



Building Bright Tomorrows... Today



**OLD MILL
CENTER**

For Children and Families

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Corvallis, OR 97333
(541) 757-8068
(541) 758-1030 fax
www.oldmillcenter.org

Our Mission

Old Mill Center for Children and Families is a community-based, family-oriented center helping children of diverse backgrounds maximize their potential through specially designed education and therapy programs.



A Message From the Director

...Bev Larson, PhD

Dear friends,

Welcome to those of you who are reading "Building Bright Tomorrows...Today" for the first time. We have mailed quarterly newsletters to about 5,000 supporters for many years. We hear from quite a few local folks, however, who don't know about Old Mill Center for Children and Families (OMC). Some have heard of us, but aren't quite sure what we do. A woman once said "I don't really know what you do, but I've heard you do it really well." That is a wonderful compliment...but we would really like more people to truly understand the tremendous range and quality of educational, mental health, parent support, occupational and speech therapy, and home visiting services provided by Old Mill Center. The more people who know about what Old Mill Center provides, increases the opportunity to reach the expanding number of children/youth who need OMC services.

What an important year this is for Old Mill Center! It's hard to believe, but we are celebrating 30 years of serving some of our region's most vulnerable children. We have been providing preschool services, home visiting services, outpatient counseling and other mental health services, occupational therapy services, and speech therapy to children and youth, ages birth to 18, who might otherwise go without such needed services. As a result, these children would likely experience ongoing frustration and ultimately failure in school as well as develop social/emotional overlays leading to depression and anxiety.

We are also nearing the completion of a \$3.4M facility expansion project. Just as our services have grown from serving eight children and families in 1977 to serving over 1,600 families in 2007, we have grown from using a 1,000 square foot space at on 8th Street to over 25,000 square feet now. Not only do we now have space to serve hundreds of additional children/youth and families, but we are situated to accommodate continued growth!

In January we moved into the newly completed West Wing as noted in our last newsletter. Children are enjoying and benefiting from the spacious preschool classroom, generously gifted by Starker Forests and Bond and Marilyn Starker, the occupational therapy "Monkey" room sponsored by Rich Carone, and our expanded psychiatric day treatment classroom for children, ages 4-7, with serious mental health problems.

Last month we moved into the newly completed East Wing! Phase 2 has provided new, specially designed mental health space in which counselors have room for child, parent, family, and group counseling. A specially designed Art Therapy room, a generous gift from Bob and Kitty Bunn, is providing a unique space for our art therapist, Pamela Swafford, MA, and other counselors to help children/youth in their healing through exploring and expressing feelings through art. The Ramsay Room, a generous gift from Dale and Fran Ramsay, will provide us with a large conference and meeting room for trainings, community meetings, and board meetings. Expanded administrative offices and conference/training space has also been included, as well as a bright and airy new lobby, gifted by John & Jo Acres.

We still have one more phase to complete - the South Wing, which will house the Healthy Start Program, providing resources and intensive in-home support for high risk first time parents, and RAFT (Rally Around Families Together) a child abuse and neglect prevention program for children ages 0 - 6 and their families. It will also be home to a lovely Library and Resource room, generously donated by Jim and Doris Van Olst, in celebration of their

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Upcoming Events

Skinny Pig Out & Old Mill Open House

Sunday, July 27th

Join us in celebrating 30 years of important milestones Sunday, July 27, 2008. For this special celebration we are bringing back an old favorite...the pig roast! This was the favorite Old Mill event of Skinny, our 28 year volunteer who passed away a year ago. So, what would be more appropriate than a Skinny Pig Out to celebrate our 30th birthday and the grand opening of our expanded facility!

Please join us for a tour of our newly expanded facility from 1 - 4 PM with fun activities for kids and birthday cake to celebrate our 30th year.

