated to raising money for Legal Aid programs statewide, has received a \$15,000 grant from Portland General Electric for "Project Child Support," a program designed to help families affected by inadequate child support enforcement.

Children bear the brunt of poverty more directly than any other sector of society, and suffer the most devastating and long-lasting consequences. "Project Child Support" will offer a range of services intended to ensure that laws compelling parents to provide adequate financial support for their children are actually enforced, clearly one of the most cost effective ways to alleviate child poverty.

Currently, 374,000 children are served by Oregon's child support system -- less than half the children who are eligible. With one of the lowest levels of program staffing of any state (ranked 45th), Oregon's system collects child support for only 17.8% of the families enrolled.

"Project Child Support" will bring together principals in state govern-

ment who ultimately share responsibility for the system's functioning, parent-advocates who are directly affected by the system, and legal aid staff who understand both the technical and human side of the system's functioning and failures, and who can provide the leadership to create effective reform.

Services will include a toll-free statewide Child Support Hotline; a Self Advocacy Handbook written for parents with child support problems; and quarterly cable television discussion programs for parents. Additionally, Legal Aid staff will provide technical assistance and training to existing parent groups to help them develop and refine their self-advocacy skills.

The hotline is already established and may be reached at 1-800-383-1222.

Funding for "Project Child Support" has been provided by the Collins Foundation, the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, and the Portland Women's Union. Portland General Electric's contribution will help raise a \$65,000 match needed to obtain second-year funding from the Murdock Trust.

1997 Coca-Cola Holiday Caravan Tour Teams With Portland

When Santa Claus comes to Portland this year, he'll have 25,000 lights to guide his way and the help of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland to make this holiday season more fun than a sleigh full of mischievous elves.

Coca-Cola and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metropolitan Area have teamed up with Santa to spread holiday cheer during a three-day stop on the 1997 Coca-Cola Holiday Caravan Tour. Inspired by the brightly lit delivery trucks made popular in Coca-Cola's annual "Christmas Caravan" television commercial, the Holiday Caravan Tour brings to life five images of Santa Claus. One of the Coca-Cola Holiday Caravans will be in the Portland area from Dec. 1-3 featuring local entertainment, artwork created by Boys & Girls Clubs members and all kinds of holiday fun.

The local Boys & Girls Clubs will partici-

pate in and benefit from the Coca-Cola Holiday Caravan visit. Earlier this year, local children entered a holiday drawing contest, and winners were selected from Boys & Girls Clubs who will benefit from the sale of these posters, holiday greeting cards and Christmas wreaths decorated by local children, which will be displayed for sale during Caravan events in the Boys & Girls Club Art Tent.

Coca-Cola Holiday Caravan events are free and open to the public. In addition to Boys & Girls Art Tent showing arts and crafts from local youth, other event elements include:

- * Performances from talented area groups, including high school choirs and dancers of all ages, in the Santa Park Theater.

- * A Mini Caravan - a motorized 15-foot replica of the semi-truck Caravan -- on-sit for viewing and photo opportunities.

- * A backdrop for holiday-themed photos at the Caravan Photo Stop

- * Gifts, including holiday apparel, ornaments and Caravan replicas, for sale. A portion of the proceeds will be donated by participating licenses to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

- * Coca-Cola Santa Packs for sale, with portion of proceeds going to the Portland Boys & Girls Club.

- * Visits from Santa himself!

"The Coca-Cola Holiday Caravan gives Boys & Girls Clubs kids a magical backdrop to showcase their talent," said Virginia Hensen, executive director. Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland "The proceeds collected at each Caravan event will support our programs for kids throughout the Portland Metropolitan area."

Boys & Girls Clubs across the country are

enjoying visits from the 1997 Coca-Cola Holiday Caravan Tour, launched with a special send-off involving all five trucks in St. Louis recently. From St. Louis, five identical Caravans departed for stops in more than 65 cities throughout the country between Nov. 15 and Dec. 24.

Each Coca-Cola Holiday has a 46-foot high trailer completely illuminated from the inside out along the entire surface with multicolored lights. A red Kenworth Tractor, outlined in glowing white lights, pulls the trailer. A portable holiday scene - complete with wooden benches, wreaths, fences, stages and decorated Christmas trees - travels inside each Caravan and is set up for all holiday events.

The popular portraits of Santa Claus made famous by Coca-Cola, which are featured on the Caravan and on Coca-Cola Santa Packs, are reproduced from original oil paintings

created by Haddon Sundblom. Sundblom was first commissioned in 1931 by The Coca-Cola Company to capture the image of Santa Claus for use in an advertising campaign. He drew a round, merry gentleman with rosy red cheeks, a fluffy white beard and a red outfit with a large black belt. Over the years, the "Sundblom Santa" has become the universal image for Santa Claus associated with Coca-Cola throughout the world.

Coca-Cola Santa Pack packaging features four of Sundblom's most famous oil paintings. Each year a new Sundblom Santa image is added to the Santa Packs, replacing one from the previous year. This year's new addition appears on the Coca-Cola Holiday Caravans. Titled "They Remembered Me," it shows Santa Claus discovering a dish of cookies and an ice-cold Coca-Cola that a family has left for him under the Christmas tree.

Tips for the canning season

Canning is a wonderful way to preserve the freshness of fruits and vegetables produced during the end of summer-like tomatoes. To get the best canning results follow these helpful hints compiled by the home economists at Whirlpool.



- Remember to use the right cookware—it makes a big difference.

Flat-bottomed cookware provides better contact and therefore, the best cooking results. Don't use warped, dented or ribbed-bottomed pans. This can cause uneven cooking because there is incomplete contact with the heating unit. The pan material (metal or glass) also affects how quickly and evenly the pan heats.

- To protect your stove top, always use the largest surface unit. Center your canner/pan over the heating unit and make sure it does not extend more than one inch outside the heating unit area. Large diameter canners/pans, if not centered correctly, trap heat and can cause damage to the stove top. Do not place your canner on two surface units at the same time because too much heat will build up and damage the stove top.

- If you plan to use your stove top for canning, Whirlpool recommends ordering a canning kit from your dealer or authorized service company. Most water-bath or pressure canners are big, and if you can with them at high heat settings for long periods of time, you can shorten the life of regular surface units.



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