



Strengthening
FAMILIES
and keeping
CHILDREN
SAFE



Relief Nursery Newsletter Vol. 41 Iss. 3

#THE PARTY - THANKS ALL AROUND

“Epic.” “Best ever.” “Awesome.” Those are just a few of the comments we’ve received about Main Event 2018.

Nearly 500 guests arrived ready to celebrate and generously support Relief Nursery children and families. The big vision of chairs **Irene and Kevin Alltucker** transformed the Lane Events Center into our own private dance club, complete with street music, colorful lighting, a graffiti wall, a bouncer and a live band, **Precious Byrd**.

Dr. Jonathan Sherman spoke on behalf of Presenting Sponsor **KeiperSpine** and set a thoughtful tone for the evening. This is KeiperSpine’s sixth year as Presenting Sponsor and we are grateful to John and Dr. Glenn Keiper Jr. for this foundational support.

It was our privilege to celebrate the **Coughlin Family** as Honorary Chairs. Kate, Mike, Allison, and Nick’s message of the importance of community and philanthropy was heartfelt and compelling. They are true stewards of all children in this community.

We’d also like to recognize **Chelsey and Ryan Lee** who chaired the Silent Auction – some of which took place online prior to Main Event. It was a novel undertaking for us. Chelsey and Ryan understood the opportunity technology offered and charted this innovative course for us. We are truly grateful for their ambitious leadership.



Main Event Chairs **Kevin and Irene Alltucker**

We want to give our enduring gratitude to the incomparable auction team of **Hank and Sid Voorhees**. This was their 28th auction on behalf of Relief Nursery. (We are heartbroken by the loss of our dear friend Hank. Our next newsletter will contain an article *in memoriam* of her.)

Finally, Main Event relies on many dedicated and creative volunteers who work behind the scenes to create memorable experiences for our guests. We call these folks our Party Favors!

This year’s amazing crew of Party Favors worked tirelessly building, tooling, decorating, and bringing the party to life.

Thank you **Dave Hall** and crew at **Zion Productions**, for literally everything; **Steve Goforth** and his team for putting the lights in place; **Julie Pickett** for designing and creating the centerpieces; **Stan Pickett** and **Gayle Lutz** for building the four-sided bar; **Kerry Lutz** for branding the entire concept; **Nori Hemphill** our volunteer extraordinaire; **Sean Filby** from **Lane Forest Products** for his extraordinary carpentry skills; **Discover MAC** and **Parties To Go** for the room decor; and **Borzi** and his **Oakway Catering** team for working magic in the kitchen.

You make it all possible.

Continued on page 9



Board of Directors

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NCU EVENING OF TRIBUTE

RELIEF NURSERY RECEIVES EXEMPLARY ETHICAL LEADER AWARD

Relief Nursery was deeply honored to accept the Exemplary Ethical Leader Award for a non-profit organization from **Northwest Christian University's Center for Leadership & Ethics**. **Cathleen** and **Joe Karcher** and **Rexius** also were honored in the annual **Evening of Tribute**. The awards recognize individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations for having cultures where "honorable and ethical business practices are the foundation for personal, organization and community relevance," said **Susan Soonkeum Cox**, a **Holt International** executive and member of the **Center for Leadership & Ethics** board. "These individuals and organizations demonstrate to NCU students and the entire community that wisdom, faith and service are the foundation for a professional career."

Kelly Sutherland, speaking on behalf of Relief Nursery, said the evening felt like a family affair in that the Karcher's and the Rexius company and family have been generous and steadfast supporters and advocates of our children and families for many years. The following is excerpted from her speech after accepting the award.

Ethical leadership for Relief Nursery began 40 years ago – there was no need for us to recreate the wheel – the leaders before us left a clear path to follow. They embedded culturally diverse and appropriate services in our organization with the bold vision of expanding Relief Nurseries across the state.

Many of you may not know that there are now 31 Relief Nursery sites in Oregon – all based on the model and quality assurance standards created here in Eugene.

Anyone who leads a business or organization knows that strong leadership matters – fostering curiosity, integrity, and innovation. And everyone knows that leadership isn't an individual, but rather a team.

Relief Nursery's team is comprised of our deeply dedicated Board of Directors and Board of Stewards, and our Leadership and Auxiliary boards – many of whom are here tonight. And, of course, our incomparable, can-do staff.

What does ethical leadership look like? For us it looks like asking the families we serve what they need – not what we think they need – and then doing whatever it takes to help them.

We work with the highest needs and highest risk children and families in the community, and we throw all our energy and resources behind them through community collaborations and unique programs that we know work.

One special collaboration for which we are very grateful is with the bright and hardworking **NCU Psychology and Interdisciplinary Studies** students. In fact, one of our Therapeutic Early Childhood Program and Preschool Promise teachers completed her NCU internship with us prior to being hired. In addition, we just hired an NCU graduating senior for our courthouse program.

The importance of early childhood programs cannot be overstated. A child's healthy, social and emotional development is the foundation on which all learning is built.

