



Strengthening Families and Keeping Children Safe

Relief Nursery

FEBRUARY 2010

There are many ways to give

Frequently we are asked how parents learn about the Relief Nursery. In some cases, Child Protective Services, school teachers or physicians refer families to us. However, in most cases, the parents seeking Relief Nursery services are self-referring. They come to us *on their own* for support and guidance to ensure a better life for their children.

This past year we have seen something new -- an increase in referrals made by our *donors*. This is most surely a result of the difficult economic times, but it demonstrates something even more encouraging -- *that long-time supporters of the Relief Nursery recognize us not only as a needed service in the community, but as a resource for people that they care about.*

Last week a woman walked through the Relief Nursery door holding the hand of her young son, a children's book in the other hand, with three large bags strapped across her shoulders. The boy seemed as happy as he could be and she had a quiet dignity about her as she inquired about getting help.

She was in trouble, she explained, and was told about the Relief Nursery by a family she had known for many years. This family happened to be long-time supporters of the Relief Nursery and knew that we could provide the help that this woman needed. It was yet another way of giving -- sending a mother and son to the safe haven of the Relief Nursery.

Her story was heart-wrenching and her need was immediate. She was a victim of domestic abuse. We asked her to wait a moment while we found Outreach staff to assist her. She said she didn't want to be a bother and that she was grateful just to be here. She took a seat in a quiet corner, apologized for being an inconvenience, and thanked us for the simple pleasure that many of us take for granted - a quiet space where she could read to her child.

As she shared her story with our Outreach worker, she remained composed but tears streamed down her face. She was doing her best to shield her son from her distress and the uncertainty of their future.

Mother and son spent the afternoon at the Relief Nursery, enjoyed a hot meal, and formulated a plan with our Outreach staff. She was referred to Womenspace and will continue to use Relief Nursery respite services as she works to mend her life.

"Studies show that during times of economic hardship, abuse cases and the number of families in need go up. At the same time funding and donations go down. That's what's happening right now, and the Relief Nursery is in need of continued support," said executive director Irene Alltucker.



Your generosity has made a difference.

Thank you for helping the Relief Nursery reach its Annual Campaign goal and making it possible for us to strengthen families and keep children safe in our community.

Unfortunately, our general donations are down. More families and children continue to request our help. We have until June 30 to close this funding gap.

Please visit www.reliefnursery.org
and make a donation today.

Give one child a chance

The Importance of Early Brain Development

"A new consensus is emerging about the importance of intervening with families of disadvantaged children in the first months and years of life to ensure they provide the kinds of experiences that support optimal development...The recent developments in brain research have provided new insights into why this is so. Parents who are preoccupied with a daily struggle to ensure that their children have enough to eat and are safe from harm may not have the resources, information, or time they need to provide the stimulating experiences that foster optimal brain development. Infants and children who are rarely spoken to, who are exposed to few toys, and who have little opportunity to explore and experiment with their environment may fail to fully develop the neural connections and pathways that facilitate later learning. Despite their normal genetic endowment, these children are at a significant intellectual disadvantage and are likely to require costly special education or other remedial services when they enter school. Fortunately, intervention programs that start working with children and their families at birth or even prenatally can help prevent this tragic loss of potential."

Starting Smart, How Early Experiences Affect Brain Development. Published by Zero to Three and the Ounce of Prevention Fund.

ZERO TO THREE the Ounce

Family Fun and Food Night

Family Fun and Food Night made its debut in Springfield this past November when over 75 people enjoyed time together and a nice warm meal. The theme for the evening was based on a favorite children's book, "Caps for Sale." Children were able to spend time making paper plate monkeys and other crafts to remember their fun night. Families were also treated to a play with our very own Relief Nursery staff portraying the characters from the book. At the end of the night, each child was able to take home books and a special hand knit cap. Thank you to our friends at **Wells Fargo** who sponsored and volunteered for this event. We could not have done it without you!

If you are interested in finding out more about sponsoring a Family Fun and Food Night, please contact Kristin Kauble at 541-343-9706 extention 104.



