



HEARTS — WITH A — MISSION

TOGETHER WITH YOU

hwam.org



Update from Hearts With A Mission



Our local partners at Diode Laser Concepts stopped by the Development Office to help with a few outdoor tasks. Thank you for your help gentlemen.



Joezie, Annie and Megan at the Superhero Run. Joezie and Annie were a great help face painting lots of little faces!



Our friends at First Community Credit Union put together Superhero Run kid's bags filled with superhero goodies.



Superhero Run Committee members Kristy and Tawni helped with packet pickup in Medford.



This past quarter has been a busy one at Hearts With A Mission (HWAM), as we continue to navigate our communities needs and improve programs to build brighter futures for youth and families.

As we make plans for the new fiscal year, keeping youth services as the foundation of who we are will help us evaluate where we need to increase program needs.

One of our more significant endeavors will be expanding our Safe Families for Children (SFFC) Program. SFFC is a volunteer-driven, professionally supported program that keeps children safe and families together. HWAM started SFFC in Jackson and Josephine counties in 2014 and has since added Lincoln County in 2018 and Klamath County in 2021. This quick expansion directly reflects the successful outcomes we have observed with youth in the program.

In early 2022 HWAM received funding from the state to expand these programs further by adding a Youth and Family Services Manager in each county. This position will work alongside and be overseen by the county SFFC Director. Their duties are critical in assessing the needs of youth and to support clients in developing an Individual Service Plan to accomplish their desired goals while building positive, supportive relationships with clients and families.

A large part of the success of this program is due to the volunteerism, support of local churches, and active community members. There are many ways to be involved in SFFC through hosting, mentoring, coaching, or being a family friend. We encourage those who feel compelled to reach out to learn more at www.hwam.org.

I also couldn't miss this opportunity to talk about the seventh annual Homeless 2 Hopeful First Community Credit Union Superhero Run that took place on Saturday, April 30th at Valley of the Rogue State Park. This year's event was a huge success with 350 runners and close to 400 people in attendance. We are thankful for the outstanding team of local superheroes who came out with vengeance to show their support!

A big thank you to First Community Credit Union and Toyota Northwest for their continued support over the years, as well as West Family Foundation who created the best KID ZONE a superhero side-kick could ask for. These types of events could not be successful without the support of the entire community, and we are thankful that Southern Oregon showed up for our youth this year.

Thank you again for your continued support and encouragement; it is because of you that HWAM can serve our community and neighbors.

Together with you,



Kevin Lamson,
Executive Director

A Heart for Hearts

Megan Jiles, Volunteer and Events Coordinator

My name is Megan Jiles and I am the new Volunteer and Events Coordinator. I served on the HWAM Board of Directors for 7 years and have been involved with Hearts long before there was even a building. Kevin Lamson, the founder, is my father. So really, my heart has been with Hearts for many years.

I grew up here in the Rogue Valley and after attending Corban University in Salem, Oregon, where I earned my Bachelor's in Elementary Education, I moved back to Medford. I went on to get my Master's Degree in Elementary Mathematics and have been teaching for the last 13 years at Grace Christian. I have also worked as a life coach at HWAM for 2 summers in-between school years and absolutely loved being able to build relationships with the youth during my time there.

I have been married to my amazing husband Chris for almost 6 years. We love traveling, playing games, and eating good food. We have a sweet adventurous redheaded little boy who keeps us busy as we try to savor all the precious moments as time goes flying by.

I am thrilled to be a part of this wonderful organization and use the gifts and talents God has given me to help youth find hope, encouragement, and love. I look forward to meeting many of you as I take on and learn this new role.



Megan, Chris and Casen Jiles

Hello from the Development Team!



*HWAM Development Team:
Anita, Megan and Ashley*

Ashley Blakely, Development Director

The last six months as the Development Director at Hearts With A Mission have been tremendously rewarding. I have enjoyed engaging with staff, meeting community partners, and connecting with our youth. It has been phenomenal to see the positive changes and growth HWAM has experienced over such a short period.

At the beginning of 2022, we welcomed Megan Jiles to the Development team. Megan hit the ground running as the new Volunteer and Events Coordinator, vetting new volunteers and facilitating events in all four counties.

Many of you likely already know our third team member, Anita Wright, HWAM's Communications and Marketing Coordinator. Anita has brought a beautiful perspective to publications, branding, and website design for the organization over the last three and a half years. Our dynamic trio feels blessed to be working together and will continue building and promoting a bright future for the organization.

