

# LUTHERAN Community Services NORTHWEST Yamhill County

### 2018/19 Report to the Community: Real People, Real Solutions

Thanks to the support of generous partners like • you, every day we are able to help Yamhill County's most vulnerable children and families overcome adversity and thrive.

We are so grateful that you have entrusted us with continuing this vitally important work. We hope you will experience both joy and pride as you learn about the real families we serve and the real solutions your support has made possible.

Over the past year, thoughtful people like you have allowed us to implement the following solutions:

- In partnership with local colleges and advocate organizations, our community's network of support for our immigrant neighbors was galvanized. This afforded nearly 100 local individuals the opportunity to become US citizens.
- In partnership with hundreds of generous community members, over 400 vulnerable children and families were served through A Family Place Relief Nursery. This support also fully funded a new West Valley location and made it possible for us to turn our focus to the critical expansion of our Newberg site.

- In partnership with local philanthropic and public organizations, students in 6 new elementary and middle schools are now served by our School Based Mental Health program.
- In partnership with Yamhill County churches, 436 nights of respite care were provided to families in extreme crisis through our Safe Families for Children program.

Because of your support, LCSNW Yamhill County continues to build a brighter future across our community that, we hope, will span generations. For this, we can't thank you enough!





LCSNW partners with individuals, families, and communities for *Health. Justice. Hope.* 

#### Yamhill County Offices

McMinnville: 435 NE Evans St., Ste. A (Main Office) / Newberg: 1714 Villa Rd. / Sheridan: 433 S Bridge St. | Phone: 503-472-4020



## **REAL PEOPLE: Audrey McLain**

#### **Returning Home with Gifts of Knowledge and Experience**

My childhood memories growing up in Sheridan, Oregon were all about community. My family was around all the time—parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. My dad and his brothers ran a small sawmill and built a network of loggers, artists, truck drivers, furniture makers, and firewood customers. To this day, I still benefit from the connections that my family has made over the years.

I distinctly remember being in first grade, realizing that many of my classmates not only didn't have strong family and community connections like me, but they didn't know safety and stability in their own homes. It was clear, I was privileged. I grew up supported from every direction, watching

my family members and friends serve their community with love and persistence. These formative experiences laid the foundation for the career path I chose.

After receiving my Master's in Counseling, I eagerly dove in to my new career—working in community mental health in Portland, with a home visiting program and then Head Start. Ultimately, I was drawn back to serve my own community where I found A Family Place. I was so impressed by the impact of the work they were doing, I wanted to help. Soon after inquiring about becoming a volunteer, I was hired. Within six months I was working as a program assistant and then became their Outreach Supervisor.

As a parent myself, I firmly believe that caring for our children is not something that we are designed to do alone. It's up to all of us to pitch in, bridge the gap, and invest in families who are under-supported. I am honored to walk alongside families as they build on their strengths and to work with a community that steps up with the practical relief and support that's needed to help children and families thrive.

## **REAL PEOPLE: Cynthia & Carrie**

#### **Succeeding Despite the Odds**

During her first home visit with A Family Place, Cynthia began to reveal her harrowing journey. After the death of her first child, tragically killed by his father during a domestic abuse episode, she'd suffered severe anxiety and depression and turned to drugs to numb her pain...until her life took an unexpected turn.

She told us about how she'd found new hope when she discovered she was pregnant. She explained how she'd known she needed to seek drug treatment and find safe housing away from her birth family, who were still actively using. Through tears, she shared how she'd succeeded against all



odds and how she had been clean and sober for over a year. Her battle to rebuild her life, however, was ongoing. She still needed support.

Her home visitor, Dianne, went straight to work–delivering needed clothing and diapers, and connecting Cynthia with multiple local resources. Gradually, Dianne gained Cynthia's trust and was able to help her set important personal goals and transition to a stable home.