*Dear Relief Nursery,
My family really enjoys family fun and food nights. We struggle making ends meet and the end of the month is always hard for us.
Being able to put my children to bed with a full stomach is one of the greatest gifts you can give to me.
Thank you for your kindness.*

Relief Nursery mom

Relief Nursery Events Calendar - Save the Date

Friday, March 19	Twin Rivers Rotary Casino Night
Saturday, April 24	20th Annual Main Event Presented by Wells Fargo "Somewhere Over the Rainbow"
May 2010	Black Tie Ball Hosted by the City of Springfield
Monday, July 26	8th annual Pro-Am Golf Tournament Shadow Hills Country Club
Wednesday, November 3	"The Children's Hour" Advocacy Breakfast Hilton Hotel

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In-Kind Donations

October 16, 2009 - January 15, 2010

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Shola Adeniji
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Jim Renner
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Cyndy and Brad Backlund
Chuck Bader
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Laura Betty
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Full City Coffee Roasters
Michael Phinney
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Elaine and Edward Gear
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Sue and Chip Goodman
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Kate Hudson
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- M**
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Old Dominion Collision
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Stephen Nessly
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Early Head Start

The Relief Nursery is proud to be one of only four agencies in Lane County to partner with **Early Head Start**. Funded by the federal stimulus package, this is the first time Early Head Start services will be provided in Lane County. The Relief Nursery will expand classrooms and hire additional staff to provide these services.

Early Head Start is a need-based program that supports and educates parents, promotes children's social and emotional development and school readiness. The Relief Nursery was chosen to provide these services because of our long standing track record of collaboration with other agencies and our success working with at-risk parents and their young children. The Early Head Start classes for children ages 12 months to three years will begin mid-February and will benefit Relief Nursery children by expanding capacity in our classrooms.

"This is an excellent example of Relief Nursery collaborative efforts. By partnering with Early Head Start, we are an active participant in growing services to vulnerable children in our community," said executive director of programs **Sharri da Silva**.



The Children's Hour Advocacy Breakfast

The Children's Hour, Relief Nursery's annual advocacy breakfast held on November 4, was led by **Chair Jenny Ulum** along with **co-chairs, Patty McConnell, Jenny Obermiller, and Janet Palaniuk**. The event inspired and informed attendees by focusing on the current research of early childhood experiences impact on the development of the brain.

Title sponsors, **Comcast**, represented by **Doug Cooley** and **Safeway**, represented by **Marc Carlson** welcomed over 425 community guests to the Hilton Hotel. **Board of Directors President Susan Kauble** opened the breakfast thanking all those who gave up their early morning demands to learn more about the Relief Nursery. The breakfast kicked off our annual campaign – *Give one child a chance*.

Each speaker highlighted brain development with their first hand experience beginning with the keynote speaker **Dr. Dan Close Ph.D.**, director of the University of Oregon Family and Human Services Program. Dr. Close addressed the importance of positive parent interaction and stimulation with young children. Without parent-child bonding children do not develop the necessary brain pathways essential to long term learning.

The **Honorable Ann Aiken** related what she witnesses through the judicial system when children do not have positive early life experiences. The cost of the damage done to children at an early age is paid by everyone—not just the children. Judge Aiken encouraged attendees to get involved in the community because they can make a difference.

Relief Nursery Teacher **AJ Jackson** shared his experience of working with a 4 year old boy who entered his classroom only uttering single words. The interventionists were very concerned about his delayed speech. With time spent by AJ and other support staff including EC Cares, the little boy developed his language and communication skills. At the end of the year he was ready to enter kindergarten with other children his age. AJ poignantly told guests “Thank you for letting me be a hero every day to the children at the Relief Nursery. Because of your generosity I get to be a HERO.”

Julie, a Relief Nursery parent, shared her story of how she struggled with her son, Gabe and the effects of a physical impairment that required surgeries and painful physical therapy. Julie focused on Gabe's physical development, and as a result, he had difficulty communicating. Julie was unable to tell if his screams and cries were from pain or from frustration of not being able to communicate his needs. Relief Nursery staff immediately taught Julie and Gabe sign language and proceeded to provide support to work past the crisis. Now, after much work, Gabe has his chance and is well on his way to success. Julie conveyed her appreciation to the attendees for all the ways they help the Relief Nursery help families like hers.

Chair Jenny Ulum spoke to the campaign theme, *Give one child a chance*. “Every child deserves a chance. The Relief Nursery is a compassionate and cost effective way to help struggling families and children who are at risk. With strong community support we can continue our proven success in helping the most vulnerable families, reducing child abuse and neglect and keeping children out of costly foster care.”

