



# The Journey

 [www.orparc.org](http://www.orparc.org) 

Volume XXXXIII

Spring 2014

ORPARC is a program of Northwest Resource Associates

## ORPARC Celebrates 15 Years!

By April 1, 1999, adoptive families and professionals surveyed across the state had made it clear through a series of focus groups and interviews over a few years time that state post adoption services were a long overdue need in Oregon. The result manifested in the creation of ORPARC - the Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center.

Fifteen years later, the ORPARC program has evolved into what people have called “a lifesaver,” “a ray of sunshine,” their “hope” and “a place to look for help.” Whether for a state adoptive and/or guardianship family, a professional, or supporting partner agency staff, ORPARC remains a touchstone and vital resource for many.

We are honored to be serving all of you. *Happy 15th Anniversary ORPARC!*

### Since 1999 we have:

- ◆ received over 15,000 contacts
- ◆ processed more than 20,000 library materials
- ◆ trained 7000+ individuals

### Now serving:

- ◆ 9,016 adoptive & guardianship families
- ◆ 12,153 children under age 18

## Support the ORPARC Library!

**Fred Meyer Community**

### Rewards Program



Fred Meyer customers can now link their Rewards Card to ORPARC by visiting:

[www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards)

Whenever a customer uses their Rewards Card at Fred Meyer, they will be helping ORPARC's lending library for free! Visit the above website, click on "Link your Rewards Card Now," and search for:

Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center



## Voice for Adoption SPEAKING OUT FOR OUR NATION'S WAITING CHILDREN 2013 Adoptive Family Portrait Project

In November, together with ORPARC, Voice for Adoption's (VFA) 2013 Adoptive Family Portrait Project once again celebrated families who have adopted children from foster care. This annual project raises awareness among members of Congress about the real experiences of families adopting children who have spent time in the foster care system.

Seven participating families from Oregon shared their stories along with a family portrait. Each family was matched with a Senator or Representative from their home state or district. The portraits and stories were featured on display in the Capitol office of each family's respective Senator or Representative during November, National Adoption Month. This is the second year Oregon had full participation from all seven of our members of Congress.

***Congratulations and thank you to these special families, and the Oregon legislators, who participated!***

- ① 503-241-0799 telephone
- ① 800-764-8367 toll-free
- ① 503-241-0925 fax

Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center  
2950 SE Stark Street, Suite 130  
Portland, Oregon 97214

 Follow ORPARC on Facebook  
 [orparc@nwresource.org](mailto:orparc@nwresource.org)  
 [www.orparc.org](http://www.orparc.org)



## What's new in the ORPARC Library

Library usage is available free to eligible families & professionals

### Books for Adults/Professionals

- 📖 *Addiction and Families: A Survival Guide*
- 📖 *In the System and In the Life: A Guide for Teens and Staff to the Gay Experience in Foster Care*
- 📖 *I'm Adopted!*
- 📖 *A Legal Guide for Lesbian & Gay Couples (11th Edition)*
- 📖 *Why Was I Adopted? The facts of adoption with love and illustrations*

### CDs

- 🎧 *Beyond Consequences, Logic, and Control: Tweens*

### Information Packets

- 📄 *Developing a Parent-to-Parent Support Network*

### Paquetes de información en español

- 📄 *Transiciones: Moviendo a los niños con sensibilidad*
- 📄 *Educación Especial: Una Guía para Padres y Defensores (Sexta Edición)*

### Books for Children/Teens

- 📖 *How My Family Came to Be - Daddy, Papa and Me*
- 📖 *Out With It: Gay and Straight Teens Write About Homosexuality*

### DVDs

- 📺 *Adopted*
- 📺 *Attachment: Why It Matters*
- 📺 *The Attachment Dance*
- 📺 *Closure: A Documentary About Adoption*
- 📺 *Empowering, Connecting and Correcting Principles: Healing Children Through Trust and Relationships*
- 📺 *Making Sense of Our Complex Children (10-Volume)*
- 📺 *Playful Interaction*
- 📺 *A Sensory World: Making Sense of Sensory Disorders*
- 📺 *Trust-Based Parenting: Creating Lasting Changes in Your Child's Behavior*



## Federal Adoption Tax Credit for Special Needs Adoptions

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 included a provision that made the adoption tax credit permanent. Unfortunately, it did not make the adoption credit refundable for 2012 or future years, so the credit will only benefit those adoptive families who have federal income tax liability (the amount of federal income tax a family owes to the IRS for the year). The maximum amount of the credit for 2013 will be **\$12,970**.

Although the credit isn't refundable, families who adopted in 2013 are encouraged to submit IRS Form 8839 ("Qualified Adoption Expenses") with their 2013 taxes even if they do not have tax liability. And while families will not receive an adoption credit refund with their 2013 taxes, the credit can be carried forward up to five (5) additional years, and families might benefit later if their tax situation changes or the credit is made refundable in the future.

Families can now **E-file** their 2013 federal tax returns and include IRS Form 8839, which was not an option in previous years. Instructions for Form 8839 can be downloaded from the IRS website or you can call ORPARC to obtain both the instructions and Form 8839.