That's where Relief Nursery comes in and finds itself taking a leadership role – ensuring that children with social and emotional challenges have access to - and receive – all of the support and services they need because they are just as deserving as any other child of the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

So we go out into the community – our most valuable resource – to raise awareness and support. We have the most extraordinary and generous donors and hundreds of volunteers that, quite literally, sustain our work.

We're careful not to stigmatize or demonize our parents. They do have profound challenges and cope with unimaginable obstacles and barriers. And, they do make mistakes, But...they love their children.

The families we serve express their gratitude often. I'd like to share this note we received not long ago.

Dear Administrator,

I wanted to tell you how much Relief Nursery has positively impacted my family. Your teaching staff are amazing, kind, knowledgeable, positive, helpful and loving.

My daughter Maddy loves this place. Through Charlotte, Karena, and Barbara's teaching support and the lovely sweet kitchen lady I have felt supported, listened to, new ideas given to me and much more.

Relief Nursery has been more than a school. Charlotte and Karena will always have a special place in my heart as well as my daughter. Did you know how amazing these people are?! The lovely lady in the kitchen knew what to say and how to help me. Her kindness made me cry. I am ever so thankful. I never am the one to ask for help. Your staff goes above and beyond the "calling."

We love your place and people in it.

Love, Maddy's momma

In closing, I say thank you – to each and every one of you – for making our work possible. Collectively we are making a difference.

I'd like to specially thank Melaney Grenz and Rory Robison for nominating Relief Nursery for this special and prestigious award.

Finally, I would like to ask the members of the Relief Nursery team who are here tonight to stand so we can applaud their passionate, profound and life changing work. They have my utmost appreciation, admiration and respect.



Left to right: NCU President Dr. James Womack Jr., Jean Vinson, Kelley Folley, Celia Gowing, Jessie Hernandez, Kelly Sutherland, Barbara Santiago, Leslie Finlay, Terrence Killian.

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Genevieve Sumnall, *Past-President*
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Allison Coughlin
Bryon Crosby
Whitney Demers
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Melissa Koke
Nicole McOmber
Amy Newport
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Mark Rodewald
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Mackie Swan
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Program Director - Early Childhood Programs
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Volunteer Manager
Pau Millan
Community Engagement Coordinator
Denise Beban
Main Event Coordinator
Cortney Roy
Events Coordinator
Alex Rottler
Development Assistant



Another April has passed and, thanks to you, another successful **National Child Abuse Prevention Month Campaign**. Each year, Relief Nursery partners with local businesses to raise awareness about this matter in many creative ways and to invite our community to become involved with our mission.

We are deeply grateful to the businesses that took part in our **Blue Ribbon Campaign** this year, and to all the individuals who participated, thank you!

Here at Relief Nursery, child abuse prevention is a year round effort, and it's your support that makes it possible.



Would you like to partner with Relief Nursery to raise awareness for child abuse and neglect prevention? Please contact our Development department at development@reliefnursery.org or at (541) 343-9706.



As part of our **Blue Ribbon Campaign**, with the goal of continuing to spread our mission through community awareness and active fundraising, we partnered with the **Eugene Marathon** through its **Eugene Has Heart** program.

As charity partners we volunteered at a water station during the marathon and it was a great experience to be able to give back to our community and supporters!



Thank you to our great team of water station volunteers! From left to right, top to bottom: **Curt Rasmussen, Holden Marsh, Jeff Chandler, Linn Bergander, Angela Hiestand, Matthew Solomon, Gloria Rear, Adrienne Potwora, Jennifer Solomon, Pau Millan, Alex Rottler, Amie Mapes, Sagen Olson, Cortney Roy.** Not in photo: **Jacqueline Potwora and James Olson.**

I RUN FOR THE CHILDREN THE RUNNERS

Cary Barrett
Gabrielle Blevins
Garrett Corbari
Jennifer Cotrone
Jennifer Coyne
Anna Greenberg
Reyna Gutierrez
Lindsey Harrah
Mabel Kamaru
Minh Le
Dylan Lee
Lynne McDonald
Kelly Mucklestone
David Nestor
Sean Valentine
Shannon Wilhelm

Thank you to our amazing team of runners and to everyone who donated to their fundraising efforts. You make it all possible!

Melissa Alvis	Bart Drewes	Kelly Mucklestone
Neil Barnes	Jillian Drewes	Karen Sherman-Nestor
Cary Barrett	Anthony Erickson	Jeanna Petersen
Megan Biggs	Eldon and Emily Greenberg	Mary Petrushkin
Kassandra Blevins	Patrick Grosswendt	Danielle Plum
Courtney Blevins	Mike and Bridget Grosswendt	Karly Powell
Kassandra Blevins	Reyna Gutierrez	Shay Bradshaw-Scharbach
Sam Boutelle	Raymond Gutierrez	Liz Schott
The Bowmans	Dustin Harrah	Alicia Stokes
Todd Busby	Dewi Kamaru	Kate Vander Tuig
Matthew Charles	Mabel Kamaru	Sean Valentine
Gen and Rob Chase	Kat and Steve Larson	Cynthia Walsh
Conner Clack	Dylan Lee	Juli Wilhelm
Laurie Coggins	James McCray	Kathy and Jim Wilhelm
Sandra Corbari	Lynne McDonald	
Jennifer Cotrone	Trieber and Michelle Meador	
Jennifer Coyne		

TAKE A SWING FOR THE CHILDREN



Rexius presents Relief Nursery's Annual Golf Benefit Monday, October 8th at Eugene Country Club.

