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Message From The Executive Director

On behalf of OSF, I am pleased to invite you to our 3rd annual Cupertino Special Festival.

The festival is an event of community celebration. Our mission for this festival is to bring our special-needs families and community together for a full-inclusion community, to bridge mutual understanding through friendship-building, and to celebrate people's greatest natural virtue of loving each other. Only by doing this can we assure that this community is a better place for ourselves and future generations.

And, the festival is great fun for everybody. This year's festival includes the inaugural Cupertino Music Festival with an incredible band line-up. In the Children's Carnival will be giant slide, bouncy houses, petting zoo, train ride and fun for the whole family. Our OSF Soccer Festival with over 60 special-needs soccer players, their buddies and Major League players are on site for a fun afternoon of soccer. Delicious food outlets, beer garden, arts and crafts booths, and many other amenities will be open during the festival.

I hope to see you at this very unique, wonderful, and fun-filled event. Please join us in our crusade to build a full-inclusion community.

~ Chihua ~



The Cupertino Special Festive team welcomes you to join in the celebration at the Special Cupertino Festival on May 19, 2007.

Pictured here: Several members of the Cupertino Special Festival team at the Cupertino Special Festival press conference held on April 26, 2007. (From left to right: Lihuei Wei, Bob Adams, Sandy James, Chihua Wei, Jennifer Yu)

Message From The Editor

It all started about 2-1/2 years ago, when Lihuei Wei, OSF founder and then-president, asked me to help proofread and edit her OSF e-newsletter before she emailed it to the families. A couple of e-newsletters later, and after some persuasive cajoling on Lihuei's part and a good-natured dare from my husband, I wrote and produced the very first edition of the OSF printed newsletter.

At the time, I really had no idea what the newsletter should look like. The closest thing to a newsletter that I had ever done at that point was our family Christmas letter. But with feet to the fire, I learned.

That very first printed newsletter was mailed to less than 250 families and friends of OSF. Now eight newsletters later, nine counting this one, we have over 2,000 addresses on our mailing list. And, as you notice, this edition has a larger and different layout. I hope you like it.

I welcome your ideas and comments on improving our newsletter so that it may better serve you and OSF. Plus, I am always looking for newsletter article contributions from others. Please contact me by email at osf@osfamilies.org. I would love to hear from you.

~ Shirley ~

Organization of Special Needs Families (OSF) Presents:

"Building a Full Inclusion Community"

May 18, 2007

Special Conference "Intervention Services"

Cupertino Community Hall
 10350 Torre Avenue, Cupertino, CA
 8:30 am – 3:30pm

- **Keynote Speaker:**
Rick Ingraham
Manager, Children and Family Services
California Department of Developmental Services
- **Research Presentation**
MIND Institute, U.C. Davis
- **Early Intervention Workshops**
- **Panel Discussion**

Please visit www.osfamilies.org for more details and to register.

May 19, 2007

Cupertino Special Festival

Cupertino Civic Center
 10300 Torre Avenue, Cupertino, CA
 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Festival Activities & Exhibitions:

- Flag Raising Ceremony (10am) and Performance
- OSF Soccer Festival (1:30pm)
- Cupertino Music Festival (2- 6pm)
- Children's Carnival featuring petting zoo & train ride
- Food Court and Beer Garden
- Community Service Exhibits
- Health Exhibits w/ Free Health Services
- Vendor and Sponsor Booths
- Live Performances

Sponsored by: **Pot Sticker King, Fatima, Evergreen Healthy Vegetation**



OSF – “Bringing Families and Community Together”

OSF at the Cupertino Lunar New Year Unity Parade & International Fair

Thanks to everyone who participated, on behalf of OSF, in the Cupertino Lunar New Year Unity Parade & International Fair!

With our special guest Miss Santa Clara and OSF President Sandy James leading the way, our procession of children, parents, volunteers and teachers gleefully waved home-made flags and spread Lunar New Year cheers to spectators. The parade was a fun experience for all and a great opportunity for our special-needs children to participate in an awesome community event and for the community to meet us.

Our food booth at the fair was a big success. We could barely keep up with the orders! We netted \$2,200 to help fund our programs. A huge thank you to our food booth and food preparation volunteers!



OSF Parent Kay Omori – In her own words

How can I help him? I’ve been asking myself this question since Naoya, my younger son who is now fourteen years old, was diagnosed first with development delay and later autism. I was not familiar with the school programs for, let alone the future of, special-needs children, but somehow optimistic that he would be okay once we become familiar with his world; a world that, in my mind, sits in a different sphere from the mainstream society.

When I was a child, special-needs children were separated from their peers at school and at home. I had no opportunities to interact with any of them. Adults often sounded sympathetic about these children’s plight but took a rather ignorant attitude toward them. Such an environment was more or less universal and might have contributed to my sense of ‘separate spheres.’

My hope is that Naoya will thrive in a world that is different from the one of separate spheres in which I grew up because I believe that we’re all much happier living together in one undivided world. OSF’s principle of “Bringing Families and Communities Together” manifests the spirit that bridges the separate spheres. Among the many relentless efforts of OSF toward this ideal, the Cupertino Special Festival is a great opportunity for us to share this spirit and to rediscover the powerful support of the community toward people with various challenges. I’m grateful that asking the question, “How can we help each other?” has become equally important for me as in asking “How can I help my son?”



Volunteering & Community Service Opportunities

Undeniably, OSF would not exist without our cadre of dedicated volunteers. We’ve been extremely fortunate in successfully recruiting volunteers to work directly with our special-needs kids in our many excellent programs. Now as OSF continues to grow, we also need more volunteers to help OSF on an organizational and operational level.

We need your help in the following organizational and operational areas:

- **Community Outreach** – includes marketing and communications and coordination of OSF participation in community events
- **Program Volunteer Coordination and Development** – develop personal growth programs for and coordinate volunteers who help in OSF programs
- **Family Affairs** – advocate well-being of OSF families by coordinating social and community outings for families and advise OSF on policies and programming
- **Fundraising** – develop and coordinate fundraising efforts and events
- **Technology** – investigate, evaluate, implement, and maintain computer technology and tools to support the operation of OSF

Please help us continue our growth and success. Give us a call at 408-996-0850 or send us email at osf@osfamilies.org if you can help.

Sponsorships for OSFNews

Our newsletter **OSFNews** is looking for sponsors.

With the newsletter’s expanded size and format, we are able to recognize and thank our generous newsletter sponsors in the newsletter. For sponsors representing businesses and other organizations, we can also include a sponsor’s logo, address, phone number, web site and a simple message.

Please call us at 408-996-0850 or send us an email at osf@osfamilies.org if you are interested.

Many thanks to the sponsor of this OSFNews edition!



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