

Kinship House

Serving children and families in foster care and adoption since 1996

Spring News 2010

1823 NE 8th Ave. Portland, OR 97212 503-460-2796 kinshiphouse.org

Kinship House endorses and supports County initiative to reduce number of foster children by 20% by 2012.

In late January, the Multnomah Commission of Children and Families presented key findings and initiatives resulting from over of two years of research and strategy work. The focus of the initiative is to safely and quickly reduce the number of children in foster care in Oregon, now 6th highest in the country, and to reduce the number of minority children in care. The goal is a 20 percent reduction by end of 2011, to be achieved by preventing children from coming into the State system of care, moving children to permanency safely, quickly, and effectively, with biological or adoptive families, and preventing children from returning to foster care. Today, 50% of Oregon foster children stay in foster care for 2 or more years, and 25% stay more than 4 years. American Indian and African American children, over-represented in the foster care system, are even more likely to stay in care more than 4 years. By the state's own admission, "Government does not make a good parent." These initiatives "make it unacceptable for a child to grow up in foster care."

Kinship House applauds and joins these initiatives, as we reach out to community, business, and faith-based groups this next year. It takes all of us helping however we can to provide safe and healthy growing up experiences for every child. We foster hope through you, and we challenge you to get involved to help families stay together whenever possible.

Ann Witsil, Executive Director

Kinship 15! Join us in creating a **permanency plan for Kinship House** in honor of its 15th anniversary in 2011. Please consider a healthy contribution to help us help children leave trauma and transition to new lives! Use the enclosed donation envelope or donate on line at www.kinshiphouse.org/donate now. Thank you!!

Find Kinship House on Facebook and become a fan!

[KH Wish List](#)

- Non-toxic and washable art supplies, paint pallets (for small artists), easel;
- New junior basketball hoop & stand;
- New office phone system (8 phones with intercom, conferencing and voice mail)

Kinship House Friends & Family Night at Hopworks Monday, May 17th, 4pm-close

2944 SE Powell, Portland

Bring flier & mention us & 20% proceeds help a child in transition!

Foster Care and Adoption: A Pathway to Understanding

Written and illustrated by Kinship House Art Therapist, H. Wilson, MA, ATR.

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A unique interactive and educational book created to help children de-mystify the process and their feelings as they move into foster care and adoption. Purchase a book in honor of a child, for yourself, or someone you know. Cost? \$20.00 Value? Priceless!



May is National Foster Care Awareness month!

Everyone counts! Everyone helps!



Leadership!

The Kinship House Board of Directors is robust, passionate and 11 strong. Thanks to:

Richard Glassman, Co-Chair
Commerce Bank of Oregon

Betsy Welch, Co-Chair
Retired Mult Circuit Ct. Judge

Kristin Angell, Programs
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Bill Blair, LT Development
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PGE

*If you're interested in joining the board
Please call 503.460.2796 x11*

Welcome New Staff!

Rene Werheim, Billings
Coordinator & Office Manager
Sarai Engle, MSW, Clinician
Tia Shows, Development Assistant

**Anticipate a tax refund?
Please consider a child in need.
Use the enclosed envelop or
Donate on line.
www.kinshiphouse.org
Thank you!**

A Story of Permanency

Three children, two boys and one girl, who had an adoption disruption, not due to their behaviors, came to Kinship House for sibling therapy for about five months to help them prepare again for adoption. The therapist also worked with the foster parent, caseworker, and potential adoptive family once they were selected.

The therapist helped the children create a memory book about their birth mom, who had mental illness and hadn't visited them for almost a year. While the older siblings talked about scared and sad feelings they had in moving around in foster care, the youngest sibling didn't know what adoption was and thought he had always lived with the current foster mom. The children came to Kinship House weekly to talk and make art about their feelings and their family relationships. They also did puppet shows about pretending to be adopted with their puppet characters having many, big emotions. The children also came to sessions with their adoptive family who were from east coast and visited for about a week. The adoptive family had been waiting for children to join them for several years and were excited and nervous about being new parents. The children were brought to their new home by a caseworker and their adoptive parents. After about six months they sent an update that all the children were involved in sports, the older ones were doing well in school, and the family dog was adjusting to having children noise and energy in the house.

Alison Strickland, Senior Clinical Therapist



Foundation News: Special thanks to the following for investments in our services!

*The Autzen Foundation
The Collins Foundation
Hanna Andersson Corp.
Hoover Family Foundation
The Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust
Spirit Mountain Community Fund*

*The Juan Young Trust
Meyer Memorial Trust
Microsoft, Inc.
The Oregon Community Foundation
Joe E Weston Public Foundation
NCJW Portland's Jean Rustin Tribute Fund*

Our Volunteer Opportunities! Whatever your time, call 503.460.2796 x11

Thank You Volunteers & Friends!!

Kathy Elliott & friends celebrating her birthday in honor of Kinship House! ***Audrey Riggs, facilities steward***
Volunteer coordinator Judy Jensen ***Sue & David Bowers*** for replenishing our client snacks!
Lake Oswego High Schoolers Alyssa Vance, Elena Langer, Paul Lantow, and Peter Chevalier raising \$300
through tee shirt sales for Kinship House kids and more!
Oregon Convention Center Employees outfitting our client therapy rooms!
Dennis Uniform for being good neighbors, good friends!
Westminister Presbyterian Anchor volunteers helping with mailings and repairs!
Nancy Cooper of Garvey, Shubert and Bryant, LLC for pro bono legal counsel!

ability...growth...permanency...transition...stability...hope...growth...permanency...hope...



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