Our First Year
Humble Beginnings

With Respect,

system ready to learn, grow and become productive community citizens in the years to come.

Different programs off the families themselves) before we felt age five seeking support (taking the burden of understanding offered county staff already in place and incorporate parenting classes they could compliment and coordinate those services.

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nursery to serve our children under age five in crisis faced and planning on how we could create a relief nursery to serve our children under age five – the age range that represented 44% of all child abuse victims.

For the next two years our grassroots group worked closely with local organizations serving young families to learn what programs already existed and how the relief nursery model could compliment and coordinate those services.

Eventually we determined the relief nursery would open as a program of Lutheran Community Services Northwest’s Yamhill County office, allowing us to utilize administrative staff already in place and incorporate parenting classes they offered county-wide. LCSNW took over the contract for Healthy Families of Yamhill County, which up until then was administered by the county and work was done to develop a single referral form for families with children under age five seeking support (taking the burden of understanding different programs off the families themselves) before we felt ready to open our doors last year.

The relief nursery model treats families with dignity and respect, recognizing that abuse and neglect are frequent. The result of extreme stress or a lack of good information. Relief nursery services are designed to stabilize families before stress and trauma have a long-term impact on the development of children in the home and have been proven to reduce foster placements. Children from at-risk families who are enrolled in a relief nursery are more likely to enter the school system ready to learn and become productive community citizens by coming home.

As we mark the one-year anniversary of A Family Place, I would like to thank each of you for the support you have offered to these families and for the future you have given to their children.

With Respect, 
Hilma, Cynthia L. Easterly
Yamhill County Circuit Court Judge for Children & Families

leadership council

Bob Andrews, Mayor
City of Newberg

Rene’ Bittle
First Federal

Ted Crawford, Mayor
City of Dundee

Cynthia L Easterday
Circuit Court Judge

Suey Linzein
Executive Director
Yamhill County Head Start

Dr. Peg Miller
Pediatrician

Dianne Haugeberg
Attorney
Haugeberg Rueter Gowell

Ann Stevenson
Darkness to Light Facilitator

Dan Himmon
Himmon Agency

Jon Johnson
First Federal

leadership team

Jordan Robinson
LCSNW Area Director of Yamhill County Offices

Cara Copeland
Director

Elaine Burke
Director of Community Engagement

Thank you to our first-year donors

A program of The Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries

The Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries requires 25% of relief nursery funding be from local community based sources.

Risk Factors

Poverty

Victims of Abuse as Children

Domestic Violence

Depression

Lack of Support System

Teen Pregnancy

Parent(s) or caregivers with these challenges can be especially vulnerable to the stress of parenting infants and young children.

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A family place served over 250 families in the first year, employed 15 staff members and maintained a budget over $400,000.

R. Steiner & K. Jackson

Englestad Eastern

Linda Strom

Ann Stevenson

Stevenson Family Trust

Becky Swenson

Tom & Jan Tankersley

Anthony Tenpound

Third Street Flats

Amy Thompson

*First year gifts were made prior to September 30, 2014.
**Relief Nursery Classroom**

Served 19 two and three-year-old children

Andy, a member of our inaugural relief nursery class, was living in a local substance abuse recovery shelter with his dad when he started coming to the nursery. After a few months Andy’s mother and younger sister were able to join them and their family was together again, but living in a single room.

In addition to the classroom time Andy’s teacher, Aimee, also visited their home monthly to provide guidance on how to respond to the children’s behaviors and coach both parents through sibling interactions. During home visits Aimee noticed how serious Andy’s dad was about understanding and implementing the parenting techniques she shared each month and learned he was using Andy’s classroom time to seek out a better housing arrangement.

Today, when Andy leaves the classroom he goes home to a three-bedroom apartment his dad secured for their family. With a permanent address, his parents now spend Andy’s classroom time looking for work near the apartment. The school day time each week, combined with monthly accountability through home visits, has helped the family outline and execute a plan for returning to work and lays one more brick in a stable foundation for their children.

“Aimee Amerson
Born: Portland, OR
I enjoy bonding with the children and making an early difference in the lives of the youngest members of our community.

