

LUTHERAN **Community** Services NORTHWEST Health. Justice. Hope.

2018 Report to the Community: Partnering for a Better Community



We all know that children and when their lives are stabilized and **community by**: their ability to weather life's stressors is strengthened. For this reason, every year Lutheran Community Services works with 750 of our community's most stressed children and families to promote their strength and resiliency.

We're not alone in this work. Twelve years ago, experts at the Center for the Study of Social Policy developed the "Strengthening Families" approach, utilizing the Protective Factors Framework (PFF), and we gained an incredibly effective tool in creating lasting positive impact in people's lives and in our community.

This report provides a glimpse into how our programs build protective factors in highly stressed families across Yamhill County. You'll learn how we use the most effective interventions and the most gualified, welltrained staff to strengthen the most vulnerable children and families among us.

We're honored to be doing this work shoulder to shoulder with you and are proud of what we have accomplished as a community. Each day, however, we're aware that it's not enough. Thankfully, more and more of us are stepping forward to support these vital programs that keep our community's children safe and families together.

families are vastly more successful Your help has allowed us to create a more resilient

- Collaborating with Undios and volunteers to teach language and civics, allowing almost 300 fellow community members to gain citizenship.
- Providing parenting classes and counseling in public schools with the goal of being in every elementary school in the Yamhill County by 2020.
- Partnering with the faith community and 41 volunteers from 12 churches to host 44 children from 20 families for a total of 1,151 nights of respite care, eliminating traumatic and costly foster care placements.
- Distributing 50,000 donated diapers to stressed families with young children. Not only does this reduce stress in its own right, it opens a door to the network of supports offered through A Family Place.
- Raising the funds needed to expand Relief Nursery services to Yamhill County's West Valley where 8% of the population generates almost a guarter of the county's child abuse and neglect cases.

Thank you for helping us build a community that works together to protect and nurture its children and families!

Jordan Robinson

Yamhill County Area Director

LCS Northwest partners with individuals, families and communities for Health. Justice. Hope.

Yamhill County Offices

Rebecca Harding: In Her Own Words

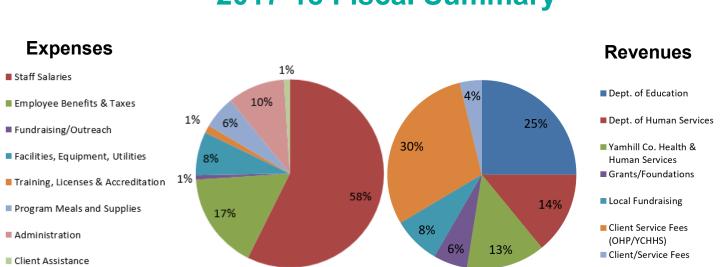
Growing up as the fifth child in a family of 10, I quickly learned that families can be both sources of chaos and stability. Recognizing the firm foundation which guided my own development, I was drawn vocationally to supporting families in some of the darker seasons of their journeys. Volunteering at a local homeless shelter in high school, and later working as a personal aide for kids with disabilities and interning with child welfare while in college, strengthened my commitment to playing a role in developing the resiliency I witnessed in families on a daily basis.

My story intersected with LCS when I was an undergraduate social work and psychology student at George Fox University. During my senior year, I interned in the mental health clinic at LCS, primarily supporting the Family Stabilization Specialist (FSS) program. Interning with FSS, a program that supports kids and families as they navigate mental health crises and other stressors such as homelessness, trauma, and loss, only strengthened my vocational calling. To my surprise, I was offered a job with FSS midway through my internship and I jumped at the opportunity. Working for FSS confirmed that I wanted to continue in the field of mental health. It was not long before I felt the pull toward graduate school. Two and a half years later, I find myself a graduate of Portland State's Master of Social Work program and am now a Child and Family Therapist at LCS! From intern to FSS to clinician, I have been surrounded by supportive staff and administration who have cultivated me and supported my goals, which are a reflection of the work that I strive to do with the families I serve.



Rebekah Harding Mental Health Clinician

The next chapter of my story with LCS begins in fall of 2018, as I join the school-based therapist team. Our goal is to have a mental health clinician in every elementary school in Yamhill County by the year 2020, in order to promote access to care, reduce time away from school and provide further support to kids whose success in academia may be impacted by trauma, anxiety, depression, etc. This program has been successful since it debuted in 2016 when a single clinician began working in two schools in McMinnville. A LCS clinician is now stationed in every elementary school in McMinnville, and we are branching out to three schools in the Newberg School District, as well as serving Amity. I am eager to see the ways in which school-based counseling eliminates barriers to care for families and promotes the integration of mental health awareness and treatment within academic settings, lining up kids for greater success within the classroom and beyond! As I eagerly await the beginning of the school year, I find myself grateful for this next chapter with LCS and the opportunity to continue growing my vision for how I can serve vulnerable families and build a stronger community.



