



# “THE KOKUA SPIRIT”

“Kokua’s Mission is to provide citizens with disabilities the support needed to lead full and meaningful lives.”  
www.kokuaservices.com

September 10, 2011

Volume 7, Number 9

## FUN THINGS TO DO:

### SENSATIONAL SATURDAY

September 17, 11am-4pm at Peter G Schmidt Elementary in Tumwater. Great fun for kid of all ages. Free admission.

### PUYALLUP FAIR

Come Make Your Escape at the 2011 Puyallup Fair, September 9-25. Enjoy 17 days full of food, fun, music, comedy, animals and entertainment. More info: [www.thefair.com](http://www.thefair.com) or call (253)841-5024

### TUMWATER HIGH SCHOOL 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

September 16-18, 700 Israel Rd SW, Tumwater. For more information or to check out the activities, call 709-7003 or go to:  
[www.tumwater.k12.wa.us/Domain/9](http://www.tumwater.k12.wa.us/Domain/9)

**IT’S BACK TO SCHOOL  
TIME AGAIN!  
Watch out for children!**



Contact us to have your newsletter delivered by e-mail.  
(360)705- 4665 or e-mail:  
[sally@kokuaservices.com](mailto:sally@kokuaservices.com)

## SENSATIONAL SATURDAY IS UPON US!

Excitement is building. After many months of preparation Sensational Saturday is upon us! Come down and celebrate with us September 17<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 4 pm at Peter G. Schmidt Elementary in Tumwater. It is going to be a huge outdoor family fair with lots of activities for kids of all ages. Just to mention a few, we have feather hair extensions, giant bubbles, fish pond, a zombie makeup booth, a bouncy slide and obstacle course, a balloon artist, a dress-up photo booth, face painting and much more. Did I mention that we have live entertainment throughout the day?

Another reason to come is the great prizes you have a chance to win! Dozens of local business have donated items we have gathered into great prize baskets. We have 18 baskets with an average value of \$200 each. We have baskets for sports lovers, dog lovers, knitters, gardeners, romantic occasions, wine lovers, family fun...the list goes on.

We want to thank our event sponsors who are supporting our fundraising efforts. We couldn’t do it without their help!

**Heritage Bank**

**MetMeds**

**Shur-Kleen Car Wash**

**Jim and Kim Smith**

**Washington State Employees Credit Union**

**Individual Board members of Kokua and Parent to Parent**

**Thank you also to local businesses who have given in-kind gifts:**

**Dandrea Chiropractic is lending us a sound system for our music,**

**Tumwater Valley is lending us a stage**

**Many performers are working either for free or at a reduced rate. Thank you to:**

**SambaOlyWa**

**Mas Uda**

**Hitchkick**

**Balloon Artist Christine Redmond**

**The St Mark’s Handbell Choir!**

## **Come Experience Sensational Saturday!**

**September 17, 2011 11am to 4pm  
Peter G Schmidt Elementary School, (near the Dairy Queen)  
Tumwater, Washington**

## KOKUA COOKS

The Himalayan blackberry grows in dense thickets and produces delicious, large berries on thorny branches. In spite of its edible fruit, it is classified as an invasive species in temperate areas of the world. It is hard to control because of its rampant growth and enormous root system. The berries are a favorite of birds and the seeds pass through the digestive system of the birds and can land and start growing in faraway places when the birds fly over them. It is believed these berries were originally native to western Europe, but are now over much of the world, as climate allows.

The Himalayan blackberries are the ones we commonly see by the roadsides and in un-cleared areas. At this time of year, berries are big, delicious and plentiful. The next time you take a walk, take a container along to pick in and try a pie or a cobbler, eat them fresh or with ice cream, or try this easy recipe.

### BLACKBERRY SNACK CAKE

4 tblsp butter  
¾ cup flour  
¾ cup sugar  
1 ½ tsp baking powder  
Dash salt  
½ cup milk  
2 cups fresh blackberries  
2 tblsp brown sugar  
Preheat oven to 325°. Melt butter in an 8" square baking dish in the preheated oven. Combine flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and milk in a small bowl and beat until smooth. Pour batter over the melted butter, top with the blackberries, then sprinkle the brown sugar evenly over the fruit. Bake for 45 to 55 minutes, or until browned.

