

# Wellsprings Friends School

Spring, 2007

## Community Service Friday

by Anna Scheri ('08)

Recently on a Friday afternoon, I had the opportunity to participate in bringing burritos to the homeless in the Eugene-Springfield area. It's one of the things I really like about Wellsprings, that we get to participate hands-on in our community. A group of students spent the morning making burritos and sandwiches. Altogether they made about 90 individually wrapped items to deliver.

That afternoon, two teachers took groups in the school buses to deliver the food that had been made. At the same time, two other teachers took students to do trash clean up along the river, and a volunteer led some students in wetland restoration work. I was in a group with Bob Schlichting and we were delivering burritos in Springfield. We worked our way back towards Eugene, stopping at parks and street corners. Our group was successful in that we handed out all the burritos and sandwiches we had, and I know even then the need was much greater.

One of the major things that Wellsprings has taught me is that anyone can make a difference. Sometimes I wonder what the world would be like if each school took the time to help students discover that they have the power to change the world. I'm glad Wellsprings takes that time.



## Wellsprings Family Reunion



For the first time in the history of our school, we will be hosting a Wellsprings Family Reunion. All current and former members of the Wellsprings community—students, parents, staff, board members, and volunteers—are invited. This event has been thought about for a long time and this year it is finally going to happen on **Saturday, June 2** from 1:00-3:00 pm at the school. A full BBQ will be provided, along with musical performances. Feel free to bring instruments to share in music making.

Invitations will be sent to all those for whom we have current information. If you know of people who need to be invited, please spread the word, and contact the Wellsprings office with their information so we can send them an invitation.

*We hope to see you there!*

# Transformation through Singing and Songwriting

by Gracie Page ('07)



For the past year, Chanci Herer has offered a Singing/Songwriting course. We students have an opportunity to write lyrics, learn or write music, and perform our pieces for the class or for larger groups.

This class has created a comfortable environment for me and has taught me confidence and strength. A year ago, when I first entered this class, I would always hold back and now I am not afraid to speak or sing my mind—even if I know others are judging me. This class has helped my voice to evolve and transform to the point it is now, while I am much more comfortable.

Chanci is a wonderful teacher. I enjoy singing with her. She has definitely inspired me in lots of positive ways. I think creating open spaces for people to play music is essential for self-expression and happiness.

Finally I have put a lot of my words into actual songs and found melodies, harmonies, choruses, and bridges. The singing/songwriting classes have made me organize and compile all my music, and I'm very grateful for all the energy and input Chanci has given me.

## Amazing Volunteer

by Jessica Campbell ('09)

Sam Smith volunteers at Wellsprings Friends School as a math teacher, working four mornings a week in teacher Bob Schlichting's classes. Sam has volunteered at Wellsprings for six years, and he loves it here.

Sam and his wife Betsy retired to Eugene in 2001. He had lived in Eugene in the early 1970s while earning a degree in mathematics from the University of Oregon. Then he worked for six years at the York School in Monterey, California, followed by thirty years teaching mathematics at a Friends school in Pennsylvania, the George School. Long-time board member Hanna Still heard from a friend about Sam's wish to "give back" to a Friends school through volunteering, and had School Head Dennis talk to him about Wellsprings.

Sam reads a lot in his spare time, does math projects, and watches Perry Mason on television. He enjoys spending time with his wife.

He tells us that he loves working here. A lot of students would agree that his contributions as Bob's helper are tremendous, and that he contributes a different perspective for students to learn from. As student Anne Sondag says, "Sam adds a great personality to the Wellsprings life. What would we do without him?"



