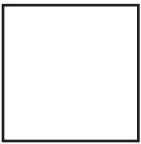


Banchero Disability Partners empowers adults with developmental disabilities so that they may realize their potential, achieve their goals, and be active and contributing members in their communities. Together we promote equitable civil rights.



13732 Midvale Ave N #103, Seattle, WA 98133 | [banchero.org](http://banchero.org)



[www.banchero.org](http://www.banchero.org)

Summer 2021



BANCHERO  
DISABILITY  
PARTNERS

Leaflet

13732 Midvale Ave N #103 | Seattle, WA 98133 | p: 206.367.7795 | f: 206.361.2271

### Board of Directors

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Chad McBride  
Tina Nole  
Lamin Samateh  
Lola Taylor



Please join us for a monumental celebration of our monumental 50 years! Our 50th anniversary party will be held at Bell Harbor International Convention Center on September 11th. Visit [www.banchero.org](http://www.banchero.org) to purchase tickets and to hear details of our safety measures. Visit with old friends, disco dance to Global Heat and support a great cause! Share stories and learn more at:

[www.facebook.com/events/252439879816423](https://www.facebook.com/events/252439879816423)

### As Part of Our Looking Back, We Celebrate These Couples Who Met at BDP (If we missed any please feel free to add them to our Facebook event page):

Steve and Cynthia (raising a boy and a girl!), Suzanne and Eric (twins! A boy and a girl!), Todd and Candace (raising a girl!), Jeannie and John (raising two boys!), Kathy and Susan (two sons, all grown up!), Kym and Gino (raised a son along with co-parent and BDP alum, John Van Hoy), Mimi and Alan (raising two boys!)



### 50 Years and Still Groovin'!

As Banchero Disability Partners celebrates our 50th year, we would like to tell you about some of the people and events that have impacted our journey. Meet Dan M, his mom Vernie, and his sister Wendy. Dan was admitted to BDP (then Banchero Group Home) 37 years ago, in 1984. Dan was 17 years old and it was the first time he had been away from home. In 1991, Dan moved with the rest of the residents out of the group home and into shared apartments at Ballinger Commons, and finally moved to his present home at the Loya House in 2007. Through it all his family has been by his side all the way. Vernie even helped strip wallpaper from the dining room walls at the Loya House to prep it for residents, and she served on the BDP board of directors in the late 1980's. Wendy has also volunteered at BDP, from remodeling to bartending at the auctions, she has been there for us and her brother. Hear more about their story at our 50th anniversary event on September 11th.

#### Looking Back

Here are some fun facts and historical happenings from our 50 years. Know more milestones? Have some stories to tell or pictures to share? Please visit and comment at our 50th anniversary event page: [www.facebook.com/events/252439879816423](https://www.facebook.com/events/252439879816423)

**1971** Two student teaching interns at the Fircrest Institution wondered why children were living there, isolated from society. Calling themselves Friend's Services the two young men dreamed of providing a family alternative. Six kids and our founders made a rental house in Madison Valley their home.



### Calendar

50th Anniversary Gala & Auction  
September 11, 2021, 4:00p - 9:00p  
Bell Harbor Conference Center  
Disco dancing by Global Heat  
Tickets are \$50 and available at:  
[www.banchero.org](http://www.banchero.org)

Event will be spread out for safety  
and there will be a spacious deck  
overlooking the Puget Sound

### Board Meetings

Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021, 6:30p  
BDP Office

Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021, 6:30p  
BDP Office

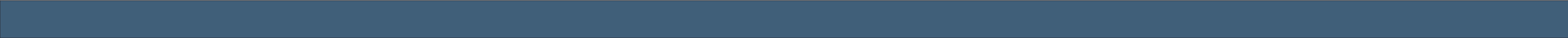
Written by CaraLee Cook.  
Layout and design by Francisco Ivarra.

Please consider making an online donation at  
[www.banchero.org](http://www.banchero.org)

p: 206.367.7795  
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Continued inside >>





**Looking Back (Continued)**

**1973** Friend’s Services became the third Children’s Group Home in Washington. When the young founders needed a break, they hired Leslee to be the weekend relief. Leslee is a volunteer, donor and supporter of BDP still.



**1970’s** The children experienced several evictions due to neighbor complaints (before fair housing rights legislation was passed). They gamely moved several times.

**1970’s** Dick Ramsey joined the Group Home board of directors as treasurer. Dick was also the CPA for Rebanco, the garbage and refuse company owned by the Banchemo and Razore families.

**1979** Ever the wheeler dealer, Dick convinced John Banchemo to donate a permanent home in Shoreline to Friend’s Services. Named in his honor, Banchemo Group Home had a big yard, three bedrooms for the kids to share, and a fourth bedroom for overnight staff.

**1980** Dick and John made sure the kids had a passenger van so that they could embark on camping and hiking adventures through the 80’s.

**1980’s** Friend’s Services worked to be welcomed by their new neighbors who embraced the kids by throwing birthday parties, sponsored Christmas, took them to church and shared homemade goodies. One of the neighbors shared their Ocean Shores cabin, starting a tradition: an annual trip to the Puyallup Fair on the way to horseback riding and s’mores on the beach.

**1982** Youngster Kathy K was admitted to Banchemo Group Home at age 9. Kathy is still with BDP! She now loves living with her roommate Florence at The Ramsey apartments.



**1984** The affable Dan M (then age 17- see cover) joined Kathy K and the other young people at Banchemo Group Home. Dan never forgets a face or a name!

**1980’s** As the kids turned 21, they were transferred to adult agencies, and new children were admitted in their places. There were many bittersweet goodbyes!

**1986** Inspired by his sister who has Down’s syndrome, Elizario (Eli) Loya became director of Banchemo Group Home and became the beloved purveyor of fun, good times and much wisdom.