Due to the team's expansion, we quickly outgrew our offices at the City Life Building and have made a new home at 505 Edwards St (to the left of the Youth Shelter). With a lot of help, this 900 sq ft home, built in 1940, has been transformed into three office spaces where our team can work on events, implement new branding strategies, and let our creative minds wander. Our doors are open Monday through Friday, and we love visitors! If you are in the area, please stop by and say hello.

We are looking forward to an incredible 2022 together with you.



Breaking Bad Habits

Marisa Hayner, SFFC Lincoln County Director

This year, Safe Families for Children (SFFC) had the pleasure of meeting Chris, the father of a precious little girl named Chloe. Chris came to us because he needed help raising his daughter.

Chris grew up in the foster care system and had no modeling for what parenting should look like. He adores his daughter and wanted to please her by giving her everything he never had. Unfortunately, this parenting strategy led to confusion and disorder in the home. Chloe began acting out, was bossy, and wouldn't listen to her dad, however, she was amazing around other adults who were structured. Chris didn't know what to do.

To help, our Lincoln County SFFC team provided parenting tools to better equip Chris as a father. For several months he would meet with our team every-other week. The first order of business was to create structure in the home. This meant setting boundaries, creating routines, and stations.

Before implementing additional parenting skills, Chris's house was a child-lead relationship instead of an adult-lead relationship. This is where many of the bad behaviors stemmed from. SFFC worked with Chris and taught him PRIDE skills: Praise-Reflect-Imitate-Describe-Enjoy. Chris now has new tools and routines in place to set Chloe up for success. Chloe's diet is also much better because Chris gives her the nutrition she needs and not just the food she wants. We are thankful to report that Chloe is thriving and more respectful to her father. If you have a heart for mentoring parents of young children under two, you can become a SFFC Mommy/Daddy Mentor by calling the HWAM office or scanning the QR code.



"It's hard parenting when you never had a positive foundation yourself" ~ Chris



The following is the PRIDE skills process. To begin implementing PRIDE skills, start by using and focusing on these skills for just 5 minutes at a time while playing with your child. Identify a time during the day when you are not distracted by other demands on your time (like preparing a meal or doing household chores).

With practice, the skills will feel more natural and you will begin to use them in your interactions with your child.

Rule	Reason	Example
PRAISE appropriate behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases desired behaviors. Lets child know what you like. 	"You did a great job putting away all of your toys."
REFLECT appropriate talk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows child to lead the conversation. Shows child you're listening and understand child. 	Child: "I did it all by myself." Parent: "Yes, you did it all by yourself."
IMITATE appropriate play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows approval of child's play. Models and increases desired behaviors 	Parent: "I'm going to tap the blocks quietly just like you."
DESCRIBE appropriate behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases concentration and attention to the activity. Slows down an active child. 	"You're keeping the Play-Doh on the table."
ENJOY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates interest in child. Models positive emotions 	"I have so much fun playing with you."



Laura's Journey

Heather Siewell, *Safe Families for Children Jackson County Director*

"I don't want to live outside anymore; it's so cold," the 19-yr old girl told me when she walked into my office in September. The dirt lodged under her fingernails, evidence of how hard she'd been holding onto a life not meant for her.

Laura had been living on the street since the spring. Unfortunately, finding housing was not an option this late on a Friday afternoon.

We reached out to one of our faithful Safe Families for Children (SFFC) Host Homes to see if they could take her in for the weekend. I recall thinking to myself, "Who will take this girl right off the streets that needs to detox?" Praise God; they said yes!

Laura fell in love with the host home family and she stayed with them for three months. She had also gained employment and was doing well with multiple SFFC supports. One night, the lure of the streets and a promise of love had her exiting through a window in the middle of a cold November night. The host family was devastated, angry, and hurt.

Laura entered foster care at three years of age and had a rough childhood. This had left her unequipped to handle the responsibilities of stable living. While we were confused about why she would leave her host home, God understood her brokenness. We didn't see Laura again for about a year and a half, but I would sometimes run into her at a homeless meal feed. One day, I was notified that there was a young lady in the office asking for me. I knew it was Laura before I saw her. I had recently heard she was pregnant and the baby's father was in jail. She was living in a tarp house and wanted to get out. She wanted to change.

We knew the baby's father was getting out of jail soon, and we were concerned for Laura's safety. Community partners rallied and found her a safe place to stay for a few weeks until we had secured a place for her in our Transitional Living Program (TLP) home. Laura entered TLP in April 2021. The baby's father got out of jail and she returned to him a few months later. Once again, we were devastated and frustrated. Our prayer team prayed for her weekly.

The baby's father went back to jail for a long-term sentence and shortly after, Laura delivered the baby. Laura recalls spending a glorious three days in the hospital with just her and her baby. After, Laura returned to SFFC again for help. However, this time, Laura was different; she was protective and concerned for her baby.