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the guests, breakfast captains and sponsors for making this a successful breakfast. Our expectations were exceeded with over \$65,000 generously pledged and donated. Thank you **Jenny Ulum, Patty McConnell, Jenny Obermiller, and Janet Palaniuk, our fabulous chairs**, for the incredible energy and dedication you devoted to *The Children's Hour*.

Mark your Calendars! Please join us in 2010 for “The Children's Hour” on November 3, 2010.



The Children's Hour Table Captains and Sponsors.

With Heartfelt Appreciation

Irene and Kevin Alltucker	Eugene Emerald Rotary Memorial	KEZI, Chambers Communication	Oregon Imaging	Libby Steffen
Linda Apling	Debi Farr	Doug Koke	Janet and Bruce Palaniuk	Jami Sterling-Counard
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The Oregon Statewide Scholarship Program of The John D. Gray and Elizabeth N. Gray Endowment Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation has provided funding to the Relief Nursery Therapeutic Early Childhood Classroom program to seek accreditation with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Founded in 1926, NAEYC is the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children with nearly 90,000 members, a national network of over 300 local, state, and regional affiliates, and a growing global alliance of like-minded organizations.

Since 1985, NAEYC has offered a national, voluntary accreditation system to set professional standards for early childhood education programs, and to help families identify high-quality programs. Today, NAEYC Accreditation represents the mark of quality in early childhood education. Over 7,000 childcare programs, preschools, early learning centers, and other center or school-based early childhood education programs are currently NAEYC-Accredited. These programs provide high quality care and education to nearly one million young children in the United States, its territories, and programs affiliated with the United States Department of Defense.

"Thank you for submitting your scholarship request and congratulations! Celebrate your accomplishments! We commend you for striving to go above and beyond. Your work is leading you in exciting and challenging professional directions," said the Oregon Statewide Scholarship Program which supports the continued growth of quality childcare in the state of Oregon.

"I am pleased to lead this accreditation process, which involves self-assessment, professional development and continual quality improvement. These are core values and processes that reflect the Relief Nursery approach to program development and strong outcomes," said Lory Britain, Director of Replication and Quality Assurance.



Recent Grants Thank You!



Betty Lou Roberts Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation
\$14,300 for the expansion of outreach programs for families in crisis.

E. Henry Wemme Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation
\$15,700 for the expansion of outreach programs for families in crisis.



Oregon Department of Transportation Safety Division - \$5,000 to provide car seats and car safety education to low income families.

Phileo Foundation - \$5,000 for general program support.

Chambers Family Foundation - \$36,000 for La Familia y los Hijos and to support services being researched by the Oregon Social Learning Center.





Pamper Me Day

Fall **Pamper Me Day** was once again a huge success thanks to the time and dedication of **Vicki** and **Daniel Bell**, the stylists from **Reflections Salon**, and the **Relief Nursery Auxiliary**. Over 35 parents had their hair cut and styled. They also received massages from **Linda Brunson** and Reike from **Sherab Tenaj** and **Peter Le Sueur**. Hand treatments, nail painting and mini makeovers were offered. The Relief Nursery kitchen provided a delicious dinner for all who attended and at the end of the night parents received a goodie bag filled with toiletries and personal care items and a raffle prize. The parents left the evening with smiles, feeling pampered and relaxed.

Pamper Me Day would not be possible without all of the caring volunteers and *support from community donors who provided raffle and goodie bag items*. Thank you!



Auxiliary Holiday Highlights

Due to all the hard work of the Auxiliary Board and the generosity of the community, 75 families received Thanksgiving baskets or gift certificates. The community's generosity was astounding and very touching. **Cyndy Backlund** and **Kelli Sherman** spearheaded the project this year, which is so important to the families we serve. A special thank you to **Steve** and **Sally Lee** for the donation of turkeys for the baskets, **Market of Choice** and **Debbie Wright** for supporting this project, and Cyndy Backlund for the reusable laundry baskets. The hands on help of picking up the food, assembling and distributing the baskets was done by the wonderful members of the Auxiliary.



Additional thanks to the Auxiliary members and volunteers who helped make holiday heart ornaments for the Giving Trees that were distributed in the community. This special event could not happen without the Auxiliary, and we are most grateful for their support.