*Photos on this page: Friends Services 1972, Kathy K, Eli and Dan hiking, Karen and Flo, Jeannie and Liam at Backyard Starts*

**1988** As Dan and others became adults they did not want to be separated and scattered to adult agencies. Residents, clients and staff loved Eli and his dedicated care. He started the arduous bureaucratic process of obtaining an adult supported living contract so that the kids could grow together.



**1992** Banchemo Group Home became a supported living agency and moved into the Ballinger Commons apartments where the young adults could each have their own bedrooms.

**1992** Having ditched the Group Home model, Friend’s Services DBA Banchemo Group Home officially changed their name to Banchemo Friends Services (BFS).

**1993** Recognizing a need for sexual and relationship education for adults who have intellectual disabilities, the relationship class was launched by staff members Mark and Todd.

**1993** CaraLee became executive director, Eli passed the torch by explaining that BFS operates as an extended family for clients, staff and guardians. She took those words to heart.

**1993** The state legislature slashed the tiny BFS budget forcing either agency closure or expansion. We chose expansion and Laethan and Jeffrey joined the family, thus beginning our gradual expansion to today’s 30 beloved clients.

**1993** We held our first ever staff enhancement retreat and we have had annual education and planning sessions ever since. Karen N joined the team and soon became the indispensable admin/ fundraiser/ bookkeeper and hub of BFS.



**1994** Slade Gorton ran for reelection to the US Senate with a platform denouncing the nudity allowed on public access television. CaraLee prayed fervently that client’s parents would not recognize naked staff member Kym in the news coverage of Slade vs. Political Playhouse.

**1995** CaraLee and Jeannie wrote grants and purchased a house in Shoreline for four housemates and a vocational program. Loya house was named for Eli Loya, and the horticultural vocational program was called Backyard Starts. Chad joined the staff team and is still a board director!

**1996** Backyard Starts participants grew vegetable starts and sold them at markets such as Seattle Farmers and Tilth. Kathy launched the annual auction tradition at the Ballard Eagles club.



**Looking Back (Continued)**

**1996** At a staff retreat we unfortunately dropped Todd during the trust fall exercise. Gamely, he got back on the ladder and let us try again.

**1997** Self advocacy group Voices in Action was launched at BDP and lobbying led to us meeting legislator, beloved supporter and long-term board president, Patty Butler.

**1998** One client who idolized firemen experienced spontaneous combustion of his underwear in the dryer, necessitating a visit from Shoreline engine house number 64. Coincidence?

**1999** Peregrin was hired as a direct support staff and art instructor. He eventually left to go to law school, but returned to join the board of directors and is our board President today!



**1999** Class instructors Steve and Cynthia presented the relationship class at the Conference of the National Association of Dual Diagnosis (Steve and Cynthia later marry!).

**2000’s** The annual group camping trip is a chance for us to get away and enjoy nature, swimming, kayaking, hiking, crafts, singing around the campfire and bonding.

**2004** We bid a karaoke farewell to program manager Heather as she headed off to nursing school. She returned in 2010 to become our Program Director and is still our Nurse Delegator.

**2006** In the hot market, we sold the Banchemo Group Home and saved the proceeds for future endeavors.



**2007** When clients and the agency office were threatened with eviction from Ballinger Commons, we filed a Fair Housing discrimination complaint and were allowed to stay.

**2007** A client stole the motorcycle keys of the not so nice Ballinger Commons apartment manager and it was a standoff when she tried to retrieve them. She is surprisingly charmed, and he is not threatened with eviction like the rest of us.

**2008** Realizing our vulnerable position, we explored obtaining a permanent home. Inspired by the gift from John Banchemo in 1979, we decide to buy an apartment building.

**2010** With help from many dedicated donors and proceeds from the Group Home sale, we purchased The Ramsey (previously Midvale) apartments as a home for our offices and highest support need clients.

**2009-2012** We hit a very dark period, experiencing the loss of several beloved clients and two staff members. The State plunged into a budget shortfall and could not fund our vacancies. Our budget was further cut and we scraped to survive. Our wonderful donors stepped up and helped us to stay afloat.

**2011** Thanks to our donors and a successful 40th anniversary capital campaign, we were able to pay off more than half of our mortgage on The Ramsey.

**2012** Ambitious board director JJ launched the Banchemo Bike Race over the Carnation hills. Exhausted riders and the rest of us slackers enjoyed post event Remlinger Farms feasts. The bike race was discontinued when JJ moved and the rest of us determined we were just too old for that.



**2013** After many fun years of confusing the public with our name, we landed on our current moniker: **Banchemo Disability Partners**.

**2016** At a Saturday wine tasting event, we announced a second capital campaign goal to pay off The Ramsey. Anonymous supporters made it the shortest campaign in history by donating \$1 million dollars that following Monday!

**2017** Cedar Grove Compost, owned by the Banchemo Family, launched their sponsored Golf Invitational to support Banchemo Disability Partners. CaraLee learns the meaning of the term “Fore” when those words are hollered as a stray ball whizzes past her ear on the green.

**2019** DSHS changed our contracting formula and we were finally able to add much needed human resource and finance professionals to the BDP team.

**2021** Through teamwork and ingenuity we survived COVID-19 with no losses.



**Today** We look forward to 50 more great years of ups, downs, twists and turns, and most importantly, family!

**In Memorial**  
To those who have made us better people and whose memories we will always cherish:

Judy G, Peter L, Elizario L, Tami H, Son D, John L, Daisy K, Katy B, Cori N, Don F, Kevin O, John H, Coral M, Paula H

*Photos on this page: Gang at Ocean Shores, camping memories, CaraLee and Matthew, staff retreat*

**Continued on back >>**