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## Grassroots D.C.



Matthew Thomason of the New Leaf grounds crew at the SourceAmerica Grassroots Conference in Washington, D.C.

For the first time in several years New Leaf had an employee representative at the SourceAmerica National Grassroots Conference in Washington, D.C. This year's event was attended by our own Matthew Thomason of the grounds crew. Matthew has also worked on the galley crew, and he passed his five-year work anniversary with New Leaf earlier this year. His experience and New Leaf and his willingness to speak about it made him an ideal candidate for the advocacy conference.

## Grassroots D.C. (continued)

Matthew received the Excellence in Advocacy award "for completion of Grassroots Advocacy Training, as well as advocacy on behalf of people with significant disabilities with Members of Congress at the 2023 SourceAmerica Grassroots Advocacy Conference."

Thank you Matthew for your excellence in representing yourself and speaking on behalf of yourself and your New Leaf coworkers!

Right: Matthew Thomason in the US Capitol preparing to discuss advocacy issues with congressional leaders.

Below: Mathew, Chelsea Johnson, and Steve Jacobs with staffers from Senator Maria Cantwell's office.





## Grassroots D.C (continued)



Above: Matthew Thomason meets with Representative Rick Larsen and his staff.

Below: Rep Larsen staff member, Chelsea Johnson, Matthew Thomason, Representative Rick Larsen, and Steve Jacobs at the US Capitol.





# Employee Picnic

The annual New Leaf Employee Appreciation Picnic was a blast. New Leafers took over the back parking lot and the yard to hang out, enjoy some food, play games, sing songs, and to try their skill in the always-competitive cornhole tournament.

For the first time, the event was catered. Thanks to the Chef in the Black Bandana, Kona Ice, and Casey Burr karaoke for the good grub, cool drinks, and fun music. Congrats to the winners of the raffle prizes (check out Matt Johnson's drone!) and congratulations to CDC supervisor Sherry Stark and her husband on winning the cornhole tournament!





# Employee Picnic





# Scholarships

Congratulations to the 2023 winners of the New Leaf / Jo Balda Community Service Scholarship! The scholarship winners were selected based on their demonstration of academic achievement and past, current, and future commitment to serving their community. The well-deserving winners each received \$2000 for their educational endeavors. The winners are:

- Oak Harbor High School: Pablo Vasquez, Jillian Knoll
- Coupeville High School: Cristina McGrath, Abigail Ramirez
- South Whidbey High School: Zoey West, Lucas Taksony





# X Force

Several folks from the New Leaf admin team, Steve Jacobs, Michelle Leach, Mike Harris, and Ryan Brooke, had the privilege of attending SourceAmerica's XForce Conference in Anaheim, CA earlier this year. The annual conference is devoted to showcasing the work of SourceAmerica NPAs as well as providing training on all aspects of creating employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The convention was a good opportunity to learn, network, and to enjoy a few days in southern California.





# X Force Art

In order to showcase human creativity and individual spirit, SourceAmerica commissioned artwork from nonprofit employees to exhibit at the 2023 national X Force conference in Anaheim. The art was on display throughout the conference and thousands of convention attendees took the opportunity to view the artwork submissions from all over the country. Congratulations Sean, John, Emmitt, James, and Sherilyn!



*Self Reflection*

Sean Edwards

New Leaf, Inc. Oak Harbor, Washington



*Hearts Dancing*

John Trindle

New Leaf, Inc. Oak Harbor, Washington



*Death Herself Won't Keep Me From You*

Emmitt Hall

New Leaf, Inc. Oak Harbor, Washington



*Bald Eagle at Ft. Ebey State Park*

James Sane

New Leaf, Inc. Oak Harbor, Washington



*New Leaf*

Sherilyn Sligh

New Leaf, Inc. Oak Harbor, Washington



# Airfield Mowing

QC and Safety Assistant (and former Grounds PM) Adam Troyer and the Grounds crew undertook mowing of the airfield this summer. Check out these before and afters.





# Downhill Challenge Series

The North Whidbey Sunrise Rotary Club held the 31st annual Whidbey Island Challenge Series gravity races for youth with special needs. In the event, racers steered their cars down the Barrington Drive hill from the peak near the New Leaf office down towards Highway 20. Despite protests from some racers that their gravity cars were street-legal, the roads were blocked off from motorized traffic for the duration of the event.



Above: Chelsea Johnson and a young racer cruise around the track.  
Below: Steve Jacobs enjoys a chauffeured ride.





# Hydros for Heroes

Lots of fun at the Hydros for Heroes event as always! Steve Jacobs, Ryan Brooke, and Brent Bowden of the admin team were on hand for the races and to share New Leaf info with passersby. It was a beautiful day in the neighborhood.





## Out and About



Above: As the school year approached Nancy Lawson, Michelle Leach, and Brent Bowden made a trip to Big Brothers Big Sisters to donate school supplies.

