



**HEARTS
— WITH A —
MISSION**

2020 - 2021

**ANNUAL
REPORT**





**HEARTS
WITH-A
MISSION**

Every Child Deserves A Home

A Letter from Kevin Lamson

Dear Friends,

Did you know according to the experts today, it is too impersonal to address you as friends? This may not be accepted by some, but it is the only way I can describe you. Your support has helped Hearts With A Mission through many seasons of uncertainty. A true friend will always be there in a time of need. So I say to you, our friends, Thank You from the bottom of my heart!

In 2020, we experienced God's faithfulness in uncertain times. We saw incredible acts of generosity as well as courage through our volunteers in providing host homes. We were impacted in many ways, including the loss of some dear friends who have supported Hearts With A Mission for many years. Our prayers go out to their families and they will always be remembered. We will miss them but know we will one day see them again. While our country is in chaos and seems divided over many different issues, we have seen our communities unite to help young people and their families in a time of need. Thank you for your faithfulness.

This year our communities continue to endure COVID 19, fires, smoke, business shutdowns, isolation and lack of employment in the workplace. Through it all, you have continued to be faithful with your support. You have honored us with your time, treasures and talents, and we are incredibly grateful to partner with you.

Our Transitional Living Program is now up and running in both Jackson and Josephine Counties, serving youth 18-22. We are expanding our counseling offices in Medford and opening a Safe Families for Children Chapter in Klamath Falls to provide host homes in their community.

We are excited about the direction God is leading us and we continually see the fruit from the seeds that you, our faithful supporters, have planted.



Together with you,

Founder/Executive Director



Hearts With A Mission serves homeless and at-risk youth by providing shelter, educational support, mentoring and transition planning with a faith-based approach.



YOUTH → FAMILY → COMMUNITY

The Ripple Effect

By Sharon Rush, CPO



“The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matt 25:40

This guiding verse is on the sign in front of the original Hearts With A Mission youth shelter. It reminds us that our acts of love are for ‘the least of these.’ In this, we demonstrate the love of our Heavenly Father.

To clarify, ‘least’ does not mean a person is less than; it simply means they have less than - a big distinction. Practically, this means feeding the hungry, giving the thirsty something to drink, providing shelter for the homeless, clothing those who need clothing, looking after the sick and visiting the prisoners.

Over the past several years, we learned that if we want to help kids, we must help the family. Hearts has grown from just serving youth in crisis with a single emergency shelter to adding host home programs and support for families. For youth aging out of the system, we added two transitional living homes for vulnerable young adults, along with skills training for youth exiting foster care.

We’ve seen the connections between our families in crisis and caring volunteers who come alongside, providing

concrete supports, friendship and encouragement while parents get back on their feet. We see time after time, through these ongoing relationships, our kids find their value and purpose; parents realize they are no longer alone. Family members rediscover their love for each other. We see hope in their eyes when their suffering is acknowledged and comfort shared.

The work comes full circle when we see our youth and parents who were once on the receiving end of support now become the ones who are giving back to their community, serving others. This ‘return on investment’ cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

It has eternal value.

We have seen the ripple effect of those who have received help now being the ones to offer support and it is powerful! We are so grateful to you for your unwavering generosity with your time and resources. Thank you for responding to the unsettling challenges in our community and pressing forward with hope and faith!

Grateful for our Good Neighbor



Kevin and Board Member, Kathy Tinsley in front of Walter's house.

Walter has been our neighbor since we opened our first shelter in 2009. Our staff remembers how Walter kept his yard pristine and had beautiful roses. He was always such a kind neighbor and would greet our youth with a smile.

The neighborhood has changed a lot since he first bought his property. It started as a quiet street and turned into a street with drug houses. But, Edwards Street has been reclaimed in the last decade by programs such as Kid's Unlimited, Youth 71:5 and Hearts With A Mission.