We helped Laura secure safe housing and SFFC helped fulfill some of their essential needs. Laura had fallen in love with her beautiful baby girl and wanted to protect her at all costs. By Christmas, Laura had secured employment and spent Thanksgiving with her former host family. Laura has a Safe Family for her baby and a tremendous circle of support.

Today, Laura and her daughter are thriving and she will be the first to tell you: "this is hard, but it's worth it." We are so proud of her and I am so thankful God knew how much she needed Safe Families.



Laura fell in love with her daughter

Child Abuse Prevention Baskets

Volunteers came together in Klamath County to assemble baskets to promote awareness of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Klamath County is the newest chapter of Safe Families for Children in Southern Oregon.

SFFC Klamath Director, Bethany Holmes is actively looking for volunteers to help support the SFFC movement in Klamath County.

To volunteer with Safe Families, go to hwam.org



Love more like a dog

April Hubbard LCSW #L10317
Youth and Family Counselor



We are so blessed by amazing community partners who have come alongside us to make adventure therapy possible!

One of those partners that we'd like to highlight today are our friends at 3 Cord Ranch. For 3 years now, they have faithfully invited us to come and share their space and animals for a few hours every month. Each time as we arrive, the youth are greeted by a menagerie of dogs, eager to share their characteristic unconditional love. Each time we leave the ranch, at least one youth (or staff) are begging to take one or more animals back to the shelter!

The unconditional love of the dogs is just the first 'hit' that the youth experience at the ranch. Then comes a dose of chores, and often a connection with a much larger animal, such as a horse or donkey.

There is a sense of joy and love that is felt even from the first step out of our vans and onto their property. As small as it may seem to be greeted with licks, wags, and paws, this is the simple love and acceptance that so many of us, even as adults, long for.

Our youth are no exception in wanting that same affirmation, and wanting to be wanted, seen, special, and loved. At the ranch, there are enough animals to go around so that each youth finds

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Redefining Family

Kelly Jefferies, HWAM Family Counselor/Advocate

When I sat down to write an article for our newsletter I began to think about what I wanted to share and what I believe is important for people to know about my position as the Family Advocate/Family Counselor at HWAM.



The easy answer was to share a success story, one that makes us all feel good and hopeful. I can find "success" in every family and youth I work with so that did not seem too difficult to share. I could share the importance of the one caring adult, or the most difficult family I am working with and where my ongoing desire comes from to keep showing up. Again all too easy, so I did not choose any of the above.

Today, I would like to share about my HWAM family.

I did not come from the happiest or even the most nurturing family. Since joining the HWAM family over two years ago I have had the blessing of seeing what a family stands for, believes in, and what unconditional love looks like in healthy relationships. Redefining the word "family" has been an amazing journey for me.

The loving support I have here is beyond what I believed possible. Being the overthinker I am led me to review our core values as an agency.

CORE VALUES

FAITH: We are prayerfully and gratefully living out our faith in Jesus Christ in a culture of trust marked by unconditional and nonjudgmental love, compassion, empathy, and mutual respect.

HOPE: We are inspiring hope among youths, their families, and all who are involved in our mission.

LOVE: We are acting with the love of Christ in all aspects of our mission.

SERVICE: We are providing a family-like environment for youth safety and growth, with a primary focus on family reunification whenever possible.

COMMUNITY: We are offering youth and their families' optimal resources and opportunities through strong community relationships and partnerships.

This pulls it all together for me. What I love most about my position is I cannot give what I don't have. I am replenished daily to continue serving the families and youth I work with.



Bryan, Ashley, Kelly, Bill and Stacy in front of the youth shelter

2022 HOMELESS 2 HOPEFUL SUPERHERO RUN

We had a great time at our Superhero Fun Run! Mr. Incredible and BiCoastal Media came out to MC the event. We had a great turnout of superheroes in every shape and size. The rain stopped in time for the run and our heroes set out. Thank you to everyone who came out for the event!

THANK YOU EVENT SPONSORS!!



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State Farm: Russ Wimmer
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Black Rock Coffee
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Thank you to our other Heroes:

Prickly Pear | The Melt | Kona Ice | Hilltop Coffee | Amy & Cody Ponder
Bikers Against Child Abuse | Home Depot | Mercy Flights | ALL our Volunteers



Adventure Therapy

Love more like a dog con't. from pg 6

their match. Maybe it's with a goat or a horse instead of a dog. But soon, we hear comments like, "he likes me!" and "she keeps following me around!" They are comments of joy, amazement, and wonder - to feel that they have been chosen.