At Starker Arts Park at 5 PM we will have a BBQ dinner, live music and dancing, and auction of large and small decorative pigs created by local artists Yuji Hiratsuka, Carrie Tasman, Cherrill Boissonou and more. Price for this event is \$50 per person.

We hope you can join us for this exciting fundraiser to celebrate Old Mill Center for Children and Families! To find out how please call (541) 757-8068!!



This event dedicated in Memory of
Thelma "Skinny" Larson.

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*"The finest place
 for all children"*

Director's Message
Continued from page 1

lovely daughters. This will provide a much needed space for books, videos, and other resources for staff, children/youth, and parents, volunteers and college/university interns.

As always, we are so grateful for your support of Old Mill and the exciting, unique and groundbreaking work that we do here to positively impact the lives of children/youth and families in our area. Please see the complete staff list to note the breadth and depth of our staff expertise.

Hope to see you all at our Open House on Sunday, July 27th! Thanks to all of you for all you do!!

Bev Larson, Executive Director



Occupational and Speech Therapy

Have you heard? Old Mill Center can provide occupational and speech therapy for children ages birth to 16 years. "I understand why a child might need speech therapy but why occupational therapy? Kids don't have jobs." Oh, but they do! From sucking and swallowing, returning a smile, learning to walk and dress themselves, all the way to climbing a jungle gym, brushing their teeth and paying attention in school there is a lot to the job of being a kid. Think of the "occupation" in occupational therapy as "doing". We provide screening, evaluation and therapy for children from birth through the age of 16 years. If you think your child may be experiencing problems in the areas of speech-communication, and oral motor skills ask for Melinda Croft, M.A., CCC-SLC. For feeding, self-care, fine and visual motor skills, gross motor skills, self-regulation and sensory processing skills, oral motor skills, social, play and cognitive skills ask for Deborah Wagner, OTR/L.

Upcoming Events...
Continued from page 1

Harvest Music Festival

Many of you have enjoyed the music, food and ambience of the Harvest Music Festival, held in early September for the past few years. The Festival is a fundraiser for Old Mill and the Corvallis-OSU Symphony and organized by representatives of both organizations. Because of construction work being done at our beautiful location, Greengable Gardens, the committee decided not to hold the festival this year, rather than change the location for just one year. We will be back in full swing next September, so plan to join us again for this exceptional "garden party."

12th Annual Old Mill Golf Classic

Please join us at Trysting Tree Golf Course Friday, September 19, 2008 for our 12th Golf Classic. Entry fee is \$125 per person and includes: 18 holes of golf, scramble format (4-person teams); NEW this Year - Carts included; Clinic with golf Pros Bob Gilder and Sean Arey; Buffet BBQ, Tee Prizes and Awards; 1 Mulligan; 1 \$2500 Putting Contest ticket; 1 Hole In One ticket; 2 Raffle tickets; 2 Drink tickets; 2 Hit The Duck tickets; Team picture with Bob Gilder; \$75 tax-deductible contribution to Old Mill Center. Early Bird Entry Discount - Register a Foursome by August 30th - Only \$400!



Healthy Start Program Update
 ...by Coordinator, Medora Tuck

Benton County Healthy Start is privileged to begin working with families as soon as their babies arrive. Healthy Start is a statewide program offering intensive home visiting and parental support to first-time parents who indicate interest in the program and who qualify for services based on a wide range of risk factors and family challenges. Healthy Start is a completely voluntary program—there is no mandatory participation and services are completely free of charge to all families. I would like to highlight a few strengths and challenges in the program in hopes that we can convey a sense of how things are going in the world of Healthy Start in our county.