On behalf of the children and families, thank you.

2010 Auxilary

Irene Alltucker
 Suzanne Arlie
 Cyndy Backlund
 Barbara Bergreen
 Shanley Bonney
 Julie Chown
 Carrie Davis
 Sue Devereux
 Rosemary Duffy
 Diane Duyck
 Lynne Gately
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Our Generous Holiday Family Sponsors

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 The Trahan Family
 Andrea and Corey Unfried
 University of Oregon Health Center
 University of Oregon Law School
 University of Oregon Research and
 Prospect Management
 Western Shelter Systems
 Shana Wickersham

Thank you for participating in our Giving Tree program!

Berg's Ski Shop
 Brewed Awakenings
 Chi Omega Sorority
 Christine & Co
 Churchill High School Key Club
 Comcast
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 Elmer's Restaurant
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 Oakway Mall Barber Shop
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 Oregon Student Assistance Commission
 Sandi South and the Braewood Hills
 Neighborhood
 Shadow Hills Country Club
 State Farm Insurance- Shannon Orem
 The Art of Hair
 U of O Book Store
 Willamette Oaks Retirement Community



Families were given a sparkling treat by **Sunshine Limo Holiday Light Tours**. The parents and children were so excited to ride in beautiful limousines to view the holiday lights - hot chocolate and candy canes for all!

Because of You

"Thank you so much for all of the wonderful gifts you sent to me and my family. I hope to someday be able to bring as much joy to another family as you have done for us. Thank you!"

Relief Nursery Parent

The Great Taste

Fun, Friends, and Fundraising to help our Families.



A delightful evening was held with our friends, fine wine, cheese and chocolate at the 14th annual *Great Taste* presented by **Market of Choice** on December 10th.

Our wonderful event chairs, **Michelle and Trieber Meador** and **Michelle and Mark Quinney** worked tirelessly with the **Leadership Board** to host a lovely evening. The Market of Choice **wine and cheese stewards** shared their selections and expertise.

Guests sampled over 30 wines, a vast selection of cheeses, chocolates, artisan breads and meats, and specialty butters from all corners of the globe. **Full City Coffee Roasters** provided delicious, warm coffee drinks. And **Marc Mullins** and **Kelli Warner** were, once again, fabulous emcees for the evening.

The **Private Tasting Room**, an exclusive room with special wine selections hand-picked by **Steve Johnson**, was once again a guest favorite. This year's selections featured old world versus new world flavors.

New this year was the **Wall of Wine**, made possible by an anonymous sponsorship and wine donations from **Liz Chambers, Michael Caprai, Eola Hills Wine Cellars, Jason Halstead, Jiffy Market, Irene and Art King, Steve and Sally Lee, Mauritson Wines, Panther Creek Cellars, Pfeiffer Winery, Robin and Scott South, Sandi and Jerry South, Molly and Devon Vendetti, and Territorial Vineyards.**

Our event was truly a success with additional sponsorships by **Slocum Center for Orthopedics & Sports Medicine**, and **Cheri and Del Johnson**. With special thanks to **The Inkwell** for printing services, **phase II -Tom Kelly** and **Kathy Wiltz** - for design services, and **Comcast, KMTR NewSource 16, and The Eugene CW** for media sponsorship. Thank you to all our guests who attended and supported this event.



OREGON GROWN. OREGON OWNED.

Wine Stewards

Dan Budd
Mary Anne Clark
Roger Clark
Jim Colby
Marni Furse
Bruce Griswold
Steve Johnson
Andria Perez
Louis Rodie

Cheese Stewards

Ashley Franklin
Melanie Huskey
Geoff Keeney
Tristem Laux
Mandee Quick
Ruth Taggart
Kris Walter
Erick Zito

Bakery Staff

Christina Jessie
Claudia Mendonca
Mara Claire Rutherford



Wall of Wine Donors, Silent Auction Donors, and Special Thanks

Albertsons (Thurston Store)
Beehive Cheese Co.
Shanley Bonney and Michael Skillern
Cameron Winery
Kayleigh Catron
Liz Chambers
Michael Caprai
Chase Flowers & Gifts
Creminelli Fine Meats
Crowley Wines
"Dickens Carolers" of Northwest Christian University directed by Melissa Stock
Eola Hills Wine Cellars
Denise and Dan Fitzpatrick
Jason Halstead
FOOD for Lane County
Karin Gardner
Heater-Allen Brewing

