

# What is Kokua?

In the native Hawaiian culture, “kokua” is a way of relating to others that is characterized by kindness and a desire to be of help.

So what exactly is Kokua?

Kokua is a non-profit residential support services agency located in Lacey.

We support adults with developmental disabilities in Thurston County. Our mission is to provide citizens with disabilities the support needed to live full and meaningful lives. Kokua is currently celebrating our 25th anniversary and looking forward to the next 25!

If you work or volunteer for Kokua, sooner or later someone will ask you the question: what in the world does Kokua mean? Some people find the word difficult to pronounce at first. (For the record, it’s “koh-koo-ah”). Some folks have even suggested that we change our name to something more conventional, but we’ve found that having an unusual name is a great conversation starter.

Kokua means to help, give aid or assistance. The concept relates to pitching in, extending help to others for their own benefit and not for personal gain. Kokua also denotes a spirit of generosity, even self-sacrifice. Hawaiian culture places a high value on social interdependence as a necessity for maintaining the health of the community. Our organization was given the name Kokua because of our founder’s cultural heritage. Our agency’s name has been both a gift and a legacy to uphold.

## Supported Living Services

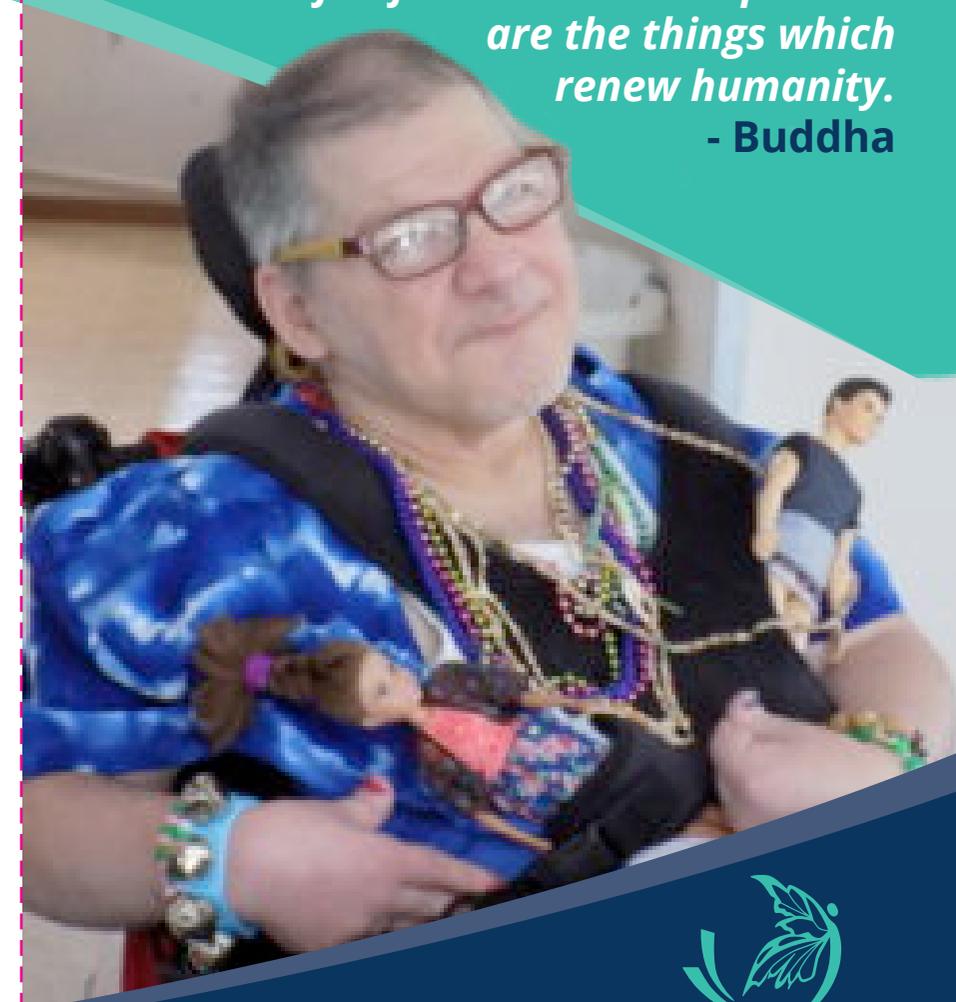
The purpose of Kokua’s Supported Living Services is to enable individuals with disabilities to live as independently as possible as members of the greater community. Individuals with disabilities have the right to quality care, the right to a safe and supportive community, and the right to live life on their own terms. The services we provide are tailored to individual need and are primarily focused on health, safety, and care. Supported Living is a suite of customized supports designed to keep individuals living in their own community rather than in institutional settings. These services are flexible, frequently changing, and consumer-driven.