Last year Walter was unable to continue living at his home. When he decided to sell his house, he wanted to sell it to Hearts With A Mission to continue the good work being done on Edwards Street.

In July, we were honored to purchase the home of our good neighbor. We plan on doing some slight remodeling and using the property as counseling offices.

Running from the Past, Running to the Future

By Bill Hague, Youth Shelter Manager

On April 6th, 2021, Anthony walked through the doors of HWAM. He had recently run from his previous placement and was struggling with anger and trust issues. While Anthony agreed to come to HWAM, it wasn't without reluctance. He had a lack of trust in the system he had been caught up in for several years. He has been in and out of programs since he was 12 years old and most recently in a place where he was away from all he knows for more than a year.

Our staff immediately laid out the welcome mat for him and began earning his trust through love and compassion. The team started building relationships with him and working on his trust and anger issues. Anthony quickly began to take part in all the youth activities and started demonstrating the ability to regulate his emotions regarding anger. Once when another youth threw a card in Anthony's face out of anger, Anthony was able to walk away without retaliation. This response was a major victory!

While Anthony was at the shelter, he was able to rekindle his relationship with his grandfather. They took several outings together. They went fishing and Anthony had a great time. The time he spent with his grandfather was a blessing. He also struck up a good

relationship with staff who had similar interests while enhancing his trust and building relationships. In the background, our Case Manager and DHS were working together to get his aunt's approval to take him in full time.



Anthony was passionate about going to church, youth group, riding his scooter and taking every opportunity to share his faith. He enjoyed the adventure therapy back packing trip he took while he was here. During the trip, Anthony engaged with and encouraged the other youth. A few weeks before he exited the shelter, he presented the devotion for our staff. He spoke of the many challenges he had encountered in his young life and how, for him, God was the one constant thing he had in his life. Over 60 days, we saw

Anthony go from an angry young man with trust issues to a thoughtful, caring young man who experiences how love and care can break down walls of lack of trust and anger. Anthony is now living with his aunt and rebuilding the relationship with his granddad.

With every youth who enters our shelter, our first thoughts are about their immediate safety. Our second thought is about their continued safety once they leave the shelter.

Emergency Youth Shelter serving Jackson & Josephine Counties

- Emergency shelter for youth ages 10 - 17
- Walk-ins, drop-offs and referrals
- 15 beds and three meals a day
- A safe stable-living environment
- Education, employment and aftercare supports
- Individual Case Management | Youth and Family Counseling | Family Mediation | Parent Support
- 365 days a year | 24/7



"I came in as a 16 year old with no where to go. I didn't have a safe stable home and was couch hopping. Hearts took me in with open arms and I became part of their family." ~ Jessica

Transitional Living Program in Jackson & Josephine Counties

- Serving youth ages 18-22 years old
- 12-bed home(s)
- Safe, stable housing for up to 24 months
- Relationship/Communication skills
- Coordinated case management
- Educational opportunities, mentoring and employment support
- Money management, focus on goals

Turning 18 - Navigating Life's Transitions

Adrienne experienced a childhood filled with uncertainty, homelessness, physical abuse and neglect. She teared up as she described her experience in the TLP (Transitional Living Program) home.

She reflected on her journey through the System: Having been in Foster Care for many years, she noted, "Once you age out of a program, you're like 'What am I supposed to do? I'm 18, and now I don't have anyone to help me.' The TLP helped me a lot. They helped me with a lot of things. I learned about managing money and how to do interviews. I got a better job and was able to get a bunch of good advice on situations with my parents.



I think Hearts tries to make you feel welcome, like you're wanted. It's a different environment; they try to make it as homey as possible. I think Hearts IS Love. That's the best way to explain it."

When asked about what brought her to TLP, she replied, "I thought when I turned 18 that stuff was going to get better. But I was stressed out all the time,

just feeling so unloved, especially by your family who's supposed to be there for you, kinda makes you not wanna be here anymore, you know?"

