



Cohousing in Corvallis

An E Newsletter from CoHo Cohousing
in Corvallis, Oregon

Issue 8 April 2006



Remember when your best friend lived right next door?

It Takes a Village...

Raising kids is an action-filled adventure. Raising kids in the village-like setting of cohousing is an action-filled adventure with a multitude of helping hands, memorable moments, and life-long connections.

As of early April, our CoHo extended family includes more than a dozen "niblings" (neighborhood siblings). A national trend of families joining cohousing communities closer to move-in time has come to pass here as well, and it's likely CoHo will be home to even more families with kids when we move into our shared neighborhood in 2007.

What is it like being a kid in cohousing, raising kids in cohousing, and living with kids in cohousing?

Being a Kid in Cohousing is...

... camping out in the common green or having sleepovers in the Common House, having lots of playmates right next door, blowing bubbles, watching out for the little kids, learning cool stuff from adults besides mom and dad, being able to play with your neighbor's cat when you can't have one 'cause your dad is allergic, taking field trips to the ice cream parlor, growing vegetables in the community garden, and learning how other families think and feel about everything.



Denise from Two Acre Wood, Sebastopol, CA writes:
"Recently a new baby was born into our community. Sometimes, as I watch her passed from lap to lap during a community meal or a general meeting, I wonder what it would be like to come into consciousness of the broader world with so many loving adults and children around; always someone to smile at, to play with, to hold you."



Raising Kids in Cohousing is...

... easy child care options including emergency help 24/7, parents' night out (with quality child care by neighbors the kids know well), unofficial siblings for kids without brothers and sisters, support for single parents, parenting advice, reinforcement of your values for your kids, having heartfelt discussions about differences in parenting styles, and knowing your kids have responsible adults for advice and support if you should magically be transformed into creatures who "just don't get it!" when your kids become teenagers.



"We periodically have parenting support groups which have been helpful. These have ranged from basic 'speak from the heart' discussions about how parenting is going to specific discussions about current challenges. It has been a very good place to bring your frustrations and work on problem solving." Rachael, Ecovillage-Ithaca, New York

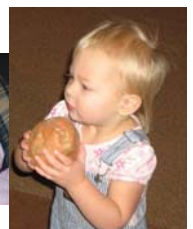
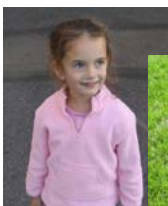
Living With Kids in Cohousing is...



...hugs, playing games, singalongs, oooooing and aaaaahing at the drop of a hat, smiles and silliness, storytelling, noise, being a positive influence for a child, time-outs, applauding all sorts of performances and accomplishments, and getting to know some fascinating young friends.

"In our cohousing community, our children are growing up seeing their parents' dedication to open communication, appreciation for the earth and the abundance of life, tolerance for differences, reduced consumption, use of natural materials, and contribution by everyone to the well-being of the whole community. These values are being taken to heart and will one day become part of their own life model as they enter society and contribute to the planet. I'm proud of what we are passing on to the next generation." Nashama Abraham Paiss, Nomad Cohousing, Boulder, Colorado

CoHo playmates of all ages are profiled in the [Meet Us](#) section on our website.



For more info and perspectives about kids in cohousing...

Raising Kids in Community by Neshama Abraham Paiss

http://www.oakcreekcommons.org/raising_kids.htm

Waldorf Values Find a Home in Cohousing Communities by Neshama Abraham Paiss

http://www.lilipoh.com/article_issue40_b.html

Search the archives of the national cohousing list serv (this is the source of quotes from Denise and Rachael)

<http://lists.cohousing.org/archives/cohousing-1/>

Look for an article on raising a family in Corvallis in our next newsletter....

Reservation documents were signed at our April 2nd meeting and folks added an apple to the CoHo tree to celebrate their commitment to purchasing a unit. Craig, new chair of the Finance Committee, explained the purchase process and April, wearing the facilitator's hat, facilitated her first community meeting (and we ended on time!).



Is it time for you to make your dream of living in community come true?

The clock is striking 12, marking the time that 12 homes are still available in CoHo! Two households reluctantly left CoHo recently due to a job change and a switch to an alternative living situation.

This clock is on the Benton County Courthouse in downtown Corvallis. Built in 1889, it is the oldest active courthouse in the state of Oregon.

To find out more about CoHo Cohousing

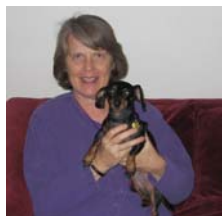
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Juva and Mike at March 2006 Welcome Weekend

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