

Happiness lives at Peppermint Ridge!

2010 Annual Report



Serving Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Since 1959



HELLO FRIENDS!

I've been trying to find a word that best characterizes Peppermint Ridge; one that encompasses what we're about. "Care" is a good one, as is "love," but simply put, "happiness" seems to say it all. Happiness is a result of caring and loving, compassion and empathy, joy and acceptance...the invaluable human feelings we all need to give and receive...and we certainly have it here at The Ridge. Thus, our 2010 Annual Report theme, "Happiness lives at Peppermint Ridge!"

This theme extended to what I believe was a pivotal year for us in 2010. Dudley Home opened, and is operating almost at capacity. We made significant progress on updating and renovating our homes, including full kitchen remodels in Roger Residence and Garrison House. We met our fundraising goals for the year, and our financial performance was quite a bit better than the year before. All of our homes met quality goals in their annual licensing surveys.

During 2010, the Board of Directors welcomed four new members: Susan Pierce, whose son resides in one of our Intermediate Care homes, and Jim Bradley, who returned after previous service on the Board. Also joining the Board were two representatives of the United Church of Christ: the Rev. Phil Robb and the Rev. Jonathan Vincent. As of April 1, 2010, I transitioned from the position of Interim Executive Director to that of ongoing Executive Director.

Peppermint Ridge is a faith-based organization. While we operate independently, we have a mutual relationship with the United Church of Christ, as a Covenanted Ministry of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the UCC. As a minister in the UCC, I often represent Peppermint Ridge at gatherings of the churches and events such as the installations of ministers, and I also visit (and sometimes preach at) local churches throughout the Conference. In many cases, I am working to re-establish cordial relations that were founded by one of my predecessors, Jean Powers.

Now, in 2011, Peppermint Ridge and many other organizations are facing astounding cuts in state funding. Jean often reminds me that Peppermint Ridge has risen to countless challenges throughout its existence. Our Scriptures remind us that much of what we worry about, as well as the things we are so proud of, are all transitory. However, we find our stability in the things that do not change: "Faith, hope, love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love."

Thank you for your faith, hope and love. We could not be Peppermint Ridge without them.



Executive Director
Peppermint Ridge

FINANCIAL REPORT

December 31, 2010

Happiness lives
at **Peppermint Ridge!**

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Program Service Fees	\$5,585,548
Contributions	408,458
Rent (HUD)	77,768
Interest and Dividend Income	29,572
Special Event Income	43,841
Other Income	4,492
Investment Income	51,835
TOTAL	\$6,201,514

OPERATING EXPENSE

Program Services	\$5,226,628
Management	858,261
Fundraising	99,497
Legal Expense	14,666
TOTAL	\$6,199,052

Increase (decrease) in Net Assets \$ 2,462

CHANGE IN POSITION

	12/31/10	12/31/09	Change
Total Assets	\$3,695,295	\$3,737,960	(\$42,665)
Total Liabilities	\$1,784,621	\$1,829,748	\$45,127
CHANGE			\$ 2,462



Held in November, the 5th Annual Love Walk raised \$33,000 net to support client activities and general operations. (top left) Greg Mills, Inland Empire reporter and Diane Dillon, Love Walk Chairperson.

PEPPERMINT RIDGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

as of March 2011

CHAIRMAN: Barbara Aranguren

VICE CHAIRMAN: David Waltemeyer

SECRETARY: Jonathan Vincent

TREASURER: Steve Dwight

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Steve Bailey	Susan Pierce
Jim Bradley	Jean W. Powers
Margaret Dudley	Philip Robb
George Guayante	Michael Ryan
Richard Mandel	Roy M. Vander Kallen
Richard Nay	

MEMBER EMERITUS: Mary Jeffery

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OUR MISSION:

Peppermint Ridge provides loving homes and empowering support services for individuals with developmental disabilities, gently guiding these special people toward greater independence and fuller participation in the community.

Peppermint Ridge is a United Way participating agency and a member of the United Church of Christ Council for Health and Human Service Ministries.

SHARE A SMILE WITH OUR RIDGERS

Just like all of us, our Ridgers have their own unique life stories.

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Doug W's experience at The Ridge comes full circle...

Doug Wilson has been affiliated with the Ridge for more than 35 years. When he moved to the Ridge shortly after it opened, he was in his 20s. In 1986, he married Connie W., a fellow Ridger. During their very happy marriage they lived on their own in Corona. When Connie passed away in 2002, Doug moved to Casa Grande, a local retirement community.