The TLP staff nurtured connections and coaxed her to join in with the other residents and activities. TLP manager April Waggoner said, "We could see her sense of humor shine through. We saw a beautiful, down-to-earth young

"I think Hearts IS Love."

woman, full of integrity, who worked hard to do the right thing." Adrienne quickly became a leader amongst her peers. A strong work ethic contributed to her obtaining a full-time job, which allowed her to help support her family.

Hearts With A Mission hired Adrienne as the TLP Resident Assistant. In this role, she utilized her skills to nurture relationships amongst the residents, model appropriate behaviors and values, assist with mediating conflicts and encourage her housemates to engage in activities.

Today, Adrienne has moved into her own apartment and works 50-hour weeks as a caregiver. A strong connection still exists between HWAM staff and Adrienne.

Adrienne intends to work at caregiving until she turns 21 and is old enough to work at Hearts with a Mission. She made it clear that her goals don't end there: "My dream job is to be a neonatologist (helping at-risk newborns). I've wanted to be one since I was six" and we believe Adrienne will do just that!

Independent Living Program in Jackson & Josephine County

- Assists youth ages 16-21 who are, or were, in Foster Care
- Helps youth make a successful transition from foster care to independent living
- Skill groups, One-on-One supports, special events
- Tailored individual service plans to the needs of the youth
- Employment Coaching
- Peer Support



OVER
75,754
NIGHTS OF
SAFE SHELTER

OVER
2,183
CHILDREN
SERVED

OVER
247,246
MEALS
SERVED

Together With You

TANZANITE

United Community Action
Network (UCAN)
Oregon Department
of Human Services

DIAMOND

City Of Medford
Carrico Family Foundation
Oregon Community
Foundation
Dan & Sallie Dutton
Foundation
Advanced Air & Metal Inc

EMERALD

Cow Creek Band of
Umpqua Tribe of Indians
Brian and Genevieve Case
The Ford Family Foundation
S.I. Jaggar Blount Fund
Arthur R. Dubs Foundation
David and Lori Sanders
United Way of Benton &
Lincoln Counties
Dana and Molly Jacobsen
Kathy Tinsley
Don and Kathleen Hoskin
Constance Roach
John and Marilyn Duke
Samaritan Health Services

RUBY

David and Katherine Abdun-Nur
Floydene Deascentis
United Way of Jackson
County
Kevin and Stephanie Jarrard
Nadine N Moseley
Foundation
Christine Stanek-Penkava
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John and Jill Sellers
Lithia Motors
Robert and Frances Chaney
Family Foundation
West Family Foundation
Mark Dew
In & Out Burger

Evergreen Family Foundation
James & Susan Burnett
Patricia Brydon
Bumgardner's Landscape
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Church

