

Providence Child Center Foundation News

Acts of Joy

Serving children with disabilities and their families

Be a guardian angel every month

The Center for Medically Fragile Children at Providence Child Center is home to 58 children who have complex medical needs that require care 24 hours a day.

Did you know...?

- The cost of care for each child is more than \$135,000 a year. Although Medicaid reimbursement covers a child's basic needs, there is still a gap.
- Providence Child Center Foundation raises the shortfall for basic care and also funds life-enriching services such as recreational activities and specialized communications.

How can you help?

- You can help us care for these special children through our monthly giving program. With a gift of \$45 or more a month, you can help cover care for a child at the Center for Medically Fragile Children.



For information, please contact Diana Fisher, Providence Child Center Foundation, at 503-216-6625 or diana.fisher@providence.org.

Families excited about the medical and dental clinic

The planning is complete. The fund-raising goal is nearly met. The space is ready for construction, which awaits an improvement in the economy. And the families look forward to the opening of Providence Child Center's on-site medical and dental clinic.

Crystal is one of many parents eager with anticipation. "He was a climber when he was a baby," Crystal says of her now 17-year-old son, Will. "He could get into and out of everything." Will was a normally developing and active child who had an undiagnosed congenital heart defect. He suffered multiple heart attacks one night last summer and now uses a wheelchair. Will has been at the Center for Medically Fragile Children for most of the past year, and his parents are thankful for the excellent,



Will enjoys a visit from Riley, a pet therapy dog.

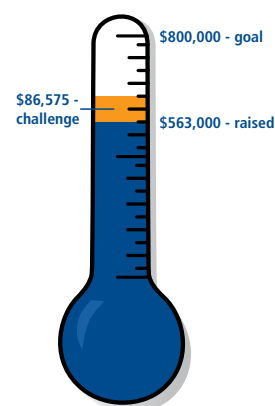
compassionate care he has received there.

"Each week, he has some type of medical appointment outside the center," Crystal says.

"An appointment can take four hours from the time we leave until we return." Crystal accompanies Will to each appointment to comfort all 6 feet 2 inches of him and to learn and bring back critical information for those entrusted with his care. She's a connection between his doctors and the Providence center staff.

"The new dental and medical clinic at Providence Child Center will make life for Will and me so much easier," Crystal says, "and especially for all the awesome kids who call the center home. And the communication between all the professionals who care for Will will be better." Crystal and Will both feel that an on-site medical and dental clinic will be a blessing to many!

For more information, please call Providence Child Center Foundation at 503-215-2405.



A challenge:

The foundation needs to raise \$86,575 in order to receive a challenge match grant from the HEDCO Foundation.

A room for the senses

Through the generosity of the Stimson Miller Foundation, Providence Child Center has introduced the innovative "snoezelen" environment to the center.

The word "snoezelen" (pronounced SNOOzelen) is a combination of Dutch words meaning "to doze" and "to sniff." This unique multisensory environment allows children with disabilities to enjoy gentle stimulation of the senses.

In a room with soft flooring and walls, snoezelen offers a relaxed atmosphere with soothing musical options, various aromas, and tactile experiences such as massage and vibration. A variety of lighting elements in the room allows

children to choose light patterns that calm or stimulate them.

"Providence Child Center has the only snoezelen environment in the Pacific Northwest," says Elizabeth Sullivan, recreation therapist. This environment will enhance the therapies offered at the center by addressing both gross motor skills and emotional needs.





Resources for families a click away

Thanks to a generous grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the Swindells Resource Center has been able to launch a new, interactive Web site to provide resource tools to any family or caregiver with a child who has disabilities.

Simply go to www.providence.org/childcenter and click on Swindells Resource Center to:

- Access and order any of more than 6,000 books, in English or Spanish.
- Connect with statewide resources in your own area by ZIP code.
- Register online for any of the many seminars and educational conferences sponsored by the Swindells Center.
- View informational videos on a wide range of topics related to children and disabilities.

Kari Shawen, who struggled for nearly two years to get a diagnosis for her daughter, Kyla, sees the expanded Swindells Center Web site as much-needed support for responding to all the questions she's had.

"So often parents are minimized, their worries cast off, their instincts ignored," says Kari. "At Swindells, you feel



safe, listened to and your whole family cared for – not only the child in need but other siblings also become part of the experience and are not overlooked."

Thanks to the generosity of many, in 2008 the Swindells Resource Center and its satellite locations throughout Oregon served more than 6,000 families.



Come and P.L.A.Y.

It's splendid summertime at the Center for Medically Fragile Children. Now in its third year, Camp P.L.A.Y. (Providing Laughter and Adventure for Youth) engages every child in two or more weeks of fun-filled, themed activities.

Children are paired with volunteers to participate in crafts, sports, water play, parties and adventures. Each week includes a trip to Providence Montessori School or to a Providence ElderPlace care center and a field trip into the community.

If you'd like to join the fun as a volunteer, please contact Jody Wright, volunteer coordinator, at jody.wright@providence.org.

Swindells Resource Center at Providence Child Center

Free workshops and seminars on parenting children with disabilities are available through the Swindells Center. Please call 503-215-2429 or e-mail swindells@providence.org for information or to register for events.

Join us on a tour

Our children love visitors. We welcome you to attend one of our tours scheduled for 10 to 11 a.m. on Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6 and Nov. 3. To arrange a custom tour, please call 503-216-6625.

Volunteers wanted

Please contact Jody Wright, Providence Child Center volunteer coordinator, at 503-215-2470 or jody.wright@providence.org.



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OUR MISSION

As people of Providence, we reveal God's love for all, especially the poor and vulnerable, through our compassionate service.

OUR CORE VALUES

Respect, Compassion, Justice, Excellence, Stewardship