Kokua Services has been providing Supported Living Services in the Thurston County area since 1990. Kokua offers a wide array of supports including medical and healthcare assistance, community inclusion, financial skills, and assistance with the skills of daily living with a focus on independence-building. With our team of trained and caring Direct Support Professionals, we currently support twenty-three homes in the Olympia/Lacey area, and each of our clients live in their own homes. Our Direct Support Professionals consider themselves guests in the homes and strive to provide care in a natural, dignified fashion.

In addition to in-home support, Kokua Direct Support Professionals regularly assist and encourage our clients to participate in community activities. Activities include, but are not limited to: clubs, classes, LEAD (Literacy and Education for Adults with Disabilities) tutoring, art, movies, shopping, banking, socializing with friends, picnics, parties, religious activities, sporting events, swimming,

*A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity.*

**- Buddha**



**2017**  
**Annual Report**



**Kokua Services**  
SUPPORT • ENCOURAGE • EMPOWER

## Board Members

Ross Abplanalp	Michelle DiClementi	Nate Mazzuca
Delia Burke	Michael Fay	James Shuck
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### Revenue Sources

State Contracts	<b>\$4,913,460.66</b>
Donations	<b>\$12,239.33</b>
Fundraising	<b>\$10,187.70</b>
Grants	<b>\$12,050.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,947,937.69</b>

### Direct Client Services Expenses

Client Services	<b>\$3,979,972.73</b>
Habilitative Equipment	<b>\$703.50</b>
Client Transportation	<b>\$39,583.37</b>
Unreimbursed Client Expense	<b>\$11,224.37</b>

### Administrative Expenses

Community Programs Expense	<b>\$110,645.13</b>
Rent	<b>\$97,614.56</b>
Advertising	<b>\$4,294.00</b>
Telephone	<b>\$9,836.92</b>
Utilities	<b>\$8,050.05</b>
Employee Recognition	<b>\$3,197.48</b>
Leased Equipment	<b>\$3,627.46</b>
Supplies	<b>\$34,357.53</b>
Insurance	<b>\$43,486.70</b>
Accounting/ Payroll	<b>\$40,224.95</b>
Professional Fees/Auditing	<b>\$9,820.50</b>
Training	<b>\$9,443.14</b>
Meeting Expense	<b>\$2,010.27</b>
Staff Mileage	<b>\$19,392.44</b>
Administrative Salaries/ Benefits	<b>\$300,242.94</b>
Computers/ Furniture/Equip	<b>\$6734.69</b>

## LEAD (Literacy & Education for Adults with Disabilities)

Kokua believes that literacy and education are fundamental elements to a full and meaningful life. Our passion for supporting adults with disabilities to lead independent lives inspired us in 2010 to develop a program called LEAD (Literacy & Education for Adults with Disabilities).

Our mission is to provide opportunities for mutual growth through personal relationships formed around the shared pursuit of continuing education. Kokua matches college students with adults with disabilities for one-on-one tutoring through partnerships with The Center for Community Based Learning and Action at The Evergreen State College, St. Martin's University, and South Puget Sound Community College. LEAD is a learner-driven program. Each learner decides what they would like to study, and together the learner and their tutor develop learning goals and objectives. The learning partners work to expand knowledge of academic subjects, job related skills, hobbies, and most importantly, friendship.

"The one most important gift Kokua has given my son is the sense of BELONGING and INCLUSION. They acknowledge his drive, his ability to learn, dream, and have ambitions. Kokua truly believes in his potential." ~Terri Rose

## Hummingbird Studio

Hummingbird Studio is a free, inclusive community art program open to individuals of all ages and abilities. The studio opened in September 2015 and currently hosts 50-75 individuals a week in three 90-minute sessions. We serve individuals with disabilities, seniors, students, and volunteers from the community. Our artists currently range from 7-80 years old. Our primary objective is to offer meaningful and creative opportunities for individuals to explore, have fun, and build community connections. At Kokua, we believe that art belongs to everyone and is essential to a healthy, vibrant community.

"Hummingbird Studio provides an environment that is both enriching and supportive for both of us. We love the opportunity to work in a space that is judgment-free and designed for 'people of all abilities'. My daughter is very proud of her work and is especially appreciative of the positive feedback she receives both in class and through events like the Arts Walk. Hummingbird Studio fills a much needed niche in our community. We are very grateful to Kokua for providing this unique and fulfilling experience." ~Joan Yoshina