Jiffy Market
Irene and Art King
La Mariposa
Steve and Sally Lee
Mauritson Wines
Maximillian Chocolate
Moonstruck Chocolate Co.
Panther Creek Cellars
Pfeiffer Winery
Silvan Ridge ~ Hinman Vineyards
Siuslaw Bank
Robin and Scott South
Sandi and Jerry South
Team Casino
Molly and Devon Vendetti
Territorial Vineyards
Dick Withnell ~ Withnell Dodge



Treasured Volunteers and Interns June 2009 –January 2010

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Lindsay Adams
Anya Aguilar
Isaac Alltucker
Ezra Alltucker
Kevin Alltucker
Marty Ambros
Amy Anderson
Sarah Andrews
Kaysie Angelletta
Cyndy Backlund
Emily Barclay
Marta Barclay
Erin Baskin
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Victoria Braun
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Special thanks to Debi Vodvarka and Rosemary Duffy for the beautiful Relief Nursery family photos in this newsletter edition.



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Special Acts of Kindness

♥ A heartfelt thank you to **Kenny Wheaton** and the **Kenny Wheaton Foundation** for bringing so many wonderful gifts to our children.

♥ **Eugene Chamber of Commerce Greeters** gave over 30 families beautifully carved and decorated SPOOKTACULAR pumpkins.

♥ **Great Harvest Bread Co.** is donating tasty treats to our Eugene and Springfield families with their day-old bread.

♥ Puppy love thanks to the many **Kay Jeweler customers** for generously providing four dozen puppies (stuffed of course) to our children to enjoy.

♥ **Kathy and Garth Herring** brought Christmas to many homes by providing beautiful Christmas trees to families who would otherwise not been able to afford them.

♥ To the **anonymous knitter** who provided a warm baby blanket on Christmas Eve, thank you.

♥ A deck the halls with all the trimmings thank you to **Sue and Gerald Vickers** for the beautifully decorated elf tree.

♥ Thank you **QSL Print Communications** and **Chris Humble** for your expertise and patience in assisting with the Relief Nursery newsletter design.

♥ A heartfelt thank you to **Kerry Lutz** of **Kerry Lutz Design** for your contribution of time and talent in the design our Annual Campaign materials.

♥ The **McNeely Family**, especially **Trystan** and **Braedyn**, for donating bags and bags of toys and clothes!

♥ Thank you **Marist High School's Lauren Schmidt** and her **freshman literature class** who recently held a book drive to promote literacy in our community. They selected the families and children served by the Relief Nursery for this amazing gift of reading.

♥ Once again **The Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 290** purchased pajamas, slippers and blankets for the children and families served by the Relief Nursery during the holiday season. We are so grateful for your continued support.



♥ Thirty very lucky Relief Nursery children received an early gift from friends at **Valley River Center**. They were invited to watch Santa arrive via his special holiday helicopter-sleigh followed by breakfast and a special visit to see Santa at his Valley River Center holiday-home. Santa breakfast tickets were generously provided to the children by **Valley River Center**, **Harry Ritchie's** and an **anonymous** benefactor.

♥ Thank you **AmSan Building Maintenance Supply** for the paper product donation for the families. This will help stretch their already strained family budgets.

♥ Thank you **Active 20-30 Club** for the cuddly donation of warmth for the families—coats of all sizes, colors, and types!

♥ Beautiful red and yellow roses celebrating the Rose Bowl decorated the Relief Nursery compliments of **Chase Flowers and Gifts**. Fans and supporters were able to purchase roses to benefit the Relief Nursery at the Civil War—thank you Chase Flowers and Gifts.

♥ Thank you for your help! **B. Kasey's Appliance Service, Inc.** donated service to fix the washing machine!

♥ Thank you employees of **Old Dominion Collision Repair Center** for the donation of the like-new home furnishings and household items. What a great gift for the families!

♥ **Waldenbooks** collected books for the children through the holiday shopping season. Hundreds of books were donated and given to the children. Thank you **Kyle Mattox**, co-workers, and all those special shoppers that thought of others in need this past season. We appreciate your generosity.

♥ **O'Hara Catholic School 6th graders**, we appreciate the help! Thank you for coming to the Relief Nursery and sorting over 2,000 gifts for the holidays.