Today, Cynthia has been clean and sober for three years. She is employed and studying to become a drug and alcohol counselor. She is an attentive mother and is thrilled about the opening of our new West Valley classroom. Thank you for investing in resilient parents like Cynthia and building a brighter future for children like Carrie.



## **REAL SOLUTIONS: A Family Place**

### Expanding to Keep More of Yamhill County's Children Safe

"Adverse childhood experiences are the single greatest unaddressed public health threat facing our nation today."

-Dr. Robert Block, former President of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Over the past year, support like yours has inspired countless community members to invest in stabilizing and decentralizing vital child abuse prevention services across Yamhill County.

Our West Valley Relief Nursery classroom was fully funded and is scheduled to open in 2020—creating a groundbreaking public-private partnership between Relief Nurseries, public schools, and families in a historically under-served community.

Last year, our Relief Nursery classrooms in McMinnville and Newberg saw a 100% success rate. All of our enrolled children, formerly at the highest risk of abuse and neglect, remained safe and aligned for success—no abuse, no neglect, and no foster care placements.

Today, there are over 70 families on our Relief Nursery classroom waiting list. It's clear, we are building connections with vulnerable families so quickly that we simply don't have the capacity to serve the increasing numbers reaching out, desperate for support in parenting their infants and young children. And because 80% of a child's brain is developed by age three, we all know that there is no time to waste.

For this reason, we'll be turning our focus to the critical expansion of our Newberg site next, where location and square footage issues have severely limited the number of children we can serve. In partnership with Newberg Public Schools and community members like you, in the coming year, we hope to offer increased Relief Nursery support for the estimated 260 children under the age of 6 currently suffering abuse and neglect in Newberg and Dundee.

Without your generosity, none of this would be possible. Because of your support, A Family Place continues to grow and do what Relief Nurseries have done exceptionally well for the past 40 years—break the intergenerational cycle of childhood trauma and build a brighter future for our community for generations to come. For this, we can't thank you enough!





"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 childhood abuse prevention is not only good public policy; it can save lives, families, and ultimately, communities. Yamhill County is fortunate to have A Family Place on the front lines in the fight against childhood abuse and trauma."

Brad Berry, Yamhill County District Attorney



## **REAL PEOPLE: The Maxfield Family**

#### Leading the Safe Families Volunteer Movement in Yamhill County

Over the past 4 years, the Maxfield family has hosted 21 children in their home. They have supported families through extreme crisis—jail terms, homelessness, and much more. Still, Jen Maxfield insists she gets more out of the Safe Families program than any of the children in her care do. "We originally signed up with the state foster care system, but in our hearts,

really hoped to find a program that maintained an ongoing relationship with struggling families throughout their lives. Safe Families was just that."

Jen Maxfield and her family heard about the program through their church and have absolutely loved hosting children, mentoring parents, and coaching families. Jen still talks about one family in particular, the "Smith" family. The mother, Dianne, and her two young boys came to the Safe Families program seeking stability. The family had been living in a local shelter and were on the list for housing services but facing a six week wait. This resilient young mother chose to have the Maxfield family take her two young

boys into their home while she alone walked the tightrope of homelessness until an apartment became available. It was especially hard to hand over her youngest son who suffered from severe food allergies.

"I could see the stress in her face as she described what an allergy attack could look like. I assured her we would talk often and I would keep her baby safe. It was incredibly difficult for her to leave the kids, but she knew it was the best and safest option."

Now the family is secure and comfortable in their own home and the kids are thriving. "I love keeping in contact and helping the moms with advice or just being a sounding board. These relationships are so special to me and my whole family."



### **REAL SOLUTIONS**

This year, Safe Families will be contracting with the State of Oregon to host children in partnership with the Department of Human Services. This type of program has been extremely successful in Chicago and will serve as a pilot program in select counties across the state of Oregon. LCSNW is pleased to announce that Yamhill County is one of the selected pilot areas. In the upcoming year, we look forward to expanding the Safe Families program to reach more families in need across Yamhill County.