## SPIRAL

by Grace Page ('07)

*I got one thing to say my attention is wild when you look in my direction it might take you awhile to see that I'm a dreamer I'm a believer in human kind putting all the pieces back together and I'm leaving all my worries behind. I can see that all I ever believed in was just a part of my sign from all this I resign, I turn around and forgive caress you with a smile words are pressing up against my lips though I'm expressing the experience as I unclench my fist everything you believe exists to be true as all the facets of your being unfolding into a new beginning for I am spinning in circles around the sun as I put my arms around you as this new life has begun. When I looked into your eyes I saw the truth that you were only holding me for you. You said you did believe in me I know you never believed in me cause you were holding on to something you could not grasp I am holding onto but I'm letting go of my past. Vast interwoven colors and streams as I dove into all of my dreams I was always speaking of Freedom releasing and redeeming myself unto nothing else cause nothing even matters anymore I don't I don't no where I am but I feel like I am home again I am whole again. Your smile as sweet as honey and your eyes sparkle like the sun when I put my arms around you that's when my life began though you're not in physical form I can feel your essence caress and blessings are reborn. I am arising out from the storm unto the sun warming my soul you are warming my being all that I'm seeing is unknown I know, where I am and I feel like I'm home again. Now I'm whole again.*

# Why I'm Here

by Ian Axe ('09)

The most prominent reason I came to Wellsprings was because I needed something different for my learning experience. I wasn't having it at my former school. Mostly because I felt I was being taught things I didn't need to know or wouldn't need in the real world. This was taking up time that I wanted to use in other experiences that would help expand my knowledge. Because I felt that way I did not put an effort into school. Though I went every day and to every period I did not do any of the work at home, thus failing all of my classes. But now I have almost all A's, and haven't even gotten below a B. I also have full credit in all of my classes.

I now enjoy learning. This is what I find most important. Not only am I enjoying learning and going to school, I am getting something out of it. This in my opinion is the best thing possible for a learning experience. There really is nothing more I could ask from Wellsprings. All I can be is thankful that I got into this school and met such great teachers and made so many friends in such a great community. I truly couldn't have asked for a better way to learn things and not get entirely discriminated against for being the person I am. This is the most important thing: being able to learn in an environment that you yourself feel safe being in.

## Free Sale--May 5

Third Annual  
**Free 'Sale'**

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**Saturday, May 5**  
**9:00 am-1:00pm**  
**3590 W. 18th Ave**

Wellsprings is hosting its Third Annual Free 'Sale' on Saturday, May 5 from 9 to 1. This event, inspired by stories of a Free Store in Buffalo, New York, in the 1960s, has become a standard happening for us. Collection of items begins a month ahead of the date to collect the maximum amount of usable second-hand goods to offer on the day of the event. Each year many people, strangers as well as Wellsprings community members, have donated hundreds of items for us to give away.

Many satisfied 'customers' leave the sale expressing their shock that everything is free. As a child said one day with a toy in hand, "You mean, I can take this for free?" Yancey DeYoung, the coordinator of the event, expressed why she continues to work on this project: "There is no greater

feeling than to give things away. People are always shocked and surprised when I encourage them to take what they need. The satisfaction of making someone smile is priceless--or in this case, free."

### Butterfly Beat

by Andrea Hawkes

I like the way my feet pound on the pavement.  
I'm chasing you even when I'm so boxed in.  
My little butterfly,  
So carefree and fluttery.

My soles are like drums, after you.  
My soul is like a drum, after you.  
You're my lazy melody,  
I just want to be your tempo.

We make music...  
We make music my happy monarch.

I want to fly away with you,  
But, I can't keep my toes away from the earth for too long.  
I'm beating, but how long will it be?  
How long will it be until you soar above.

Above the burning cotton candy clouds,  
Being spun on the fingertip rays of the sun.  
How long butterfly?

I'm chasing you, but I like the way my feet sound.  
I only wish my pace kept up with your harmonious wings.  
Like my own heartbeat,  
You're so desperate to escape.

Let me fly with you.  
Let me be immune to gravity.  
I'll keep your tempo.  
I'll keep your beat.

I'm chasing you,  
Even though, I'm grounded.