For additional information, forms and updates, contact ORPARC at 1-800-764-8367 or visit NACAC's website at [www.nacac.org](http://www.nacac.org). IRS information available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), type "Adoption Credit" in the Search box.



### Adoption Tax Credit Working Group

The Adoption Tax Credit Working Group is a national collaboration of organizations and individuals that continues to advocate for refundability of the Adoption Tax Credit.

Find out more information at: [www.adoptiontaxcredit.org](http://www.adoptiontaxcredit.org).



## All Children All Families

Northwest Resource Associates, and all affiliated programs including ORPARC, was recently awarded the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) initiative *All Children—All Families* "Seal of Recognition" as a leader in supporting and serving lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender (LGBT) families.

## ORPARC Trainings

Visit [www.orparc.org](http://www.orparc.org) for updates

Trainings are held in accessible locations. Auxiliary aids and alternative forms of written materials are available to persons with disabilities. Spanish language interpretation available upon request. Please request these services two weeks in advance.



with Heather T. Forbes, LCSW

# Changing Lives and Bringing Hope to Families!



You're invited to join Heather T. Forbes, LCSW, author of *Beyond Consequences, Logic, and Control: Volume 1, Volume 2 and Dare to Love*, for an entire day of training. You'll gain an empowering understanding of why traditional parenting techniques are ineffective. You will leave fully equipped with a new parenting system that will restore peace to the most chaotic family. This dynamic and interactive event will empower you to make the changes you are seeking. And, best of all, it is FREE with a copy of one of Heather's parenting books! Your parenting book is your ticket for free admission (you and your spouse or you and a support person).

**Portland, OR**  
**Saturday, April 26th**  
**9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Portland Providence Medical Center  
Cancer Center Amphitheater  
4805 NE Glisan Street, Portland, OR

**Register at:**

[www.BeyondConsequencesLive.com](http://www.BeyondConsequencesLive.com)

Eligible ORPARC families should check the box  below the registration. Families should then contact ORPARC at 1-800-764-8367 or email [orparc@nwresource.org](mailto:orparc@nwresource.org) to receive a free copy of one of Heather Forbes books (below) to use as their free admission to this event.



## Reach the Balance: Strategies to Promote Child and Family Wellness

**Friday, May 16th ♦ 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Portland Providence Medical Center  
4805 NE Glisan Street, **Portland, OR 97213**

- ✓ *Speaker's Event and Resource Fair*
- ✓ *Collaboration with Swindells Resource Center*
- ✓ *Register at [www.providence.org/classes](http://www.providence.org/classes) → Online Class Catalog → Speaker's Event - Reach the Balance*

Greg Schell, M.Ed., founder of the Washington State *Fathers Network*, will present at the General Parent Session (10:00 am to 12:00 noon) in the Providence Cancer Center Amphitheater and again at a Fathers Session (1:00 to 2:00 pm) in Conference rooms A/B. A Resource Fair will follow the morning presentation (12:00-4:00 pm) promoting wellness and resilience in families with children who experience special needs.

## Navigating Family Connections

**Thursday, May 22nd ♦ 6:00 to 8:00 pm**

Department of Human Services  
4600 25th Avenue NE, **Salem, OR 97301**

- ✓ *Registration required. Register with ORPARC at 1-800-764-8367 or email [orparc@nwresource.org](mailto:orparc@nwresource.org).*
- ✓ *Training to occur at the Marion Co. Adoption Support Grp.*
- ✓ *Questions: Contact Kem Sunitsch, 503-378-5289.*

This training will review helpful strategies for navigating family connections, offering ways to balance safety with a child's need to connect with their "first" family. The training will summarize common challenges and roadblocks, along with the potential impact of social media on family connections. Participants will gain tools and ideas to strengthen adoptive and guardianship families, while connecting to their child's history in a positive way.

## SESOR

### Special Ed Support for parents in Oregon

SESOR, a new Oregon non-profit founded in 2013, is run by parents for parents and provides direct support and information to parents to assist them in working with educators and to become more effective advocates for their children and youth with disabilities. SESOR also provides trained volunteer "IEP Partners" to act in a supporting role at IEP meetings.



Contact SESOR at: ☎ 503-451-3654

✉ [info@sesoregon.org](mailto:info@sesoregon.org)

🌐 [www.sesoregon.org](http://www.sesoregon.org)

## 8th Annual Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Retreat in Portland

**Tuesday, June 3, 2014 ♦ 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

11560 SE Market Street, Portland, OR 97216

This **FREE** event provides educational workshops and a place for grandparents to gather together. The event is open to grandparents, and other relatives, age 55 and over, raising children age 18 and younger. Free lunch and door prizes offered. The event is sponsored by Multnomah County Aging and Disability Services' Family Caregiver Support Program. Please note that due to budget cuts, we are unable to offer childcare this year. For additional information, contact Loriann McNeill at 503-988-8210 or email Loriann at [loriann.mcneill@multco.us](mailto:loriann.mcneill@multco.us).



## Newsletter via email?

If you would like to receive our newsletter and mailings via email, please call us or email [orparc@nwresource.org](mailto:orparc@nwresource.org) with your name, address and email. Receiving the newsletter helps us curb our printing and mailing costs so that we can better serve families in other ways.