

2024 Annual Report

SOUTHERN OREGON
ASPIRE



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1465 NE 7th St, STE B Grants Pass, OR 97526

About Southern Oregon Aspire



A Message From Our CEO

Sarah Collins

Our Story

Southern Oregon Aspire was founded in 1975 by a group of parents wanting more for their children. Instead of placing their loved ones in a state institution or restricting their interaction to only their home, these parents sought a better life for their children, believing their children had the right to *live the life they choose* in our community.

Today, we continue to make that belief a reality as we provide Residential and Employment services for over 130 individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) in Josephine County.

Our Vision

We believe everyone deserves the chance to live their best life—and we're here to make that happen! Our mission, ***Inspiring Unlimited Opportunities for People to Create the Life They Choose***, drives everything we do.

We are dedicated to empowering adults with I/DD to lead fulfilling, independent, and meaningful lives. With our programs we are making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve, their families, and the broader community.

Our Values

**Person-Centered • Relationship-Focused
Inclusive • Integrious • Respectful**

A YEAR OF IMPACT: Empowering Possibility and Inclusion

This year has been a powerful reflection of the strength of community, teamwork, and our shared commitment to the individuals we serve. Together, we advanced our mission: ***Inspiring Unlimited Opportunities for People to Create the Life They Choose***.

Our team remains the heart of our organization. Their dedication, creativity and compassion earned us recognition once again—**ranking #2 in Oregon Business Magazine's 100 Best Nonprofits to Work For**. Their efforts embody the spirit of collaboration and relationship-building that transforms lives.

Thanks to the continued support from our partners, the dedication of our team, and generosity of the **Pacific Power Foundation** and **Four Way Foundation**, we expanded our impact. This year, we enhanced safety and emergency preparedness across our 24-hour residential homes by installing backup generators and fencing—ensuring individuals feel safe and supported.

In June, our **2nd Annual Golf Tournament** at Dutcher Creek Golf Course was a tremendous success, raising over \$24,000 to complete final improvements at the Oregon House, one of our 24-hour residential homes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), fostering their pride and sense of community.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains strong to empower individuals with I/DD. Together—with donors, staff, partners, and the people we serve—we'll continue building a future rooted in opportunity, dignity, and inclusion.

MISSION MOMENT



LINDSAY KING

Lindsay King, a long-time recipient of Aspire services, recently took big steps toward traveling again after years of hesitation. Though she often talked about wanting to visit family or coastal spots, her last overnight trip without her parents was in 2016.



That changed this past summer when Lindsay joined her housemates for a weekend trip to Brookings, where they attended the Pirate Festival. Inspired by the experience, she began talking more about future travels. In the spring, she had a great time playing Bingo at Seven Feathers for a friend's birthday—so much so that she requested her own overnight Bingo trip there for her 41st birthday.



Lindsay, who moved to Oregon House in 2022, has built strong, trusting relationships with consistent staff. That trust is helping her overcome past anxieties and embrace new adventures.

We're excited to see where she'll go next!



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES: EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Our Employment Services department is dedicated to helping individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) prepare for, find, and thrive in meaningful employment. Through skill-building, resume development, and strong partnerships with local businesses, we connect the people we support with opportunities to succeed.

In 2024, our Janitorial and Landscaping teams enhanced their technical skills through a series of hands-on workshops. The team learned to maintain their equipment—changing spark plugs and air filters, sharpening mower blades, repairing vacuums, and more. These trainings built confidence, independence, and job readiness.

We also expanded our community partnerships. A highlight this year was partnering with **Pacific Botanicals** to host a small job fair tailored to the people we serve. The event resulted in 11 interviews and 3 direct hires—an inspiring example of equitable employment in action.

A special thank you to **Partake Shop • Lounge • Dine**, our 2024 Business Partner of the Year, for their continued commitment to community collaboration and building diverse workplaces. We are proud to partner with businesses that share our commitment to building a more inclusive Southern Oregon—one job at a time.



RESIDENTIAL SERVICES: INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT, MEANINGFUL LIVES

Our 24-Hour Residential Program continued empowering adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities by providing safe, supportive homes and creating opportunities for meaningful community engagement.

This year brought exciting milestones and memorable experiences. Charles and Lynette Ponder fulfilled a lifelong dream with a first-class trip to Hawaii, while another Individual proudly purchased a new tractor after years of saving. The ladies at Oregon House enjoyed a weekend at the Pirate Festival in Brookings, and Individuals across the organization participated in camping, fishing, and various local events. We also welcomed several new Individuals into our residential homes.

To enhance comfort and safety, several homes received important upgrades. Oregon House has new flooring and a secure fence, while Linda Lee House added a new deck to improve fire egress and accessibility. Fire suppression sprinkler systems were also installed in the Oregon and Birch homes.

These accomplishments reflect our commitment to high-quality residential services and personalized support. We remain dedicated to helping individuals reach their goals by providing services that ensure dignity, safety, and belonging—*Inspiring Unlimited Opportunities for People to Create the Life They Choose.*



COMMUNITY LIVING PROGRAM: LIVING INDEPENDENTLY, THRIVING COLLECTIVELY

This year, the Community Living Program (CLP) continued to empower individuals with I/DD to lead self-directed, fulfilling lives in our community. Through meaningful collaboration with Supported Individuals, their families, and Community Partners, we ensured that every transition, journey, and opportunity was shaped by choice, grounded in respect and safety.