Best wishes to our

# 2007 Graduates

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Tina Marie McMurrin



Gracie May Rose Page



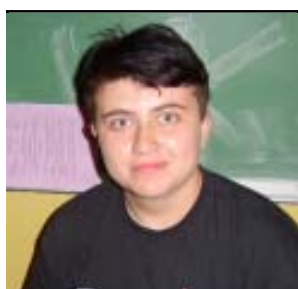
Skyeanna Soper Malito



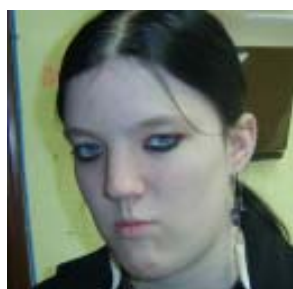
Carrie Sage Spivack



Lisa Louise Hamm



Rochelle Lori Cross



Katherine Lee Campbell



Kaleigh Harris



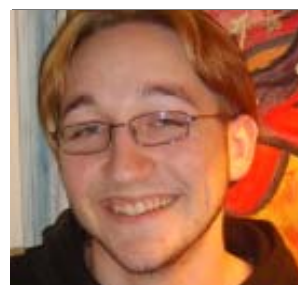
Stephen Stretch Barkley



Joshua Chapman-Dodson



Andrea M.N. Hawkes



Eric Scott Forgy



Jedediah LaFleur



Chad Allen Friend



Amelia Hart Kimball

# Thank You

Without the time and generous contributions from our supporters,  
we would not be able to be the Wellsprings we are.

A.H. Mikesell  
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# Ways to Support Wellsprings....

- ✓ **Volunteers** provide much needed assistance around the school. Contact Yancey if you have some time to offer and would like to find out how you can help.
- ✓ **Estate Planning** that includes Wellsprings Friends School will enhance many lifetimes through education. We urge you to consult with your legal and financial advisors about including the School in your Will or about establishing a Trust. Please call us if you would like to discuss your Estate Planning—there are dozens of ways to support Wellsprings through your Will or a Trust.
- ✓ **Financial Contributions** are welcome anytime. Twice a year, fall and spring, we appeal to the friends and supporters of Wellsprings to open their wallets as well as their hearts. General fund financial support from the community is *essential* for the continuation of our work.
- ✓ **Stock Transfers** Several contributors to Wellsprings find this to be one of the most attractive ways to give to the school. We have a DTC account whereby we can receive any amount of stock, small or large. If you risk a large capital gains tax by selling stock, it may be an advantage to donate your stock to Wellsprings, a nonprofit organization, for the tax deduction. Contact our Board Trustee and Treasurer, Hanna Still, at 541-345-5588, for details.
- ✓ **The Mani Shimada Memorial Fund** was set up to honor a well-loved student who died suddenly in 2003 from bacterial meningitis. A designated portion of the fund is available each year to support on-going Wellsprings projects. To contribute this way, your check should be made out to the school with “Shimada Memorial Fund” in the memo line.
- ✓ **Automatic Monthly Payments** You can easily arrange for a regular payment of a specified sum to be made to Wellsprings on the day of your choice. Just contact your financial institution.
- ✓ **Donated Items** from pens and pencils to couches to sports equipment, etc., are always appreciated. Call the office if you have something to give that you think we might be able to use.

In addition, did you know that you can automatically have contributions sent to us when you shop?! It's all done electronically, and *there is no cost to you*. The following programs are easy to use and benefit Wellsprings.

**eScrip:** After registering your credit, debit or store cards with eScrip, each time you use those cards at participating merchants, Wellsprings will receive a percentage of your spending. You can register at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com).

**Albertsons** sponsors local schools through their Community Partnership program. Simply register the school code through your preferred savings card at [www.albertsons.com](http://www.albertsons.com).

**Washington Mutual** has a program called WaMoola for Schools. Please contact a representative of Washington Mutual, if you bank there, to sign up for this program.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mail donations to:

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Wellsprings Friends School  
3590 W. 18th Avenue  
Eugene, OR 97402

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