SAPPHIRE

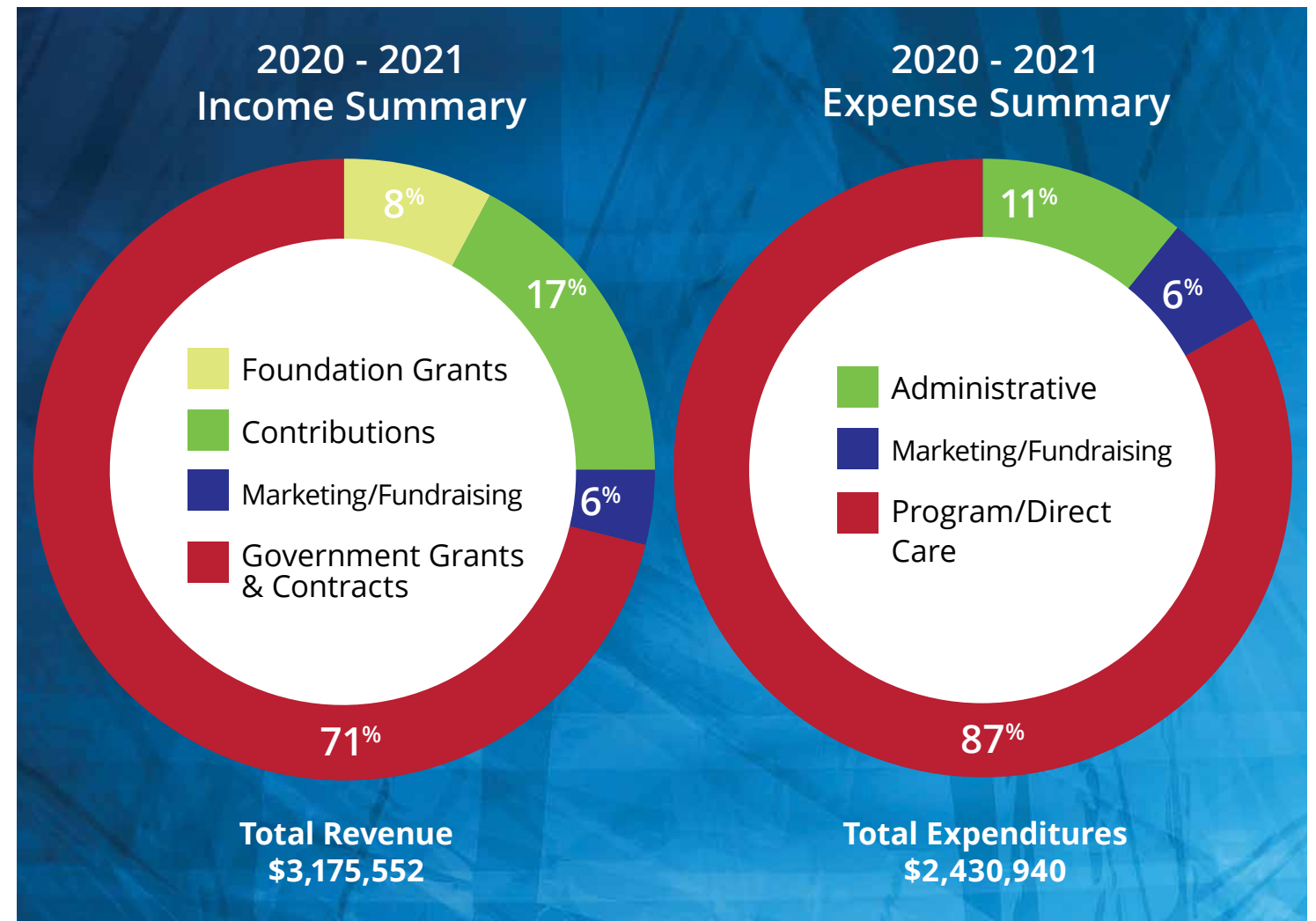
Eddie and Kathryn Townsend
Toyota NW
Mitchell and Susana Dietrich
Rick and Karen Brewster
Sandy Waterhouse
Joe and May Boyd
D.A. Davidson
Larry and Maureen
Jespersen
Trinity Counseling Center
First Presbyterian Church
of Jacksonville
Superior Carpet Service Inc.
Gib and Patti Hice
The Journey Church
Anna May Family Foundation
Betty Little
Tom and Caryn Anderson
Ivan McCracken
Faith Community Church
of Southern Oregon
Julie King
PayneWest Insurance
Coquille Indian Tribe
Dodie & Dave Picanso
Yaquina Chapel
Randall and Bonnie Stroh
Jeff Hogan
Gordon Elwood Foundation
OBI Research & Education
Foundation
Kris Jacobson
Roger and Angie Christianson
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Jan Frazier
Gordon Delcamp and
Virginia Kimball
Eagle Point Community
Bible Church
Ernest and Jane Conrad
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Brian and Julie Rose
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RA Murphy Construction Inc
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Diode Laser Concepts
Calvary Lutheran Church
Crites Family Trust
Premiere M&R
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Community Baptist Church
of Merlin
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Margaret Ingman
Kevin and Margaret Lamson
Willie Boats Inc.
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St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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Jackson County
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Glenda Johnson
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Grants Pass Toyota
Denise Ellison and
Wayne Wright
Karen A Scott
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Sid and Karen DeBoer
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Kelsay Computer &
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HWAM 2020-2021 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