This year, key accomplishments included supporting a cross-country relocation to reunite a Supported Individual with newly reconnected family, and assisting another in transitioning from 24-hour residential support to independent living, where he's now learning essential life skills such as cooking, budgeting, medication

management, and more. We also facilitated memorable vacations to destinations like Portland, Disneyland, Disney World, and Mexico—offering not only joy and relaxation but also valuable opportunities to build confidence and independence.

Additionally, **CLP completed construction to house a new emergency generator.** This capital improvement will ensure power continuity during outages, protect temperature-sensitive medications and equipment, and serve as a base of operations during severe weather or disasters.

These achievements reflect our mission and values, keeping the people we support at the heart of all we do.

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

49 Year of Changing Lives

132

Total Individuals Served

Total amount of individuals served in all programs; Employment Services, Residential Support, and Community Living Services.

95

Individuals in Employment Services

Total individuals supported through Employment Services, including Small Group employment, community job coaching, and job development.

34

Small Group Contracted Sites

Number of organizations contracting SOA for janitorial and/or landscaping, providing supported employees with valuable experience and skill-building opportunities.

44

Community Business Partners

Total Business Partners the individuals we support or serve as assessment sites, providing opportunities to build skills and explore different jobs

38

Individuals Receiving 24/7 Support

Individuals receiving 24/7 support by our Direct Support Professionals in one of our fourteen residential homes.

25

Individuals in Community Living

Individuals living in their own home or our Mid-step complex while receiving regular, personalized support from Direct Support Professionals.

FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE

\$10,767,775

TOTAL REVENUE

+ Contracted Services
through State Funding
\$8,860,916

+ Commercial
Contracted Services
\$850,657

+ Room & Board
\$437,245

+ Grants & Donations
\$220,076

+ Others - Leases,
Investments, etc.
\$398,881

EXPENSES

\$10,493,936

TOTAL EXPENSES

- Residential Supports
\$5,674,296

- Employment Services
\$2,483,618

- Community Living
\$564,558

- Administration
\$1,771,464



Leadership Team



Sarah Collins
Chief Executive Officer - 2017



Meghan Boehm
Chief Financial Officer - 2018



Jessica Eldred
Human Resources Director - 2015



Anthony Hauckes
Employment Development Director - 2022



Brittany Bunting
Residential Director - 2009



Julia Evans
Residential Director - 2000

Board of Directors



Jim Hamilton
President - Dec. 2020



Seth Benham
Vice President - May 2024



Margaret Forsberg
Secretary/Treasurer - Feb. 2020



Kurt Tamashiro
Board Member - Feb. 2019



Doni Hamilton
Board Member - Sept. 2024



Faith Reiling
Board Member - Nov. 2024

Thank You—DONORS

- 808 Ohana Grindz
- Albertsons
- AllCare
- Amerititle
- Anette Petersen
- Ann Bauer
- Anna C Demeduk
- Applegate River Golf Club
- Apricity Vineyard
- Area 61 Taphouse
- Barnstormers Theatre
- Ben E Freudenberg
- Body Wellness Collective
- Bohemian Bar & Bistro
- Bolt Grafix
- BP Enterprises
- Brad & Katherine Clayton
- Brian's Bears
- Britt Music & Arts Festival
- Brownell's Electric
- Cascade Self Storage
- Cash General
- Catalyst Pizza Co.
- Caveman Bowl
- Caveman Kiwanis
- Centennial Golf Club
- Charity Schattschneider
- Charles Seagraves
- Christine Murphy
- Crater Car Wash
- Diamond Medical Maintenance
- Donna Andrews
- Dutcher Creek Golf Course
- Ed Bittle
- Epicure
- Eric's Tree Service
- Erinn & Eunora Fralich
- Ernestein Flemister
- Farmers Building
- Fidelity Charitable
- Fiona Bean
- Four Way Community Foundation
- Fruitdale Grange
- Gary Joham
- Gary Rolfness & Lori Weigant
- Gates Home & Mattress
- Grace Tamashiro
- Granite Mafia
- Grants Pass Automotive Center
- Grants Pass Ladies 9 Holers
- Grants Pass Toyota
- Greg Preston
- Grocery Outlet
- Hart Jewelers
- Holiday Inn Express
- Home Depot
- IMA Financial Group
- Ink Doctorz Tattoo
- James & Allison Huber
- Janessa Rose Photography
- Janet Capetty
- Jeff & Kyra Ecklund
- Jeremiah I Lyons
- Jesse Lipson
- Jim Clark's Consignment Center
- Jimmy's Classic Drive-In
- Jody Conrad
- John L Scott Real Estate
- Kathi Holmbeck
- Kathleen L McFarland
- Kroger
- Lanette Gonzales
- Lava Lanes
- Linda Infelise
- Lyle & Mary Jackson
- Mac's Customs
- Marie Guerrero
- Mark Reiling
- Mattress Land Oregon
- Michael & Kathleen Klem
- Mock Ford Sales
- Mount Shasta Resort
- Mountain Mike's Pizza
- Mountian Blossom Bees
- Moxley Media
- Novus Glass
- Omni Cleaning Supply
- Orange Torpedo Trips
- Oregon Pacific Financial Advisors
- Oregon Pizza & Pour Authority
- Oregon Shakespeare Festival
- Paradise Auto Center
- Patricia Soto
- Paul & Linda Hansen
- People's Bank
- Pints N Wine Pour House
- PNW Landing Nets
- Premier Oil Change
- Primo Water
- Purelight Power
- Q & A Eats
- Quail Point Golf Course
- Radio Design Group
- Rain Rock Casino
- Rays Food Place
- Robert & Marilyn Kaufman
- Rogue Community College
- Rogue Shred
- Rogue Solutions Accounting
- Rogue Valley Country Club
- Rogue Valley Family Fun Center
- Ron Shrode
- Royal Barge Thai Cuisine
- Safeway
- Schmidt Family Vineyards
- Science Works Museum
- Serrae James
- Seven Feathers
- Shamrock Plumbing
- Sharon E McCorkle
- Sotar Inflatables
- Steam Distillery
- Steve & Kristi Roe
- Stone Ridge Golf Club
- Sue Orris
- Sundance Distilling
- Susan Meservier
- Suzanne Lavine
- Tekmanagement Inc
- The Glass Forge
- The Horny Goat Gastro Pub
- The Kitchen Company
- The Laughing Clam
- The Mill Casino
- The Muff Shop
- Valley Animal Hospital
- Walter E Nelson
- Weekend Beer Company
- Wild River Brewing & Pizza
- Wildlife Safari