♥ An enterprising group of **third-grade students** from **Clear Lake Elementary** school in **Jeri Henry** and **Rod Gingery** classes took it upon themselves to hold hot chocolate fundraiser sales at their school to benefit the children at the Relief Nursery. Thank you students—we appreciate your generous donation from your proceeds.



♥ **Framin' Artworks** created and designed beautiful pieces of art at a recent benefit held for the Relief Nursery at **Chikara Salon & Spa**. We appreciate your talent and commitment to helping raise much-needed funding for the children and families. Thank you.

♥ **Christine & Company** supplied a generous donation of hair products, hair brushes and goodies for gifts for the parents at the recent **Pamper Me Day** event held at the Relief Nursery.

♥ **Diana Bray**—not only attended our advocacy breakfast as a guest—but was at the Relief Nursery late into the evening the night before with her **family** and **friends** from **Valley River Center** preparing holiday materials needed to provide the children and families with a festive holiday-giving season.

♥ **Marc Carlson** and **Safeway**—thank you for allowing us to borrow your shopping carts. You made the transportation of holiday gifts easier on the community members who brought gifts for the families during the holidays.

♥ **Roy** at the **Tire Factory** deserves a round of applause for providing tires for our buses at a substantial discount. Thanks Roy!

♥ Our friends at **B & G Automotive** donated repairs, service, and parts to keep our two vehicles on the road in safe working condition—way to go!

Special Acts of Kindness continued

♥ Thank you **Ron** and **crew** from **Living Concepts Landscape** for keeping our landscaping lush, green, and beautiful. Your donation of time and services is noticed by all.

♥ **McKenzie Mist** is providing naturally pure artesian water to the classrooms and office staff. This special gift is teaching the children healthy water drinking habits at an early age. Thank you **Molly** and **team** at McKenzie Mist!

♥ A very special thank you to our friends, **Brian Maderos** and **Josh Evert** at **Audio Visual Management Services**. We appreciate you making our presentations shine!

♥ Thank you **Omlid & Swinney** for the help with our sprinkler system. We appreciate how you always go above and beyond.

♥ Thank you **Oren** and **Susan Posner** and **Steve** and **Sally Lee** for the gift of the new freezer, now allowing more space for food for the families.

♥ A special thank you to **William Doerr** who asked guests at his 7th birthday party to bring gifts for Relief Nursery children instead of for him.

♥ A warm thank you to **The Knitting Group** at **Willamette Oaks** who continue to provide the children with handmade items throughout the year.

♥ Thank you to **Trevor Boss** of **Edgewood Pool** who donated four children's bikes, toys, dishes, and women and children's clothing.

♥ **Valley River Center**, thank you for the brand new toys from your toy drive. We appreciate your dedication.

♥ Thanks for keeping us clean! **NPE, Inc** and **Lisa Howe** donated six cases of liquid soap.

♥ Blooming thanks to **Dandelions Flowers** for their fundraiser **Make It For Mom** benefiting the Relief Nursery.

♥ Thank you members of the **Eugene Airport Rotary Club** for the creative talents that provided the hand-made baby caps.

♥ **Stefani** and **Randy Thompson**, thank you for the 38 hand-crocheted hats you delivered to the Relief Nursery, that have kept many warm this cold winter.

♥ Goody thanks to **Kennedy Middle School** for the seven bags of Gak.



Dr. Randy Phelps from the **OHSU Child Development and Rehabilitation Center**, assisted by intern volunteer, **Sam Klonoski**, began a bi-monthly clinic to provide assessments, diagnosis, and recommendation for treatment for children with special needs. Young children, particularly those with special

needs, may be frightened by unfamiliar surroundings. Arranging appointments, transportation to the appointment and overcoming fears may be enough to keep parents from accessing these services for their children. Reaching out to families in this way allows children to receive these services in a familiar and family supportive environment.

♥ A donation made by **Brenner's Furniture** of a sofa and dining room set have a great home with one of our families! Thank you.

♥ **John L. Scott Realty** and **Laura Abruzzini**, thank you for the successful diaper drive, collecting diapers, wipes, and diaper cream.

♥ Thanks a million, **Richard Johnson**, for the shoes, clothes, magazines, and queen size bed frame you donated.

♥ **O'Hara Preschool**, thank you for collecting baby and children's items.