Pick your format: best ball or shamble. Whether you are an avid golfer with an impeccable handicap or enjoy a more relaxed game, there is a style of play for everyone. Registration begins at 10:30 am; shotgun start at 12:00 noon.

Also, try your luck at the Rexius bark chip contest, longest drive and KP contests and the silent auction and raffle. Win a new car at the Hole In One sponsored by **Sheppard Motors**.

Register your team today by contacting Cortney Roy, Events Coordinator at cortroy@reliefnursery.org or 541.343.9706.



NEW IMAGE - SAME GREAT TASTE

Please join us Thursday, August 23 under the majestic oaks of **Heritage Courtyard at Oakway Center** to celebrate end of summer and support the children and families of Relief Nursery.

The annual **Great Taste**, presented by **Market of Choice**, promises to delight with wines and bites specially selected by Market of Choice culinary masters.

Picture yourself surrounded by the impeccably landscaped patios while listening to the smooth Latin rhythms of **Ritmo y Romance**. Add fine wines along with creative and delicious bites and you have an evening to savour.



— RELIEF NURSERY —
ANNUAL FOOD & WINE CELEBRATION



The Private Tasting Room, sponsored by **Kendall Auto Group**, will return with exclusive wines and specially prepared appetizers.

General admission tickets are \$50 per person. Private Tasting Room tickets are \$100 per person. The event is from 6-9 pm.

Make It A Night! If you purchase your tickets by Tuesday August 21st, you will be entered to win one night at the **Hyatt Place Hotel at Oakway Center** which includes breakfast, a \$50 Oakway Center gift certificate and a bottle of wine. The winner will be drawn at Great Taste and you must be present to win.

Purchase your tickets today by visiting www.reliefnursery.org and clicking on Great Taste icon.

Thank you for supporting Relief Nursery in this special and unique way. See you August 23.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING INTERNS!

Sierra Bes UO, Family and Human Services

Future plans: I would like to work at an organization that serves individuals and families who are victims and survivors of domestic violence. After gaining more professional experience, I plan on applying to graduate school.

Through interning at Relief Nursery, I have gained a strong understanding of supporting families and individuals through collaboration, empowerment, and connecting them with community resources.

Megan Pelos UO, Family and Human Services

Future Plans: Master's in Social Work at Loyola University Chicago

Emma Buddeke UO, Sociology

Future plans: I am currently applying to jobs in Portland in Social Work.

Chelsea Moreau UO, Family and Human Services Early Childhood Education

Future plans: I have been accepted into the Early Intervention Program at UO.

Relief Nursery is an important and impactful support for the community, creating a positive and nurturing environment for children and providing numerous resources for families.

McKenna Davison UO, Family and Human Services

Future plans: Moving back to Los Angeles

I can attribute finding what I really want to do in my life to Relief Nursery.

Paris Brauner UO, Family and Human Services.

Future plans: I will be traveling in Ireland then moving to Denver, Colorado to work in the human services field.

Relief Nursery has taught me that when we come together to try to create a better world anything is possible.

Myriah Farmer UO, Family and Human Services.

Angie Hahn UO, Sociology and Theater Arts

Alex Rottler (Relief Nursery Staff) UO, Public Relations

Dani Link UO, Sociology

I want to start out by saying thank you for making my internship experience beyond incredible. All that you do for the children and families who come through the program is humbling. I am grateful to have been a part of this amazing team and couldn't have asked for a better experience.

I also am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to work in classroom 4, specifically. I learned so much and was humbled each day by the amount of work the teachers put into the classroom curriculum. I am overjoyed to have had this opportunity and hope to continue to be a part of this organization. You have inspired a new career path for me and I hope to grow within this type of work.

You truly are miracle workers.

Thank you,
Maddie Loveland



Dani Link, Sierra Bes, Emma Buddeke, Alex Rottler, Chelsea Moreau



McKenna Davison and Myriah Farmer



Megan Pelos, Angie Hahn, Paris Brauner



FUNDING PARENTING EDUCATION THROUGH MUSIC & FUN

In February Relief Nursery's Leadership Board hosted the second Lip Sync Battle and it was a huge success. **Ken Brown** set the mood for the night as our extraordinary emcee and **Dale Hartley** rocked the voting and bidding process. **Val Steele** and **Allan Benavides** crushed it as our celebrity judges alongside Relief Nursery's own **Rohn Roberts**, who also opened the night with an unforgettable performance.

