



DECEMBER 2005

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO FLOURISH

CFK Partners Welcome the College Dreams Program

The College Dreams Program, a program working under the auspices of the YMCA, is now located in Coalition for Kids' Hamilton House Annex. Program Directors Tom and Judie Drummond identify the program as a graduation incentive program for bright middle school and high school students who have multiple risk factors for school dropout, teen pregnancy, substance abuse and other negative outcomes. The program serves 452 students in all five middle schools and all four high schools in Josephine County. Results were dramatic for the 81 College Dreamers who graduated this past spring. With higher GPAs and fewer academic problems than similar students who weren't enrolled in the program, the College Dreamers were more prepared for college and received more scholarship awards. The other thirteen non-profit agencies housed in the CFK facilities welcome our new partner.



*COLLEGE DREAMS STAFF
BACK: REBECCA CLARK, JUDIE & TOM DRUMMOND
FRONT: CHRIS MARCHAND, MONET TALTY*

Commission for Children and Families Grant for Childcare

CFK Infant/Toddler childcare services have expanded thanks to a grant from the Commission for Children and Families. The Commission funding partially supports the addition of four slots that will serve 6-7 infants. This will reduce the waiting list of 20-25 families.



KIRA, SHAYLYNN, JADEN AND SILAS ON HALLOWEEN

CFK will be providing childcare information to employers, and will encourage employers to offer pre-tax childcare options.

Pre-tax options make childcare more affordable for most families.



Toys for Tots, sponsored by the Young Marines, kicked off this year's toy collection effort on November 16th to make Christmas a special day for many children. Toys will be picked up from collection sites on Wednesday afternoon December 14th. Toys will be distributed on December 17th at the Old Merlin School starting at 8:30 a.m. Parents are requested not to bring children to the distribution site.

See page 4 for a list of the drop-off sites.

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Board Work Group Update:

Below is a progress report on the initiatives adopted by the Board of Directors.

Initiative #1: Assume the lead role in producing a Youth Expo in March of 2006.

The planning for the Youth Expo has moved quickly in October. The date for the event has been identified (April 7, 2006), the location has been secured (Parkway Christian Gymnasium), and new partners for the project have been added (RCC and the Chamber Education Committee).

Initiative #2: Promote Junior Achievement as a successful model that assists youth in developing leadership skills and employment skills.

Junior Achievement is a program that links schools and the community. Programs are developed and ready to go. One example of a Junior Achievement curriculum is, "The Economics of Staying in School." In Jackson and Josephine counties, JA reaches 5,000 - 5,500 students in grades K-12 each year. In Josephine County only 65% of the requests from schools for JA are currently being met.

Our local schools have made referrals. What is needed are volunteers. Would you like more information? Call Mary Dunn (JA Director) at 774-4334 or Don Gray (CFK) at 479-1929.

Initiative #3: Promote programs and activities for families.

Efforts continue on the development of a "Resource Directory for Family Programs and Activities," the promotion of feature articles with a family theme, and expanding promotion of family events in the "Spot Light On The Family."

Initiative #4: Facilitate a Parent Nurturing Campaign.

A broad array of parenting advocates, including representatives from Three Rivers Hospital, medical community, religious leaders, resource moms, and numerous agencies, met in October to get to know each other and to improve collaboration. Gaps in support opportunities were identified as well as ways to provide meaningful, effective connections for parents beginning with the birth of a child.

A first step is the development of a standardized pre-natal and birth and beyond resource list that will assist hospital staff and physician offices to make effective referrals for parents.

CFK will be working with the Chamber of Commerce to help promote family activities on their web site. We'll also be working with RSVP and the Helpline to facilitate people-to-people resource connections in our community. For more information or to be involved, contact Don Gray or Gina Marie Agosta at 479-1929, or Carolyn Kohn, work group chair, at 476-9280, and look forward to updates on our progress.

Initiative #5: Sustain and grow the Special Friends Program.

This is the first full year that CFK has coordinated the Special Friends Program. An early kickoff in August resulted in the recruitment of nineteen new volunteers who attended training in October. Special Friends is currently up and running at Allen Dale, Fruitdale, Highland, Jerome Prairie, Lincoln, Madrona, Parkside, Redwood, Riverside, Evergreen, and Williams Elementary schools, and at Fleming Middle School. Expansion efforts are also in progress. We are contacting schools that do not currently have the program and offering assistance.

