

Progress!

Parents & Friends Inc.

November 2011 Creatively Serving People with Developmental Disabilities Since 1955

Parents and Friends Furniture Annex Victim of Midnight Fire



The fire started in a storage shed behind the Furniture Annex on Cypress Street.

On September 6, a fire started at the back of the Furniture Annex recycled furniture store operated by Parents and Friends at 350 Cypress Street. The cause of the fire is unknown but it's believed it was started by a transient seeking shelter and starting a fire for warmth that got out of hand. PFI is grateful the hospital security personnel noticed and reported the fire.

Although the front of the store appears unscathed, damage to the building is actually very extensive and will take months to repair. The fire burned the contents of the storage area and the rear

side of the building, extending into the attic area, damaging struts and some supporting structures. In addition to structural damage there was extensive smoke damage to the building and its contents, which consisted mainly of furniture for sale. "It appears that most of the inventory is smoke damaged beyond salvaging," said Amanda Venett, retail sales manager for Parents and Friends, "A cleaning company specializing in mitigating smoke damage will assess the inventory, but I doubt much can be saved."

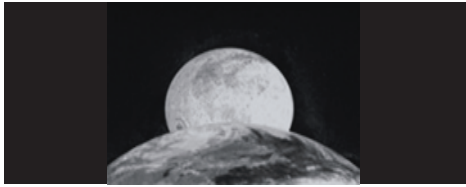
The building was built and dedicated to one of the organization's founders, Dodie Scott,

in 1976. The Dodie Scott building has served as many things over the years including a recycling center, a bakery, Adirondack furniture show room, and most recently The Paul Bunyan Furniture Annex.

Because the building was built prior to 1978, it was necessary to have it inspected for hazardous materials. A HazMat contractor will be hired to remove flooring and roofing material found to contain asbestos. Roof, ceiling, flooring, some structural elements, some electrical wiring and plumbing will have to be replaced. The building will have to be brought up to current code during the refurbishment. It is estimated that it will take at least six months for the Annex to be back in business.

The fire is a blow to PFI both financially and emotionally. PFI's retail businesses account for between 30% and 35% of its operating revenue. With the dwindling State budget for services to the disabled this is significant. "It could take over six months to replenish the inventory through normal donations and be fully back in business," said Rick Moon, Executive Director of PFI. "The Community has already reached out offering donations and support, which is greatly appreciated. What is especially hard," Moon continued, "is that, at least for the time being, jobs badly needed for developmentally disabled people are being lost. Our main focus for now is keeping our employees, both disabled and non-disabled, working and earning a living." The Furniture Annex also served as a source of jobs and training for this fragile population.

PFI is accepting donations of good used furniture and other household goods at the Paul Bunyan Thrift Shop on McPhearson Street. These donations will be stored until the Paul Bunyan Furniture Annex reopens its doors.



A View from the Moon by Rick Moon

I'm sitting in my office on a sunny and warm Friday afternoon winding down the week. There are many things to do and some deadlines to meet but I can't stop my mind from occasionally slipping into free association and skipping from one seemingly unrelated topic to another.

One topic that has slipped in fairly routinely over the last few years is what we "call" the people we provide services for. When I started, it was clients. Shortly after that, a concerted effort was made at the State level to find out what they wanted to be called, so a survey was taken of the people receiving services to find out their preference. I didn't see it firsthand but I would have loved to witness the surveyors working. What would you say if someone walked up to you cold and asked "What would you like us to call you?" Well, I don't know about you, but I can think of any number of answers to that one. Apparently, so could the peo-

ple who were asked. The best answer I heard was related by a Department of Developmental Services worker who had been a part of the survey team.

She said she asked one person what they would like to be called. The person looked back blankly for a minute and then firmly, seeming somewhat annoyed, replied "Sally!"