2017-18 Fiscal Summary

2017-18 Yamhill County area office budget: \$3.05M

While government contracts fund the majority of our work, they are for very specific services. Preventative services and programs, customized to the needs of Yamhill County families, are developed from and rely heavily upon community support.



The following organizations provided significant support for our expansion of preventative services for families in Yamhill County over the past year:















Today, Sayra is a teacher interventionist on staff in A Family Place's toddler classroom. Evelyn is a thriving 3rd grader who loves math and reading. The whole family is safe, together and well-adjusted. This was not always the case, though.

Sayra was born into a childhood of poverty and abuse in rural Mexico and fought hard to make a better life for herself and her family. But in 2012 - as a young mother of two with a baby on the way, struggling to work through college - she found herself in over her head and reached out for help. Our teachers and home visitors immediately leapt into action, supporting her



family with new parenting tools, connecting her with local resource assistance, and enrolling Evelyn in one of our first Relief Nursery classrooms. When the family's 3rd child arrived early and had to spend time in the local NICU, our staff and community volunteers joined forces to provide emergency respite for her family when they needed it most.

Sayra and Evelyn have since graduated from the AFP program with flying colors, and Sayra with a degree in early childhood education. To our good fortune, she was so inspired by her experience with AFP that she chose to give back by helping other vulnerable families as one of our exceptional teacher interventionists. "Having her insight as a former client and shining example to new families in the program has been immensely valuable," reports AFP Supervisor, Nancy Alderman. We are so proud of Sayra and Evelyn's success, and of the AFP staff who walked by her side as she triumphed over adversity and became the change she wanted to see in the world.



"The persistence of childhood abuse and trauma is a call to action for our communities. Failing to help children in their formative years can have devastating consequences for both them and society- kids needlessly suffer, while communities see lower achievement rates in schools and increased incarceration. Investing in prevention and intervention is not only good public policy; it can save lives and families. Yamhill County is fortunate to have A Family Place on the front lines in the fight against childhood abuse and trauma." - Compusionant Summe Bernnic

"Through my work on the House Committee on Human Services and Housing, my participation in a Child Welfare Fellows Program, and a career in law enforcement, I have learned, first-hand, the importance of ensuring a safe environment for our children. A Family Place offers services to help reduce childhood abuse, neglect and foster placements in Yamhill County. Their services support at-risk families in myriad ways, and the positive impact on our children and their long-term development is a true investment in the future of Yamhill County." - Organ State Representative Ren Noble



Immigration Counseling & Advocacy Program



"The community's support for Lutheran Community Services (LCS), and how we all work together to make sure someone in need gets help, is huge. Fiesta is a really well put together event. The staff and volunteers make it easy to support and enjoy being a part of the event " - Margarita Antunez, Pura Vida Cocina

Pura Vida Cocina: Supporting Immigrant Families on Many Levels

Like many of us, Ricardo and Margarita - owners of Pura Vida Cocina - are all too familiar with the immense challenges of navigating the U.S. immigration process. After multiple employees came to them with heartfelt stories of the impact ICAP counselors made in stabilizing their lives, they decided they wanted to be part of the LCS solution. Since then, the husband and wife team have contributed to the program in countless ways and have worked with us to sponsor several members of their restaurant staff as LCS has helped them make the harrowing journey from struggle to stability.

"Growing up in a community where these services were not offered, and seeing those people stay quiet and hidden, was sad. When we came to this community and learned about Lutheran's streamlined model it was astonishing. The staff is so great to work with. They are respectful and available whenever we have had questions or concerns. - Ricardo Antunez, Pura Vida Cocina

FIESTA: Raising Funds for LCSNW Immigration Counseling & Advocacy Program

2018 FIESTA Success!

\$66,000 raised • 315 attendees • 105 Community Sponsors • 29 donating wineries • 45 Volunteers

Thanks to the overwhelming support of our wonderful volunteers and guests at Fiesta En La Plaza 2018:
We will be expanding our ICAP team to serve more of our immigrant neighbors than ever before.

 We've outgrown our venue and, thanks to a generous offer from the Momtazi family, we're thrilled to announce that we're taking our party to the rolling hills of Yamhill County's wine country!

Join us for FIESTA EN LAS VIÑAS!



