

FRIENDS OF IOE PROGRAM

Interchange Outer East is an innovative community based organisation that provides services to families who have a child with a disability.

A new direction for Interchange Outer East is the *Friends of IOE* initiative which aims to raise funds to cover costs of more than 30 programs of important family support services. Services which provide opportunities for friendship, networking, relaxation and recreation for the mums, dads and siblings of children with disabilities. The *Friends of IOE* initiative aims to meet the rising demand for, and costs of, these services which receive no government funding.

We'd like to invite you and your friends, family, colleagues or business to become an official *Friend of IOE*, for as little as \$35. Your contribution will help us provide services to families and individual family members of children with disabilities, which assist and support them in caring for their child.

There are different *Friends of IOE* memberships and you are welcome to join at any level.

- Individual \$35
- Family \$55
- Club/Organisation/NFP \$100
- Corporate \$500
- Platinum \$5,000 (naming right of a camp if appropriate).

To find out how you can become a *Friend of IOE*, simply do one of the following:

1. Visit our website www.ioe.org.au, click the *Get Involved* tab, go to the *Friends of IOE* page, and select your preferred registration and donation option.
2. Call IOE on 03 9758 5522 to register your details and make your donation or request a registration form (also available on the website) and to discuss payment options.
3. Email us at ioe@ioe.org.au for more details.

FAMILY CAMP



Family Camp is one of the most valuable programs available at IOE. Many families attend the camp each year, along with a team of volunteers who provide extra support and fun! For many families, this is the only environment in which they feel safe, supported and comfortable to experience a family holiday.

After a recent Family Camp one parent said, 'We just loved Family Camp - it was the first holiday where we have felt free and not paranoid about what people think of our children.'

It's a great chance for siblings and parents to meet other families in similar situations and share each other's stories. It is also a great opportunity to exchange information, learn new things and have a lot of fun together as a family unit.

There is no doubt that Family Camp provides a unique and valuable experience for families who have children with a disability, however it receives no government support. The rising demand for family camps and our other support programs for siblings, mothers and fathers, is a key reason that the *Friends of IOE* initiative has been established.

XAVIER'S STORY

Xavier's mum, Christel, often refers to Interchange Outer East as her extended family and after hearing her family's story it's not hard to understand why.

Xavier is a 14 year old boy who began accessing IOE services as a young child. He uses a variety of tools to communicate and requires mobility devices to get around. He is a growing teenage boy that requires some extra supports to enable him to live his life fully.

IOE services such as camps and in home supports help provide respite to Xavier's busy family. One of the family's favourite services is Family Camp, which provides an opportunity for their whole family to have a holiday together including Xavier's new little brother.

With no extended family able to help out, Christel has said that the support through Interchange Outer East services for Xavier has meant that she has been able to spend valuable time with her husband and young son while Xavier is off having fun with his Interchange friends.



BENEFITS

Becoming a *Friend of IOE* has some great benefits ...

- You will receive a wonderful publication with IOE updates and success stories.
- You will receive invitations to IOE events.
- You will have the knowledge that you are supporting families in your community.

Your *Friends of IOE* contribution is 100% tax deductible. All funds raised go directly to Interchange Outer East programs and services.

We look forward to having you as a *Friend of IOE*.

ABOUT IOE

Interchange Outer East is a non profit organisation which supports families who have a child or young person with a disability, living in Melbourne's outer eastern regions of Knox, Maroondah, and Yarra Ranges. IOE aims to create opportunities and choice for families and young people with disabilities through offering a range of programs and services. IOE has a strong belief in engaging the local community in the organisation by forming connections and creating volunteer opportunities to build stronger and more inclusive communities.

IOE is a place where volunteers, families and supporters feel welcome and we'd like to broaden this community by inviting you, your friends, family, colleagues or business to become an official *Friend of IOE*.

Creating Opportunities & Choice



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