That, it seems to me, is the intuitively obvious truth. The result of the exercise, however, was the adoption of the word "consumer" to replace the previously used "client" for describing people we serve as a group. Now, however, that word is coming under fire also. Many non-consumers are beginning to feel that the word consumer is derogatory because it implies the consumption of something and consumption itself, in any form, has acquired negative connotations. This led one of my staff to extemporaneously begin using "Peeps" instead of consumers. Needless to say, I had a big problem with that. I envisioned a bunch of baby chicks dutifully following the mother hen, who was ob-

viously in charge. That was absolutely inappropriate to me. What I didn't know, until someone explained it to me, is that, in Hip-Hop-ese, Peep is used for people who are in your group and close to each other, as in Homey, or, in a previous century, Bro, Brother, Sister or Sis. In that context it isn't meant or taken as a derogatory label, but one of warmth and comradeship.

Anyway, in the end, I agree with Sally. If we must refer to the people we serve with a group name, I remembered our name, Parents and Friends. How do parents and friends refer to each other in groups? I refer to my friends as Friends, and as children grow up and the parental relationship naturally matures, they become more traditional friends with each other also.

My last musing for the day and the week was remembering what a friend of mine (not named Alice) said years ago when in an unusually good mood, "I feel more like I do now than I did when I first got here." I've wondered ever since then what she meant by that. This afternoon I feel like I may be getting close, but it is beginning to darken outside and winter is almost upon us, so that one may have to wait until another warm Indian Summer afternoon next October.

Employee of the Quarter awarded to Laurie Starr



Congratulations to Laurie Starr for being selected Employee of the Quarter!

Laurie began working for PFI in 2009. She was first with the L.I.F.E. on the Coast Program at but then moved to The Community Connection in order to provide one on one support needed by some consumers.

Laurie is a very happy and up beat person and fits in well with our consumers as well as staff. She seems to be a natural with this type of work. She is hard working and you can really see that she genuinely likes this what she's doing.

Consumers at TCC really like being with Laurie. In the two years she has been working at TCC, Laurie has missed very few days and does a great job.

Executive Director Rick Moon presented Laurie with the award at the annual PFI bar-b-que.

Progress!

Parents & Friends Inc.
*Creatively Serving People
With Developmental Disabilities Since 1955*

Post Office Box 656
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
707-964-4940

www.parentsandfriends.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Steve Ward

Vice President, Jacqueline Bazor

Secretary, Betty Gross

Treasurer, Dan Godeke

Bradley Gardner

Mike Hall

Laurel Ellen

Sage Statham

Buddy Peterson

Melissa Schlafer

EMERITUS MEMBERS

Dolores Scott

Marion Roden

George Griffith

IN MEMORIAM

Lotte Moise

ADMINISTRATION

Executive Director, Rick Moon

*Executive Assistant & Licensing and
Accreditation Specialist, Jessica Dickey
Bookkeeper, Kathy Connell*

PROGRESS! Betty Gross

PROGRAMS & BUSINESSES

IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY

Coastal Support Services

Program Manager, Terry Hinkle

The Community Connection & 24/7

Program Manager, Leann Pill

L.I.F.E. on the Coast

Program Manager, Jacquelyn Stewman

The Job Connection

Program Manager, Gisele Reaney

*Paul Bunyan Thrift Shop and Furniture Annex
& Vocational Services*

Program Manager, Amanda Venett

OUR MISSION

The mission of Parents & Friends, Inc. is to provide opportunities for persons with developmental challenges and similar needs to participate fully in our community.

Labor Day BBQ a great success!



Diners were entertained with the logging contests. Samantha Armbruster, PFI employee, competed for the second year and placed first in her division, letting nothing slow her down!



The BBQ featured pork, beef, chicken and goat. Much of the meat was raised by local 4H members. 550 dinner tickets were sold!



Mike Barnes, on behalf of PFI, accepted a check for \$2000 from Lion Club president Joe Sawyer and member, Kevin Pearl. This was PFI's share from the proceeds of the Labor Day Bar-B-Que, a cooperative fundraiser by the Lions Club, Parents and Friends, and the Kiwanis Club.

