



Tolerance
Responsibility
Integrity

We build more
than campfires.

Date: August 17, 2007

To: Our Neighbors, Donors and Friends of Camp Fire

Re: Sale of our property

First, thank you for your continued support and thoughtful inquiries regarding the sale of our property. While we've been updating our website (seems that's what everyone does these days) we know that everyone doesn't rely on e-mail as a communication tool and we wanted to communicate directly.

Second, as you may or may not have heard, the City of Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board declined to nominate our property for landmark designation. After careful review and a thoughtful deliberation on their part, the Landmarks Board agreed with us that the building does not meet the threshold for a landmark designation. Thank you to those of you who sent letters and attended the hearing in support of Camp Fire; your voice and presence made a difference.

We are also very grateful to the Waldo family for their support of Camp Fire in this process. This has been an emotional experience for the family and a learning one as well for all of us. You can read the letter from the family on our website at <http://www.campfire-usa.org/press/propertysale.htm>. We also wanted you to know that we intend to work with the family and the developer to note, for future generations, the history of this site for both the former Waldo Hospital and Camp Fire USA.

Third, although we are selling the administrative building and property, we wanted you to know that we will still be a positive presence in the Maple Leaf community. We will continue to provide excellent licensed after-school and preschool care at Olympic View Elementary in the Maple Leaf neighborhood and one of our Special Saturday Clubs meets there as well (our other Special Saturday Clubs are at John Muir Elementary, one in Bellevue and another in Kitsap County). Special Saturday Club offers parents of special needs children 5 hours of respite care one Saturday a month. Parents of children with special needs can drop off their special needs child(ren) along with siblings (special needs or not) for 5 hours of licensed, trained, excellent care which allows the parents to give themselves a chance to rest/reorganize/do other parts of life, etc. We have people who drive from all over the North and West side of the city to take advantage of the Special Saturday Club at Olympic View.

In addition, we've been providing the Maple Leaf Community Council (MLCC) with child care for their monthly meetings at Olympic View Elementary at a dramatically reduced rate. We've actually been working with the MLCC for decades (they used to meet in our building, free of charge). Sadly, they continue to attempt to put out mixed and distorted messages about this situation but their opposition to our sale and desire to attempt to landmark the building doesn't undermine our commitment to what we have provided in the past and will continue to provide families and youth in the area. Most recently we've embarked on an alliance with the Green Seattle Partnership which is a kind of subsidiary of the Cascade Land Conservancy working on preserving and growing the tree canopy in Seattle, among other things. This summer our Youth Volunteer Corps teens worked with them at Interlaken Park getting rid of non-native invasive plants and we'll be looking to help out the same way in the Thornton Creek Watershed as well.

Finally, as we move forward we'll be looking for the time capsule we have buried on the property and plan a little "ice cream social" once we've uncovered that. As a neighbor, donor or friend, please know that you will be contacted and invited as soon as we have a date. We will continue to post updates on our website. And, as always, feel free to contact us with any questions/concerns.

Warm regards,

Leslie J. Rice, Chair
Camp Fire USA, Central Puget Sound Council, Board of Directors