yacht was in dry dock during the trip, so he used a smaller boat to shuttle children between yachts and the beach.

“We want to be able to do this on a regular basis,” Overby says. “It would be great if we could get them back out here for a mini regatta. It’s great to see these kids so happy.”

One of the happiest children on this day is Tiara Bradburn, a shy 9-year-old from Bremerton. She doesn’t seem too interested in fishing, but she’s thrilled as she explores the deck of the Relentless while Ken Fine motors toward Dash Point.

“When you get the kids out of their home and show them something new, they feel a peace of mind,” O’Donoghue says. “Outside of my family, seeing these kids happy is the most fulfilling thing in my life.”

“Tiara has epilepsy and Todd’s paralysis, a condition that can leave her temporarily paralyzed after seizures. She is also an insulin-dependent diabetic who gives herself six shots per day.

“It’s the Todd’s paralysis that scares me,” says Tammi Bradburn, Tiara’s mom, “because there’s a chance that at some point the paralysis will be permanent.”

But the Bradburns aren’t worrying about that on this day. Tammi is simply watching her daughter smile as she cruises Puget Sound in a yacht.

And when Tiara is happy, Tammi is happy.

“I follow Tiara’s lead,” Tammi says. “She has a great attitude. She is my inspiration and my motivation.”

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“I looked down all the time, and I’d never look you in the eye because I was ashamed,” O’Donoghue says.

At 30, she started a successful bio-tech business that made deer and elk food, but even after brain surgery she hadn’t conquered her speech impediment.

“But this gave me a reason to tackle the problem,” says O’Donoghue, who at 41 has no sign of a speech impediment. “Now people say my biggest asset is the thing I used to be so embarrassed about – my mouth.”

O’Donoghue was nervous before she did her first radio show in 2000, but it went well, and USSA has been growing ever since.

“I never say no to a kid,” O’Donoghue says.

She has helped more than 3,000 children nationwide and has opened USSA chapters in California and Wisconsin. And when Turner called, she pounced on the opportunity to open a chapter in Washington.

While it started with a fishing trip on Aug. 13 and 14, O’Donoghue hopes to get hunters and other outdoors enthusiasts to volunteer their services as well.

For this trip, Turner rounded up some friends with yachts at the Crow’s Nest Marina near Browns Point. Costco donated the rods.

“I’m 55,” Turner says. “I want to give back while I still can.”

One of the volunteers was Tacoma dentist Kris Overby. His