HWAM Board of Directors

Shown: *Back row, L to R:*

Bill Bumgardner,
Rick Frankael,
Kevin Lamson,
Kirk Kolb,
Joshua Lute,
Rob Eastman

Front R row, L to R:

Kathy Tinsley,
Lisa Merritt,
Colleen Padilla,
Katherine Abdun-Nur,
Darcey Mann-Self

HWAM Board of Directors

not present:

Cheryl Dyer,
Kenneth Meigs,
Seth Benham



Members of the HWAM Board of Directors gather for an early summer time get together.

Safe Families for Children in Jackson, Josephine & Lincoln Counties

- Surrounding families in crisis with caring, compassionate community and circles of support
- Provides short-term care for children, ages 0 - 22, with volunteer host families
- Allows parents facing crisis to address the issues that led them to the situation while their children stay with a Safe Family
- Foster Care prevention

The Abalone Shell

Tony Mendenhall, SFFC Coordinator, Josephine County

Have you ever noticed how God shows up in the little ways? It happened to one of our families recently.

Many of us can relate to leaving our homes quickly after fires swept through our state in 2020. Mary and her children were fleeing an unsafe home situation and left quickly without taking much. We grabbed essential papers, clothes and small mementos. One of the things Mary had to leave behind when she left was an abalone shell with sand dollars that she and the children had collected. It was a treasure she knew she would never get back.

Mary found out about the Safe Families program in Josephine County. She and her children were placed in a Safe Family host home until Mary could find a place to stay. The family had virtually nothing. Mary and her

host home family created a list of needed items and put out a Google needs list. The list had 138 items on it. The Josephine County churches and the community got right into action.



Within the space of about 4-5 days, most of the items were checked off of the list!

When they got to their new house and started unloading, the first thing unloaded (because it wasn't packed) was an abalone shell with some sand dollars. I explained that the woman wanted to give her children something. Mary looked stunned and had tears in her eyes as she explained the significance of this precious gift, this tiny treasure. In the midst of feeling that she had lost everything, she realized she had not. She glimpsed both God and her community supporting her and her children.



We help parents in crisis. Whether they are experiencing homelessness, unemployment, domestic violence or other obstacles, **we want to help.**

Safe Families for Children helps parents in crisis get back on their feet and keep their families intact.

On average, a child stays with a Host Family for slightly less than 45 days. Parents are referred for a variety of reasons but primarily because of an unstable living environment or crisis. The majority of children hosted are younger than six years of age, and 95% return to their parent or a relative who is in a better position to care for them.

OUR SFFC COUNTIES TO DATE:

JACKSON
135 Individuals served
8,412 Night Hostings

JOSEPHINE
79 Individuals served
5,010 Night Hostings

LINCOLN
113 Individuals served
2,706 Night Hostings



The Lincoln County Safe Families team enjoys a great relationship with Oregon DHS partnering to take care of the children in their county. Lincoln County SFFC coordinator, Marisa Hayner reflects: "We want the same things: to take care of our kids and keep them safe."

YOUTH → FAMILY → COMMUNITY

"We lost our housing. My son was only 12 and we were living in a tent"

These are the words of Debra, a single mom who brought her son to Hearts With A Mission nearly three years ago.

"Leaving my son at the shelter was the hardest thing I've ever done." It was so easy to see the deep love this mom had for her son. "Hearts provided my boy with the ability to go to school every day, a bed, a roof and food in his stomach. They also provided support and the love he needed at the time. There was always an open door for me to see and speak to my son. It turned out to be a wonderful experience and I couldn't have asked for anything better."