Maysara Vineyards • April 27th, 2019 To reserve your table, contact our Events Coordinator at egsteenson@lcsnw.org

YOU can bring health, justice & hope to our community.



Be there for families each month by becoming a Sustaining donor!

Monthly Donors enjoy the following benefits:

Convenience

Your monthly gift can be set up to process automatically, at the same time each month.

Compounded Impact

Monthly giving allows you to make an annual contribution that truly reflects the priority you place on children and families. Also, scheduled monthly gifts allow more of your dollars to be applied directly to programs as fewer resources are required to secure community support.

Exclusive Insights

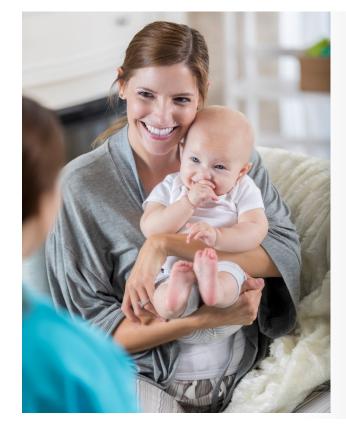
Throughout the year you will receive special communications and exclusive invitations.

Ways to renew your gift:

Online at lcsnw.ejoinme.org (*Please indicate McMinnville/Yamhill Co.*)

By mail using enclosed envelope

Call 503-472-4020 ext. 218



Rise by lifting others!

It takes over <u>100 volunteers</u> each month to support children and families in Yamhill County.

78% of volunteers say helping others lowers their stress and 94% note improvement in their mood and sense of purpose after volunteering. Join our team to change lives—including your own!

Opportunities include childcare, committee work (marketing, volunteers, events, facilities), bus drivers and administrative support at a variety of hours.

> Contact us today to join our team! 971-241-1877 / volunteeryamhill@lcsnw.org



SHARE

Refer families and individuals with resources or need support and engage with our programs.

Join our mailing list and find us online to learn more about how your contribution will impact children and our community for years to come!



LUTHERAN Community Services NORTHWEST Health. Justice. Hope.

435 NE Evans St. Suite A McMinnville, OR 97128



Serving Yamhill County since 1983

We've moved!

McMinnville office moved to 435 NE Evans St. Suite A

This office houses:

Administrative Staff, Interventions for Safe Families Programs, Immigration (ICAP), Community Engagement, and Mental Health Clinic



Our new location will allow continued growth of services for years to come.

LCSNW partners with individuals, families & communities to build health, justice & hope.

In Yamhill County our goal is to keep families safe & together. Strengthening Families is a research-informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. Success is based on engaging families, programs, and communities in building five protective factors. Below you'll see how these protective factors guide and support our work.

LCS Programs	Positive Impact	Healthy Children		Strong Families
 A Family Place Relief Nursery: Free professional home visiting and therapeutic pre-school classrooms for high-stress families. Collaborative Home Services: Intensive support to families with multiple stressors for healing and self-sufficiency. Counseling Programs: Trauma-informed and culturally-competent mental health services to support children, adolescents, adults, and families. Diaper Banks & Clothing Closets: Basic needs support of clothing and over 50,000 diapers for over 3,000 families a year in McMinnville, Newberg & the West Valley. Family Support & Connections: Support for high-risk parents to strengthen bonds, improve parenting skills, and create safe environments for children. Healthy Families: In home skill-building and child development coaching for parents with infants. 	Program Reach			
 Healthy Relationships: Skill-based programs focusing on the consequences of anger, violence, and controlling behaviors. In-Home Safety & Reunification: Intensive services focused on safety and change through in-home accountability and connection to community support. Immigration Counseling and Advocacy: Legal representation and education about rights and immigration options throughout the entire immigration or naturalization process. Parent Connections Groups: Promotes healthy parent-infant bonding and coping strategies for managing parenting challenges. Safe Families: Emergency respite care for families in crisis provided by a network of certified, faith-based volunteers. 	Protective Factors	Parental Resilience Parents who are emotionally resilient are able to handle every day stressors and recover from occasional crisis with a positive state of mind.	Social Connections Trusted support systems offer parents encouragement and assistance in facing the daily challenges of raising a family.	Knowledge Parenting and O Developmen Parental understanding natural chilo development all effective discipl encouragemen appropriate behavior, and ak to provide a pos environment
School Based Mental Health: Support for students, educators, and families from specially trained clinicians in a school-based setting.	Major Stressors	Adult Survivors of Child Abuse • Unado Substance Dependency • Domestic		



ddressed Mental Health Issues c Violence • Homelessness