Carpenter Foundation Grant Supports CFK Family Initiatives

CFK received a \$10,000 grant from the Carpenter Foundation that will position CFK to more quickly implement parts of the initiatives established by the Board (see update on *page 2*). The funding supports a part-time staff position to strengthen existing programs like Special Friends, and to direct and implement programs and initiatives.



The part-time position of Program Specialist has been filled by Gina Marie Agosta. Gina Marie, a native of Grants Pass, recently graduated from the University of Portland with degrees in English and Organizational Communication.

Becoming a Love and Logic Parent

Kids don't come with an owner's manual. Love & Logic is as close as you can get. It is the support system that parents are searching for. Visit the Love and Logic website at www.loveandlogic.com.

Don't miss this great program. The next *Becoming a Love and Logic Parent* class starts January 10th, 2006. Classes run for six consecutive Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Coalition for Kids Family Resource Center. This program provides parenting techniques for children of all ages.

Registration forms are located at Coalition for Kids, or register by calling Judy at 476-4996.

We Had Fun!

Thank you to everyone who helped put on the Harlem Ambassadors vs. the Grants Pass Shooters basketball game. Special thanks go to the Grants Pass Shooters players #1 Stacy Morgan, #2 Norm Hayter, #3 Robert Jackson, #4 Jeff Kasler, #5 Mike Schaefer, #6 Jeff Cox, #8 Rich Phillips, #10 Bill Cowell, #11 Dave Huddleston, #12 Kevin Clark, #13 Scott Wakefield, #14 Vince Randall and #18 Jason Wright. You guys were awesome. A Big Thank You also to College Dreamers Amanda Polls, Michelle Millican, Amber Henry, Megan Brontini, and Rachel Defrandis. These young women helped run the game clock and score board, sold raffle tickets and supported this family event. Great job Dreamers! The final thank you goes to Grants Pass High School for making their beautiful gymnasium available for this family event.

Girl Scout Fashion Show and Sleep-over

Girl Scouts of the Hirowa Service Unit presents a fashion show and sleep-over for **all** girls ages 5-17. Girl Scouts can bring a friend and they can get in for the same great Girl Scout price of \$5. Bring holiday attire to wear in our evening fashion show. After our fashion show, we'll play games, do crafts and make new friends.

**At the Grants Pass Boys and Girls Club
Starts Dec. 17, 6:30 pm
Pickup Dec. 18, 10:00 am**

*Cost: \$5.00 for Girl Scout or Girl Scout Friend
\$15.00 for non-Girl Scout
(snack, breakfast, craft and patch provided)
Call 956-5428 for more information.*

Coalition For Kids Partner Agencies

Family Resource Center

Coalition For Kids..... 479-1929
CFK Child Care 476-4996
Head Start 471-3450
Jo. Co. Early Intervention..... 474-2360
TinkerBell Preschool..... 471-8991
Women's Crisis Support Team..... 479-9349
Grants Pass Youth Soccer Club..... 471-1099
LaLeche League 955-8838
TLC - The Link For Childcare 472-9331
United Way of Josephine County... 476-6122

Hamilton House Annex

Literacy Council474-0469
Girl Scouts956-5428
RCC TRIO/CEOC956-7356
Southern Oregon Head Start Office 472-4851
Jefferson Behavioral Health.....955-9565
College Dreams.....476-8146

Toys for Tots Drop-off Sites

Rogue River

Evergreen Federal 101 Pine Street

Ben Franklin 506 E. Main Street

Merlin

Umpqua Bank 3600 Merlin Rd. @ Monument Dr.

Grants Pass

Big Lots 304 NE Agness Avenue

Josephine Co. Main Public Library

200 NW "C" Street

Jim Sigel Automotive Center 1601 NE 7th Street

Dollar Tree 1200 NW 6th Street

Walgreen Drug Store 111 Union Avenue

Wayne Owen Fighting Arts 113 SE K Street

U.S. Marine Corps Recruiting Station

1301 NE 6th Street

Dollar Tree 320 NE Agness Avenue

Volunteer Opportunities

Make a difference for families! Do you have some free time to share your talents? There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available including the reception desk, the childcare program and many other opportunities that happen throughout the year. **Groups or individuals can call Peggy at 479-1929 for additional information.**

Want to volunteer in a local elementary or middle school? Become a Special Friend and spend one hour a week with an elementary or middle school student. **For more information call Gina Marie at 479-1929.**



Family Resource Center
223 SE "M" Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526

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