To begin, a listing of our program's strengths includes our team of Family Support Workers and the excellent support and encouragement and creative ideas that are shared every day with the families in our program. Our program is strengthened by the design of its management - the Benton County Healthy Start Management Team is composed of representatives from our County Commission, the Home Health Department of Good Samaritan Hospital, the Parent Enhancement Program, Old Mill Center for Children and Families, Linn-Benton-Lincoln Early Intervention, Benton County Health Department, and Linn-Benton Community College. Healthy Start strives to collaborate with community partners and to work together on shared goals and ideas. The program is exceedingly fortunate to have strong support from Good Samaritan Hospital and the Home Health Department nurses who administer our initial screening tool to all the first-birth families who give birth at Good Samaritan. Healthy Start also benefits from the support, structure and compassionate environment offered by Old Mill Center for Children and Families where our program is housed.

A brief listing of our greatest challenges would include: that the Healthy Start model bases eligibility for intensive home visiting services on risk factors—it would be wonderful if we could offer support to all families since the transition to parenthood is a challenging and amazing journey for all families, not only those who exhibit predetermined risk factors. Another challenge is in ensuring that people in our community know about Healthy Start and the services offered. An additional area that presents a challenge is ensuring that all first-birth families are reached. Fortunately, we do reach almost all of them, but we need to continue working to ensure that families who have adopted children or given birth at home or moved into the area soon after the birth of their baby are given the opportunity to participate in Healthy Start as well. Many of our Healthy Start parents are teenage parents, and we must continue to work for services and educational plans that encourage the teen parents in our community to continue school in a way that empowers their lives and incorporates the extremely important tasks of parenting and bonding and connecting with their babies.

It is this kind of connecting that Healthy Start is all about. Our program has offered support as parents have focused on: becoming clean and sober, leaving abusive relationships, returning to school, finding safe and affordable housing, accessing support for mental health services, keeping babies safe, advocating for equality, developing social skills, etc. There are many Healthy Start families who have overcome extreme stressors and life challenges beyond what most of us can even imagine. These are certainly examples of perseverance and strength. The role of Healthy Start, though, is really about being an ongoing, supportive presence in the lives of families, providing the scaffolding for parents to realize their own strengths, to become empowered by their capacities as parents, to learn how to seek guidance, to enjoy their babies—and to simply smile.

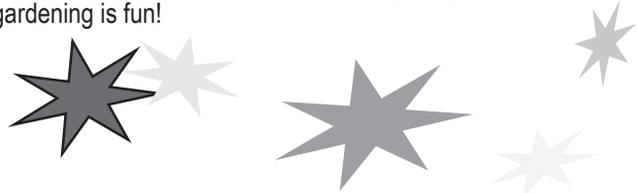
So truly the Healthy Start program's greatest strength is the families that we work with every day....and our program's greatest challenge is the families that we work with every day!

Second Year Gardeners

Again this growing season, the Intensive Treatment Services (ITS) children and staff have planted a garden in the Dunawi Creek Community Garden. This year they will be joined by children in the Integrated Preschool Program as they grow tasty vegetables. The children participate in planning, planting, watering, weeding, and growing vegetables. Last year they were able to supply vegetables for snack and take some of the harvest home to their families. The children were very proud to share the "vegetables" of their labor.

Being a Community Gardener requires the children to participate in community service. Each garden plot owner must provide six hours of community service to the Dunawi Creek Garden. Last year the children and some family members helped paint a shed, weed common pathways, spread wood chips on the paths, and picked up trash in the garden area to complete their service. This year the children will be responsible for hauling the yard debris container across the field for pick up, helping to maintain the common paths and trash pick up in the garden area.

Meaningful work is good for the souls of the children. It allows them to be successful and problem solve in a real life setting. They enjoy a feeling of pride in the fact that they are active participants in impacting the world around them. Math, science, and literacy skills are taught and practiced through graphing, measuring, learning about the water cycle, plant life cycle, and insects are all part of what is done to be good gardeners. Besides, gardening is fun!