Thanks to our recent donors!

Barry Cusick
Betty and David Gross
Bradley & Jennie Gardner
Carl Moore
Chet Boddy
Constance Mitchell
Coralene Peeler
Deanna Freeman
Dixie Shipp
Dora Baroni
Doris Polacek
E. Christopher Maple
Eileen Lopate
eScrip
George Moss

Gerald Denevi
Holly Smith
Horace Mann
Jay Hudson
Jeffrey Berenson, M.D.
Johleen Haagen-Smit
John Rossum, Jr.
Joselyn Bartlett
Karen Caito
Karen Smith
Larry and Shirley Gurnett
Marian Roden
Mendocino Coast District Hospital
Mendocino Coast Water Works
Michael Furse

Molly Warner
Old Gold
Paul Lagomarsino, M.D.
Rich Romelli
Richard and Patricia Jones
Robert and Lois Wheeler
Roger and Jo Ann Adams
Ronald & Pearlina Cowan
Rossi's
Subway
Susan Larkin
The Campbell Group, LLC
Thomas Yoneda
William and Linda Rohr

& Golf Tournament "Hole Sponsors"!


Redwood Investments
Subway
Steve Ward Insurance
Northwest Insurance,
Rossi's
Mendocino Coast Hospital
David Newell
Dr. Berenson
Dr. Lagomarsino
Dr. Rohr, Kiwanis
Norvells
Betty & Dave Gross

Jeremiah Murphy
Rhoads Auto Parts
Rantala Heating & Sheet Metal
Sub-Surface Progression
Hackley Physical Therapy
Roderick E. McMillen D.D.S.
Schlafer Logging
Headlands Garden Supply
Jay Hudson
NorCal
FedEx
Woody's Weld All

Here's what PFI has coming up...we hope you'll be there!

Holiday Bazaar
Saturday, November 26, 10 am to 4 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Bragg

Special holiday and gift treasures from the Paul Bunyan Thrift Store and hand crafted items will be featured.



Parents & Friends Inc.
48th Annual Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, January 28
Portuguese Hall



Delicious home-made spaghetti and meatballs & all the trimmings!
Silent Auction and more!

Twelfth Annual
Hoity Toity Fashion Show and Tea
Saturday, May 5
Portuguese Hall, Fort Bragg
Luncheon is served.

Featuring clothing from the Paul Bunyan Thrift Shop.

Golf Notes

Parents and Friends Top Notch Again

By John Rossum

It is always very apparent to us golfers when a tournament staff wants happy golfers—considerate tee prizes, plenty of pre-round refreshments, good snacks on the course, and at the turn, plenty of on-course contests and a great luncheon following the round. Golfers know that the Parents and Friends Tourney truly appreciates our participation. More that, the staff honestly cares about the Parents and Friends organization and what they provide to the community.

Brad Gardner, Steve Ward, Jessica Dickey and Jackie Bazor led the crew. Ward hosted a near professional auction. Gardner handed out the prize money and spoke with heartfelt appreciation for what the Parents and Friends organization provides to our community, at times choking with emotion. The appreciative golfers responded by pledging funds for a new up-to-date emergency telephone system.

Gardner likes to add whacky little wrinkles to his tourneys. This time, he gave each team a golf ball with an identifying number. Garner explained

that the numbered ball must be played on every hole throughout the round by each golfer, rotating in turn. At the end of the round one of the remaining (not lost) balls would be drawn for a \$200 prize. I watched Justin Pyorre hit his team's (1A) numbered ball from the first tee—directly into the driving range. Fortunately the range nets are down in places and Pyorre easily retrieved the ball. Our team's (1B) numbered ball made it through two shots on the first hole before yours truly lost it in a particularly dense bush. Bruce Woodruff's team ultimately nabbed the cash.

