

The PASS Story

Warren Rushold MD - Founder

Parents for Alternate Support Solutions [PASS] was founded in 1997 by a group of families to meet the needs of their sons and daughters – the need for support after eligibility for Special Education came to an end. At meetings with the transition team during that fateful, final school year it became clear to Evvalee and I that:

- *This is the last year of school for your son¹,*
- *There might be State assistance in 20-25 years²,*
- *He lacks the skills needed for a vocational site³,*
- *He needs more assistance, supervision, & support than existing ATE's provide⁴,*
- *YOU must now provide 24X7 care, or hire someone to do that—IF you can afford it!*

As we went through this process I felt sympathy for the transition coordinator and other members of the IEP team; they were trying, but the available options were just too limited and were not organized in a way to serve the part of the DD spectrum that our son fit in. So, we started to create a solution that we felt would better meet Wesley's needs [and others 'like' him] – a safe, nurturing environment was the dream.

We started meeting with four other families in January 1997 and by May of that year we had incorporated Parents for Alternate Support Solutions as an Oregon non-profit. We chose the name with care; we realized that a solution was needed but also knew that there was NO ONE WAY to do this – there would be alternatives to choose from and probably implement as time went by.

One year after our first meeting the Day Program opened its doors. Three clients and two staff got started January 19, 1998 in space donated to PASS by Portland Adventist Medical Center.

The program was designed to:

- Give the clients a chance to keep and improve their life skills,
- Socialize and interact with their peers,
- Be supported by a well staffed program, and
- Participate in the community around them.

¹ Wesley Rushold

² The infamous "wait list"!

³ Arguable I know – let's not dwell on this now [Evvalee & I agreed]

⁴ The industry "standard" 8:1 ratio would not work for Wesley, and that's all Evvalee found on tours

In 1999 Eevalee Rushold assumed the responsibility of Program Director on a volunteer basis. She provided much needed oversight and management skills to the Day Program. She continued in that volunteer role until April 2005.

Notable events in 2000 included:

- PASS added Respite Care with start-up assistance provided by a grant from the Multnomah County Commission on Self-Directed Supports,
- We were recognized by The ARC of Multnomah as “Group of the Year”,
- PASS was the first organization to achieve State certification under Support Services for Adults - the system set up in response to the "Wait List" lawsuit⁵ which provided to adults with developmental disabilities to purchase much needed supports.

In November 2002 we moved to a new facility located at 10700 SE Division St in Portland. This move was necessitated by a) the end of our lease agreement with Adventist Medical Center and b) because we had outgrown the building we were in. The PASSAGES campaign was a team effort. Deanna Burris, our Treasurer, was Campaign Chair; Warren Rushold, our President, played a major role; as did Board Chair Ray Berg. Two individuals did especially outstanding work during the campaign. RON HURL, one of our dads, was our project manager and filled a major role in raising the funds necessary for the campaign and down-payment on our new facility. MOLLY MINK of Gilbert Brothers Commercial Brokerage went far beyond the assistance a realtor normally provides. The purchase of the new facility was completed 6/30/2003. Major contributions were made by:

- Individual donors within the PASS family circle [>\$40,000],
- The Collins Foundation [\$40,000],
- Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters [\$20,000 low interest loan],
- Sisters of Charity [\$25,000 for program expansion],
- Portland Development Commission [\$100,000],
- The Multnomah County Office of School and Community Supports [\$75,000].

Also in 2003 our certification status with the State expanded; PASS became a licensed provider of Alternative to Employment [ATE] services within the Vocational Services Division of the Department of Human Services for all three counties in the Portland metro area.

Immediately upon moving to our larger facility we eliminated our own wait list [5 clients] and increased the number of clients/families served from 19 to 24.

The core of what we do is CARE for our clients. Individuals who attend programs at PASS are served by a supportive staff of paid caregivers – all are trained in the skills necessary to provide the safe, nurturing, supportive environment that is our Mission. Staff undergo a thorough background check with the State of Oregon and are certified in First Aid, CPR, and OIS

⁵ The Staley settlement – Staley v. Kitzhaber

Level G. Our client to staff ratio of 3 to 1 is significantly lower than the industry average enabling more attention to client's needs and is a key differentiating characteristic of the PASS Day Program.

	PASS	Industry 'Norm'⁶	Notes
Client to staff ratio	3 to 1	8 to 1	If 24 clients/day Norm = 3 caregivers PASS = 8 caregivers
Flexible schedule	Scheduled according to needs/desires⁷	5 hours per day – set schedule w/o flexibility	PASS can accommodate family work schedules
In-Center Respite	Saturday	None	Drop-in service for known clients

Resources to support PASS and its programs:

- **Client fees for services provided,**
- **Donations from individuals,**
- **Special events and other fund-raisers,**
- **Foundations – grants for support or specific 'projects',**
- **Volunteers,**
- **In-kind gifts.**

PASS currently serves 47 clients in the Day Program. The Day Program is a combination of in-center activities and community outings. Examples of activities include:

- **In-center**
 - **Puzzles and games**
 - **Arts and crafts**
 - **Music class [professional therapist]**
 - **Exercise, positioning therapies**
 - **Meals and snacks [popular]**
 - **Videos, computer time**
 - **Hanging out with friends**
 - **Chores**
- **Community outings**
 - **Bowling**
 - **Lunch out at a restaurant**
 - **Parks for walk and/or picnic**
 - **Mall for shopping & people watching**
 - **OMSI, Oregon Zoo**

⁶ Average for standard ATE programs serving the DD population

⁷ Within staffing availability

- Movies
- Bus ride

Future Vision

The PASS Model

Our client to staff ratio is central to what we do and why PASS exists. It is a more expensive way of doing business but our experience, and continued existence, tells us that it can and does work. The Board is committed to continuing on this course. Continued, sustained growth in clientele is desirable for PASS' long-term stability and to meet market demands for this kind of program environment.