Thank You—PARTNERS

- A-1 Exterminators
- Albertson's
- Anne Byers
- Applebee's
- Barnstormer's
- Brownell Reed Investments
American Dream
- Coalition for Kids
- City of Grants Pass
- Creative Supports
- Daily Courier Paper
- Edward Welch
- First Interstate Bank
- Fred Meyers
- Gates Home & Mattress
- Gilbert Creek Early Childhood Services
- Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce
- Grants Pass Chiropractic
- Grants Pass Clinic
- Grants Pass DMV
- Grants Pass Masonic Lodge
- Hellgate
- Holiday Inn Express
- Holmbeck Law Firm
- Imagine That Preschool
- James Reed
- Josephine County Transit
- Lee Walker
- Logan Design
- Marianne Dwyer
- McDonalds
- Newman United Methodist Church
- ODOT Central Point
- ODOT Grants Pass
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Pacific Botanicals
- Paradise Auto
- Partake
- Planned Parenthood
- Rivers Edge Academy Charter School
- Roe Motors
- Southern Oregon ESD
- St Paul's Lutheran Church
- Stein Enterprises
- Subway
- Timber Kids Dentistry
- Travel Information Council
- Udder's Ice Cream
- Uhaul
- Watch Technologies
- West Coast Holdings

Thank You—SPONSORS

- AllCare
- AmeriTitle
- Bohemian Bar and Bistro
- Bolt Grafix
- BP Enterprises
- Brownell's Electric
- Caveman Kiwanis
- Crater Car Wash
- Diamond Medical
- Eric's Tree Service
- Four Way Community Foundation
- Grants Pass Automotive
- IMA Financial Group
- John L Scott Real Estate
- Moxley Media
- Oregon Pacific Financial Advisors
- People's Bank
- Purelight Solar
- Rogue Shred
- Rogue Solutions Accounting
- Tekmanagement
- Valley Animal Hospital
- Walter E Nelson
- Wild River Brewing

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Fourth Annual Golf Fundraiser



June 26, 2026

Dutcher Creek
Golf Course

FULL DETAILS TO COME

CHANGE LIVES

Join Our Team

Are You Inspired to Make a Difference in Our Community & Desire a Fulfilling Career?

Variety of Schedule

Availability

Full-Time
Part-Time
On-Call
Night/Weekend

Excellent Benefits

Paid Time Off
Retirement
Health Benefits



SCAN TO APPLY
or visit soaspire.org/careers

GOLDEN GALA

50

YEARS OF CHANGING LIVES

October 11th, 5:30-8:30 PM — Boys & Girls Club

A night of celebration and community featuring dinner, drinks, live music, an awards ceremony, and more.



**Join the Celebration,
Reserve Your Seat**

Ticket Price—\$55

SOUTHERN OREGON
ASPIRE

PACIFIC POWER.
POWERING YOUR GREATNESS



YOUR SUPPORT CREATES OPPORTUNITIES

Everything we achieve is thanks to our amazing supporters. Your contributions fuel programs, spark opportunities, and make dreams come true for adults with I/DD. Every contribution directly impacts the lives of adults with I/DD, creating a more inclusive and supportive community for all.



JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Scan to Donate
or visit soaspire.org/donate

Checks can be mailed to
Southern Oregon Apsire
1465 NE 7th ST STE B
Grants Pass, OR 97526