Putting the "Play" Back in "Playground"

...Cindy Bond, MS

As the last walls are painted, sprinkler systems placed and carpet laid in Phase 3 of Old Mill Center's beautiful expansion, we look ahead to one last task-renovating the existing playground. Two years ago OSU business students took on the task of designing a new playground for the children of Old Mill Center and raised some "seed" money through innovative procurement at the 2007 auction. Old Mill staff has continued to work with Northwest Playground Equipment, Inc. to tweak the original plan and create a magical environment for our children to grow and develop skills.

Gone will be the need for annual sealing of chemically-treated wood structures. Gone will be the need for annual replacement of bark chips. In its place will be a playground surface foundation created from soft locking safety tiles. While keeping some of the favorite equipment-circle cycle and tire swing-we will add new swings, climbing structures and sensory panels to challenge, stimulate and enchant our children while allowing accessibility.

To get things off the ground, I am personally purchasing two pieces of playground equipment in memory of my parents, two spring horses that will affectionately be named "Pat and Bob" (for Pat and Bob Kemp.) I personally challenge those of you who support Old Mill Center to do the same. We want to be able to put the "play" back in our playground for the start of school this fall and look forward to any donations or contributions to "Playground Fund."

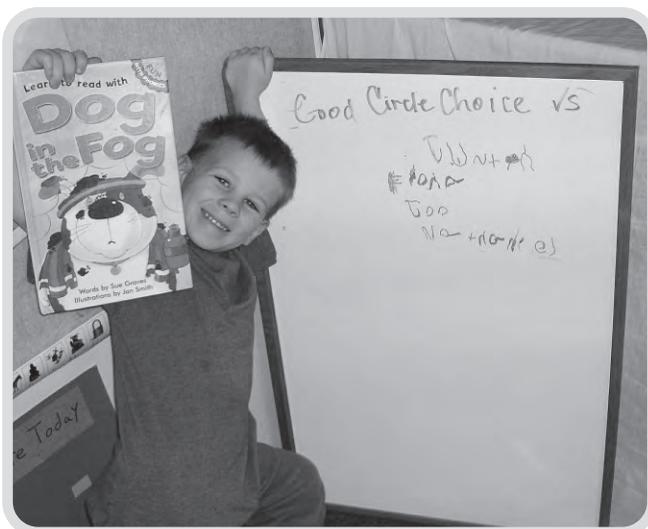
Thanks to Strong Families Community Partners

...Anmarie O'Daniel, MS, LPC

Thanks to all our community partners for your support for and collaboration with Old Mill Center's Strong Families Program. The Oregon Children's Plan Grant (that supports our Strong Families Program) has been rewritten to serve parents and young children through an outpatient therapeutic model. As a result, the current Strong Families Program will be concluding services as of June 30, 2008. However, Old Mill will continue to provide needed services through other programming. Our Strong Families Program has had the privilege of serving over 2,400 families in Benton County through our outreach, family stabilization, and counseling programs over the past four years. At the core of the Strong Families Program is the philosophy that strong community collaborations build strong families.

We have served:

- Over 400 pre-school aged children through our Second Steps: Violence Prevention Curriculum.
- Over 100 parents with our Incredible Years Parenting Class (in collaboration with Linn-Benton Community College).
- Over 300 children ages 5-8 at the Boys and Girls Club through our drop-in Friendship Groups.
- Over 80 children ages 3-8 through our Experiential Groups through the Adair Village Summer Program (in collaboration with the city of Adair).
- Over 200 families through both outpatient and in-home Child & Family Therapy (with generous support from OMC's outpatient therapy program) to families without insurance coverage. We also served over 15 Spanish speaking families through Child & Family Therapy (in collaboration with Benton County Health Department).
- Over 50 parents through RAFT (Rallying Around Families Together) Mental Health Programs; which include group, individual, and family therapy.
- Over 600 families through our Community Safety Net Program.
- Over 20 children in our First Steps to Success Curriculum.
- Over 50 Moms in our Dual Diagnosis Group (in collaboration with Milestones Family Treatment and Community Outreach).
- Over 300 inmates in our Incarcerated Parents Support Group (in collaboration with Benton County Corrections Facility).
- Over 20 children through our Children Healing from Domestic Violence Groups (in collaboration with the Center Against Rape & Domestic Violence).
- Over 25 families through In-Home Skills Training; with 6 families living in Rural Communities (Aalsea, Monroe, and Philomath).
- Over 10 families (10 non-offending parents and 18 children) through our Children of Incarcerated Parents Groups.