In 2010, Doug moved back to campus and now lives in Del Park Manor. "The timing of his return could not have been more perfect," said Stella Zapata, Facility Manager. Long time Ridge resident, Donnie C., had just passed away. "It was like an angel took Donnie and sent Doug so we would not be quite as sad." Doug recently retired from Taco Bell and now enjoys singing and fraternizing with his friends at Inland Empire Adult Day Program in Corona. ●

Johanna N's enthusiasm...

Johanna joined Dudley Residence in October 2010. At 21, she's a typical young lady: she loves to shop, dance, and talk on the phone. Johanna is the life of the party, eager to meet new people and expand her social network. She attends Eleanor Roosevelt High in Norco and aspires to get a job or perhaps go to college. Her bubbly personality and willingness to be a friend has brought her roommate, Jeanne H, out of her shell. They are very close and share many hours together. ●



John R's dream finally realized...

Every time John was asked how he was doing, he'd reply, "I am working on my skills for independent living." After 33 years of living at The Ridge, this possibility finally came true: John now has his own apartment in Corona and thriving on his own! ●



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Sheryl U's mother reflects...

"We are so thankful for Peppermint Ridge" says Alice, Sheryl's mom. "We came to see the Ridge campus on Magnolia in Corona in 1975 while the campus was still being constructed. We were determined to hate it because we were not ready to let Sheryl go; she was only 13.



But after meeting Mary Jeffery and the rest of the staff, we LOVED it and thought Sheryl would too. For a few months, she'd cry when we took her back to Conner Residence. It was heart-wrenching! We knew Sheryl was content the day we said we were going back to The Ridge and she signed, "friends." After 35 years, Sheryl continues to be happy at Conner Residence. ●

Charlie H, a fond farewell...

In January 2010, we bid a reluctant goodbye to long-time resident Charlie H. For his parents, the drive to Corona from Santa Barbara for visits and meetings had become too much. Now Charlie is living happily in a group setting near his parent's home. We're glad for Charlie and his folks, but we still miss him! ●



Dustin D, growing up...

Coming to The Ridge in June 2010, was a big step for our youngest Ridger. Now 19 years old, Dustin resides in Villa Vadnais and attends Corona High. He likes all of his housemates, but has found a true friend



in Joshua C. His mother is relieved because she knows Dustin is becoming more independent. "It makes me happy that he feels he doesn't need me around all the time. I know he's doing just fine when I drop him off and he wants me to leave. At Villa Vadnais he has friends for the first time in his life." ●

Juanita C. rebounds...

Juanita joined the PR family in May 2010. Shortly after arriving at Garrison House, she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease which helped explain her sudden fear of walking and her diminishing ability to speak. In November 2010, it was decided by her Inter Disciplinary Team that Evergreen would be a more suitable setting. With the help of some medication changes and a lot of TLC, a more self-assured Juanita slowly emerged. She now will walk with minimal staff assistance, board the bus to go to her day program and interact with her peers. ●



SUPPORTING THE RIDGE

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The much-appreciated understanding and generosity of individuals and organizations help Peppermint Ridge continue to be a beneficial resource for the community.

The Community Foundation Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties supports the The Ridge...again!

Because of a gift of \$9,817 from the James Bernard and Mildred Jordan Tucker Fund, administered by the Foundation, Peppermint Ridge was able to purchase 10 wheelchairs and renovate the second bathroom in Del Park Manor so that it is ADA accessible. What a difference a more user-friendly bathroom will make to the men and the staff at Del Park. The wheelchairs are a lifesaver when needed. Due to the generosity of the Foundation, Mark H. has new-found freedom. ●



Dudley Home opening expands opportunity to serve adults in need

July 6, 2010 marked the opening of the twelfth home operated by Peppermint Ridge. It is located in the Eagle Glen area of Corona.

Purchased through the generosity of Bob and Peggy Dudley and many other faithful donors, Dudley Home enabled The Ridge to double its capacity (from 6 beds to 12 beds), to help individuals who need an Intermediate Care Facility with an emphasis in Nursing (ICF-N).

Because of this home, one Ridge resident was able to transfer to Dudley when his needs changed, a second resident was able to return to The Ridge and three adults were able to join the Ridge family. ●

RIDGERS ARE BUSY PEOPLE!

