

MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact: Rebekah Miller, Development Coordinator  
360-457-0431 x159  
[rebekahm@peninsulabehavioral.org](mailto:rebekahm@peninsulabehavioral.org)

#### In-house Auction at Peninsula Behavioral Health raises \$563 for its Clients

When asked what he wants for Christmas, a resident of Arlene Engel House, replied, "I just want wool socks." Arlene Engel House is the 19-bed boarding home of Peninsula Behavioral Health that houses some of the community's most severely mentally ill patients. They are all on fixed incomes, and typically have less than \$25 per week to spend on personal items, and many of them have no family in the area. This year, there's going to be more than a pair of socks under the Christmas tree.

Resurrecting a former tradition, staff member Jane Lorentzen organized a baked goods auction to fund Christmas gifts for Peninsula Behavioral Health's residential clients. Twenty-six employees brought homemade confections, and a silent auction was held at the agency. By the end of the six hour bidding period, the staff had raised \$563; all of the proceeds will be used to buy gifts for the clients, many of whom have no family but all of whom consider AEH their home.

With a staff that hovers around 100, Peninsula Behavioral Health has served over 3,300 residents of Clallam County this year. "Although the agency relies primarily on government contracts and Medicaid, we could not provide the services that we do without community fundraising efforts. As we reach out to the greater community, it is inspiring to let people know that our staff reached into their own pockets to go above and beyond conventional services. When exceptional mental illness treatment is available, the entire community is benefitted. "

As an ongoing project, the Peninsula Behavioral Health website is now posting a wish list. If community members would like to support the agency, this is a place for them to see the most in-demand items. Just a few things that are on the list include two large non-stick frying pans, twin plastic mattress covers, pillows and zippered cotton pillowcase protectors (standard size), wall clocks for the residents' rooms, and art supplies. For more information, please visit [peninsulabehavioral.org](http://peninsulabehavioral.org)