Debra expressed being grateful for the care provided not just to her son but also for herself, "Hearts was very supportive, allowing me to visit my son and talk to him on the phone every day. The staff treated me like family.

I was always greeted with big smiles."

Debra worked on getting a job and finding housing. She decided to transition her son from the shelter to a host home through our Safe Families for Children (SFFC) program until she settled. As part of her Circle of Support, Debra was introduced to Karen, who would become her Family Coach and life-long friend.

Karen's role as a Family Coach was to come alongside Debra and support her as she worked toward her goals. Karen also supported the SFFC host family (Kathy and Dave). Karen and Debra's relationship strengthened throughout this journey. Debra's hard times had left her feeling low and unsure of herself. Through Karen's support of her decisions, Debra felt empowered to keep going and keep growing.

Debra's eyes light up when she shares her achievements, "Now we have housing again. I recently just got my driver's license back and have my own vehicle. I am Peer Support certified by the state, so I'm pretty proud of that too."

Karen and her husband Sherm are still very much a part of their lives. Karen says she now feels more like a 'big sister' to Debra. She describes their relationship as "straightforward, honest and caring."

The two families celebrate birthdays together and Debra and her son look after Karen and Sherm's garden and dogs when they are out of town. Debra also enjoys bantering back and forth with Sherm about football!

Debra says, "Karen is amazing; there are no words. I love this woman to death. Karen has been this stable, 'Let's just get this done' supportive attitude. If I have a crisis in my life, I know I can call Karen."

Debra reflected on her experiences and the challenges God has brought her through, "For so long I just relied on me, supporting myself. I didn't know what support looked like. But now I know what real support looks like; it's just someone showing up and being there for you."

"It's an ongoing supportive relationship; it's not a revolving door. It's lifelong."

Debra has recently started volunteering at Hearts With A Mission in our TLP home. She is now that

person 'showing up' for our vulnerable young adults. Because Debra had the courage to ask for help and accept support, she is now the one giving back and making a difference. This is the ripple effect of genuine relationships and a caring, compassionate community.



Debra came out to support the Youth Action Board's Community Resource Fair even though the temperature got up to 108° that day!





"We all need space to allow our thoughts to calm down, get rid of distractions, breathe real air, fresh air, help us stop worrying about tomorrow and be in the present moment."
 ~ April Hubbard

Youth Action Board

The Youth Action Board is comprised of young leaders who are bringing valuable youth perspectives to Hearts With A Mission's work. The Board is comprised of current and former youth of Heart's With A Mission programs.

This summer, they worked with mentors Will, Tatiana and Tony to organize a Community Resource Fair. They spent months of Saturday mornings getting together to plan the event.

"The group wanted to have an event where people could come and learn about all the help that is available in our community. Sometimes it is hard to know where to turn and we wanted to introduce our community to these valuable resources," said mentor Tatiana Gonzales. "We also had some great companies come out to help inform people about job opportunities in the area. Companies such as Grange Co-Op, Fred Meyer, Amy's Kitchen and Work Source braved the well-over hundred degree heat to support us. It was a super hot day and we were so glad they came out."

The Youth Advisory Board was full of energy throughout the day. While the high temperatures kept some people away, the group talked with everyone who came through.

Tony Mendenhall recounts seeing a homeless young man. He was on his way to speak to him, and Elias, a Board member, walked up to him and started talking to him. "I held back and listened to what Elias had to say. Elias was kind, compassionate and said everything I would have. I was so very proud of him." That young man left and then came back a while later, and we spoke some more about what the recovery looked like.

As he was leaving, he asked if he could have a hug. He said he hadn't been hugged in a very long time. That young man left the Resource Fair with hope in his eyes. Those young people did that.



