

Washington County CARES

A campaign for our children

THE VISION

Our goal is to establish a state-of-the art facility for Washington County children who have been abused or neglected so they receive the support, medical treatment and therapy they deserve and to address childhood trauma in a collaborative, proactive way while promoting the health and safety of our community.

THE PROBLEM

Child abuse is common

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "at least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse and/or neglect in the past year."
- Last year in Oregon there were 89,451 reports of abuse and 23 child abuse fatalities."
- Estimates are that approximately 20,000 Washington County children experienced abuse or neglect last year.

Child Abuse disproportionately impacts vulnerable children in our community

- Approximately 55% of children seen at CARES Northwest for child abuse identify as non-white (top categories are Hispanic/Latino, Black and multiple races)
- Approximately 3/4 of children seen at CARES Northwest for child abuse are financially vulnerable (either on Medicaid or have no insurance)

Child abuse is expensive

- Exposure to childhood trauma increases the likelihood a person will experience mental health problems, difficulty with school or employment, addiction, homelessness and criminal behavior.
- One year of child maltreatment in Oregon costs \$58 billion over the course of those children's lives, based on increased health care expense, social welfare needs, crime rates, education expense, and lost productivity and earnings."

Washington County's child population is growing

- In Washington County, our child population is 139,603 which represents 23% of our county's entire population.
- Washington County is ranked second in Oregon for total child population, behind Multnomah County by only 13,210 children.
- Within the next generation, Washington County is predicted to have the largest child population in the state.

Washington County does not have a dedicated facility for child abuse victims

- The primary medical clinic for Washington County child abuse victims, CARES Northwest, is in Northeast Portland, which can require a two-hour roundtrip drive.
- That clinic was established in 1987 primarily to serve Multnomah County children, before Washington County's population growth.
- In 2019 almost 800 Washington County children made the trip to Northeast Portland for medical treatment or therapy.

- In each of the past two years, for the first time in its 30+ year history, ***CARES Northwest treated more Washington County children than Multnomah County children.***

CARES NORTHWEST

CARES Northwest is a children's advocacy center accredited by the National Children's Alliance, whose mission is to stop child abuse and neglect through multidisciplinary prevention, medical evaluation, and ongoing treatment in partnership with the community.

CARES Northwest features:

- Specialized medical treatment and trauma focused therapy for all children, regardless of ability to pay
- Coordinated care in collaboration with community partners to minimize trauma
- Bi-lingual and culturally competent teams to meet the needs of the child and family
- Urgent medical appointments to see children within 24 hours
- 24/7 consultation by medical providers trained in child abuse assessment
- Child abuse prevention training in partnership with local school districts

THE SOLUTION

- Community members and leaders are working to bring CARES Northwest to Washington County to ensure our children have access to the medical treatment and therapy they deserve.

Key features:

- Co-locating CARES Northwest with the Family Justice Center (FJC) in a single Washington County location to serve families in our community
- Expanded access to medical assessments and trauma therapy for our children
- Collaboration and partnership with Washington County leaders, educators and community members
- 15,000 or greater square foot facility that provides medical care, trauma therapy, and community education surrounding child abuse and neglect

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Visit www.caresnw.org to find out more information about how to help or become involved.

- Contact:
 - Kevin Dowling, Executive Director of CARES Northwest, 503-276-9000
 - Kevin Barton, Washington County District Attorney, 503-846-8671

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/gastfact.html>

[https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/CHILDREN/CHILD-](https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/CHILDREN/CHILD-ABUSE/Documents/2019%20Child%20Welfare%20Data%20Book.pdf)

[ABUSE/Documents/2019%20Child%20Welfare%20Data%20Book.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/CHILDREN/CHILD-ABUSE/Documents/2019%20Child%20Welfare%20Data%20Book.pdf)

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