

New Leaf Sailing Day 2008

The residents at New Leaf, an agency supporting adults with intellectual disabilities, had such a wonderful time again at Sailing Day. Many did their best to ensure continuation of the annual event, hosted by the Highland Yacht Club, by asking what date and time they should expect next year's event to be held. We feel very fortunate to be looking forward to this day year after year and take joy in reuniting with our old friends from the club as well as making new friends each year as the volunteer group from the club seems to be growing each time.

The event this year was another smashing success and it was great to have so many skippers there ensuring that all of New Leaf was able to go out on a good long sail. Many residents came off the boat proud of having "driven the boat", others enjoyed the sun and convivial conversations and without exception, all returned with a smile and a great appetite in anticipation of the barbeque ahead.

As we ate and laughed and enjoyed the great live band and clowns, a brief downpour hardly stalled the action as we were lucky to again have a pumper truck and firefighters make a guest appearance. Many residents sat in the truck, had photos taken with the firefighters and for our newest family member, Edmund, this was a dream come true.

At the conclusion of the day, we were very proud to present the Highland Yacht club with an original painting created in our Expressive Arts program as a thank you for another wonderful day.

We are always so impressed with the volunteers and how they seem truly enjoy our company, how they work so hard to make everything perfect, and that they dedicate a day each year to open up the club, their boats and their lives to people who truly spend 364 days each year looking forward to Sailing Day at the Highland Yacht Club.

Carson Lutz
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