Please contact us, if you would like to volunteer or financially support this vital program! safefamilies@lcsnw.org or 503.472.4020.



"DHS is thrilled to be working in partnership with the local Safe Families for Children chapter and Lutheran Community Services Northwest to provide additional support for children and families in our community. Foster care is a last resort for children when families are stressed to the point of being unable to keep them safe. Preventing children and families from reaching this point takes all of us."

Stacy Lake, MSW District Manager for Self-Sufficiency & Child Welfare Programs Marion, Polk, & Yamhill Counties



### REAL SOLUTIONS: School-Based Mental Health Helping Where the Kids Are

According to the Association for Children's Mental Health, addressing mental health needs in schools is critical . "1 in 5 children and youth have diagnosable emotional, behavior or mental health disorders, and 1 in 10 have a mental health challenge that is severe enough to impair how they function in our community."

Nate, a bright nine-year-old fourth grader at a Newberg elementary school, is full of hope and curiosity. He's ready to learn and play with his friends, but it wasn't always this way. In the spring of 2018, when his school counselor recommended he start working with Alicia, our school-based mental health therapist, he was fighting what seemed like a losing battle with persistent anxiety and low self-esteem. His life had been upended after his parents' divorce, and, to make matters worse, he had fallen into a tragic gap in services. Like many in our community, Nate's family didn't qualify for public mental health care assistance but the out of pocket costs were prohibitive.

Thankfully, our community stepped in to help, and because of a generous grant from The Austin Family Foundation, Nate was finally able to receive the mental health support he so desperately needed.

After six months of working with Alicia, Nate's mom reports "Nate has made leaps and bounds in his ability to communicate his needs and overcome his fear in new situations. He is more comfortable and confident in himself. The school-based counseling program has helped us in both large and small ways. He is doing so well. Alicia and the LCSNW staff are a godsend!"

If you are interested in learning more about supporting our school-based mental health program, please contact Joi Bailey, LCSNW Community Engagement Manager, at 503.472.4020.

### In 2018/2019 community support has allowed us to:

- Offer school-based mental health therapy to ALL children in ALL Newberg and Dundee elementary schools, regardless of insurance status.
- Help students who formerly would have missed hours of school because of transportation time to and from counseling appointments to recover this lost instructional time.
- Assist vulnerable children in transitioning from our Pre-K program to Kindergarten.
- Staff Newberg schools with specialized skill builders who collaborate with school staff and parents to actively extend the support children will receive in therapy during the 2019-20 school year.
- Offer bilingual (English/Spanish) services at ALL elementary and middle schools in the 2019-20 school year.

"We've been continually impressed with all of our mental health partners who have put so much time and effort into supporting our students. We have been especially impressed with LCSNW, both with their level of service and the payer blind model. Being able to offer mental health support regardless of insurance status has removed so many barriers to service for our students and their families."



Dr. Joe Morelock, Superintendent, Newberg Public Schools



### REAL PEOPLE: The Minguez Family Immigration Counseling & Advocacy Program

Like many of our community's immigrant families, the Minguez family had been working in Yamhill County for over 18 years, but became fearful when changes in the immigration policy challenged their status. After hearing an ICAP staff member speak in their church, they cautiously reached out to LCSNW for help. Our ICAP staff immediately set to work to keep this vulnerable family safe and together.

The process was arduous but, after years of hard work and countless forms, the Minguez family finally stabilized their status—an event celebrated with a trip to Mexico to reunite with family they had not seen in over 23 years. We're always honored to walk alongside members of our community, but hearing about the Minguez family's tearful reunion with the family members that they had missed so much brought especially great joy to our team. Thank you for partnering with us to help stabilize the lives of deserving local families like this, every day!

