



MARCH 2006

## **Celebrating 15 Years Of "Creating Opportunities for Children and Families to Flourish"**



Change, change and more change. Much has happened in the last fifteen years, both in our community and at Coalition for Kids. Our community has grown in number and the small town feel seems to be fading for many. Our agency also grew with the opening of the Hamilton House Annex in 2002, but our goal is to keep that small town sense of community.

Just like the community, Coalition for Kids looks different than it did fifteen years ago, and our agency will continue to evolve in the ways it serves the community. Whatever changes are in store, our role will always be to help make Grants Pass a family and child friendly place to live. What we accomplish will be the result of great partnerships with the other agencies in our community that have similar missions, the many volunteers who work in child and family programs and of course the financial support provided by the community at

large. The more we work together the more we can accomplish.

There are many opportunities to be involved with our community through Coalition for Kids. Hundreds have served on short-term work groups (some not so short), there is always a need for additional Special Friend volunteers, and volunteer opportunities are also available in the child care program and in the Coalition for Kids front office.

Of course, another way to show your support for our community and the work of Coalition for Kids is to support us in reaching our campaign goal of \$40,000. In the next few days, please look for a letter in your mail and consider a donation so we can offer these programs for more years to come. Your support is vital because we believe that when we invest in children and families we strengthen our community.

Thank you for your continued support of Coalition for Kids and its mission!

Don Gray  
Executive Director

### **Becoming a Love & Logic Parent**

For over ten years CFK has been helping parents to be the best parent possible by providing the six week Love and Logic parenting program. Children do not come with instructions, but this class provides tools and techniques that benefit both the parents and the child(ren).

Call 479-1929 to register for our next class starting April 10<sup>th</sup>, or ask for Judy if you would like more information on the program. The cost is \$50 per couple which includes the workbook.

### **It's A Celebration!**

*This year Coalition for Kids is celebrating 15 years of serving our community. We believe that our community is stronger when we invest in families. We are planning a fun celebration that will take place this summer and will include food, music, children's activities, a raffle for a new car, and much more. Watch for details in our June newsletter.*

**COALITION FOR KIDS  
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**CFK VOLUNTEERS**

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Ann Donovan  
Andrea Wegner  
Grandpa Lowell Blair  
Tasha Carr  
Kathy Vobora

**Quality Child Care For Over Twelve Years**



Coalition for Kids has been operating our child care program for over twelve years. Over 800 children have passed through the doors of our classrooms, some for as long as five years. Below are then and now pictures of Titan and Tanner who grew up in the child care program. It really has been a



long time! The child care staff looks forward to being a part of the lives of many more children as we strive to provide the best learning environment possible. If you have questions about the child care program please call Judy at 476-4996.

**Coalition for Kids Receives \$10,000 Cow Creek Grant**

The Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation demonstrated their ongoing generosity and compassion for southern Oregon communities on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at their semi-annual grant awards ceremony. Fifty plus non-profit agencies received grants for a wide variety of projects and programs from playgrounds to health care. Coalition for Kids was honored to receive \$10,000 for partial childcare scholarships for Head Start families. The children spend one half day in Head Start in the Family Resource Center, and can now remain in the same safe, nurturing environment for the remainder of the day in CFK'S Childcare Program. It is great for the kids, and mom or dad does not have to leave work or school in the middle of the day to take their child to alternative care.

Thank you Martha Young (Director), and thank you Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation Board of Directors for your time and commitment to the great work of the Foundation.

**Nothing you do for children is ever wasted. They seem not to notice us, hovering, averting our eyes, and they seldom offer thanks, but what we do for them is never wasted.**

**- Garrison Keillor**

## Board Initiative Updates

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

Coalition for Kids, Inc. and its partners AAUW, Three Rivers and District 7 School Districts, Rogue Community College, Employment Department, Commission for Children and Families, Jo Co Health Department, OSU Extension Service, The Job Council and the Job Corps are presenting a teen career fair for 8th - 12th grade students. The event will be Friday, April 7, 2006 at the Parkway Christian Church in the gymnasium from 12 noon until 3 p.m. For more information contact Gina @ 479-1929.

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

Discussions are on-going about the role Coalition for Kids can play in promoting, or even taking on some responsibility for, the Junior Achievement Program. We will keep you informed through our newsletter and on the website ([www.cfk-gp.org](http://www.cfk-gp.org)).

### **Initiative #3: Promote programs and activities for families.**

In addition to promoting programs and activities in our monthly "Spot Light on the Family" in the Grants Pass Daily Courier (last Saturday of the month) and in our quarterly newsletter, we now are using the website as a format to accomplish this goal. Please visit the website and let us know what

you think.

### **Initiative #4: Facilitate a Parent Nurturing Program.**

Our initiative has a name! Family Connections is a community campaign to make personal connections with parents and provide them with support and resources to help them flourish. The campaign will begin by focusing on parents of newborns and will evolve to reach all parents. A medical advisory committee has been formed as a liaison to the medical community. We have already developed a standardized resource list for parents in Josephine County, which will assist hospital staff and physician offices to make effective referrals for parents. You can download a copy of the resource list on our website at [www.cfk-gp.org](http://www.cfk-gp.org) or call Gina at 479-1929 to have a copy mailed to you.

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

The Special Friends Program has blossomed this year. Over thirty new volunteers have been trained and the program is running in 11 schools. Discussions have been held with schools who are interested in starting the program next year. We are anxiously anticipating the end of the year celebration between the sets of "Special Friends."

Would you like to be, and receive, a Special Friend? For more information call Gina at 479-1929.

## **Thank You For Your Service!**

Four board members completed their terms in December 2005: Bill Thorp (8 1/2 years), Dave Adams (7 years), Lynn Kellenbeck (5 years) and Carolyn Kohn (1 year). The loss of over 20 years of experience is regrettable, but greatly outweighed by their contributions during those 20+ years of service. Thank you to the four of you for your service to Coalition for Kids and the community at large.



## **Welcome Sherry and Craig!**

The great news is that two new board members have joined the Board of Directors for Coalition for Kids. Sherry Branch started her board service in September 2005. Sherry is the Exceptional Needs Care Coordinator for Oregon Health Management Services. Craig Dent is the Executive Director of Pacifica and started his board service in January of this year. Sherry and Craig bring a wealth of knowledge about the clients we serve, and experience with governance and planning.



Thank you to Neil Agosta and Paul Grasso of “Websites Coast to Coast” for donating all the work and talent to build our website. It is a masterpiece in progress.

Visit us at our website ([www.cfk-gp.org](http://www.cfk-gp.org))

The website has been created to make referral resources more available to families and providers in Josephine County, and to connect families to Coalition for Kids. As the website becomes fully developed, visitors will be able to learn more about our agency and the programs we offer to address community needs. Visitors will also have the opportunity to provide feedback on the activities of the agency, download forms, like the nomination form for the Sharon Marchant Award, discover ways to get involved and, eventually, to support Coalition for Kids by donating online.

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