First Safety

By April Hubbard LCSW #L10317, Youth & Family Counselor

Safety: It's a basic need that we all have. Without it, we struggle to build relationships, learn, focus or even sleep. Unfortunately, the sources of threat are everywhere - critical peers, unpredictable living placements, family drama, permanency hearings and sometimes even our thoughts.

For many of our youth, the outdoors are also a perceived threat. It is challenging to create a safe space where youth can open up when these threats actively define their lives and when crisis mode is the predominant mode they have lived. Often I think, "If only I can help to expose them to the potential for peace and beauty that exists in nature! If only I can help them

access a hiatus... a sense of calm and peace for themselves... give them a break from the chaos and negativity of the world!"

Before a trip, I ask the kids what their goals for the journey are. Their goals mirrored mine. In the case of our backpacking trip, the kids identified that they wanted "to have fun," to "get away from the haters," and to take time to "disconnect" from the world so they could have time to process. Time and safety to think about their thoughts, feel their feelings and let loose a little; feel loved and accepted instead of hated.



Then Challenge

We build relationships through both safety and challenge. We start with safety. Then we take a small risk and a step of vulnerability. Trust germinates when we meet our vulnerability with safety rather than judgment. At this point, a relationship can begin to grow.

But without risk, we remain isolated, in that state of being unknown and with fear of being rejected if we were known. Some aren't sure they can even accept themselves for who they are. They spend an excessive amount of energy running from what's in them. Their thoughts and feelings replay like a record on repeat the words and voices spoken over them earlier in their lives: You're a failure... You'll never succeed... You aren't worth it... We don't love or want you. Being what they have heard or felt so many times, it is also what they have internalized. To have to



sit with these memories and thoughts on replay does not feel safe, and so they fill the quiet moments of their lives with food, activity, friends, social media, movies or substances to numb it away. Distraction! A pattern of avoidance emerges as they strive to outrun the inner critic or deny that it is there. Just... keep... going...! They pretend that they are "fine." But this internal fight is exhausting! The burden they carry within themselves already weighs so much that the slightest challenge might send them reeling off the edge, spiraling in their self-deprecation. It's messy! But it's real.

Getting the youth away from their distractions opens up an opportunity for that vulnerability to be met with LOVE and grace, an opportunity for trust, relationship, and to hear a different narrative.

RAV4 HYBRID

DEAR DESTINATION,

GO THE DISTANCE IN A TOYOTA HYBRID.

Prototype shown with options. Two-tone color optional.



**THANK YOU
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and everyone who
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Presented by Stephanie  Jarrard
 NMLS 1598758

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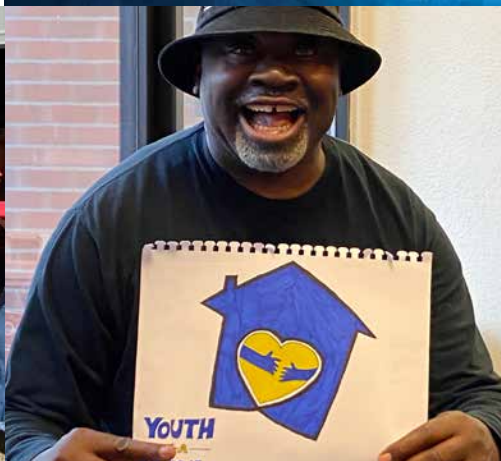
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WITH-A
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Every Child Deserves a Home

2020 - 2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Youth Shelter | Safe Families for Children | Transitional Living Program | ILP



YOUTH SHELTER	517 Edwards St, Medford, OR 97501
TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM	Medford: 521 Edwards St. Grants Pass: 1504 NE 9th St
ADMIN OFFICE	529 Edwards St, Medford, OR 97501
MAILING ADDRESS	711 Medford Ctr #334, Medford OR 97504
LINCOLN COUNTY	PO Box 299, Newport OR 97365