**Stories from the nursery**

**Clint, 3:** My mom is in treatment and doing her best to keep my brother and me. I just started school and I am always excited to put my back pack on and go to the nursery. While I am at class, my mommmy attends her classes.

**Brent, 3; Louis, 3:** Our mommy just gave birth to another set of twin boys! We are happy she is now clean and staying in treatment. At the nursery we get to play with other kids our age and have fun in circle time, while mommy spends time with our new brothers.

**Evan, 3:** My birth mom has been working with many case workers and is trying really hard to have my brother and me back. My foster mom takes care of me as well as a few other kids who have special needs. Going to the nursery gives my foster mom time with the other kids and allows me to spend some time with new friends and very caring teachers.

**Allen, 2:** My family is constantly moving. We just moved again, last week and my mom is having a hard time adjusting and getting things done. I love coming to the nursery since I know what each day will be like.

**Layla, 2:** I mostly spend time with my mommy at home. She has some medical difficulties and sometimes she has days where she just needs rest. While I go to the nursery my mom gets to stay at home and take care of herself. I enjoy playing and cuddling with our puppy and is trying really hard to have my brother and me back. My foster mom takes care of me as well as a few other kids who have special needs. Going to the nursery gives my foster mom time with the other kids and allows me to spend some time with new friends and very caring teachers.

**Anna, 2:** My parents are busy working and going to school. I live in an apartment with my family, but it has no outdoor space for me to run around. Going to the nursery makes me feel happy because I get to move around, play with my friends, and spend time outside!

**Adam, 2:** Both my parents are busy working and going to school. I live in an apartment with my family, but it has no outdoor area and very little room for me to run around. Going to the nursery makes me feel happy because I have a more stable family environment. I want to help them and be happy as well.

**Melina, 2:** My mom and dad are in treatment programs so we live in a house with other children who are also enrolled. My mom is going to school and is doing her best to continue her studies. While my mom and dad are in treatment programs, I want to help them and be happy as well.

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**Healthy Families Oregon**

**our nursery teachers**

Aimee Amerson
Born: Portland, OR
I enjoy bonding with the children and making an early difference in the lives of the youngest members of our community.

Angela Blankenship
Born: Rochester, MN
I want to help the community’s youngest members get the best start possible.

Diana Reyes Retana
Born: Mexico
I want to help provide a safe and nurturing atmosphere for children in our community.

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**our home visitors**

Romelle Hermeyer
Born: Rochester, MN
I love getting to know different families’ strengths and hopes and journey with them as they raise their little ones.

Delphia Perezselsky
Born: Roswell, NM
I love watching families grow and develop.

Yesenia Lopez-Duran
Born: McMinnville, OR
I enjoy getting to know different families’ strengths and hopes and journey with them as they raise their little ones.

Courtney Bennett
Born: Portland, OR
I enjoy getting to know different families’ strengths and hopes and journey with them as they raise their little ones.

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**What is a home visit?**

During home visits families receive information and support from an understanding, professional visitor who will help develop skills so parents can:

- Cope better with parenting challenges
- Care for their child’s mental and physical health
- Understand how babies grow, develop and learn
- Keep their baby and themselves healthy
- Help their baby be ready for school
- Families can enroll during pregnancy, up until the child is three months old; home visitors will work with families, as needed, up to three years.

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**Healthy Families Oregon**

**Home visitors served families in:**

Newberg, McMinnville, Carlton, Amity, Sheridan, Willamina, Dundee, Dayton, Yamhill & Grand Ronde.

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[Image 487x104 to 560x135]
Parent Education
Served 197 parents across Yamhill Co., representing over 500 children

our parent educators
Laura Lockhart
Born: Mt. View, CA
I love giving people tools that benefit their families.

Mary Sanchez
Born: Austin, TX
I love my job because it allows me an opportunity to instill life skills/funds in others and to facilitate a sense of hope and self belief.

Arcelia Valdivinos
Born: Michoacán Mexico
I love the support we give to families through parenting classes.

Amy Kopsa
Born: Memphis, TN
My favorite thing about being a parent educator is getting to nurture mothers and teach them about nurturing themselves and their children.

Diane Roleandt
Born: Detroit, MI
When teaching, I enjoy participating with parents in discovering new awareness and strengths to grow hope and improve connections with children and relationships.