The stage was covered by talent and entertainment all night long, as seven teams battled for the crown. **Dutch Bros** took the trophy for best performance of the night driving the crowd crazy with their Missy Elliot medley. **Eugene Active 20-30 Club** rocked the crowd with their moves to a Bruno Mars compilation. **Summit Funding** took us time-traveling to remind us of the great divas like Janis Joplin and Tina Turner. **The DAC** kept us entertained with their TV show themes medley. **Relief Nursery** shared a powerful message with their performance to P!nk's "What about us?" reminding everyone that *children can change the world*. And last but not least, **Old Dominion Collision** stayed true to themselves by re-enacting a medley from Grease. They also won the title for most money raised through their amazing fundraising campaign.

We are forever grateful to all the teams that participated, our amazing judges and emcee, our awesome volunteers, our Leadership Board and everyone who came and had a fun night while supporting our mission. Thanks to all of you, we raised \$25,000 for Parenting Education!

We are getting ready for the next Lip Sync Battle, and it's coming sooner than you think. If you'd like to form a team and be a part of this fun event to benefit Relief Nursery, please contact Leadership Board member **Amy Newport** at amynewport@kendallauto.com



... FALL 2018



FAMILY SAIL DAY - YOU YACHT TO GO!

Join us for a day of family fun by the water!
Hosted by the **Eugene Yacht Club**, on Sunday September 2 (Labor Day weekend) a Family Sail Day. Experience sailboat rides, karayking and paddleboarding, BBQ, ice cream, live local music and so much more!



Where:
Eugene Yacht Club at Fern Ridge

Why:
To benefit Relief Nursery's mission of strengthening families and keeping children safe.

When:
Sunday September 2nd (Labor Day Weekend)
2:00 - 6:00 PM

Adults: \$10.00
Children: \$6.00
5 & under: Free

presented by



RELIEF NURSERY MAIN EVENT 2018

It was our honor to celebrate you!

One would be hard pressed to find a family like the **Coughlin's** - or individuals like **Kate, Mike, Allison and Nick** -

or a business like **Burley** - that has so deeply invested in the health and happiness of our community's children.

You have taken Relief Nursery under your wing and have truly changed lives.

Thank you for your gifts of laughter and joy - and opportunity for Relief Nursery children and families.



THANK YOU TO OUR LIVE AUCTION DONORS

Irene and Kevin Alltucker
Tracy Baren
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Moss Adams
Oakway Catering
Oakway Center
Jackie and Steve Ofner
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PacificSource
Past Presidents of Relief Nursery Board of Directors
Past Chairs of Relief Nursery Main Event
Pelican Brewing
Pam and Jack Perkins
Julie and Stan Pickett
Pillow Talk
Portland Timbers
Adrienne and Joe Potwora
Laurie Powers
Kim and Arlen Rexius
Jay Rice, Streamline Payments
Shannon and TJ Richard
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Sandy and Andy Rottler
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Annette Briggs and Scott South
Lisa and Phil Speers
Kelly Sutherland
Jenny Ulum and Tim Gleason
Tap & Growler
The Fairmont Olympic
The Josh Cooley Team

The Marcus Whitman
The Vintages Trailer Resort
Todd English, Roush Yates Engines
Tom Palmer and Susie Roberts
Triangle Wine Country
Marissa Ooyevaar and Tyler Voorhies
Debbie and Chris Wetle
Willamette Valley Vineyard
Kitty and Scott Williams





THANK YOU TO OUR - FIRST EVER - ONLINE SILENT AUCTION DONORS

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 Jim Anderson
 Jennifer and Chris Arbogast
 Ashland Shakespeare Festival
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 Ashley Backlund, Rodan + Fields
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 Bello Day Spa
 Jenny and Rob Bennett
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 Bounce Gymnastics and Circus Arts Center
 Bruce Berg Photography
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 Tracy Cave
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 Kate and Mike Coughlin
 Craft House
 Chris and Darren Dallegge
 Carrie DeGree
 Chris Delange
 Divinity Salon and Tanning
 Corey Dobson at Salon DeLange
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 Mindy Doudy
 Downtown Athletic Club
 Duck Store
 Elephant's Trunk
 Enchanted Forest
 Eugene Country Club
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 Hot Mama's Wings

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 Nichole Lewellyn
 Cooper Loew
 Sally Mack
 Market of Choice
 Shelley Maynard, Pewter Rabbit Antiques
 McKenzie Martial Arts
 McMenamins Pubs & Breweries
 Lori and Randy McPherson
 Miss Meer's
 Mohawk Metal
 Bill Morach
 Pam Morgan
 Katherine and Brian Movalson
 Novo Latin Table
 Kershia O'Connor
 Julie Ogle
 OMSI
 Oregon Contemporary Theatre
 Papa's Pizza Parlor
 Maura and Scott Parkinson
 Pastini
 Patricia Green Cellars
 Patty Perlow
 Renee Pickering
 Julie Pickett
 Portland Children's Museum
 Portland Zoo
 Karen Prochnau
 Provenance Hotels
 Provisions Market
 Putter's
 Amanda Reed Photographer
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 Rexius
 Jocelyn and Ryan Ringer
 Stephanie Roberts, Rodan + Fields
 Susan and Rohn Roberts
 Sabai
 Safeway on 18th
 Sarah Schneider at Salon DeLange