"The LCSNW immigration program has changed our lives for the better in so many ways. They provided trusted counsel, support, and hope when we needed it most. LCSNW is special because my family was treated with respect and the services are very affordable. The staff was wonderful to work with and taught us that, if there is an obstacle, we can overcome it as a family." Cynthia Minguez



FIESTA 2019 was one for the record books! We moved to a stunning new venue, introduced exciting new program elements, and made huge strides in our fundraising goals. 425 attendees, 85 sponsors, 45 donating wineries, 42 table hosts, and 55 volunteers helped us raise \$97,500! Thanks to all of you who came and supported this exciting event, LCSNW's immigration program has expanded outreach and client services by 50 percent!

## To sponsor, become a table host, volunteer, or join us on May 9th, 2020 at Maysara Vineyards visit: lcsnw.org/yamhill-fiesta



"We believe in supporting immigrants who risk their lives to escape and make it to America for the same values of freedom and opportunity that brought our young family here. Everyone in America was an immigrant at one point in their family history and their collective hard work has made our country great. We understand, first-hand, how important it is for us to give back so that other families make their dream of freedom a reality. Now, as proud American citizens, we are honored to be in a position to help others, working towards that same dream, by supporting the ICAP program."

Moe Momtazi, Maysara Family Estate Founder

# REAL PEOPLE REAL SOLUTIONS

## **You Give Health**

"Before we found LCSNW's School Based Mental Health staff, we were unable to participate in counseling for my daughter without missing school and work. Now, my daughter is able to work with a great therapist on her anxiety and nervousness right there at school. The school based staff is awesome and so helpful to my little girl."

- Jessica, Mother of School Based Mental Health Client





## You Give Justice

"Before LCSNW's immigration program showed us the path, we felt hopeless. We felt like zeros in the community we had spent 23 years in. Now, we are filled with hope, positivity, and stability. We have our documentation because of God and LCSNW."

- Elodia, Immigration Client

## **You Give Hope**

"Before A Family Place and LCSNW, life felt unstable and overwhelming. Now, we feel supported, and surrounded with love. We are stable, and ready for the road ahead of us.

- Will Jones, AFP Family Client



# 2018-19 FISCAL SUMMARY







#### **EXPENSES**





#### 2018-19 Yamhill County area office budget: \$4.05 Million

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.

Image: Decision of the following organizations who provided significant support towards our expansion of preventative services for families in Yamhill County over the past year.

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Image: Decision of preventative service

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN

# WAYS TO SUPPORT LCSNW - YAMHILL



# **DONATE**

Giving is hugely impactful to the LCSNW family of programs. You can pick a specific program, or give to the entire Yamhill County Office and support the many ways we keep families safe and together. Please contact Joi Bailey for more information on how to make a lasting impact in your community.

503.474.7476 • jbailey@lcsnw.org

# **VOLUNTEER**

It takes an average of 200 volunteers each month to support the at-risk children and families in Yamhill County. Please contact Rachael Kubik to learn more about giving of your time! 971.241.1877 • volunteeryamhill@lcsnw.org





# **CONNECT**

To receive program updates and inspirational stories, sign up for our email list, visit our website, and follow us on social media. Please contact Emily Garrick-Steenson to join our email list.

egsteenson@lcsnw.org • lcsnw.org/yamhill



435 NE Evans St. Suite A McMinnville, OR 97128



WWW.LCSNW.ORG/YAMHILL

## **LCSNW - Yamhill Programs**



Because of you, we're serving more of our county than ever before!

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

In Yamhill County, keeping families safe & together is our goal. Toward this end, we utilize the research-informed "Strengthening Families" approach which aims to increase family resiliency, enhance child development, & reduce the likelihood of child abuse & neglect. Success is based on engaging families, programs, & communities in building five protective factors. Below you'll see how these protective factors guide & support our work.



School-Based Mental Health Program provides a full spectrum of mental health services for children & adolescents in elementary and middle schools across the county.

Substance Dependency • Domestic Violence • Homelessness