### Cookbooks Make Great Gifts

Kokua's "Love in the Soup" cookbook makes a great gift - for someone else or yourself! Our cookbook is packed with yummy recipes all designed with healthy eating in mind. The proceeds from cookbook sales will benefit individuals with developmental disabilities. Buying a cookbook (or 2, or 3!) is easy. You can order them from our website & they'll arrive by mail. If you live locally & would like them delivered to your home, call Chris, 705-4665, ext 101 & we'll arrange delivery at your convenience.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT KOKUA?

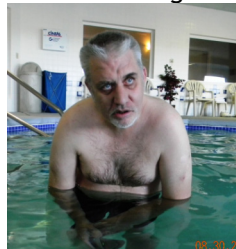
**Sue W** has been taking walks with her staff to the fruit stand. Sue also has been going down to the Farmer's Market and buying flowers. She enjoys talking to all the different vendors as well. She has been hanging out with her buddy Megan, baking and shopping. Sue says she likes her buddy very much. Sue thanks those who attended the rummage sale and encourages everyone to go to Sensational Saturday!

**Mathew L** completed Special Olympics Softball by competing in a tournament on July 30 at LBA Park. His team placed 5<sup>th</sup> and he had a blast! Mathew had his birthday on August 12, so we wish him a belated "Happy Birthday!" Everyone at Mathew's house wants to welcome Forrest L to our team.

**Charlie B** has been busy working on an old bike that was given to him at a nearby yard sale. He would like to thank his buddy, Karen for taking him out to McDonald's every other week and for the Hot Rod magazine she gave him this week.

**Jeff D** enjoyed a short vacation going Coastal for several days. He has enjoyed the food and going on some big outings this summer and is looking forward to going to the Puyallup Fair this Friday. He is not ready for summer to be over!

**Rodney O and Yolanda W** celebrated their birthdays at Ocean Shores for 3 days and 2 nights. Rodney enjoyed the walks at the beach, the pool and the room service. But most of all, it was a very relaxing time for just kicking back and taking it easy - see pictures below. Big thanks to Rodney's sister for the great vacation!



The warm summer days are still the favorite of the guys at 31st. What a great back yard! What great weather! Lots of sunscreen is being used. Here comes fall, but hopefully the sunny days will hang around for a bit longer.

**Derek E.** and **Kevin R.** took a trip to Northwest Trek and enjoyed nature.

**Danny C.** and **John C.** enjoyed nature during a day at the beach.

There's a lot of home maintenance activity and planning going on at the 31<sup>st</sup> house, too. John just got a new bathroom floor. Danny and Derek are getting a new bathtub and a new bathroom floor. There are plans for carpet cleaning as well as painting inside areas and outside of the house. It will be great when all of the work is done -their home will look spectacular!

Happy Birthday to **Christine R!** She celebrated her birthday at Regal Cinemas and watched "The Smurfs" movie with her mom, her roommates, **Manuela C,** **Maggie P** and her friend Rhonda. **Laurie H** has been enjoying attending People First meetings with her roommates. **Kim R** had fun going swimming at the YMCA this month. She is looking forward to going again! All the ladies had fun going to Northwest Trek and garage sale hunting. They are looking forward to attending the Puyallup Fair.

**Joe L** is looking forward to a visit from his family in mid-September. **Mike C** is going to Hawaii at the end of the month. He couldn't be more excited! **Keith W** got to visit with his brother Joe while he was in the country, and with his sister-in-law and baby nephew. **Paul J** is looking forward to more outings before the bad weather returns.

**Jack D** and **Ed W,** the guys at Chambers House have been out and about doing a lot of CI's with the beautiful weather we've been having. They went to the Pet Parade and to Sand in the City. They have been talking about taking a long drive to the Ocean and having lunch.

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## EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION AWARDS

This month's Employee Appreciation Awards are presented to:

### Annamarie Quesenberry

You have proven to be a great asset to Sue's team in the short time that you have been with Kokua. You are extremely positive and respectful in your interactions with Sue and others and it is wonderful that you are getting Sue out to the Farmer's Market and the fountain every chance you get. Thank you for your patience and creativity.

