

# RELIEF NURSERIES

## Oregon's Innovative Response to Families in Crisis

### Relief Nurseries are a critical safeguard against child maltreatment.

Oregon's Relief Nurseries provide vital services to high-risk families with children under the age of 6 years. Participating families have at least eight risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect, and on average half of the families experience 16 or more risk factors. *These families are in crisis.*

The majority of families using Relief Nursery services are headed by a single parent living in poverty and facing a myriad of challenges raising their children. Parents enroll in Relief Nurseries hoping to break the intergenerational cycle of abuse and neglect.

### Relief Nurseries keep children safe and families together.

Oregon's nationally recognized Relief Nursery model provides high-risk families with the intensive support they need for their children to grow up safe, healthy and ready for school. Children participate in therapeutic classrooms with low adult-child ratios, and families receive home visits that promote healthy parenting and child development.

Relief Nurseries address the diverse needs of families through assessment and individualized case management. All Relief Nurseries provide parent education, coaching and support through home visits and participation in group activities. Many Relief Nurseries also provide mental health care, counseling for domestic violence and support for adults recovering from addiction. Nurseries refer families to other early childhood programs for services not provided by Relief Nurseries.

## OUTCOMES WE NEED RESULTS WE CAN TRUST

Relief Nurseries improve lives, save money and contribute to school readiness.

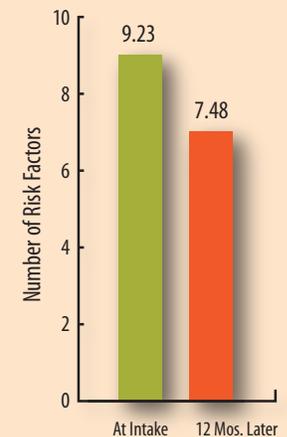
› **Relief Nurseries keep children safe in their homes.** An independent evaluation found that nearly all (98.6%) children enrolled in Relief Nurseries between 2008 and 2010 avoided foster care and continued living safely with their families.

› **Relief Nurseries substantially reduce family risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect.** In a 2011 study, the average number of mutable risk factors dropped from 9 to 7 in the 12 months after intake.

› **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.** In a recent evaluation of Relief Nurseries, the percentage of enrolled parents reading to their children at least three times per week increased from 32% before enrollment to 52% after 6 months.

Reduction in Mutable Family Risk Factors through Relief Nurseries



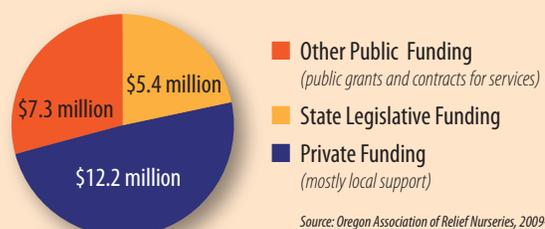
Average Risk Factors  
Source: Green & Rodgers, 2011.

## A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP THAT SAVES OREGON MONEY

› **Relief Nurseries are supported by their local communities.** Private fundraising more than doubled the legislature's contribution to Relief Nurseries in the 2009-11 biennium.

› A 2011 study found a nearly **4:1 return on investment** for Oregon Relief Nurseries. For each tax dollar spent, the state saved nearly \$4 in costs associated with child abuse, unemployment, criminal behavior and other social issues. Even more striking is that this high rate of return was realized in just three years.