Anne Schrenk
 Send Rover Over
 Shadow Hills Country Club
 Beth Sheehan
 Sheppard Motors
 Stacey Sherwood
 Shiboski Fine Jewelry Design
 Sizzle Pie
 Dana and Paul Skillern
 Christopher Smith
 Spinner's Seafood, Steak and Chopp House
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 Peggy Steck
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 The Shedd
 Tokatee Golf Club
 UO Women's Basketball
 Valley River Inn
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 Westraurant Concepts
 Willamalane Park and Recreation District
 Kitty and Scott Williams
 Dave and Tami Zech



SPECIAL THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

5th Street Public Market
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 Jodi Auxier, New Twist
 Lane Events Center
 Elizabeth Chambers Wine Cellars
 Rachel Chambers
 Discover MAC
 Justin Dupree
 Vicki Edwards, Parties to Go
 Eugene Active 20/30 Club
 Sean Filby
 Freudian Slip
 Gilt+Gossamer
 Steve Goforth, High Performance Audio Visual
 Nicole Hadley
 Marian and Dave Hall
 Nori Hemphill
 Heritage Distilling Co.
 Inn at the 5th
 Angus Jones, The Broadway Wine Merchants
 Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art
 Jack Kauble
 Lane Leaders
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 Relief Nursery Leadership Board
 Relief Nursery Staff
 Relief Nursery Interns and Volunteers
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 Cristen Shope
 Silvan Ridge Winery
 Colleen Stangeland, New Twist
 Sandy Stewart
 Landon Stevens
 Anne and Rick Skeie, Skeie's Jewelers
 Annette Briggs and Scott South
 Tap & Growler
 Title Nine
 The Connor Family, Oregon Electric Station
 Velvet Edge
 Jean Vinson
 Zion Ideas Productions





THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTEES



COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Clean Up, Susan and Jack Kauble
Cuisine, Kitty Williams
Live Auction, Julia and Andrew Stiltner
Silent Auction, Chelsey and Ryan Lee
Social Media, Rachael Kirkelie, Colbey Carpenter and Danielle Chambers
Sponsorship, Julie and Stan Pickett



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Ed Barclay
Michael Barclay
Denise Beban
Jenny Bennett
Cierra Cave
Dani Chambers
Kate and Mike Coughlin
Megan Dompe
Dave Hall
Jennifer and Dale Hartley
Dennis Konrady
Sally Mack
Michelle Meador
Marissa Ooyevaar
Jean Phelps
Julie Pickett
Susan Posner
Katy Putnam
Susan Roberts
Alex Rottler
Cortney Roy
Beth Sheehan
Jennifer Solomon
Kelly Sutherland
Tyler Voorhies
Kitty Williams





AUXILIARY BOARD'S TRIVIA NIGHT

Claim 52 Brewing's Abbey provided a beautiful backdrop for Auxiliary Board's second annual Trivia Night on March 15. More than a hundred players turned out for an evening of fun and challenging trivia, all in support of **Relief Nursery's Client Assistance Fund**. This fund helps low-income families with young children bridge the gaps created by unexpected and burdensome expenses, such as high utility bills, car repairs and rent increases.

The Auxiliary Board supports the immediate and long term needs of families we serve through fundraising and volunteerism. If you would like to find out more about joining this dynamic group, please contact auxiliary@reliefnursery.org or call **Amy Beauchamp** at 541-343-9706.

Special thanks to our Title Sponsor, **Northwest Community Credit Union**, Venue Sponsor, **Claim 52 Brewing**, and trivia emcees **Colette** and **Naiman Khan**.

Thank you to our generous Trivia Night prize donors:

Backcountry Gear

BJ's Restaurant

Bre Hallman of Rodan + Fields

Brookdale Alpine Springs Senior Living

Claim 52 Brewery

Crux Climbing Gym

Elegant Elephant

Elevation Boulderling

Eric and Wayne's Designs

Eugene Wine Cellars

Iris Vineyards

Jerry's Home Improvement

Kristirose White of Monat Hair Care

Mid Valley Metals

Northwest Community Credit Union

Putters

Silvan Ridge Winery

Tacovore

Vanilla Jill's



MEET MELANEY GRENZ - BOARD OF DIRECTORS SUPERSTAR



We can't say often enough how grateful we are to the members of our **Board of Directors**. Each one brings unique talents and passions to their roles. In this issue, we'd like to introduce **Melaney Grenz**, Secretary of the Board of Directors. She joined in 2014.

Melaney works part time in **Springfield Public Schools** as a Speech-Language Pathologist. She also has a private practice where she serves patients in Portland and Salem. It's not a surprise that she pursued a career in Speech Pathology considering that she stuttered as a child.

I grew up in a chaotic home with many of the stressors that our Relief Nursery families face, Melaney recalls. My parents put no stock in education. Neither of my parents graduated from high school.

