



## **“An Opportune Moment When Change is Possible”**

### *Kairos Opens*

On May 6, 2011, the ribbon was cut on Kairos, SOASTC’s newest program. Mayor Mike Murphy, Rich Ward, and Kelsy Ausland joined Bob Lieberman in marking the opening of this residential treatment home for young adults age 17 through 24.

The residents will all be from southern Oregon (Josephine, Jackson, Coos, Curry, and Klamath Counties) and will receive help and support in making the transition towards adulthood. Staff will help them learn to navigate the work and/or education worlds and to develop skills that will enable them to live independently in the community. Some of the young adults will be going to RCC; others may be helped to develop work skills through a linkage with the supported employment program operated by Options of Southern Oregon, a partner in this effort.

The home was beautifully furnished and decorated by Michelle Richardson, our Chief Operating Officer. It is designed to be a comfortable environment that conveys a sense of personal value to its residents, while being attuned to the developmental considerations of the age group it will house.

*Kairos* is Greek for “an opportune moment when change can happen”. SOASTC’s treatment philosophy has always emphasized the importance of each moment as a time when something can happen that can make a long-term difference. The thirteen staff of Kairos, some of whom transferred from other parts of the organization, will help this new aptly named program implement that philosophy.



*Kairos- a residential treatment home for young adults*



*Ribbon cutting ceremony with Mayor Mike Murphy*



*Kairos living room*



*Kairos dining room*

## From the Executive Director, *Bob Lieberman*

May was Mental Health Awareness month. Once again this year we celebrated in Grants Pass on May 6<sup>th</sup> with a luncheon instead of a breakfast, which we called “The Celebration of Hope”. There was much to celebrate.

We celebrated that children are resilient and that for children with mental health challenges we can build on that resilience to help them recover. We celebrated the community of supporters that understand that children and families need opportunities to develop skills and overcome their challenges. We celebrated the voice of resilience, listening to several of the youth we serve describe their experiences, their successes, and their hopes.

There was much to celebrate in regards to the agency’s accomplishments as well. In the past year, we have opened a second day treatment classroom in Coos County housed in an elementary school, hired a new child psychiatrist and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, been involved in learning the latest research and evidence-based approaches, and opened Kairos, a residential treatment home for young adults (described also in this newsletter). During this time of growth our performance on our audits and clinical reviews has remained excellent. All this is reflective of a great staff group that works continuously to help youth, young adults, and families rediscover hope and find solutions.

We are guided in this by a dedicated and thoughtful Board of Directors. Our Board and management staff have begun to look to the future and are in the process of developing a five year plan. Part of this has entailed refreshing our mission and values statements and creation of a five year vision, which you will find elsewhere in this newsletter. The Board has also established four strategic priorities for reaching this vision. They are:

- Recruit and retain the highest quality staff.
- Enhance organizational capacity for clinical effectiveness and business efficiency.
- Increase community awareness regarding children’s mental health and SOASTC’s work.
- Increase access through service development and collaboration.

Despite these positive developments, we of course are very concerned about the looming budget cuts. The agency growth in the past two years has created financial stability, but we continue to rely on financial support to help bridge the gap between reimbursement rates and the cost of delivering services. The generous support of individuals and businesses – of all of you – is critical for us to continue the very important work we are doing of helping children overcome the ravages of overwhelming stress and trauma and grow up to lead productive lives in the community. Please use the form below and help us celebrate our work, their resilience, and our community’s hope for the future.

**Please mail this form and your check to:**

**SOASTC  
Development Department  
715 SW Ramsey Avenue  
Grants Pass, OR 97527**

**Donations can also be made at our website:  
[www.soastc.org](http://www.soastc.org)**

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# Celebration of Hope Luncheons—Coastline and Grants Pass



Coastline Services Speaker

On March 31<sup>st</sup> SOASTC Coastline hosted its first Celebration of Hope luncheon in Coos Bay and then on May 6th SOASTC hosted the Grants Pass Celebration of Hope. Both of these lunches oriented the community to the various services provided by SOASTC, and the guests listened to real life stories from the youth and families who have been in the programs.

At both luncheons it was truly heartwarming to see the anxious speakers being supported and spurred on by their accompanying family and staff members. Few eyes remained completely dry as the youth discussed their personal challenges, ongoing struggles, and hopes for the future. These events captured the heart of the work the SOASTC has been doing in the community, and the incredible life-changing impact these services and supports are making in the lives of the children, young adults and their families.



Grants Pass Speaker

The following is a portion of a speech given at both luncheons, by a former client, who is now a member of SOASTC's Board of Directors:

*"...I'm not going to say SOASTC is a perfect program or that some kids don't want help, but for kids like me, they gave me an amazing break and made a world of difference and looking back I wouldn't change a thing. SOASTC helped me when I wasn't just on the edge of the cliff - I was hanging over it and barely holding on.*

*Now I have graduated from SOASTC and am on the Board of Directors and am the youngest Board member. I guess you could say I'm on top of the world. Even though I might have a hiccup now and then, because of SOASTC I can make it through."*

## Join us for Sunday Brunches at Wooldridge Creek Winery

Once a month throughout the summer, Wooldridge Creek Winery will host a five course wine pairing brunch at one of the prettiest wineries in the Applegate Valley.

### ***The dates of the brunches are:***

- Sunday, June 26th, 10 am to 1 pm
- Sunday, July 10th, 10 am to 1 pm
- Sunday, August 14th, 10 am to 1 pm
- Sunday, September 18th, 10 am to 1 pm

Ten percent of all food and wine sales will go to SOASTC. The cost is \$50 per person. For additional information, go to [www.fulcrumdining.com](http://www.fulcrumdining.com) or to make a reservation, please email [fulcrumdining@gmail.com](mailto:fulcrumdining@gmail.com).



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***We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board of Directors  
for their time, service and commitment to our agency.***

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