



# FOUNDATION NEWS

SPRING 2008 VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

## IMAGINE! CELEBRATION BRINGS IN \$335,000 FOR PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE DISABILITIES

On January 25, 350 friends and supporters of Imagine! gathered at the Millennium Harvest House in Boulder for the seventh annual Imagine! Celebration Dinner and Auction. Thanks to the generosity of event sponsors and attendees, the celebration was a resounding success, bringing in more than \$335,000 for people with cognitive disabilities. This is by far the most money the event has ever raised. *For more photos of the event, see page 4.*

An initial \$235,000 was received through table and ticket sales, sponsorships, a silent auction, a live auction, and a special appeal. Then the evening was capped by the surprise announcement that Imagine! Foundation founder and board member Bob Charles and his wife Judy would contribute \$100,000 toward the development of Imagine!'s Boulder SmartHome. The Boulder home will be named the "Bob and Judy Charles SmartHome" in recognition of this significant gift.

The SmartHome will provide permanent housing for individuals with physical, cognitive, and developmental disabilities, and will incorporate cutting edge residential technologies to enhance the quality of life for consumers, augment the effectiveness of staff as caregivers, and provide cost and energy savings for Imagine! *For more information on Imagine!'s SmartHomes, visit [www.imaginesmarthomes.org](http://www.imaginesmarthomes.org).*

A highlight of the Imagine! Celebration was the presentation of two annual awards. This year, Gerald Stopa was named Consumer of the Year, and Boulder Community Hospital was honored with the Distinguished Donor Award. As always, local businesses provided invaluable support to ensure the success of the event. Gold Sponsors included Colorado Business Bank, Flood & Peterson Insurance, and Signature Offset. Imagine! is grateful to all of our caring sponsors, table donors, and attendees. *For a list of sponsors, see page 5.*

The Imagine! Foundation would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to all of the people who made the Imagine! Celebration such an outstanding event, with special appreciation to the incomparable Imagine! Celebration Committee members and Event Chairperson Debbie Paul. *For the complete list of Committee members, see page 5.*



*During the seventh annual Imagine! Celebration Dinner and Auction, longtime Imagine! supporters Bob and Judy Charles announced a pledge of \$100,000 to go toward the development of Imagine!'s Boulder SmartHome.*



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT: BOB AND JUDY CHARLES


**BOB WAS THE  
FOUNDER OF  
THE IMAGINE!  
FOUNDATION,  
WHICH HAS  
RAISED MORE  
THAN  
\$2,000,000  
OVER THE PAST  
SEVEN YEARS.**

Bob and Judy Charles' \$100,000 gift to Imagine! for the newly named Bob and Judy Charles SmartHome is the latest contribution that this generous couple has made to Imagine! and the local community.

Bob and Judy have been Boulder County residents since 1965. Bob owned and operated 13 local McDonald's Restaurants, and is credited with the development of the "Happy Meal" and the double drive-through concept. Bob has served on many

advisory boards of various institutions and non-profits and has received countless awards from the community for his leadership and generosity, including The Community Foundation's Stan Black Award, which honors "an individual who has shown a lifetime of commitment of time, talent, and treasure to the nonprofit community."

Bob was the founder of the Imagine! Foundation in 2000. During the past seven years, the Foundation has raised more

than \$2,000,000, purchased five staffed homes for Imagine! consumers, and paid down more than half the mortgages on those homes. In addition to housing, the Foundation has also provided support for all of Imagine!'s programs including early intervention, after school and summer camp, day services, recreation, and employment. Many thanks from all of us to Bob and Judy for their commitment to Imagine! and its mission to support people with cognitive disabilities. 

## DONOR RECOGNITION RECEPTION SET FOR APRIL 23


**JOIN US AS WE  
CELEBRATE THE  
MANY  
GENEROUS  
DONORS WHO  
HAVE BEEN SO  
INSTRUMENTAL  
IN HELPING  
IMAGINE! TO  
SERVE PEOPLE  
WITH  
COGNITIVE  
DISABILITIES.**

Imagine! and the Imagine! Foundation are eagerly readying the lobby of Imagine!'s Coal Creek Conference Center for the first ever Donor Recognition Reception on Wednesday evening, April 23, 2008. The event will honor Bob and Judy Charles, Betty Eldridge and family, and Walt and Linda Pounds for their significant contributions to Imagine!, and will also recognize those who have included

Imagine! in their wills and the nearly 100 donors of \$5,000 or more since the Foundation began in 2000.

The entire east lobby of the Coal Creek Conference Center will become a permanent donor recognition area through the efforts of artist John Haertling. Haertling is creating a Donor Wall for those in the \$5,000+ category, an Imagine! Promise sculpture for those who have listed Imagine! in

their wills, signage for the Walt and Linda Pounds Conference Room and the Tom and Betty Eldridge Conference Room, and a "Book Nook" containing an alphabetical list of all donors to Imagine! since 2000. Citron Workspaces is also contributing furniture and design consulting for the area.

Mark your calendar now, and please join us as we celebrate Imagine!'s many generous donors. 

## MEET GERALD STOPA: IMAGINE!'S 2007 CONSUMER OF THE YEAR

At the age of 45, Gerald Stopa is learning to read. The enthusiastic and ambitious effort he cheerfully puts into this challenging task provides some insight as to why Gerald has been honored as Imagine!'s 2007 Consumer of the Year. Gerald has improved his ability to express his needs throughout the years, but now that he has the supports in place to assist with his communication, his confidence and independence are blossoming. Gerald uses a Dynavox speech-generating device that has allowed him to progress from communicating with short two or three word

statements to full thoughts and ideas.