♥ Thank you **Brenda Franssen** and **Janet Steil** for the donated food for the food pantry.

♥ **Marilyn Ditto**, thank you for donating a queen sofa bed!

♥ Thank you, **Christopher Banks** at **Valley River Center**, for your donation of boxes of brand-new clothing.

♥ **Nan Johnson**, your beautiful hand-made quilts have helped to keep many of our families warm and happy this winter.

♥ **Virginia Hendreckson**, your time and energy were evident in the beautiful hand-made quilt you donated. Thank you.

♥ Socks off to you, **Bertha Holt Elementary**, for the many socks you donated from the school sock drive.

♥ Thank you to **Courtney** and **Ryan South** for the craft supplies!

♥ **Sofia Ferrari**, at the age of four, you are embracing the act of giving. Thank you for donating your Dora castle doll house!

♥ **Jeanne Wright**, thank you for the donation of new raincoats and gloves for the children.

♥ Thank you so much to **Cash Connection** for the 50 cases of shampoo for our families.

♥ A special thank you to **Ryan Pickens** who chose the Relief Nursery as the recipient of his Eagle Scout project by hosting a blanket, food and new toy drive. With the help of his friend **Soren Wilson**, they delivered over 60 new blankets, carts of food and boxes of new toys for the children and families. Thank you for your generosity!



Congratulations John Sheppard!

On behalf of Relief Nursery children and families, we wish to congratulate you for being named 2009 First Citizen by The Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce.

Thank you for your dedication and many contributions to the Relief Nursery and your community.



Our donors are our most valued community supporters. If you do not see your name above, please know it was omitted inadvertently. Please call us at 343-9706, extension 109, and we will place your name in the next printing. Thank you!

The Dollhouse Fashion Show



What do you see when you look inside a dollhouse? Dolls, dress-up, and an abundance of imagination! And on November 9, 2009, **Chikara Salon & Spa** did not disappoint when they hosted “**the Dollhouse: the fashion show**” to benefit the Relief Nursery. Chikara Salon & Spa was inspired to unite their designers with this childlike theme and create an exciting show. The audience enjoyed high fashion and art while watching the shows arousing creativity throughout the night.



Wine, mingling, and a silent auction were garnishes to this packed fashion show. The **Fancy Bandits** performed live while models depicting a Tim Burton doll, a Harlequin doll, a Raggedy Ann, and 18 other dolls sauntered down the aisle, one by one, bringing the audience back to their childhood. “It truly was an evening for the children, the child in all of us girls!” **Julie Carpenter**, spokesperson and Relief Nursery Leadership Board member raved. “The atmosphere was incredible and so was the turnout.” We hope to see you next year at another fantastical show!



Additional Thanks to Chikara Silent Auction and Event Donors

Baby Cakes Designs
Bambini
Burch's Shoes
Sarah Bushka
Chapala Mexican Restaurant
Delaney Street
Miss Meers
Department of Interior
Eugene Hilton
Fancy Bandits
Eugene Running Company
Framin' Artworks
Scrap Happy
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Lago Blue
Luxe
Potter's Quarter
The Juice

Maria's Alterations
Kim Morales
Oakway Wine and Deli
Petite Feet
Vincent Mock
Joshua Rainey Photography
Paul Nibblet
Sharon Lose
Ambrosia Restaurant
Weight Watchers
Café Yumm!
Bumble and bumble
Salon Services
The Ball Studio
Wires 'n Pliers
Bonnie Nibblett
Janelle Scheidl
Jennifer Brandt



Hair and Makeup Thank you to the creative hands of Chikara

Rachel
Corina
Christa
Alyssa
Andra
Cassidy
Justin
Maggie
Jenny
Lupe
Rachel

The Models

Kate (Veigh)
Gina Kontur
Emily Afandor
Henry the Puppetmaster
Sierra Broan
Jada Allender
Kayla Bennett
Iris Lee
Melissa Swift
Laura Liester
Rachel Gillette
Cory Tollefson
Caitlyn Erickson
Sarah Burke
Kinsley Suer
Christa Coven
Matt Jordan
Kayla Stapley
NayInn Anderson
Nikki Wilson
Aaron Tollefson
Jessica Stuhr



Applause, Applause!...