In our world today, it seems that we are skimpy on this kind of acceptance. We have become accustomed to approaching others with caution and skepticism, rather than acceptance and curiosity. Mainstream media pits one group against another, celebrating one group, while marginalizing or demonizing another. A pandemic has driven us further apart, whether physically, social distancing, quarantines, or ideological divides. Social media has also become a platform for competition in hopes of being noticed, liked, and celebrated. In a world where our teens just want to be celebrated and special, our most marginalized youth, those who are accustomed to being put down by family and peers, are more willing to go to extremes to be considered unique or aberrant, and therefore "worthy" by our world's standards of being celebrated. Why must we push them to such extremes before they can be deemed special?

As an employee at Hearts With A Mission, my goal is to impress upon every youth that they are amazing, unique, and worth celebrating - simply as they are. My goal is to out celebrate them, more than the world, just for being them! Not just because of skin tone, gender identity, or the brand of shoes on their feet. We all crave this unconditional love and acceptance, and I believe this is what continuously drives pet ownership up as our social kindness dives. We all desire love and acceptance. When we operate from this foundation of affirmation, love, and acceptance, confidence rises. Kindness increases. Competition decreases. We (and our youth) can withstand the judgment of the few, resting in the knowledge that we are loved and valued just as we are. In the words of psychology, this is "secure attachment." In the words of Christ, this is "love your neighbor". In the animal kingdom, we might say "love more like a dog."



"She keeps following me around." ~ Natalie"



★ HOMELESS ² HOPEFUL BENEFIT AUCTION ★



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Our Annual Auction Gala

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For more information contact
Megan at 541-944-3350 | megan.j@hwam.org



SEPT. 24, 2022



HEARTS
WITH A
MISSION

Carnival

Transitional Living Program (TLP) From the Greenway to TLP



April Waggoner, TLP Manager

In 2022, Jimmy entered our house after living on the Jackson County Greenway for quite some time. He had been homeless for a year and struggled with an addiction to methamphetamine. Jimmy was referred to us through Options of Southern Oregon, and we were able to provide housing and support for this young man. Since he entered the TLP home in February, he has been clean for three months. He has been able to find work and has been maintaining his drug and alcohol treatment with his Options counselor. Jimmy wants to make changes for the better. We see this in his actions both outside and inside the house. Jimmy keeps his bedroom clean and does his chores. He has also improved at maintaining good relationships and taking constructive feedback when needed. His positive peer-to-peer connections have been one of his biggest motivators. We are excited to see this young man turn his life around with help from the proper support and encouragement when he needs it. We are very proud of him.

TLP focuses on the **Four Core Outcomes** to end homelessness including:

- Stable Housing**
- Permanent Connections**
- Social / Emotional Well-being**
- Education / Employment**

The big picture is to give our young adults a safe home to experience unconditional love, have caring and supportive adults in their lives and to let them know that their lives have worth and value, and to help them push through hard times to become the adults they were created to be.

Independent Living Program How do you learn when you've never been taught?

Josh Crider, ILP Manager

In the Independent Living Program (ILP), tailored to educate and teach life skills, Allie has shown constant resilience in the face of adversity. Allie has overcome multiple home relocations, an abusive past, health issues, and a recent upset with her current home placement. Allie was able to graduate early from high school and focus her attention on finding employment. Through working with ILP, she has been able to find a job, one that she feels fulfilled in, and has given her direction for her future. Allie currently works as a teaching assistant in a special needs elementary classroom. Allie says that this new job has shown her that a future in education is possible and something she would like to pursue. Allie has also been able to start looking into what it would take for her to live independently and has been working with ILP to start budgeting and start the rental search process. Allie hopes to live independently in her own home soon.



WATCH

Dancin's Live-Streaming Concert

From NBC's *The Voice*, **An Evening With Jershika Maple**

Tuesday, **June 28th** 5:30-7:30

Wednesday, **June 29th** 5:30-7:30

On Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/DANCINVineyards>

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On Instagram



**Raising awareness
for HWAM!**



Safe Families
for Children

POWER HOUR

Join us for Power Hour
every 4th Wednesday
of the month
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm



Mr. Incredible
is pumped about
Power Hour!



517 Edwards St, Medford, OR 97501	Youth Shelter
521 Edwards St, Medford, OR 97501 1504 NE 9th St, Grants Pass	Transitional Living Program
529 Edwards St, Medford, OR 97501	Admin Office
711 Medford Ctr #334, Medford, OR 97504	Mailing Address
PO Box 299, Newport, OR 97365	Lincoln County
PO Box 6510 S 6th St PMB# 292, Klamath Falls, OR 97603	Klamath County



A Community With Heart

Every Child Deserves a Home

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