Below: Brent helps out a visitor at the National Night Out.







# Special Olympics



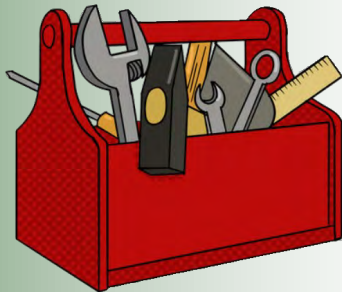
Team Whidbey Special Olympics held a late-summer bocce ball tournament with contestants coming from near and far to join the games and try to advance to the next level. New Leaf admin peeps Brent Bowden and Ryan Brooke attended the games to officiate, help, and play, and New Leaf grounds members Mike Hammernik and Michael Murcay (retired) both won medals!





# Tools for the job

Having the right tools is essential for getting the job done right. Recently New Leaf was able to get several new items for our hard-working crews: a new cordless backpack vacuum for the galley—here Timothy Murphy gives it an inaugural run—and some new barcode scanners for the commissary (thanks SourceAmerica!) and two new vacuums for the CDC crew.





## Tools for the job (continued)

Sometimes the right tools for the job are high tech, like these new Samsung tablets for the janitorial routes (right). Sometimes the needed equipment is low-tech, like these pallet number cards (below) and magnetic signs (below right) for the commissary crews.



QC and Safety Manager Mo Morrison points out proper refrigerator safety. →





# Employee Awards

Congrats to Grounds Supervisor Jacob Bevill, Grounds crew members Gene Pulu and Matthew Thomason, Janitorial Lead Nicole Bustillo, and Janitorial crew members Yvette Sparks and Michael Johnson on winning awards! Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.





# Wellness Award

A good number of our employees stayed healthy and did not miss a single full day of work in the first half of 2023, earning them the New Leaf Wellness Award. New Leaf acknowledges these employees and thanks them for their dependability. They received a \$50 bonus and will be entered in a year-end drawing for a larger award.

Thank you and congratulations to:

Night Janitorial:

- Rachel Johnson
- Richard Abshear
- Nathan Dymond
- Jason Sodano
- Jessica Zook
- Carrie Johnson

Galley:

- Stephen Fontenette
- Amber Williams

Commissary:

- Nathan Sodano
- Zachary Glovier
- Tyler Olson
- John Trindle

Admin: (pictured)

- Glenn Kincaid
- Mo Morrison
- Michelle Leach (for more on the car, see pg. 10)





# Staying Well in Winter

We hope lots of New Leaf employees win the Wellness Award in the second half of the year. Here are some healthful living tips for the coming colder weather:

- Wash your hands frequently. It is the best way to protect yourself from catching illnesses.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay hydrated. Drinking plenty of water will help flush toxins out of your system.
- Get enough sleep to keep your immune system strong.
- Eat healthful foods: vegetables, lean protein, whole grains.
- Avoid harmful foods: Junk food and alcohol are bad for your body and make it harder to feel refreshed and happy.
- Stay active: Get some exercise a few times each week. Physical activity can help you maintain or lose weight, reduce anxiety, lower blood pressure, and improve your quality of sleep.
- Manage your stress. Too much stress is bad for your body and your soul. Practice slow, deep breathing and staying mindful of your present moment. Know that you have the power to reduce your own stress.





# Military Appreciation Picnic



Above: Cathy George and Steve Jacobs staff the New Leaf Booth at the Oak Harbor Military Appreciation Picnic.

Below: Brent Bowden gets a close-up view of a young QB throwing bullets.





# New Neighbors

New Leaf extends a warm greeting to our new neighbors at our 1121 Dock St. Building, Bayshore Chiropractic and Dock Street Health and Wellness, who are renting the 2nd floor just above our spacious vinyl shop. Jacob Bevill and Blake Schulle of the New Leaf grounds crew helped get the building grounds looking good for their move in.





# Hard at Work



Above left: Brent Bowden and Mike Harris perform shampoo services at the admin building.

Above center: Steve Jacobs cleans a window while Michelle Leach looks on approvingly.

Above right: Ryan Brooke and Glenn Kincaid assemble a vacuum. Steve Jacobs with the assist.

Below left: Glenn Kincaid tackles an unruly rosebush.

Below right: Adam Troyer contemplates life while testing out the new Kubota mower.





## Hard at Work (continued)



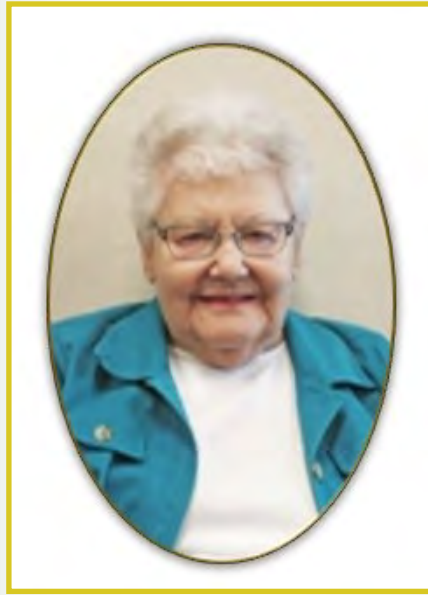
Above: Early morning at the Janitorial shop. Check out the new floor installed by Maintenance Specialist Scott Taylor!