I credit my 6th grade teacher, Mrs. Kelly, for helping me find another path in life, and ultimately breaking the cycle of poverty. Mrs. Kelly encouraged me, cheered me on in life, and ensured that I was pursuing my studies for many years, Melaney says.

Melaney received two Bachelor Degrees from **Minot State University in North Dakota**, and then she received a full academic scholarship to the **University of Oregon** where she received her Master's Degree.

As a Speech Pathologist, Melaney evaluates many children that transition into Springfield Public Schools with speech and language needs. Many of these children were previously served through the Relief Nursery. Because of their experience at the Relief Nursery, she says many of those children no longer qualify for services as the Relief Nursery has "fixed them."

When I see parents at the beginning of each school year, I'm often amazed at how put together our Relief Nursery parents

are. These parents are often very engaged, and can advocate for their child's needs. Some Relief Nursery Staff even accompany these families to meetings in the Public Schools on their own time. This, again, speaks volumes to the dedication of our Relief Nursery Staff, and their willingness to consistently go over and above the call of duty, Melaney explains.

That's what I love about Relief Nursery – the myriad of amazing services they offer to the whole family. The home visits, the food pantry, the clothing closet, the therapeutic early childhood program, and respite care are essential to these families, Melaney explains. Respite care is probably the biggest bonus for our families. Some parents just need a break, and they have no other support systems in place.

Relief Nursery is absolutely a pillar in our community. Too many people need to access its services. I sometimes wonder how different my own childhood would have been had my parents been able to access Relief

Nursery services, she says. As I like to tell all the children and families I work with – you do not get to pick where you came from, but you do get to pick what you become.

In addition to regular monthly meetings, board members attend many functions throughout the year, and Melaney's favorite is the Board, Staff & Family BBQ. *It's the best opportunity to interact with and get to know the children and families. The Board of Directors organizes and hosts it, serves all the food, and cleans up. It is very fun and rewarding.*



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS - Jan - April 2018

Volunteer with us!

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Lois Andersen | Ysenia Cordero | Rosalie Hulbert | Jacqueline Potwora | Meredith Tufts |
| Emma Buddeke | John Cornwell | Elena Johnson Lafferty | Gloria Rear | Ryann Van der Zwiep |
| Traci Babcock | McKenna Davison | Larry Lassiter | Julie Reichart | Ally Waldron |
| Melissa Banderas | Myriah Farmer | Dani Link | Ben Ritt | Abby Warnell |
| Sierra Bes | Julie Felix | Maddie Loveland | Tara Rush | Brooklyn Wehr |
| Libby Boles | Kelly Fujihara | Nicholas Lund | Beth Ryer | Waverly Yen |
| Paris Brauner | Tonia Gasper | Angelica Manzo | Andrew Sheridan | |
| Amelia Buchanan | Amelia Geoffrey | Kayla Miller | Pam Sheridan | |
| Stephanie Cannon | Tammy Goss | Chelsea Moreau | John Sheridan | |
| Krista Christiansen | Judy Graham | Emily Morgan | Matthew Solomon | |
| Eliana Clair | Alicia Gudino | Torae Nelson | Eowyn Soran | |
| Katherine Coleman | Angie Hahn | Megan Pelos | Rachel Sparkman | |
| Yvonne Conner | Meghan Hren | Adrienne Potwora | Grace Sullivan | |

DID YOU KNOW THAT 200 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER WORK ARE NEEDED EACH WEEK?



VOLUNTEERS ARE VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF RELIEF NURSERY

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER WITH US?

Please contact our Volunteer Manager Amy Beauchamp at (541) 343-9706 ext. 104



OUR NEW SITE SUPERVISOR AT ROBIN JAQUA CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER

Sarah came to Relief Nursery as a volunteer during her freshman year at the **University of Oregon**. It was during a Social Justice class that she learned about Relief Nursery and felt an instant connection. She set up an interview with Amy, our Volunteer Manager, and then walked all the way from campus to our Eugene location for her interview. That same dedication has propelled her growth within the organization.

After volunteering for about six months, Sarah became a substitute teacher in the **Therapeutic Early Childhood Program**. As both a volunteer and substitute teacher, Sarah stood out in her ability to connect with children and intuitively know what needed to be done in the classroom. During her senior year, a teacher/home visitor position opened and she decided to apply. Sarah started this role in April 2017 and became a Site Supervisor in January 2018. I asked Sarah if being a supervisor was a goal for her. "I always thought of it as a 3 to 5 year goal. Even though I have a lot of experience for my age, I am still very young. When management invited me to apply for the position I decided to step it up and apply."

Sarah considers the following to be key traits of a Relief Nursery teacher/home visitor:

- Flexibility because even though we do have a process by which we do things, every family is really treated individually and uniquely here.
- Ability to prioritize your time and not sweat the small things because sometimes big and unexpected needs crop up on a day you thought was going to go the other way.
- Ability to prioritize self-care and connecting with coworkers. When providing services to families, we do a lot, we see a lot, we take in a lot and many of us have experienced our own trauma. Being able to step away from our computers and spending some quality time with our coworkers and supervisors I think is huge.
- Being really good at listening and validating and, if it's something you really don't know or can't help with, being courageous enough to say "you know, I don't really know about that but let me get back to you with a suggestion" or whatever the case is. A huge part of our role is referrals, so you have to be comfortable doing that.