First place went to Jay Koski, Sean Pyorre, John Iversen, and Dave Goble. In a close second were Mike Antonelli, John Johansen, Bob Cohen and Bill Speak. Third went to Bruce Woodruff, Dennis Hartsock, Paul Cookenboo and Ray Alarcon. Wayne Salyards was closest to the line on the eighth fairway. Long drive prizes to Sean Crowe (20 yards short of the first green) and Kathy Shepley.

Closest to the pin prizes went to Mike Antonelli, Hank McCusker and Cynthia Coleman.



John Rossum enjoys the BBQ.

With the kind permission of the Editor, Connie Korbel, we have reprinted John Rossum's article as it appeared in the October 20, 2011 issue of the Mendocino Beacon. Thank you!

PFI Consumer Snapshots

Greg Rodin



Greg Rodin is back at work labeling Thanksgiving Coffee.

Last month, Greg Rodin returned to work at the Thanksgiving Coffee Company. A devastating fire during the summer of 2010, forced the coffee company to move operations into what had been their warehouse. There was some concern about Greg's safety working in the crowded and not always predictable environment. Greg temporarily lost the position he had held for 17 years. Greg kept busy but missed his job. Now, more than, one year later things are somewhat more routine around the plant and Greg has returned to the job he loves. Until the company builds and moves into a new plant, Greg is accompanied by a PFI job coach.

When not at work Greg enjoys taking walks, visiting the Starr Center and eating out.

Michael Barnes



Michael Barnes won blue ribbons at the Apple Fair.

Michael Barnes is an artist and brings his love and respect for the land to his beautiful landscape paintings. He paints weekly at the Art Explorer studio in Fort Bragg. This year he came away with four blue ribbons for his art work at the Apple Fair!

Mike is an employee of the Paul Bunyan Furniture Annex. The Annex is currently closed due to a fire but Mike has plenty of other activities to fill his time. He volunteers at MacKerricher State Park, the Noyo Food Forrest and occasionally at the Humane Society as a dog walker. He enjoys taking walks.

Michael loves to travel and has been to Hawaii, Las Vegas and Disneyland. He has scheduled a trip to Nashville, Tennessee.

Allen Waters



Allen Waters works at the Paul Bunyan Thrift Store.

Weekdays, you will find Allen Waters hard at work at the Paul Bunyan Thrift Store. Usually his job is to put clothes and merchandize out on display on the store's shelves. He says that he enjoys his work at the Thrift Store. He has also worked on the landscape crew.

Allen went through the Fort Bragg school system and, since then, has been involved with various programs of Parents and Friends.

When not at work, Allen enjoys swimming at the Starr Center and playing basketball on the local Special Olympic team. He also has activities with the American Legion. His favorite TV shows are Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune.



Kristin and Cody Hock are students at CR.

Cody and Kristin Hock

Cody and Kristin Hock are both graduates of Mendocino High School and currently are working on getting the credits they need to achieve Associate's Degrees at the College of the Redwoods.

Cody is a returning student attending Intermediate Algebra, Drawing, and Adaptive Physical Education classes. This is Kristin's first semester. Kristin is working on getting her units for Early Childhood Education so that she will qualify to work in a day care center. She is also taking an English class.

Besides attending classes and keeping up with homework they both find time

to volunteer regularly and have a wide range of interests. Kristin volunteers every day at the Kudos after school program. Both Kristine and Cody love books and reading and are well known at the local book store. Cody is also an expert at computers and video games. He hopes to work designing computer games and programs once he finishes college.

This semester there are five college students supported by Parents and Friends Inc. in programs on the College of the Redwoods campus here in Fort Bragg.

Presort Standard
Nonprofit
Postage Paid
Permit No. 75
Fort Bragg, CA
95437

*Creatively Serving People
With Developmental Disabilities for 50 Years*
Parents & Friends Inc.
Post Office Box 656 Fort Bragg, CA 95437



It was a great day of golf for PFI!