

News from Edwards Center, Inc.

Gifts make possible the Community Center renovation at Aloha

Our sincerest thanks to the businesses and local foundations that have contributed directly or through gifts in kind to the Community Center renovation this year:

MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, the Collins Foundation, the William G. Gilmore Foundation, Skanska USA, the Ann & Bill Swindells Charitable Trust, Rowell-Brokaw Architects, Creative Housing Solutions, the Hedinger Family Foundation, the Reser Family Foundation, the Robert D. and Marcia H. Randall Charitable Trust, the Dal L. Baker Charitable Trust, Alliant Systems, the Boeing Employees Giving Fund, Pental Granite and Marble, Lampros Steel, the Autzen Foundation, Banner Bank, the Holzman Foundation, the Southminster Foundation, and the Beaverton Rotary Foundation.



Vic Atiyeh (inset, and right foreground above), helped dedicate the Edwards Activity Center July 10, 1973. Jean Edwards stands at left center, facing camera in this historic photo.

Vic Atiyeh, early advocate and supporter, links past to present

Some may associate the name Vic Atiyeh with his family's historic rug and carpet business. Others may remember him as Oregon's governor from 1979 to 1987. To advocates of deinstitutionalization and education for people with developmental disabilities he is a friend and supporter who helped push through vital legislation that made Edwards Center possible. He was present when Edwards opened its first Activity Center on 184th Avenue in Aloha—the first program of its kind serving severely disabled citizens. Ever the advocate, he returned this fall to speak at the annual Edwards Center luncheon.

As a state senator from Washington County, Vic Atiyeh supported legislation that made it possible

for Edwards to open our first group home in 1975. Senator Atiyeh went on to become Governor of Oregon and to champion legislative efforts in support of an "Education-For-All" act and the implementation of equal opportunity for all children regardless of disability in Oregon's public schools. After he visited Fairview Hospital and Training Center, Governor Atiyeh lent his support to the hospital improvement program that encouraged the movement of Oregon's institutionalized population back to small home-like environments in the community. That legislation helped Edwards Center open additional homes and to continue towards its goal of providing a lifespan of services for the individuals it serves.

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