



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM OAKS OF HEBRON, INC.

## PLANNED, PART II

“DAD, YOU NEED TO MEASURE ME. I’M TALLER NOW”

Oaks of Hebron, Inc. exists to honor and glorify our Lord Jesus Christ by providing services to persons with developmental disabilities.



Jason had been living on his own for about six weeks when he came to his parents’ home for Passover. When Jason arrived, he quickly found his dad, Bob, and said “dad you need to measure me. I’m taller now”. In just six short weeks of living on his own, Jason felt very accomplished. Years in the making came to pass and Jason’s dream of independent living came true.

The idea of independent living is a nice idea, but letting go can be difficult. For Jason and his family, letting go started when Jason was enrolled in summer school. Summer school is not typical for most elementary school students, so his mother, Lois, was inclined to pull Jason out. Then she saw how the school staff interacted with Jason and how they learned from him and realized that she needed to “share” Jason. This started the “letting go” process. Lois states that “people learn a lot from Jason” and he has “a lot to offer”. So when years later, Jason mentioned independent living, Lois was already “warm” to the idea.

It would take some time for the dream to become reality because years ago living options were very limited. The two main options were to live in an apartment alone or to live in a group home, and neither option were appealing to Jason or his parents. But Jason did not limit himself and gave a group home a try. Jason had a one week “trial” at a group home and he knew right away that it was not for him. Jason really likes to access his community independently, which is not fully possible in a group home. He returned to his home and informed his parents that he would wait for the right living situation, a shared living situation.



Continued on Page 2

Being resourceful, Bob and Lois began to talk with agencies. They found that there was no format or plan for shared housing. At this time, Jason's service coordinator at North Bay Regional Center (NBRC) was Jane Carr and she had a knack for "making things happen". After five years of pursuit, Carr called one day and announced that she had a plan. The plan was a 3 bedroom home with a granny unit. This way Jason and his housemates could have a place for overnight staff to stay. Jane set up the framework and Bob and Lois started to talk with agencies to provide the on-going support. This is when they met Jane Peterson at Oaks of Hebron. Lois stated that Peterson was a miracle worker.



In the world of services for people with disabilities, there are many programs and many acronyms. All of this can be very confusing to parents. There is Section 8, IHSS, SSI, PA, CSF and the list goes on. Though very capable, most parents have a hard time decoding the programs and which one is best for their child. Peterson was able to demystify this and she created a support plan that was just perfect for Jason. This was all very reassuring to Lois and Bob.



Today, Jason is very much a part of his community. Daily he gets out to walk, attends a day time activity program, goes to the grocery store and his favorite place to visit is the thrift store. All of this has been possible because of a support team that was innovative and willing to ask "what's possible" and from government funding. We are fortunate to live in a state that values people with disabilities and funds services so they can live in the community like anyone else.

Jason, Bob and Lois gave words of encouragement to those considering independent living:

Jason: "You will feel stronger."

Bob: "It's vital to have good support staff."

Lois: "Love your child. I felt like my love for Jason would diminish, but it got stronger."

## WAYS TO GIVE



You can give to Oaks online through our website:  
[oaksofhebron.org](http://oaksofhebron.org)

Your gift is tax deductible.  
We will send a receipt for  
Online

Amazonsmile- log onto [Smile.Amazon.Com](http://Smile.Amazon.Com) and designate Oaks of Hebron as your charity and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase to Oaks of Hebron, Inc. at no cost to you.

Financial contributions may be sent by mail. Make checks payable to: Oaks of Hebron, Inc. 6950 Commerce Blvd. #7 Rohnert Park, CA 94928

# WHAT CAN WE HAUL FOR YOU?

Oaks of Hebron received a grant to expand out recycling services and were able to purchase another truck; so we have power to haul! We can haul your old furniture to the thrift store, recycle mattresses, clean out the junk in your garage or backyard and haul it to the dump, we can deliver landscape material to your home, deliver new furniture, the list goes on. What can we haul for you?

Fee is based on location and items being hauled.

**For pricing and scheduling, contact Laisenia "Lai" at:**

**[growingtogether@oaksofhebron.org](mailto:growingtogether@oaksofhebron.org)**

**707-795-5927 ext. 107**



## PUMPKINS

Growing Together Farm is growing pumpkins and is taking preorders. You are already planning to purchase pumpkins this fall, why not order from our farm? Our pumpkins are organic, sustainably raised and you will be supporting a good cause.



Small/medium: \$7.00

Large: \$10.00

## CSA BASKETS

There's still time to subscribe for a CSA basket. When you sign up for a subscription, you will receive 2 baskets (half or full) of produce a month. Each basket includes seasonal produce, eggs and for an extra special touch, a bouquet of flowers.

**Half Basket: \$30.00 monthly**

**Full Basket: \$60.00 monthly**

**Send your order for CSA Baskets or pumpkins to:**

**[growingtogether@oaksofhebron.org](mailto:growingtogether@oaksofhebron.org)**

**Or call Laisenia "Lai" Qarase at 707-795-5927 ext. 107**

## SCHOLARSHIP

The Katie Kranz Scholarship was created to honor the life and ambition of Katie Kranz. Katie, the daughter to Steve and Carol the founders of Oaks of Hebron, grew up with Oaks of Hebron and the clients served became like family. After volunteering with social and rec activities, Katie became employed as a personal assistant. Through Katie's influence, several of her friends were recruited to volunteer and work at Oaks. In August 1996 Katie was tragically killed in an auto accident. Her death left gaps in many people's hearts and in the ministry of Oaks of Hebron. In recognition of Katie's life and commitment to people with developmental disabilities, the staff at Oaks of Hebron established a memorial fund. If you or someone you know is pursuing a college education that will lead to working with people with disabilities, then you are encouraged to apply for the Katie Kranz Scholarship. For more information or to apply, send an email to: [Oaks1@oaksofhebron.org](mailto:Oaks1@oaksofhebron.org)

## OAKS OF HEBRON, INC.

### SERVING PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

#### SERVICES PROVIDED

Supported & Independent Living Services: Lori Fox, Program Director

Growing Together: Adult Development Farm Program: Laisenia "Lai" Qarase, Coordinator

Tailored Day Services: Eric Martin, Executive Director

We are available to assist individuals and families with needs pertaining to developmental disabilities. Please feel free to call our office or visit our website for information.