Open for Business- The RAFT Closet

The RAFT Program (Rally Around Families Together) and its OSU interns have created a donation center known as the RAFT Closet. The RAFT closet will serve families enrolled in the RAFT collaborative program housed at Old Mill Center and will be accepting donations of gently used or new children's clothing ranging from birth to 36 months. We would also appreciate shoes, hats, bibs, small toys, infant or toddler accessories, diapers, wipes, toilet paper, laundry detergent and dish soap. In addition to the infant and toddler section of the RAFT closet, we will be accepting donations of women's clothing. Donations may be dropped off at Old Mill Monday-Friday, 7:30-5:30.



Old Mill Center...

"We're here for you"



Old Mill Staff List

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Olga Alvarez | BS, Healthy Start FSW |
| Mary Arthur-Young | MSW, Healthy Start FSW |
| Cindy Bond | MS, Early Education Coordinator |
| Catherine Bramwell | BS, RAFT Lead Teacher/Program Liason |
| Eveliina Calder | Office Specialist |
| Jessica Carroll | BS, RAFT Lead Teacher/Home Visitor |
| David Carter | MSW, Outpatient Therapist |
| Erica Crimp | MA, Outpatient Therapist |
| Melinda Croft | MA, CCC-SLP, Speech/Language Pathologist |
| Chris Elgin | MA, LPC, Outpatient Therapist |
| Heather Fredericks | Classroom Aide |
| Derek Gale | MA, Outpatient Therapist |
| Elsie Grimler | MS, LPC, Outpatient Therapist |
| DeAnne Hanvey | Office Specialist |
| Lee Harrington | MD, Medical Consultant |
| Cherry Hartman | LCSW, Clinical Supervisor |
| Stephanie Hibbs | RAFT Program Assistant |
| Kiri Horsey | MS, FSC Home Visitor |
| Jill Irwin | MS, ITS Lead Teacher |
| Josh James | Network Support |
| Art Koebel | MS, Facilities Maintenance Tech |
| Donna Kreliach | BS, Preschool Teacher |
| Angee Langevin | BA, Healthy Start FSW |
| Bev Larson | PhD, Executive Director |
| Casselle LaTourrette | MA, Outpatient Therapist |
| Nancy Leeper | MA, Director of Operations |
| Angela Meyer | AA, Billing/Collections Specialist |
| Marcy Monasky | MS, Preschool Teacher |
| Katie Moore | BS, Preschool Teacher |
| Melissa Moser | MS, LPC, Director of Programs |
| Ben Newman | MN, PMHNP Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner |
| Annmarie O'Daniel | MS, LPC, RAFT Family Therapist |
| Lin Parkison | Office Specialist |
| Lisa Rae Penter | Director of Development |
| Nate Perry | BS, ITS Program Assistant |
| DeAnna Roberts | MS, Outpatient Therapist |
| Amy Rowland | MS, ITS Child & Family Therapist |
| Makiko Suezumi | MEd, Outpatient Therapist |
| Pamela Swafford | MA, Outpatient Therapist |
| Kerrie Tarkinton | Support Services Coordinator |
| Katy Trautman | MA, MFT, ChildSafe Coordinator |
| Medora Tuck | MS, Healthy Start Coordinator |
| Debby Jo Wagner | OTR, Occupational Therapist |
| Jian Wang | BA, Accounting Specialist |
| Debbie Wright | MA, Outpatient Therapist |

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2007-2008

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