



DECEMBER 2006

The Family Resource Center Has Been Strengthening Families in Josephine County For Fifteen Years

Fourteen Non-Profits In One Location Means \$60 - \$80,000 Goes To Services Instead of Rent

What is a Family Resource Center?

The main purpose of family resource centers is to involve and support parents. They also help improve children's development by providing referrals, activities and services to families.

Research shows that family resource centers increase family involvement and enhance a child's educational experience.*

The Family Resource Center at Coalition for Kids is the oldest in Oregon. For fifteen years the FRC has offered a common meeting place for young families of varied backgrounds and interests. These families wish to provide their children with educational and social experiences. "The fact that this building exists as a residence for activities geared towards young children and families is a source of pride for the people of Grants Pass," says Marty Jacobson, an Early Intervention Specialist at Early Childhood Services.

Coalition for Kids and its thirteen partner agencies help

families succeed by offering many programs and services. The Family Resource Center helps over 7,500 families each year to become more self-sufficient and productive citizens. Eighty percent of those helped are low-income families.



There are 14 non-profit agencies located in the Family Resource Center. This co-location provides many low-income families with "one-stop shopping" for services, offering one way to overcome transportation barriers.

The Family Resource Center also offers services in a non-stigmatizing environment. Children and families can participate with multiple agencies in a familiar setting, developing safe and supportive relationships with other parents and staff.

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Increased Access to Services

Parents seeking an education can drop their child off at the Family Resource Center and visit the RCC TRiO office or the Literacy Council in the Hamilton House Annex. A child in a morning Head Start class can go down the hall for wrap-around child care in the afternoon so his parents don't have to leave work or school in the middle of the day to pick him up.

Love & Logic Classes Start Up Again In January

The next Love & Logic parenting class will start on January 9, 2007. Classes meet for six consecutive Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Coalition for Kids. Cost is \$50 per couple.

For more information about the Love & Logic class call Coalition for Kids at 479-1929 and ask for Gina Marie.

You can download a registration form on our website at www.cfk-gp.org/services/Love&Logic.htm.

* Melaville & Blank, *Learning Together*, Institute for Educational Leadership and National Center for Community Education, 1998.

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**Over 100 Volunteers Are Blessed To Be Special Friends
for At-Risk Kids**

Would You Like A Special Friend?

Just two weeks into the school year 8-yr old Brian was already asking Marlane Zerby when he would get to see his Special Friend. Zerby is the Special Friends coordinator at Redwood Elementary School and Brian was in the program last year. School had just started and he was already looking forward to rekindling his friendship with the special volunteer who came to his school each week.

Coalition for Kids has been operating the Special Friends program since 2004. This year there are over 100 caring adults, just like you, volunteering for the Special Friends program in 12 elementary schools and 1 middle school throughout Josephine County.

It is an incredibly rewarding program for the child and volunteer alike. Just look at what we have heard from volunteers over the last several years:

“Special Friends allowed me to grow by sharing heart to heart with a child and teachers alike.”

“As a former teacher, I really miss my students. This program has given me an opportunity to have a personal relationship with a student. I know I’m making a difference in this child’s life.”

“I have been in the Special Friends program for twenty years and it has been most enjoyable and fulfilling.”

In less than an hour a week, you can make a difference in the life of a child, too. Each year, nearly a dozen children are unable to have a Special Friend due to a shortage of volunteers.

If you would like be a Special Friend (and have a Special Friend), contact Gina Marie at 479-1929 or by email at gina4kids@uci.net. :::

**Computers Are Helping
Preschoolers Get Ready For
School**

Thanks to a grant from the Four Way Community Foundation, students in the CFK Child Care preschool room are enjoying two new computers.

Research shows that preschoolers who use computers are smarter and better prepared for school. Computers provide stimulation and help children learn letters and numbers.

Susan Baker, one of our preschool teachers, likes the computers because they help the kids with eye-hand coordination and learning how to be patient and take turns:::



Carrie plays on the computer. She likes having the computers here. Abby also likes the computers and says “The train game is so cool!” Savannah says, “On the Blue’s Clues game I like the vegetables.” Tyson likes using the keyboard to send people stuff.

Family Resource Center Strengthens Families - Continued from Page 1

Building Healthy Partnerships

When 14 non-profits share a building wonderful opportunities to foster partnerships present themselves. According to Marty Jacobson, “teachers and caregivers regularly collaborate and share ideas and resources to benefit all children who utilize the center.”

Early Childhood Services, formerly known as Josephine County Early Intervention Services, has been a partner at the FRC since the doors opened 15 years ago. ECS has been able to facilitate developmentally appropriate activities for young children with and without special needs through this partnership.

Builds Capacity of Agencies to Serve Community

The Family Resource Center provides a home to many important local programs and vital

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- Marty Jacobson

community organizations. Sharing the space allows each agency to save thousands of dollars each year on rent -- Thousands of dollars that can be used to provide more services to children and families.

Among these agencies is the Literacy Council of Josephine County. The Literacy Council moved into the Family Resource Center in 1991, securing its first permanent space to hold meetings, teach reading and English, and to accommodate a growing library.

“The Council is thankful to have its headquarters at such a central, viable and synergetic location as the Family Resource Center,” says Kathleen Alaks, Literacy Council Publicity Chairman.

A Valuable Resource for Josephine County

Over the past fifteen years the Family Resource Center has helped thousands of children and families in Josephine County. “Through mutual sharing we can best use the resources we have and support children and families as they grow and learn,” says Marty.

With your continued support Coalition for Kids and the Family Resource Center can create opportunities for many thousand more children and families to succeed. :::

Your Generosity Helps Toys for Tots Bring Christmas to Hundreds of Children in Josephine County Each Year

For the past two years Coalition for Kids has been a drop-off site for the Toys for Tots program in Josephine County. Your generosity has ensured that hundreds of children receive toys for Christmas each year.



Toys for Tots, sponsored by the Young Marines, kicked off this year’s toy collection effort on November 1st to make Christmas a special day for many children. Toys will be picked up from collection sites on Wednesday, December 13th. Toys will be distributed on December 16th at the Old Merlin School starting at 8:30 a.m. Parents are requested not to bring children to the distribution site. :::

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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

Board Members Needed!

CFKs board of directors is seeking new members to replace those who have left the board after years of dedicated service to pursue other interests.

We need a few good men/women to help carry out our mission! Would you like the opportunity to do more to support CFK's programs?

Do you like serving on nonprofit boards and do you have the time and energy to commit to Coalition for Kids? Do you have public-relations, fundraising, legal or accounting skills that you'd like to share with us?

If you or someone you know might be interested, please call Don at 479-1929 or email him at don4kids@uci.net.

You can find a board member job description and application in the About Us section of our website - www.cfk-gp.org. :::

Now It's Even Easier To Support Coalition for Kids You Can Donate Directly Or Support CFK When You Shop Online



You can save time and money by donating online. Instead of writing checks, filling out donation forms, and buying stamps to mail your contributions, it is now easy to support Coalition for Kids online.

In addition to a simple Donate Now button on our front page, Coalition for Kids has two more easy ways for you to offer your support.

If you have an American Express card you can earn double membership rewards when you donate online through the Giving Express program. Look for the link on the front page of our website.

Christmas is coming soon and many of you will be shopping for gifts online. If you shop at Amazon.com, stop by our website first. When you visit Amazon through our website, Coalition for Kids receives a percentage of the sale from your purchase. There is a link to Amazon.com at the bottom of every page of our website.

You can learn more about both of these donation programs on our website - www.cfk-gp.org. :::



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

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