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.



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Welcome to the Team, Lily!

We are delighted to share the news of Lily, a vibrant young woman who recently celebrated her 21st birthday, joining our organization in June 2023. Born in the sun-drenched city of Los Angeles, California, Lily's life has been a fascinating blend of diverse experiences. While she spent a significant portion of her time on Vashon Island, she now resides in Shoreline, actively engaging with the community.

Lily is currently seeking a volunteer role at our local animal shelter, expressing a particular interest in working with dogs and cats. Lily is the proud caretaker of a naked mole-rat, a unique pet that she cherishes deeply. In the future, she hopes to expand her family by adopting a service dog, a testament to her profound love for animals.

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Written by Carol Salter & Jasmina Merdanovic. Layout and design by Francisco Ivarra. Visit us online at <u>www.banchero.org</u>

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Geaflet

Calendar

Heart & Soul Auction Saturday, April 27, 2024 Lynnwood Event Center 3711 196th St SW Lynnwood, WA 98036

Board Meetings

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 @ 5p Online

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 @ 5p *Online*

Scan the code below to make a donation!



Continued Inside >>

Welcome to the Team, Lily! (Continued)

Her passion for art is evident in the walls of her home, adorned with stunning artwork from her favorite animated series, *Hazbin Hotel*. This show has captivated her imagination, inspiring her to immerse herself in the vibrant Furry community. Here, she expresses her creativity through elaborate outfits, artistic dance routines, and unique gestures, contributing to the artistic tapestry of this community.

Lily's excitement for the upcoming Furry convention next year (2024) is palpable. She is eager to meet more friends from her online community in person, strengthening the bonds she has formed over the internet. She is an active member of the Furry server on Discord, a platform that allows her to connect with new friends, join clubs and gaming groups, and engage with various art communities. It also serves as a safe space for her to plan meetings with her newfound friends.

To continue with her love for animals, Lily's fun fact is her love for taxidermy (preserving animal bodies), and all aspects of it. This hobby underscores her deep appreciation for the natural world and her desire to honor the creatures she admires.

Lily's journey in Shoreline has been enriching, allowing her to engage more with the community and make new friends. She is committed to her personal growth, striving to build her independence, manage her time effectively, and earn her own income. With the unwavering support of her friends and staff, Lily is eagerly looking forward to the opportunities and challenges that the upcoming year will bring.

Japan Adventure!

Our clients, Becky, Kat, and Shannon embarked on a journey that held the promise of fulfilling a long held dream. With the support and help of their Program Supervisor, Eric Richardson, they were set to travel to Japan in the summer of 2020, a plan that was unfortunately derailed by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the setbacks, our clients

were determined to make their dream come true.

The courage to venture into a foreign land, leaving familiar comforts behind, is commendable. Our clients demonstrated this bravery by embarking on their journey to Japan, a testament to their determination to achieve their life goals. We take immense pride in their commitment to this endeavor.

Their journey to Japan, which took place this past October (2023) for 10 days, with their current Program Supervisor, Herlina Sintauli and Case Coordinator, Rachel Johnson, was a resounding success. Despite the significant time difference, they adjusted to the rhythm of the local time. They were able to immerse themselves in the rich culture, cuisine, and attractions of Japan.

Their favorite culinary adventures included sampling the delights of Japanese BBQ and Japanese curry. They were also impressed by the cleanliness and hospitality of the Japanese people, which contributed to a memorable experience.



The highlight of their trip was undoubtedly their visit to Tokyo Disneyland. The experience was enhanced by the sight of numerous visitors dressed as their favorite characters and the assortment of theme parks, particularly the area

dedicated to *The Little Mermaid*. They also visited the Meiji Shrine and had the unique experience of renting Kimonos and exploring the Asakusa district in traditional Japanese attire.

The clients' experience in Japan was not only enjoyable, but also enlightening. They were delighted by the safety and kindness they encountered, and they look forward to returning to visit the *Harry Potter* theme park in Japan, and the cities of Osaka and Kyoto in the future.

Events & Fundraising

Holiday Party

Our annual Holiday Party, a cherished tradition of our organization, was held on December 7th at Innis Arden Clubhouse in Shoreline, WA. This joyous event was attended by our clients, staff members, and their families. We were thrilled to be able to provide 36 thoughtfully prepared stocking stuffers to our clients.

This generous initiative was made possible through the benevolent donations to Susan's Stockings, a testament to the spirit of giving that pervades our community. These stocking stuffers were greatly appreciated by our clients, and by the children who joined us at the party. The party kicked off with a potluck-style dinner, a tradition that underscores our spirit of camaraderie and shared responsibility. The atmosphere was filled with holiday music and the sounds of laughter. As the



evening progressed, we enjoyed dancing and delicious desserts.

A significant highlight of the evening was the presentations by our courageous clients. These individuals bravely stood before the assembled crowd to share their achievements from the past year, their expressions of gratitude, and how our support at Banchero had been instrumental in their journey. It was a moment of profound connection as we collectively celebrated the victories of our clients.

Another special moment was when one of our clients celebrated their birthday. We all sang "Happy Birthday" and enjoyed a beautiful cake. The birthday girl made a wish and blew out the candles, making the moment even more memorable.



To wrap up the party, our Banchero Santa distributed the beautifully decorated stockings to our clients and guests. The party ended on a high note with the Banchero team coming together to clean up. It was a

wonderful day filled with joy, celebration, and gratitude.

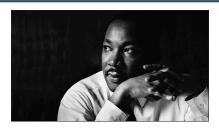
Auction 2024

Mark your calendars! This year's Heart & Soul Auction will be taking place on April 27th at the Lynnwood Event Center. Stay tuned for more details.

Board & Organizational News

We are thrilled to announce that our respected board member, Carol Gothenquist, is leading the charge in assembling a "Backyard Beautification" team for the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, to be held at the Ramsey Apartments. This initiative is a part of our ongoing commitment to transform our backyard into a vibrant and welcoming space where all our clients can partake in joyous events, such as picnics and celebrations.





Under Carol's proficient guidance, a dedicated team of volunteers is gearing up to conduct a comprehensive cleanup operation on January 14, 2024. Carol's remarkable

knack for identifying and rallying extraordinary individuals to support our cause has been a key driver in our mission. It is through such exceptional projects that we strive to enhance the quality of life for our clients, enabling them to live their lives to the fullest extent.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Carol for her ceaseless efforts and the impressive leadership she consistently demonstrates. It is through the selfless contributions of individuals like Carol that we can continue to foster an environment that our clients genuinely appreciate and enjoy.

In Memoriam

Frank Siderius, a man of admirable character and distinction, held an esteemed position as a board member of Banchero Disability Partners many years ago. His contributions extended far beyond the confines of this role, as he was an essential part of the community that supported countless causes. His instrumental involvement in our organization was particularly crucial in facilitating the acquisition of both of our residential apartment complexes.



Mr. Siderius was a man who was widely recognized and respected for the qualities that formed the essence of his character. These included his unwavering commitment to his values, the wisdom he generously shared, his pervasive kindness, his uncompromising honesty, and his distinctive sense of humor. Even in his passing, Mr. Siderius's dedication to Banchero Disability Partners remained evident. His eagerness to ensure the continuation of donations to our organization serves as a profound testament to his character and the great man that he was.

His absence will undoubtedly be deeply felt, not only by us here at Banchero Disability Partners, but also by his family and the wider community that he served with such dedication. We pay our respects to Frank Siderius, a man whose memory will resonate in our hearts and minds. Rest in peace, Frank. Your legacy will endure and your contributions will never be forgotten.