

Family Relief Nursery
720 N. 14th Street
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
541-942-4835



Backgrounder

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, March 7, 2013

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Elise Cullen
Director of Public Relations
541-868-4151
ecullen@uoregon.edu

Family Relief Nursery

The Family Relief Nursery is a story of hope. Thirty-six years ago the Eugene community came together to form an agency with a goal to help children and families rewrite their futures, free of fear and full of promise.

Relief Nursery History

Abuse and neglect has always been a big problem in Lane county but in the past the primary response to abuse was to remove children from their families and place them directly into foster care. There were no preventive services available to families who were at risk of abuse. That is when Peggy Hoyt and the women of the Junior League of Eugene joined with Lynn Frohnmayr and Mary Ellen Eiler of Child Protective Services to create the first Relief Nursery, a private non-profit agency dedicated to supporting families and keeping children safe.

Today, there are Relief Nurseries all over Oregon and one in Austin, Texas. Each year they serve thousands of children and their families, with more than 93 percent of the children having no reports of abuse or neglect after they leave the program. That is extremely successful considering almost half of the families are involved with child protective services before even entering Relief Nurseries.

Creswell Relief Nursery

Right now, Creswell is a city with a great need for preventative family and child abuse services. Some of the Creswell families receive help through the Cottage Grove Relief Nursery but many can't take advantage of its programs because of the lack of transportation between cities and their services' high demand. Although no child is left behind, there are currently 88 families on the Cottage Grove waiting list, with a satellite open in Creswell more families can find the help that they badly need.

Relief Nursery Procedure

The families are evaluated for more than 40 different risk factors, which are known to lead to instances of child abuse and neglect. These factors include victimization, poverty and family violence. A child is considered high risk and is accepted into the program if they have seven to eight risk factors. In the cottage grove/Creswell area the average child that is taken in by the Relief Nursery has over 21 risk factors, and this number increases each year.

The Creswell committee plans to have a Relief Nursery Satellite up and running within two years. They plan on raising the money and awareness needed for the project through fundraisers including Luke Jackson's basketball game and annual luncheons.

Relief Nursery Programs

Once a satellite nursery is open in Creswell, and the families have access to its facilities some of the programs that could be offered include:

- Therapeutic early childhood classes for children six weeks to four years of age (includes home visits for parents/guardians)
- Home based services/ Crisis response
- Respite care
- Parent meetings and support groups
- Substance abuse and recovery support program
- Mental health services for families
- Latino services
- Free transportation to/ from classes
- Daily nutritious meals and snacks
- Donations closet
- Social events for parents and children

The mission of the Relief Nursery is to prevent the cycle of child abuse and neglect by early intervention that focuses on building successful and resilient children, strengthening parents, and preserving families. By supporting the initiative to open up a satellite location in Creswell, many more children and families will get the preventative care they need, resulting in fewer children in foster care, fewer teenagers in juvenile hall, and inevitably fewer adults in prison.

Family Relief Nursery
720 N. 14th Street
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
541-942-4835



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, March 7, 2013

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Elise Cullen
Director of Public Relations
541-868-4151
ecullen@uoregon.edu

Former UO star hosts basketball fundraiser

- What:** University of Oregon's former basketball star Luke Jackson will be hosting a basketball game between UO players and hand picked high school seniors to raise money for the Creswell Relief Nursery project.
- Who:** A four-year letterman in both basketball and baseball at Creswell High School and a UO basketball legend, Luke Jackson is dedicated to making his hometown a better place by fundraising to bring a Relief Nursery satellite to Creswell.
- Where:** The game will be played at MATT court in Eugene, Oregon.
- When:** The tickets will be available in May and the game will be on June 20th of this year, at 5:00 p.m.
- Why:** Due to insufficient transportation Creswell families find it difficult to take advantage of the Relief Nursery's services in Cottage Grove and Eugene. This fundraiser will help bring money and awareness to an initiative to bring a Relief Nursery satellite to Creswell and help the struggling families and the young children in need.

-###-

Family Relief Nursery
720 N. 14th Street
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
541-942-4835



Fact Sheet

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, March 7, 2013

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Elise Cullen
Director of Public Relations
541-868-4151
ecullen@uoregon.edu

Relief Nursery Statistics

- Nearly all (98.6%) of the children enrolled in Relief Nurseries between 2008 and 2010 avoided foster care and continued living safely with families.
- Relief Nurseries reduce family risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect
- A 2011 study shows the average mutable risk factors dropped from 9 to 7 in the 12 months after a child had received service from a Relief Nursery.
- Relief Nurseries reduce the number of children in foster care.
- A Portland State University study published in 2011 found that Relief Nurseries reduce foster care placements and help children exit the foster care system twice as quickly as those not receiving services.
- Relief Nurseries enhance early literacy and increase school readiness.
- A recent evaluation found that the percentages of enrolled parents reading to their children at least three times per week increased from 32% before enrollment to 52% after 6 months.
- Relief Nurseries are supported by their communities, private fundraising more than doubled the legislature's contribution in the 2009-11 biennium.

- A 2011 study found a nearly four to one return on investment for Oregon Relief Nurseries. For each tax dollar spent, the state saved nearly four dollars in costs associated with child abuse, unemployment, criminal behavior and other social issues, this was realized within three years.

Family Relief Nursery
720 N. 14th Street
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
541-942-4835



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, March 7, 2013

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Elise Cullen
Director of Public Relations
541-868-4151
ecullen@uoregon.edu

University of Oregon basketball star hosts fundraiser

Former University of Oregon basketball star and NBA player Luke Jackson will host a fundraiser at Matt Knight Arena on June 20 to help the victims of child abuse and neglect.

The fundraiser is a basketball game between current University of Oregon basketball players and selected high school seniors. The game will raise money and awareness for an initiative to open a Family Relief Nursery satellite in Creswell, Ore. Jackson's hometown.

The Relief Nursery is a non-profit child abuse and neglect prevention agency with three locations in the Lane County area. Two of those locations include Eugene and Cottage Grove. Creswell sits right in the middle of these two cities and has a great need for child services but does not have a Relief Nursery of its own, nor adequate transportation to the other locations.

"The need in Creswell is high," says Heather Murphy, executive director, "the families are at high risk for child abuse and neglect, and the need is growing every year."

A Relief Nursery would use a blend of therapeutic early childhood services and comprehensive family support to stop the cycle of child abuse and neglect for troubled Creswell families.

The tickets for Jackson's upcoming fundraiser will be available in May 5, 2013.