### Amy Gerhardt

You have been so helpful in keeping Sue's house together as a single-staffed day position. You have developed a good rapport with Sue and you have been great at helping her with outings and activities. You have done an amazing job taking over the craft class for the summer. Clients and staff have enjoyed the classes and the art is both beautiful and functional. Thank you for your ingenuity, flexibility, and dedication to Kokua and the people we serve.

### Melissa Willis

You had some big shoes to fill but you have done an outstanding job as Team Leader at 51<sup>st</sup>. You have been flexible, working outside your schedule and have been creative in implementing changes at the house. You are a joy to work with. Thank you for being a great advocate for Jenny and Bobby and a wonderful role model for other staff.

### Carpenter Team

You have all gone above and beyond to help Amanda through another big transition. Your flexibility and patience have been noticed and are greatly appreciated. Thank you for everything you do as individuals to help the team function effectively and cohesively. Way to go team!!

The 22<sup>nd</sup> house has a very cute, friendly, petite, playful stray cat. She seems to be lost. The number and address on her tags have not led us to her owner. Let us know if you're interested! All the ladies are looking forward to the Puyallup Fair on Friday, September 9. **Maggie P** has been socializing with the 51<sup>st</sup> house and seems to enjoy **Jenny D**, **Bobby C** and their staff. She bought some new stuffed animals at Kokua's rummage sale. Maggie and all her roommates have shopping plans for their upcoming birthdays in October and November. **Bev G** recently got a new haircut and has plans to go to the horse races at Emerald Downs. **Manuela C** has been staying busy with crafts, cooking and fitness classes. She has also been visiting her buddy, Tammy and going to the library. **Cecelia M** has been working on her Harry Potter puzzle and is excited about getting the Deathly Hallows games for her computer. She's been going to the movies and out to eat

**Bill M** wants everyone at Kokua to know that he's been busy going on train rides and getting his picture taken. He went on the Duck Boat ride with staff and the Resource Team. He also went to a parade in Morton and had a lot of fun.

**Gary W** just got an air conditioner two weeks ago, so he's enjoying the cool air in his room when the temperature gets too warm. He's been sitting outside to eat his popcorn since the weather's been nice.

**Darren A** went to Northwest Trek on Monday, August 29. He enjoyed the animals and riding on the train. He's also been sitting outside on the deck frequently lately enjoying the great weather

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM NEWS!

By: Randi Miller, Volunteer & Internship Coordinator

Our giant fall fundraiser, Sensational Saturday, will be held on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 11-4pm at Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School. Thanks to our partner agency, Parent to Parent and some amazing volunteers -Carolyn Hill, Jackie Koopman, Jill Munro, Becky Graybill and Martha Ramirez-we are organized and ready to shift into high gear to pull off this huge event. We still need volunteers for the day of the event! We need ticket takers, people to assist with the kid's activities, errand runners, set up and cleanup crew. Volunteers can work for a couple of hours or all day. It is going to be a wonderful community day and we hope that this will be the first of many Sensational Saturdays to come. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Chris ext.101 or Randi ext. 120.

### "Earth laughs in flower" - Ralph Waldo Emerson



The earth at 54A must be laughing loudly because the flowers are growing in abundance thanks to Doreen, Cecilia, and Frieda's tender loving care. The women sowed the flower seeds in May by throwing many different varieties into the GRuB installed garden beds. Then they waited with anticipation for the tiny green buds to appear. As the rains diminished, they have been taking turns watering and tending to the flowers. Today, everyone who lives and visits gets to enjoy the splendor of the flower garden at 54A.



## New Faces at Kokua

This month, **Michael Green** joined the Kokua staff. He will be working at the Clearfield house. His interests and hobbies include his church, music and football.

Also new to Kokua is **Loretta Condon**, who will be working with the Carpenter Team. Loretta is a fun-loving, friendly person who's main interest is her son. They both enjoy being outdoors and riding horses.

Welcome, Michael and Loretta, we're glad you've joined us!

## RECRUIT NEW EMPLOYEES FOR KOKUA AND EARN \$\$

Kokua is still giving out bonuses for referrals. Here's how it works.

Refer (or give an application to) people who would make great Kokua team members. Have them notify the Kokua interviewer that you've referred them. A referral form will be completed at hire. A referral form must be completed and in the new employee's file for you to receive the bonus. If your referral is hired and completes the 90 day probation period, you will receive a \$50.00 cash bonus. If your referral remains a Kokua employee for a year, you will receive a \$100.00 cash bonus.