Below: Scott trims the New Leaf admin building grounds on a beautiful early fall day.



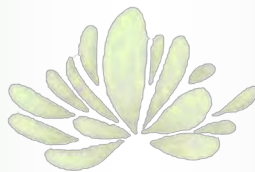


# Jan Hayes Retires



After twenty-two years of service on the New Leaf board of directors, Jan Hayes is retiring. At the time she joined the board, New Leaf was just beginning its fourth decade of life and the world had recently recovered from the Y2K panic. Jan has been with New Leaf through the tenure of three different administrations as well as the addition of new work contracts for the commissary and the galley. Through it all Jan has been a dedicated team member and a wonderful presence at New Leaf.

Thank you Jan for your many years of service!





# Employee Spotlight

## James Sane — Day Janitorial

### Where are you from?

I'm from this area originally. I was born on Orcas Island. As a kid I lived in Mexico for a while, and I went to high school in Idaho before moving before to Utah. After school I worked for the Conservation Core checking campsites for disability access. Following that I worked for Project Search doing data entry and other jobs, and now I'm back in northwest Washington.

### How long have you worked at New Leaf?

Almost 1 year. My first anniversary is next month.

### What is something that you enjoy about working at New Leaf?

The best thing is helping people. Everyone likes a clean environment. I like doing work that makes people's daily lives better.



### What is something that you like to do outside of work?

As a kid in school I was active in 4H, and I've always loved nature. One summer I took a course in photography and found it really interesting, so I started heading out with my camera in search of great sights worth capturing. Trying to get great shots of wildflowers, animals, and landscapes can be a lot of fun, and it gives me an opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty in this area. Nature photography is a hobby that I enjoy because everyone loves natural beauty. One of the shots I like best is of a bald eagle perched on a branch at Ft. Ebey park. I entered the photograph into an art exhibition at the SourceAmerica national conference this year and was happy that it was accepted for display.

### Is there anything that people at New Leaf might not know about you?

I've been on safari in South Africa. We saw giraffes, zebras, and other animals. Probably the most memorable thing we saw was a wildebeest being eaten by a crocodile. Also I enjoy writing and I'm working with Whidbey Playhouse to learn playwriting skills.



# Happy Anniversary

Mona Laverdure	22 years
Matthew Johnson	19 years
Rachel Johnson	16 years
Michael Hammernik	16 years
Gary Anglum	12 years
Nicole Bustillo	9 years
Railand Barlett	7 years
Cathy George	6 years
Linsdey Westman	6 years
Meghan Sowers	6 years
Adam Troyer	5 years
Melissa Nuanez	4 years
Hidemi Dettman	4 years
Carol Ishizaka	3 years
Nickolas Dymond	3 years
Richard Phelps	2 years
Scott Taylor	2 years
Richard Abshear	1 year
Emmitt Hall	1 year
Joshua Parker	1 year

# Happy Birthday

Gene Pulu	Aug 1
Chloe Foster	Aug 5
Wesley Worrel	Aug 5
Jorden Szypula	Aug 10
Travis Estep	Aug 12
Rebecca Hardin	Aug 13
Jose Corez Flores	Aug 19
Hidemi Dettman	Aug 21
Skyler Wallin	Aug 21
Melissa Nuanez	Aug 25
Josefina Rousselle	Aug 29
Gary Anglum	Aug 31
Sean Edwards	Sept 3
Mo Morrison	Sept 10
Jason Park	Sept 14
Wes Worrel Jr	Sept 16
Charles Barbin	Sept 17
Emily Hall	Sept 17
Rachel Johnson	Sept 22
Meghan Sowers	Sept 28
Adam Troyer	Oct 1
Nathaniel Anderson	Oct 3
Michael Harris	Oct 5
Richard Phelps	Oct 5
William Carol	Oct 6
Katherine Hancock	Oct 13
Stephen Fontenette	Oct 17
Railand Bartlett	Oct 19
Tyler Olson	Oct 20

# Welcome new employees!

Donald Lynch - Night Floor Care	Kassandra Kast - Day Jan
Anthony Palumbo - WISS	Aila Kinker - Night Jan
Brendan Braswell - WISS	Chelsey Hamilton - Galley
James Schnarr - Galley	Patrick Cascio Jr - WISS
Yvette Sparks - Day Jan	Brandi Kinzebach - WISS
Nathaniel Anderson - WISS	Julia Rolph - WISS
Jose Cortez Flores - Night Jan	