

Your Support Helped Provide Structure For Single Mom and Her Son

Whether you are struggling emotionally, physically or financially, a little routine and structure can offer a sense of security and control. Read how your support helped one mom and her son get their lives stabilized.

A little over a year ago Kaitlin was working hard to get her life on track. Her top priority was her son Zeke.

She knew he needed to be in a safe and nurturing environment while she worked her way through Drug Court and looked for employment. **But, like any mother, she was nervous about leaving her precious child with strangers.**

She needed to find a quality program that she could trust. Her DHS case worker recommended Coalition for Kids.

Kaitlin loves how involved and hands-on the teachers are with her son. **“They make me and Zeke feel comfortable here,” she said.**

And it was convenient because Zeke was also enrolled in morning Head Start at the Family Resource Center. In the afternoon he just walked down the hall to the CFK child care preschool room where he continued learning and playing until his mom picked him up.

Zeke’s favorite part of child care is coloring and arts & crafts. “I like making pretty things for my mom,” he says with excitement.

Kaitlin liked that the CFK preschool teachers reinforced

what Zeke was learning in Head Start. During breaks and summer, when Head Start was closed, Zeke kept practicing reading, letters and writing his name.



All of which helped him to be ready when he started Kindergarten this fall. Zeke says there are more kids at school and “we get to check books and take them home to read them.” But he notices similarities too - like circle time.

On the first day of school, “I wasn’t scared because it was just like class here,” says Zeke proudly.

But even more important than learning his letters and numbers was learning how to follow rules and socialize with children of different ages.

The consistent, quality care at Coalition for Kids provided a structure and routine that helped Zeke immensely.

“I’ve kept Zeke here, even though I struggle to pay,” says Kaitlin, “because of the structure.”

His CFK teachers have noticed a change in Zeke. He’s more calm and is better at listening and following instructions.

Kaitlin is doing better as well. She graduated from Drug Court in May and has a great job.

Now she faces new challenges as a single mom. No longer qualifying for Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) subsidies, she struggles to manage her household bills with only one salary and no child care support.

That’s where you come in! Your support provided Kaitlin with a tuition assistance grant. Kaitlin is grateful for the support and says, **“The grant was great. It helped me catch up with my bills.”**

Zeke still comes to Coalition for Kids after Kindergarten and on days when he doesn’t have school. Always rushing to greet his teachers with a big smile and hug, **Zeke is a rewarding example of what your support makes possible!**

Four Ways to Support Children and Parents Like Zeke and Kaitlin

1. **Make a one-time donation** - by cash, check, or credit card; online or in the mail.
2. **Pledge to become a Monthly Partner** - see the enclosed brochure to learn how to make a sustaining contribution.
3. **Shop on Amazon.com** - just click the link on our website so we can earn 6%.
4. **Get involved** - see on page 2 how you can offer your time and expertise to strengthen Coalition for Kids so we can serve more children and families.



Preschool Field Trips Enrich Educational and Social Development

Thanks to Donations from Josephine County and Four Way Community Foundation

Keep your eyes peeled when you're driving around town. You just might spot a little white bus with colorful handprints and a big purple dude on the side.

That's the Coalition for Kids Child Care bus, generously donated to us from the Josephine County Transit fleet. A \$6,000 grant from the Four Way Community Foundation allowed us to fix up the new bus so it would be safe to transport our preschoolers.

We plan to take our preschoolers (3-5 years old) on field trips at least once a month. Trips will generally coordinate with what the kids are learning in the classroom that month.

Our first field trip was to the pumpkin patch and corn maze at Fort Vannoy Farms.



You Can Help Us Re-imagine Coalition for Kids — and the Future for Children and Families in Grants Pass

In 1991 a group of community leaders, responding to community needs, envisioned a place where families could come to find multiple services and programs, and where agencies could collaborate to leverage resources. So they created Coalition for Kids and the Family Resource Center.

Over 20 years later our community has changed. We have the privilege and challenge of reimagining the organization to meet the needs of today's families. So over the next 9-12 months we'll be taking the following steps:

- Bringing on an AmeriCorps VISTA member to conduct a community needs assessment focused on families with children ages 0-8 years old.
- Looking to the community to help us brainstorm ideas for programs and how to implement and support them.
- Building our board of directors to develop a strategic plan and the organizational systems necessary to implement it.

Below are ways you can get involved and help!

Join the Board!

Would you like to be part of building a dynamic organization?

We're looking for 3-5 individuals with interest and experience in: strategic planning and growing a successful organization.

The board meets monthly and members serve for a three year term.

Imagine Solutions!

Can't commit as a board member but still want to help us?

Consider becoming part of our reimagining team. This group will meet for a few months to brainstorm ideas for Coalition for Kids.

Refer a Friend!

Know someone who would make a great member of our board or reimagining team?

Tell your friends and colleagues about Coalition for Kids and how they can get involved.

Have them contact us, or give us their contact information and we'll follow up with them.



For more information about any of these opportunities please contact Gina Marie Agosta at:

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