

Newsflash

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Oregon Business Magazine Award Winner
for best medium-sized nonprofit
to work for in the state!
2010, 2011 & 2012
and
Alfred P. Sloan Award Winner 2011 & 2012

Sprout Film Festival in Bend on May 10th!

If you live on the west side of the mountain, you already enjoyed the Sprout film festival on March 15th. Those on the east side of the mountain can look forward to Sprout at the Tower Theatre on May 10th. But rather than talk about the actual event, we want to share with you the idea behind Sprout, and how over time gradual exposure to new ideas can affect change.

Sprout was founded in 2003. Based out of New York, it is a traveling film festival that features films starring and sometimes created by people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Their tagline of “making the invisible visible” perfectly embodies what the film festival is about. By taking a historically marginalized group of people and giving them the spotlight, Sprout showcases achievements and talents, highlights alternate perspectives, and breaks down misconceptions of differences by showing similarities.

Kimberly Sellmann, Assistant Director of Full Access in Central Oregon, first brought the film festival to Bend in 2007. This will be the 7th year of hosting Sprout in Central Oregon. Sprout has also been showcased in the Eugene community for 6 years and is well received there each year. The idea behind bringing Sprout to the community was to provide a window for the general public to look into the world of people with disabilities, and perhaps be exposed for the first time to the array of possibilities within disability. We cannot change attitudes all at once, but over time and by providing the experience, we learn what can be accomplished. Each year as we sit in that dark theater and look out at the faces in the audience, we know each person is learning something new and expanding their frame of reference.

It does not matter if your role is parent, provider, professional, or if you are a person who experiences a disability. We all must continually challenge ourselves to ensure we are seeing all the possibilities and looking at the whole person and their abilities. We all have something we can learn and something we can teach. If you don't have the chance to attend Sprout this year, challenge yourself to watch a movie about people of different abilities, read a book written by someone who did something they were told they could not do, visit a self advocacy website or blog. Or better yet, take the time to sit down with someone who experiences the world in a way that is unique and beautiful, and really listen to their perspective; we promise you that from doing this you will grow. The results may not be immediate, but you will begin to plant seeds to welcome new ideas and changes.

Happy Birthday to:

Mark A		Christy R		James Henry D		Michael K		Ryan L
Adam P		Craig N		Jamie C		Mindy P		Sean E
Andrew C		Daniel C		Jannel L		Mitch E		Shari B
Angela S		David W		Jessica J		Nicole P		Shirley E
Bradley M		Elaine U		Jessica P		Paul K		Skippur S
Cathy S		Emily W		Judith J		Rachel L		Sky C
	Charles I	Gary B		Kathy S		Rebecca R		Skyler M
	Christopher J	Izzy F		Kendra L		Rhonda E		Wanda D

Happy Birthday

And to anyone we may have missed!!

Happy Birthday

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