Greetings from United Friends Board of Directors

In April 2016, the Board announced with great pleasure that Rick Massey accepted the Executive Director position for United Friends. This was an internal promotion for Rick who has worked at United Friends since 2010, first as House Manager and then Program Director at Beverly Park Group Home. In November 2014, Rick assumed the Program Director responsibilities at Crown Hill as well as Beverly Park. Rick then served as Interim Executive Director beginning in January 2016.

At United Friends, Rick has demonstrated effective leadership and training expertise that has contributed greatly to new staff orientation and continuing education programs.

Since the first home opened in 1978, residents at UFGH have enjoyed the best of home and community due to the guidance and oversight of UFGH Board members and volunteers. If you have the passion to see this continue or know of someone who does, please consider joining one of our committees or the Board and contact me with potential candidates.

We'd also like you to come and join us at Crown Hill Group Home on Saturday, September 10, 2016 for the United Friends annual picnic. Meet and welcome Rick and enjoy this fun and food-filled social event with the residents, family, friends, and staff.

Delores Kannas
deloresk@uw.edu
(206)794-2151

Picnic & Party September 10, 2016
Crown Hill Group Home
9523 15th Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98117
(206) 782-4293

We Want YOU!

Join us as we picnic and party on Saturday, September 10, 2016 @ 12:30 p.m. at Crown Hill Group Home. Eat, sing and laugh as we karaoke to resident favorites. Who knows—we may hear from Elvis! UFGH will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, beverages, dessert, cups, plates, and utensils. Please invite friends and family and bring a side dish for 12 to share.
Summer in Seattle, in other words “Paradise”, has arrived and the residents of all three houses are excited about everything that means. When asked about their favorite summer activities, the responses included:

“Picnic” - Donna Wells (Lincoln Park)
“Baseball” – avid Mariners fan, Judy Madison (Crown Hill)
“Visiting my brother” – Terri Jeffcoat (Beverly Park)
“Camp” – Janet Innes (Lincoln Park)

Summer offers so many community activities for the residents. Each house is seeking supplemental staffing to ensure all residents have the opportunity to live each day to the fullest. Please help us accomplish this. If you know somebody that could use a bit of supplemental summer income and would love to enrich the lives of some truly wonderful and unique individuals, have them contact me for further details.

Finally an update on the challenges ahead. The reason I ask for job seekers is that vacant positions are becoming impossible to fill. In January 2017, large employers in Seattle must increase minimum wages to $15/hr while small employers like UFGH must increase to $13/hr. This creates two big problems for UFGH. The first is finding qualified staff. The reason residents thrive is because we try to hire and keep the best employees. Since the City of Seattle mandated wage increases have begun, it’s become much harder to attract qualified staff --Target and McDonalds pay $2/hr more.

The second problem is financial. The state of Wa reimburses UFGH for staff wages. Thus far, the state legislature has only increased compensation by $.60/hr over the past two years while we have had to increase by $1/hr. Consequently, UFGH has had to dip into reserves to comply with city mandates.

As concerned friends and family, we want to keep you informed of the challenges we face. Please help by contacting your state legislator regarding this urgent problem and by donating to UFGH.

Rick Massey, Executive Director
UFGH
(rick@ufgh.org)
**Beverly Park**

Beverly Park residents celebrated spring with exciting outdoor activities—the Folklife Festival, Burien’s Strawberry Festival, The Father’s Day Car Show as well as spontaneous outings like the farmer’s market. The residents especially loved musical performances and exploring the festivals for delicious food!

On the artistic side, Floyd, Molly, and Tracy took a stroll around Winston Wachter Art Museum and saw unique paintings and sculptures from different artists all around Seattle. Floyd continues to express his artistic side by making beautiful paintings at Des Moines Senior Center weekly with a close friend and also at home.

When the sun shines brightly, Molly and Tracy enjoy sitting outside the front porch and humming in the sun. J. Terri, Tracy, and Molly adore checking our garden tomatoes, broccoli, green beans, celery, cucumber, and peas! Staff tends the garden daily. Staff and residents love seeing our wonderful veggies grow bigger and bigger. The SeaTac Botanical Garden was also a pleasure for our residents to see. We definitely plan on going again soon! There are many events Beverly Park residents are looking forward to this summer. Stay tuned!

**Lincoln Park**

Were the rainy days of a Seattle spring dreary? No way—according to Lincoln Park residents. They were too enthralled watching Lincoln Park Staff act out the “Wizard of Oz”. They especially enjoyed her version of the Wicked Witch of the West, the Munchkins, and Toto. The residents then joined in a sing-a-long, “Somewhere Over the Rainbow Bluebirds Fly…”

Speaking of birds…with the sun shining and warm breezes of summer, Lincoln Park residents become “birders”. In outings to the actual Lincoln Park, they listen and look through binoculars for birds perched in the trees.

**Crown Hill**

Crown Hill residents welcomed spring by visiting the Seattle Center for the Seattle Cherry Blossom Festival and Japanese Cultural Festival. There was live music, a martial arts performance, origami paper folding, arts and crafts, games, and a Japanese tea ceremony. It was a warm and beautiful day. Everyone enjoyed sitting out in the sun in front of the fountain.

Now that summer is here, residents at Crown Hill have been taking advantage of the good weather. They’ve been exploring the city and local parks and relaxing out on the patio with a cold beverage. Judy Madison will be visiting her sister in Forks for the Fourth of July and is looking forward to spending time with her family, and of course, seeing the fireworks. Everyone is getting excited for the annual visit to Camp Parkview, a whole week of fun filled activities out on Vashon Island. We have three upcoming birthdays this summer, Carla Bailey turned 52 on June 28th, Paul Gilly is turning 70!!! on August 7th and Debbie Naccarato will be 54 on August 27th.
JOIN IN SUPPORTING OUR RESIDENTS

You can share in supporting the life and activities of United Friends Residents. There are various ways to contribute:

You may provide a monetary gift, with a check sent to: UFGH, PO Box 17017, Seattle, WA 98127, or you may contribute using your credit card via PayPal. You can easily access PayPal by clicking on the Donate icon on our website: www.ufgh.org. You can even set it up for an ongoing monthly contribution.

You can contribute to UFGH while shopping online! Do you order from Amazon.com? Please consider becoming a member of the AmazonSmile rewards program (designating UFGH as your preferred charity). It’s so easy! Instead of going to www.amazon.com, go to www.smile.amazon.com and designate United Friends Group Homes as your supported charity. You get the same great deals; UFGH gets a percentage of your overall order.

When shopping locally at Fred Meyer, you can designate a portion of your shopping total to directly assist UFGH through Fred Meyer’s Community Rewards Program. Just go to www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and designate UFGH as your preferred charity. Our ID# is 86108.

Help out on a designated “Clean-Up” or “Keep it Green” Volunteer Day.

Coordinate the donations of items on our wish list:

- Hand tools (especially garden tools)
- Steam cleaner
- Dishes/Glasses (microwave/dishwasher safe)
- DVDs, CDs, Blu-Rays *
- Gently used reliable laptops
- Arts/Crafts supplies
- Vacuum
- Sturdy outdoor chairs
- Pots/Pans/Skillets/Cooking utensils
- Puzzles, games *
- Unused gift cards

*must be appropriate for UFGH Residents

To donate any of these items or ask about other items, please contact: Rick Massey; rick@ufgh.org

Thank you!

Information:

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As concerned friends and family, we want to keep you informed of the challenges facing UFGH. Please help by contacting your state legislator regarding this very urgent problem, and by donating to UFGH.