With the help of his Dynavox, Gerald said, "All my life I have had to rely on people around me to help me accomplish things I needed done. My choices were completely reliant on the timing and the ability and understanding of my staff. Over the past few months, I've been able to control my own lights, TV, movies, music, and make calls over the Internet."

Gerald has experienced an explosion of growth since he began residing at Imagine!'s Tech PCA. Jen Chiappa, the Program Coordinator for Tech PCA, has seen many

positive changes in Gerald's life in the three years that she has known him. She recalls that he used to have a manual wheelchair that required staff assistance for going anywhere. Now Gerald has a motorized chair that he operates with a head switch. He is able to take excursions around his neighborhood without staff assistance and can get around his house on his own.

All of us at Imagine! congratulate Gerald for his desire to continue to learn, and we thank the dedicated staff members who work with Gerald for providing the supports that help him to reach his full potential.



*Imagine!'s 2007 Consumer of the Year, Gerald Stopa, receives his award from Imagine! CEO John Taylor at the Imagine! Celebration Dinner and Auction.*

## IMAGINE! SERVED MORE THAN 2,300 CONSUMERS IN 2007

If you've been feeling as if Imagine! just keeps growing and growing, you are not mistaken! In 2007, Imagine! served more than 2,300 consumers, close to 200 more than in the previous year.

Imagine! needs your help

to continue to meet the needs of our growing population. There are numerous ways for you to volunteer your time or to make a donation. We especially encourage you to consider adding a gift to Imagine! in your estate plan

to help us build for the future.

To learn more about how you can help, visit Imagine!'s website at [www.imaginecolorado.org](http://www.imaginecolorado.org), and click on "How to Help."

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YEAR.**



## A NIGHT OF CELEBRATION

*More than just a fundraiser, Imagine!'s Celebration Dinner and Auction is held to commemorate the organization's successes in the past year, as well as to honor some of its shining stars. Below are just a few of the many people who helped make the night so special.*



*Boulder Community Hospital was honored as Imagine!'s Distinguished Donor. Ron Secrist, president of the Boulder Community Hospital Foundation (far left), and Sandy Bracken, chair of Community Hospital Association (second from left), accepted the award on behalf of the hospital from Imagine! Foundation president George Karakehian (second from right) and Imagine! CEO John Taylor (far right).*



*Money raised at the Imagine! Celebration Dinner and Auction will be used to help fund Imagine!'s SmartHomes, which will use cutting edge residential technologies to enhance the quality of life for consumers. Imagine!'s Innovations Director Greg Wellems provided information on specific technologies that will be used in the homes and the powerful impact they will have on consumers' lives.*



*Gerald Stopa, Imagine!'s 2007 Consumer of the Year, enjoyed the festivities with his girlfriend, Donna Fairchild. Donna is a member of Imagine!'s Board of Directors and a past recipient of Imagine!'s Consumer of the Year award. Imagine!'s mission is to provide supports and services so Gerald, Donna, and all of Imagine!'s consumers can be active members in their communities. The Imagine! Foundation supports that mission through education and fundraising efforts such as the Imagine! Celebration.*



*Imagine! Foundation board member Don Fort (right) thanks fellow Foundation board member Bob Charles for his generous support of Imagine!. Bob and his wife Judy donated \$100,000 toward Imagine!'s Boulder SmartHome. The Boulder home will be named the "Bob and Judy Charles SmartHome" in recognition of this significant gift.*

**Photos by Leslie Brossman**

Thanks to Our Sponsors for Their Generous Support of Our:  
**Imagine! Celebration Dinner and Auction**  
*Friday, January 25, 2008*  
 Supporting innovative resources for people with cognitive and physical challenges

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[www.imaginecolorado.org](http://www.imaginecolorado.org)

## Imagine! Celebration Committee

Debra Paul, *Event Chairperson*

Judith Carmichael

Diane Carroll

Becky Fase

Marilyn Haas

Kristin Karakehian

Julia McIver

Mary Rianoshek

Colene Van Winkle

With Special Thanks to Imagine!  
 Foundation Administrative  
 Assistant Heather Sabo.

### Imagine! Board of Directors

Jerry Rudy, President

Diane Carroll	Annette Higgins
Bob Davis	Kevin Nelson
Donna Fairchild	Bill Sabin
Dennis Fase	Deb Skarda
Lisa Fiero	Susan White
Racheal Goodman	Mark Zentner

### Foundation News is the newsletter of the Imagine! Foundation

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**Susan LaHoda, Executive Director**

### Imagine! Foundation Board of Directors

George M. Karakehian, President

Clair Beckmann	Julia McIver
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Marilyn Haas	Jack Stoakes
Tom Kahn	Leona Stoecker
Jerry W. Lewis	Shari Tebo
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**THE MISSION OF IMAGINE! IS TO CREATE AND OFFER INNOVATIVE SUPPORTS TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES WITH COGNITIVE, DEVELOPMENTAL, PHYSICAL AND HEALTH RELATED NEEDS SO THEY MAY LIVE FULFILLING LIVES OF INDEPENDENCE AND QUALITY IN THEIR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES.**

Imagine!  
1400 Dixon Street  
Lafayette, CO 80026-2790

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

Imagine!  
Celebration Brings  
in \$335,000.

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Inside.**

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achieve.



BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL  
**Imagine!**  
FOUNDATION