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One of the goals of Peppermint Ridge is to expand the world of each Ridger to the extent they are able, and encourage their participation in supervised, regularly scheduled and special activities, both on-campus and off. They thrive from the opportunity!

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES:

- Monday Night Fitness was attended by an average of 20 Ridgers per session.
- Aqua Aerobics was held on Tuesday nights from June through August, with an average of 12 Ridgers per session.
- The popular "Ridge Riders" Equestrian Program moved to the "No Drama Ranch" in Norco and grew to serve 21 Ridgers.
- Common Ground of Corona continued hosting monthly birthday celebrations with an average of 18 Ridgers in attendance.



Ridge Riders: (top) Tina A. of Aspen House, (left) Darlyn E. of Conner Residence, (right) Gene C. of C Home.

- Venturing Crew meetings were held two times a month with an average of 25 Ridgers in attendance. Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America that has been adapted to serve residents. Venturing's purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults.

- Seymour the Therapy Dog and his trusty friend, Rod, visited Ridgers who lived on campus as well as residents in Garrison House and Villa Vadnais.

- Chapel services were held twice a month. Average attendance was 12. Ridgers also attended services at local churches, including First Baptist Church and Crossroads Church.



- Stress Management Sessions were held weekly. An average of 50 Ridgers attended.
- Arts & Crafts sessions were well received with an average of 22 Ridgers participating each month.

Gary D. of Villa Vadnais and Anne Marie C. of C Home.

WE'RE BLESSED!

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We are so thankful for the many ways the community embraces Peppermint Ridge and our Ridgers. It encourages us in the work we do and expands the world of our Ridgers.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

- Peppermint Ridge hosted two Inland Regional Center Self-Advocacy Committee meetings. About 20 Ridgers participated from the surrounding area.
- Clients enjoyed a trip to San Clemente Pier on the Metrolink. Approximately 10 Ridgers enjoyed the ride.
- Eight Ridgers went skiing with United States Adaptive Recreation in Big Bear.
- Local Girl Scout Troop 149 hosted a carnival and a movie night for about 20 Ridgers.
- Christian Arts Theater of Corona had two special performances in Angel Hall. These were thoroughly enjoyed by the 30 Ridgers who watched.
- Various Ridgers attended Pilgrim Pines Camp, Crossroads Weekend Camp and Crossroads Day Camp. In total, about 80 Ridgers enjoyed these programs.
- The Southern California-Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ Youth Group hosted a "Funtastic Festi-Fall" for about 30 Ridgers.



(top, left to right) Laura B. of Roger Residence, Gene C. of C Home and Anthony Stallworth (staff); (right) Mary L and John M. both of Roger Residence.



- The Rejoicers Choir, made up of Ridgers who love to sing, performed at 4 churches.
- The Annual Thanksgiving feast was cooked and served by a cadre of volunteers. Sixty Ridgers enjoyed the fellowship and food.
- Clients enjoyed several parties throughout the year hosted by the American Legion, Saddleback Church, Corona, and the International Church of Christ. About 85 Ridgers participated.



(left) Missy S. of C Home (in hat); (bottom, left to right) Johanna N. of Dudley Home, Jim S. of Dudley Home, Mary L. of Roger Residence, Danny H. of Roger Residence, Michael O. of C Home.



RIDGERS WE WILL SURELY MISS

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Each Ridger is very dear to the Peppermint Ridge staff and to other Ridgers. Their passing leaves a significant mark on the hearts of us all.

DONNIE C.

April 20, 1946 – November 30, 2010

On November 30, 2010, Peppermint Ridge regretfully said goodbye to long-time resident and employee, Donnie C. For more than 25 years, Donnie faithfully washed and folded clothes for those Ridgers who lived on campus. He continued his service to the residents of Del Park when the central laundry was closed in 2008. Donnie was very proud of his paycheck and always kept \$5 in his pocket so he could purchase a much-enjoyed cheeseburger and Diet Coke. ●



Donnie was very proud of the watch he was awarded in 2004 commending 25 years of service to Peppermint Ridge.



Pricila's smile was so contagious. She will be missed.

PRICILA L.

November 11, 1945 – February 10, 2010

On February 10, 2010 Peppermint Ridge bid farewell to Pricila "Prissy" L. when she passed away suddenly. A resident of Evergreen since 2008, her diminutive stature and gentle nature made her very endearing to Ridgers and staff alike. ●

The Peppermint Ridge community misses Pricila and Donnie and we extend our condolences to their families.