## LOOKING FOR MORE HOURS?

Temporary and fill-in hours are available. We can train you to work at more than one house. Contact Client Services Coordinators for more information. Call 705-4665, Allen G ext 103, Sean B ext 118, Melissa K ext 123, Theo P ext 106 and Linda C ext 127.

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## Compliments?

*"I don't care what people say, I think you're great!"*

*"You're smarter than you look."*

*"Relax, you were perfectly adequate."*

*"You're attractive, for your age."*

*"Your plastic surgeon has such a delightful sense of humor!"*

*"You're more of a 'street smart' kind of person."*

## KOKUA KUDOS

*"Everyone appreciates being appreciated. Try to catch people red-handed in the act of doing something right - and praise them for it."*

Robert B and Marcia W would like to thank Kokua for having them at the picnic. They really enjoyed themselves. *From Robert and Marcia*

We want to welcome Keirston Fossett to 54<sup>th</sup> B – you're doing a great job! *From Yolanda W*

I want to thank the 5<sup>th</sup> Team for covering some shifts and taking good care of our clients while I was on vacation. *From Fia F*

We welcome Sara L to our team at 22<sup>nd</sup>! Kudos to Lilie L and Janet K for helping with fill-in for my upcoming vacation! Thanks, ladies!

Thank you to Kim S for staying late each time I worked for Zula. You are awesome!!

I want to thank my team at Chambers and all of those that filled in for me while I was in the hospital and out sick. I couldn't have done this by myself. You guys are the greatest. I also want to thank Carlos for filling in while Zula is out on leave. You really know how to be a team player. Also, thank you to Sean for all your help. You've really been an asset as a CSC. *From Kim S*

Kudos to Rosie R for coming in on her day off to assist staff and clients during a medical emergency. Thank you for being willing to help! You are awesome!

Kudos to Cristen, best problem solver ever! You never panic when faced with the impossible. *From Rosie R*

Thank you to Christina D and Kevin P for helping me at craft class. Thanks also to Randi for your support. *From Amy Gerhardt*

Kudos: to Josh for taking Mathew to Special Olympics softball practice every week. To Jodie for covering shifts and always staying positive. To Hana for covering my shifts and being acting team leader during the birth of my daughter. To Sean for putting up with me! *From Eric Manix*

Thank you Angela Team for doing such great teamwork and keeping positive attitudes around the water usage for the house. Mareen, thank you for bringing a positive attitude to work every day. It's great working with you on the day shift. *From Jessie M*

Thanks to Mareen, Lisa, Ann, Lavenia, Elke, Jessie, Lilie and Joyce for filling in for me. You guys are awesome! Also, thank you Sally for all the help you extended to me. *From Tina*

Thank you to Elke, Mareen, Jessie, Mandi and all others for covering for me. You all are great! *From Stacie*

Thank you Elke for doing such a great job with Kim! Lilie, thank you for what you have brought to Kokua and for being a wonderful co-worker and team leader. You are one of a kind and will be greatly missed. Thank you to the entire Resource Team for organizing the NW Trek trip – the ladies had a blast. Thank you Devin for your encouragement and support with Kim at the YMCA. *From the Angela Team*

Thank you to all in Kokua for the experience you gave me in working with you, for all the knowledge you provided, for the patience and helpfulness you gave me. Thank you 22<sup>nd</sup>, Angela, 51<sup>st</sup> clients. You are great people and you enriched my life by knowing you. Thanks to everyone in the office and all staff I worked with – I'll miss you. *From Lilie L*

## GOODBYE FROM AMANDA

I want to thank everyone at Kokua for the opportunity you have given me over the past 5 years. I have had the pleasure of working around and with some of the most inspiring, genuine people I've ever met. I am starting a new chapter in my life, something I've aspired to do since I was a child. I joined the United States Navy as a Hospital Corpsman and will be in boot camp at the Great Lakes in Illinois as you read this! I am beyond excited to start my new life and will never forget the experiences I've had here with you all. I wish you all the best and will keep you updated on my world travels as a sailor! *From Amanda Cordero*

