



# Hope & Healing

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## Child Abuse Awareness

*By John Foote, Board Chair  
Clackamas County District Attorney*

As we head into spring, I ask all who care about the health and wellbeing of children to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect. April is recognized nationally as Child Abuse Awareness month but I encourage each of you to continue to take the time to learn more about what you can do to protect the children you care about from abuse.

Over 200 children came to the Children's Center in 2007 to receive our help and begin the road to recovery. Sadly, this is nowhere close to all abused children in Clackamas County. In 2006, there were more than 4,000 reports of child abuse in Clackamas County alone.

Raise awareness with your child by talking to them about possible abuse. See page three for specific suggestions for seven steps to protect your child from abuse. Ninety-five percent of child sex abuse victims are abused by someone they know. It is highly likely that you know a child who has been or is being abused.

Through the power of awareness, prevention and intervention we can stop child abuse in our community. Please join the Children's Center in our work to protect our most vulnerable citizens.

## Special Thanks to...

The following Open Doors Initiative community partners have given or pledged \$1,000+ since September 2007 to support vulnerable children in this community.

- All-Sports
- Beavercreek Cooperative Telephone
- Becker Capitol Management, Inc.
- Bob's Red Mill
- Brockamp & Jaeger Inc
- Carolyn & Charles Cameron
- CenterCal Properties
- Jack & Miriam Chitty
- Clackamas Federal Credit Union
- Andrew Cole
- Mona Crow
- Rick & Barbara Dawes
- Discover This, Inc.
- Stephanie Dow & Whitney Shepard
- Enoch Manufacturing
- Allyn Ford
- Allyson Ford
- Diane Greenman
- Jennifer Grimes
- Wayne & Lynn Hamersly
- Rep. Dave and Tonia Hunt
- Robert & Sally LeFeber
- James & Anne McCready
- Deborah & Hank Noble
- North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce
- Northwest Natural Gas
- Oregon Iron Works
- Providence Milwaukie Hospital
- Becky & Rick Rogoway
- Roseburg Forest Products
- Sigma Investment Management Co.
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- Terry Waddell
- WARN Industries
- Willamette Falls Hospital
- David & Marcia Wimmer

*This newsletter is made possible by a generous gift from Providence Milwaukie Hospital.*

*For more information on Providence Milwaukie Hospital, please visit their website at [www.providence.org](http://www.providence.org)*

## Prevention First...

Dear Friends:

Once again, Spring is upon us. We're beginning to move away from the torrential downpour period and one look outside reveals budding flowers, lush grass and healthy and thriving botanical life. It's a moment of pride for Oregonians with a green thumb and an itch to start gardening.

As we look back on Child Abuse Awareness month, I want to take the time to say how proud I am—proud of Clackamas County, our incredible community partners, our committed medical staff and most importantly, our brave children and families.



In September of 2007, we launched our Open Doors Initiative. Our campaign to open our doors to 100 additional child abuse assessments provided a window for us to witness an outpouring of support from Clackamas Community residents and businesses. We are close to meeting

our goal to increase our monthly intake from 22 to a capacity of 32 children served each month. But let me now encourage our community to do more.

One of the best ways to prevent child abuse is the courage of individuals and our community—the courage of our children to speak the truth when they have been threatened or harmed and the courage of our community to listen to these children then rally and support them. With your advocacy, each and every one of you supports the Children's Center and strengthens our efforts to help the children in our community.

Thank you for all of your incredible support.

Sincerely,

*Tonia*

**Tonia Hunt, Executive Director**

## Protecting Nurturing Empowering

## Champions for Children Luncheon

### Women for Children

On Wednesday, April 23rd, 190 women of influence in Clackamas County came together in an overwhelming display of support for the Children's Center of Clackamas County.

We would like to specially thank our:

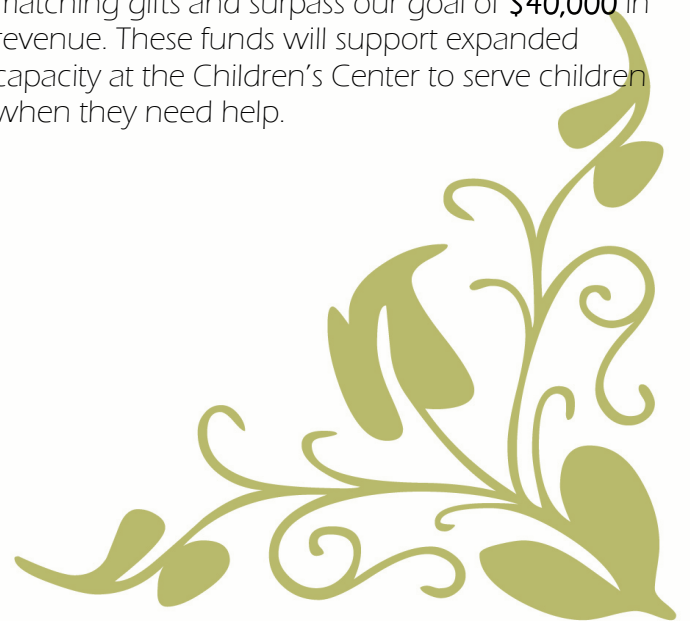
Featured Speaker

**Cristi Dillon**, owner, imagoDei

With special guest **Tracy Barry**, KGW

Northwest News Channel 8

We are pleased to report that with the help of our guests, we were able to meet the challenge of our matching gifts and surpass our goal of **\$40,000** in revenue. These funds will support expanded capacity at the Children's Center to serve children when they need help.



## Community Partner Spotlight

Spirit Mountain Community Fund

We are pleased to announce Spirit Mountain Community Fund as one of our partners in our Open Doors Initiative. In January of 2008, we received notification that our Open Doors Initiative was approved of funding by Spirit Mountain Community Fund. The Tribe dedicates 6% of the profits from Spirit Mountain Casino to the Spirit Mountain Community Fund. The Fund targets special needs in public safety, health, education, culture, environment, problem gambling and historic preservation.

Child abuse and neglect are a growing reality in Clackamas County. Sadly, the number of children identified as victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse is escalating rapidly. The Children's Center's currently operates at a capacity of 250 family visits per year. We wish this number of openings to help children was sufficient, but it's simply not. In 2008, our Open Doors Initiative will expand openings for more than 100 children.

Thank you Spirit Mountain Community Fund for helping to make the work at Children's Center of Clackamas County possible and allowing us to open our doors to more vulnerable children.

## Open Doors Initiative Foundation Partners

The following foundations have given or pledged \$1,000+ since September 2007 to allow the Children's Center to open its doors to an additional 100 children per year.

- Clackamas Emergency Services Foundation
- Clackamas Rotary Foundation
- Ford Family Foundation
- H.E. Anderson Family Foundation
- Hoover Family Foundation
- Juan Young Trust
- Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation
- PGE Foundation
- Ralph & Adolph Jacobs Foundation
- Robert & Marcia Randall Charitable Trust
- Safeway Foundation
- Spirit Mountain Community Fund

## Child Abuse Prevention Tips

7 Steps to Protecting Our Children

**Step 1. Learn the facts. Understand the risks.** Realities—not trust—should influence your decisions regarding children.

**Step 2. Minimize opportunity.** If you eliminate or reduce one-adult/one-child situations, you'll dramatically lower the risk of sexual abuse for children.

**Step 3. Talk about it.** Children often keep abuse a secret, but barriers can be broken down by talking openly about it.

**Step 4. Stay alert.** Don't expect obvious signs when a child is being sexually abused.

**Step 5. Make a plan.** Learn where to go, whom to call and how to react.

**Step 6. Act on suspicions.** The future well-being of a child is at stake.

**Step 7. Get involved.** Volunteer and financially support organizations that fight the tragedy of child sexual abuse.

Excerpt from Darkness to Light's "7 Steps to Protecting Our Children."  
For a link to Darkness to Light's website and other resources,  
please visit the Children's Center of Clackamas County's website:  
[www.childrenscenter.cc](http://www.childrenscenter.cc).

*"There are millions of Americans who are clever and fearless, but the trouble is they are only four years old."*

**Author Unknown**



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## **Mark Your Calendar...**



### **June**

*California Pizza Kitchen's Charity Day for the Children's Center at Clackamas Town Center  
June 10, 2009*

California Pizza Kitchen will donate all dine-in pizza sales to the Children's Center so don't forget to buy a pie!

*Clackamas Rotary Foundation  
Annual Golf Tournament  
June 20, 2008*

Register today for a fun day on the green benefiting Children's Center and other worthy charities.

### **July**

*Schedule a tour of the Children's Center*

### **August**

*John L. Scott Charity Golf Tournament  
August 22, 2008*

Join the community in a scramble format golf tournament benefiting the Children's Center and Oregon Food Bank.

**To schedule a tour of the Children's Center or to find out more information about upcoming events:**  
Contact Development Manager,  
Shauna Lugar at (503) 655-7725  
[shauna@childrenscenter.cc](mailto:shauna@childrenscenter.cc)

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