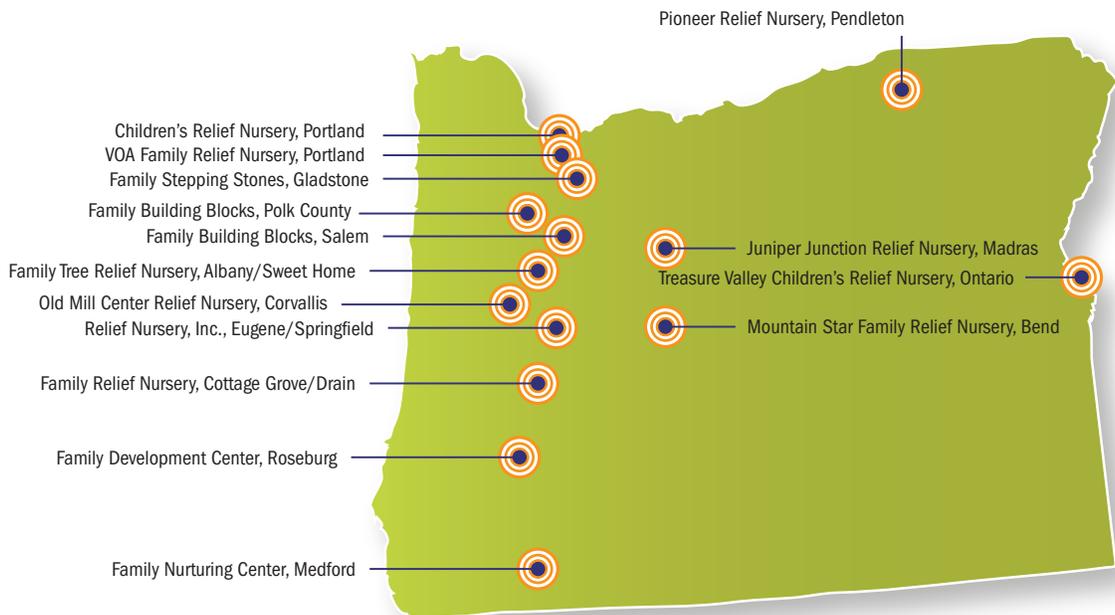
Funding for Oregon Relief Nurseries



Source: Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries, 2009-2011

# 15 COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED RELIEF NURSERIES ACROSS OREGON

The nation's first Relief Nursery was founded in Eugene in 1976. Since then, 14 additional Relief Nurseries have been established in Oregon, and the model has been replicated in other states.



## ENDORSEMENTS JOIN US.

### BUSINESS

- Ross Carey, Regional President, US Bank, Salem
- Ray Davis, President/CEO, Umpqua Holdings Corp., Roseburg
- Allyn Ford, President/CEO, Roseburg Forest Products; Ford Family Foundation Board
- Mike Hollern, CEO, Brooks Resources Corp., Bend
- Alissa Keny-Guyer, Philanthropist and President, Penney Family Fund
- Patricia Moss, CEO Bank of the Cascades, Bend
- Wayne Pipes, VP Facilities & Development, Knowledge Universe

- Jim & Jane Ratzlaff, Crane Creek Family Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation, Roseburg
- Von P. Summers, Community Affairs, NW Natural
- Ken Troutman, CEO, People's Bank of Commerce, Medford
- Dick Withnell, President, Withnell Motors, Salem
- Casey Woodard, Woodard Family Foundation, Cottage Grove

### PUBLIC SAFETY

- Mark Alexander, Interim Chief of Police, Ontario
- Jim Burge, Chief of Police, Roseburg
- Alex Gardner, Lane County District Attorney

- Jerry Moore, Chief of Police, Salem
- Randy Schoen, Chief of Police, Medford
- Tom Turner, Lane County Sheriff

### HEALTH CARE

- Robert L. Dannenhoffer, M.D., CEO, Physicians of Douglas County
- Janice Gratton, Consultant for Children & Families, Portland
- Scott Johnson, Director, Deschutes County Health Services
- Jim Lace, M.D., Salem
- Rose Miller, M.D., Albany
- David W. Willis, M.D., FAAP, Artz Center, Portland

### EDUCATION

- Maria Delapoer, Superintendent, Greater Albany Public Schools
- Linda Florence, Superintendent, Ontario School District
- Dan Forbess, Superintendent, Philomath School District
- Sandy Husk, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District
- Barbara Jorgensen, Interim Superintendent, Multnomah Education Service District
- Dana Young, President, Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario

## SEE FOR YOURSELF. VISIT A RELIEF NURSERY.

### Doug Barber

Legislative Advocate  
541-359-3440  
[doug@lobbyoregon.com](mailto:doug@lobbyoregon.com)

### Sue Miller

Family Building Blocks  
503-566-2132  
[smiller@familybuildingblocks.org](mailto:smiller@familybuildingblocks.org)

### Kelly Sutherland

Relief Nursery, Inc.  
541-343-9706  
[kellysu@reliefnursery.org](mailto:kellysu@reliefnursery.org)

Funding for research and communications provided by Northwest Health Foundation.