Thank you **Leadership Board Speakers Bureau** for advocating on our behalf during the recent United Way Campaign. **Todd Edman, Kathy Lucier, Stephen Nessly, Jenny Obermiller, and Becky Smith** spoke on the agencies behalf at various business locations throughout the campaign.

When things go from bad to worse, the Relief Nursery is here

As if a change in the nation's economy wasn't hard enough on Anita's family, they are now facing something far more devastating. With boxes still packed from the move to Eugene, the Smiths received shocking news. Instead of a quick doctor visit, Anita would be staying a few days in the hospital. Or longer. The doctor had found a brain tumor that needed to be operated on immediately, followed with radiation and chemotherapy.

This news makes a difficult time worse. Anita and her two daughters recently moved to Eugene, leaving her husband and the girl's father behind. Financially they could no longer live in California, so Anita's husband stayed behind to keep the job he fortunately still has. The rest of the family packed up and moved to Eugene for its lower cost of living and to be near additional family members.

This has been particularly hard as the family adjusts to new demands. Fourteen year old Maria traded her role as a teenager for one of a caregiver for the family. Maria now takes the food stamps to do the grocery shopping, which must be done after school and before she has to watch her three year old sister, while her mother receives radiation. She cooks and cleans in between completing her homework and caring for her sister as she waits for her mom to return home.

The Relief Nursery is doing what it can to help. During the holidays the family received donations of Christmas gifts and gift cards. Donated blankets immediately came in handy as much of their life remained in unpacked boxes while dealing with the life changing news.

As chemo starts for Anita, the Relief Nursery is providing support and efforts are being made to get three year old Yohana into the therapeutic early childhood classroom or Early Head Start as the program begins. The goal is to help Yohana adjust to the many changes she has recently experienced and ease Anita's parenting pressures.

The food pantry is back up and running, but always needs replenishing!

"The Relief Nursery food pantry is back in business after a busy holiday season. Food continues to be a high need for families as they enter the New Year. Many families continue to face food budget challenges. Thank you for your support in these challenging times," said **Debra Dreiling**, program manager



A special thank you to treasured volunteer, **Nancy Grove** and food donations from **Kennedy Middle School, Beth Little** and the **Holiday Market attendees**, and an **anonymous** donor.

Food Pantry Needs
Soup
Peanut butter
Canned Tuna
Baby Food
Protein Bars



Every Little Bit Helps
 Whether you attend one of our events, donate to the annual campaign, donate online at www.reliefnursery.org, donate In Honor or In Memory of a loved one or special friend, it all adds up to mean a great deal to our families. Thank you.



In Honor of

Kevin Alltucker
from Mim and Bud Foley

Abbey and Joel Black
from Terry L. Wilson

Caroline Cantrell
from Stephen Flavin

Julie and Nate Carpenter
from Margaret and David Listoe

Paula Carpenter
from Peeters & Peeters Landscape Design Build, Inc, Mark Peeters

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Launa and Nick Graehl
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Bill and Jane Hallstrom
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Betty Hillstrom
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Dan, Holly, Annabelle and Jack Higgins
from Peeters & Peeters Landscape Design Build, Inc, Mark Peeters

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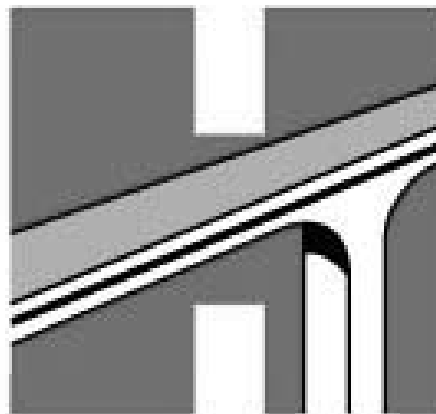
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Wondering what to wear?

The hardworking families of Kansas seemed to all dress in black and white. But in the wonderful world of Oz, in the Emerald City, the citizens all dressed in their finest green.



MAIN EVENT 2010 PACKAGE HIGHLIGHTS

FIGHTER PILOT FOR DAY

EXPERIENCE BEING AT THE CONTROLS OF A STATE OF THE ART FIGHTER PLANE!

CHEER ON THE DUCKS IN KNOXVILLE,
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EXPERIENCE THE WINE TRIP OF A LIFETIME
AT THE SULLIVAN FAMILY HOME IN NAPA.

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