Sarah also shared with me that as a supervisor she has been able to see the many other aspects of our agency in a way she never had before. "As teacher/home visitors we are always so busy in the classrooms and on home visits that it's really easy to forget about all the other things going on around us. I have now seen how important all the work involved with getting the funding we need for our programs is, and how the community loves and respects us because we have such amazing results with the work we do," she says,

"I love how when things happen, all the departments jump in to help each other. For example, today I was missing staff

in two classrooms, due to a particularly potent bug going around, and the Outreach team stepped in and helped care for the children. I just love how we are all here for each other. I have worked and interned in many other places and I haven't seen that quite as much. I think it's one of the things that is special about Relief Nursery. It definitely takes a certain type of person to do the work we do," she added.

I asked Sarah what makes her want to be a part of Relief Nursery. She said, "When I was teaching I would wake up before my alarm went off because I was so excited to see the kids and I missed them when the day was over. Same with the families. I have worked with the most incredible families and a lot of them have stopped by and said, 'hi' after they've gone to different programs. Those relationships are so fulfilling that it doesn't even feel like work. Especially with the kids because they are cute. So, the relationships make me really excited to come to work every day, and our workplace, the vibe and the energy that we have here; I have never experienced that in any other place I've worked before. That really makes up for how hard this work can get sometimes. Also, the events that we have with the families, like Family Fun and Food Night or Pamper Me Day, events where we get to interact with the families outside of just dropping their kids off or picking them up."



"I thought I would really miss being with the kids every day and knowing the families, but turns out I still am, and now instead of having 8 families on my case load I have like 60!"

"When the kids see me they say 'hey! You are my teacher sometimes!' They used to call me Teacher Sarah, now they call me Teacher Sometimes."

Thank you, Sarah, for being part of our Relief Nursery family and for all the work that you do.



The sun was shining and May flowers bloomed as Relief Nursery parents were treated to an evening of self-care and relaxation during Auxiliary Board's Spring **Pamper Me Day**. Volunteer service professionals offered haircuts and styling, nail painting and chair massage. As parents waited, they enjoyed a delicious homemade dinner prepared by our own Chef Angela and shopped for free clothing, donated by **Northwest Community Credit Union** staff. More than 50 parents were pampered while their children enjoyed the fun activities provided in the classrooms and on the playground.

Pamper Me Day would not be possible without the long term support of **Vicky and Daniel Bell** and their wonderful staff from **Reflections Salon**, Auxiliary Board, and Relief Nursery's dedicated staff and volunteers. Auxiliary Board would also like to thank Northwest Community Credit Union for hosting a very successful clothing drive to benefit Pamper Me Day.

Auxiliary Board is currently seeking service professionals to donate their time and talents for their next Pamper Me Day this fall, including Licensed Massage Therapists, nail technicians, and aestheticians. For more information, please contact Amy Beauchamp, amybe@reliefnursery.org or 541-343-9706 ext. 104.

Thank you to the following volunteers for helping make Pamper Me Day a huge success

- Parris Baarstad
- Emily Bowles
- Lucero Flores
- Natalee Godfrey
- Daniel Larios
- Kara Larios

- Northwest Community Credit Union
- Reflections Salon
- Relief Nursery Auxiliary Board
- Relief Nursery Volunteers and Interns



CONNECT WITH US!

Join the conversation. Be in-the-know for special and fun ways you can get involved with Relief Nursery and learn more about what we do to help the children and families of our community.

Relief Nursery
1720 West 25th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97405
(541) 343-9706
www.reliefnursery.org

Relief Nursery
Robin Jaqua Child and Family Center
850 South 42nd Street
Springfield, OR 97478
(541) 485-0007

facebook.com/ReliefNursery

instagram: Relief_Nursery



SPECIAL ACTS OF KINDNESS

GIFTS IN HONOR

Amy Cooper
by Naomi Fellows

Becky Estes
by James Whistler

Diane and Don Neet
by Mary Murdoch

Jean Phelps
by Randy and Elizabeth Phelps

Korey and Bailey Cheshire
by Christine Cheshire

Larry and Linda Williams
by Valerie Williams

Marius Giachetti
by Anais Giachetti

Robert Jubber
by Ilisa Rooke-Ley and Michael Rooke-Ley

Scott Williams
by Anderson Construction Foundation

The Coughlin Family
by Faye and Lucille Stewart Foundation

Tristan
by Alexa Zeryck

GIFTS IN LOVING MEMORY

Ann Danby
by Joyce Benjamin
Donald Diment
Jack and Susan Kauble
Diane and Scott Lewis
Bill and Barbara Stater

Joan Morrell
by John M Morrell

Lindsey Walker
by Amy Beauchamp

Mildred C Serwood
by Ardis Morrow

Nick Klonoski
by Norma and Timothy Sylwester

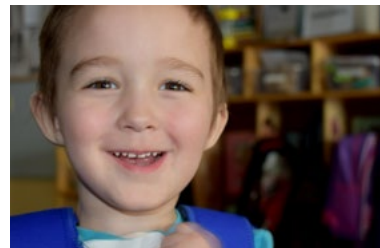
Quinn Schmidt
by Ardis Morrow

Mrs. Utt's 7th grade class from **Agnes Stewart Middle School** spread bark on the playground and cleaned classrooms and play equipment. Also, they created presentation materials for Relief Nursery.