Michele Gray
Born: Ronkonkoma, NY
I love that my job allows me to positively impact people’s lives with the resources I share.

Parent education classes

Mothers & Babies
For women who are pregnant and/or have children under the age of 3 and have been feeling sad, isolated, lonely, anxious, and/or have problems sleeping. This 12-week class helps identify if they are experiencing Antepartum/Postpartum Depression, and develops skills for coping and seeking help. The course will cover topics including taking care of yourself, finding emotional support and emotional attachment.

Make Parenting a Pleasure
This 8-week class helps all parents identify ways to take better care of themselves and discover new ways to make parenting easier. Parents are encouraged to connect with each other and develop strategies together to better understand their child’s behavior and ways to discipline that fit their child’s age.

Circle of Security
The Circle of Security is a relationship based early intervention program designed to enhance attachment security between parents and children. Decades of university-based research have confirmed that secure children exhibit increased empathy, greater self-esteem, better relationships with parents and peers, enhanced school readiness, and an increased capacity to handle emotions more effectively when compared with children who are not secure.

More than 15% of mothers will experience postpartum depression, which is one of the top three risk factors for child abuse.

volunteer vacancies

Relief Nursery
Positions include: Childcare, Food Preparation, Bus Driver

Parent Education
(weekday afternoons/evenings; 1 day/week)

Childcare assistants.

Committees
(Weekdays; 1 day/month)

Committees focus on Marketing, Events, Facilities, Resource Development and Volunteer management.

Administrative
(As available)

Assist with office work and diaper bank staffing.

supporting our staff

Michelle Harvey knows working with vulnerable families can result in traumatic levels of stress for those involved— that’s why she’s here. Known as vicarious trauma within the social services field, it’s the stress employees often feel when they see children and families experiencing crisis day after day. Michelle, who holds a Masters in Social Work and a certificate in trauma-informed services, spends much of her time with staff members, helping brainstorm creative suggestions unique to the situations their families are facing. Her fluency in English and Spanish also allows her to work directly with families when needed.

Early Childhood programs like A&F introduce resilience and protective factors where they have the highest impact - at the very beginning of the lifespan. I am excited to be part of such an incredible, hard-working organization!

-Michelle Harvey

who needs a change?
Parents, children and our community all experience positive change when we increase access to diapers for local families.

- 1 in 3 moms report they do not have an adequate supply of diapers
- The stress a parent or caregiver feels when they are not able to meet their children’s basic needs adds to the already difficult task of parenting and can have a negative impact on their baby.
- Families unable to afford an adequate supply of clean diapers often leave their babies in a single diaper all day, which causes stress to the child and can have a negative emotional affect.
- Children without an adequate diaper supply are often unable to enroll in early childhood classrooms or daycares that require a family to supply diapers, thus reducing a parent’s ability to work.

Organizations across Yamhill County have been hosting diaper drives to stock our diaper banks and ensure emergency supplies of diapers are available to local families.

Ask for a copy of our diaper drive kit today!

Next Steps
Over the next year we will work to develop a client outreach team to connect with families on our waiting list. This team will monitor risk factors for abuse and neglect and prioritize which families will fill program slots when they become available.

We plan to also...

McMinnville
Add a relief nursery classroom for infants within two years.
Add two more classes in 1-2 years, serving infants through 3 year-olds.
West Valley
Increase Parent Education opportunities.
Start distributing diapers at already existing community events.
Develop long-term timeline for establishing a relief nursery classroom space.

Diaper banks are open weekly to anyone in the community

Thursdays from 10am to noon
McMinnville: 335 NE 6th
Newberg: 1714 Villa Rd.

Thank you
McMinnville Cooperative Ministries
Joyful Servant Lutheran Church
Head Start of Yamhill County
McMinnville First Baptist Church
Sue Buel Elementary
for hosting Parent Education Classes

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LV VanBlaricom
LV came to A Family Place in February 2014, anxious to find a role she could play to help and give back to her community. Since then LV has served as the champion for our McMinnville diaper bank and clothing closet. She recruited and built a team of volunteers who staff our distribution and ensure there is a scheduled time every week when we are open to the community.

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