Dandelions Flowers & Gifts organized a fundraiser in benefit of Relief Nursery.

B Kaseys Appliance Repair donated his labor for appliance repair.



Alyssa Hendrix's O'Hara Preschool class sponsored a family in need for Lent.

Mrs. Obersinner's 6th Grade class from **O'Hara Catholic School** volunteered for an afternoon, making Giving Tree hearts and organizing the clothing closet.



The UO Family and Human Services class invited our staff to speak about Relief Nursery



State Representative **John Lively (C)** and Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries (OARN) Executive Director **Mary Ellen Glynn (R)** toured Relief Nursery with Program Director **Leslie Finlay (L)**.

IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH "LIZ" CHAMBERS

Elaine Bernat and Roger Saydack
Allison Bick
Bruce and Beverly Biehl
Janene Bocchi
Doralyn M. Bocchi
Rochelle Breaux
Karen R Brust
City Nails and Spa
Deborah Coleman
Faye and Lucille Stewart Foundation
Friends of the Child Advocacy Center, Inc. /
dba Kids' FIRST Center
Marilyn B. Graham
Jim and Gail Hansen

Belinda Hayward
Dallas and Nori Hemphill
Tom and Peggy Hoyt
Sid and Debbie Leiken
John Lorentz
Tom and Marion McCormack
Sylvia Joan McDonald
Johan and Emel Mehlum
Mike Murphy and his team
at Banner Bank
Dana Paparo
Jean and Jim Phelps
Melanie Pritt
Shannon and Jay Smith
Umpqua Bank

You are greatly missed, Liz.

THANK YOU Jan. 11 - May 10, 2018



A

Ann Aiken
Jacquelyn and James Aiken
Brian and Laurel Allender
Irene and Kevin Alltucker
Gavin Amato
Amazon Smile Foundation
Megan Anderson
Andreason's Cremation and Burial Services Inc
Ryan and Brita Arcuri
Tim Armstrong
Emily and Brandon Atterberry
Kevin Brooks and Kassie Avilla
Rich Axtell

B

Traci and Rich Babcock
Richard Bach
Backcountry Gear
Sharon Backman
Charles Bader
Robin Baird and Kevin Lee
Tina Bamford
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Bank of America Employee Giving Campaign
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Nekol Olson and Todd Bardwell
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Debi Barrett
Sylvia and John Barry
James Batley
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Shaun and Rod Bay
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Tyler Bell
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Ali Bossarel
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Betsy Bowman
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Taylor Brawn
Cort Brazelton
Barbara Britt
Polly Perkins and Mark Brockett
Larry Brown
Rachel Bucarski
Whit and Julie Budge
Buffalo Exchange
Todd Busby

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Tami Canaday and Dan Search
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Terrence and Anne Carter
Marilyn Cartwright and Dennis Loffelmacher
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Bryon Crosby
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The Oregon Community Foundation
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Greater Douglas United Way
Marla Trox
Danaka Trudell
Jennifer Truesdale
Truist Comprehensive Distribution
Terri and Rich Turi
Amanda Tuski

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Jenny Ulum and Tim Gleason
Sharon Ungerleider
United Way of Lane County

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Vanilla Jill's
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Devon and Molly Vendetti
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Vitolds and Susan Vitums
Sid and Hank Voorhees

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Tim and Robin Wiper
Rachael Wiser
Henry and Cornelia Wonham
Joseph Wood
Tyson Woodard
Elisa Worell
Thomas and Megan Wuest

Y
Marilyn Yordy
Gina York
Your Cause

Z
Patrick Zajac
Jessica Zeeb
Mike and Pilar Zentz

RELIEF NURSERY WISH LIST



- Diaper genies
- Diapers
- Wipes
- Kids Mops
- Brooms to clean classrooms
- Kids Aprons
- Metal kitchen sets (toys)
- Bluetooth CD players
- Sand Toys (pails, shovels)
- Bubbles
- Chalk
- Big round rugs for circle time

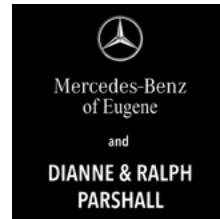


2018 MAIN EVENT

PRESENTING SPONSOR



PLATINUM SPONSORS



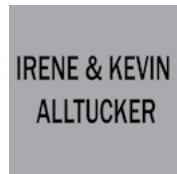
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2018 MAIN EVENT

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The programs and services of Relief Nursery have an immediate and tangible impact on our community. They stop the cycle of child abuse and neglect, keeping young children – our next generation of leaders – safe and healthy.

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