

ORPARC's National Adoption Day Celebration... a Success!

Our "Open House Adoption Celebration" resulted in many big and beautiful smiles! Highlights included facepainting by **Emiliaz Facepainting**, **The Loprinzi Family Violinists**, and Fred Meyer's "**Fred Bear**." We are so grateful to our fantastic photographers **Jennifer Lynn Photography** and **Kerry McQuaid Photography** for their time and beautifully crafted family portraits, including candid photos by **Jill Thornton Photography** with prints by **Washington Street DocuMart**.

Much appreciated donors and friends included: *In Memory of Alice Renner*; *Art a la Carte*; *Avenue 30*; *The Craft Factory*; *Craigmore Creations*; *Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.)*; *The David Family*; *Franz Family Bakery*; *G6 Airpark*; *Hello Gorgeous*; *Jockey Being Family/Jockey International*; *Ladies of the Club Book Club*; *The Learning Palace*; *Merry Kitchen*; *Melissa Hart*; *Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center (ORPARC) Staff*; *New Seasons Market – Grant Park*; *Papa Murphy's Pizza*; *Play after Play*; *The Portland Aquarium*; *Portland Children's Museum*; *Portland's Culinary Workshop*; *Redmond Reams, PhD*; *Saint Cupcake*; *Slappy Cakes*; and *Thinker Toys*.



We love and celebrate our helpful volunteers: Kathy & Zoe Steiner; Erin Burbridge; Sarah Cantor; Lisa, Anna & Sean Chronister; D.D. Thomas; Laraiha Williams; and PSU Intern Rachael Umpberger. **Finally, a big thank you to Oregon's adoptive families!**



Voice for Adoption SPEAKING OUT FOR OUR NATION'S WAITING CHILDREN 2014 Adoptive Family Portrait Project

In November, together with ORPARC, Voice for Adoption's (VFA) 2014 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 fourth 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!***



New Online Adoptive Parent Support Group sponsored by ORPARC!

ORPARC's new Online Parent Group is a welcoming, private web-based forum for Oregon's adoptive and assisted guardianship families eligible for ORPARC services. Members can connect with other parent peers in a safe and convenient environment, moderated by ORPARC Family Support Specialists.



Members can ask questions, share experiences, offer suggestions, and celebrate the joys and triumphs of adoptive parenting while supporting one another through the challenges. For more information or to join the private Facebook group, please contact Arah Gould, ORPARC Family Support Specialist, at 503-241-0799 or email agould@nwresource.org.

Meet Arah Gould!



ORPARC is delighted to officially introduce Family Support Specialist Arah Gould! While Arah has been with ORPARC for quite some time, she still might be a newer face to some. As a professional counselor, Arah brings incredible warmth and empathy to her work, and is enjoying getting to know Oregon's adoptive and guardianship families.

Newsletter via email?



If you would like to receive our newsletter and mailings via email, please email orparc@nwresource.org with your name, address and email.

Receiving the newsletter via email helps us curb our printing and mailing costs so that we can better serve families in other ways.

Support the growing ORPARC Library!

Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program

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



Federal Adoption Tax Credit for Special Needs Adoptions

Since 2003, families who adopted a child with special needs from foster care could claim a federal adoption tax credit even if they had no adoption expenses. Children who receive adoption assistance/subsidy benefits are considered children with special needs. The tax credit was refundable for 2010 and 2011, but not for 2012 or future years. A refundable tax credit is one you get back regardless of what you owe or paid in taxes for the year. When the credit is not refundable, you receive only what you have in federal income tax liability. However, as of October 16, 2014, families who adopted children in 2010 or earlier will not benefit. The amount of credit for each child is based on the year the adoption finalized:

Year Adoption Finalized: 2014 = \$13,190 | 2013 = \$12,970 | 2012 = \$12,650 | 2011 = \$13,360

Although the credit isn't refundable, families who finalized an adoption in 2014 are encouraged to submit IRS Form 8839 ("Qualified Adoption Expenses") with their 2014 taxes even if they do not have tax liability. And while families will not receive an adoption credit refund with their 2014 taxes, the credit can be carried forward up to five (5) additional years, and families might benefit later if their tax situation changes or if the credit is made refundable in the future.

Families can now **E-file** their 2014 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 more information, forms and updates, contact ORPARC at 1-800-764-8367 or visit www.nacac.org. IRS information is available at www.irs.gov, type "Adoption Credit" in the Search box.

ORPARC Trainings

Visit 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.

Navigating Family Connections

Thursday, February 12, 2015 ♦ 6:00 to 7:30 pm ♦ Clackamas

Adoption Support Group ♦ Facilitated by Beth Girard, 503-731-4096
Department of Human Services ♦ North Clackamas Child Welfare Office
16440 SE 82nd Drive, Clackamas, OR 97015

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.

Friday, February 13, 2015 ♦ 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Portland Providence Medical Center ♦ Cancer Center

4805 NE Glisan Street, Portland, OR 97213

Collaboration between ORPARC & Swindells Resource Center

Bullying Symposium Bullying of Children with Special Health Needs: It Needs to Stop!

You are invited to attend this free event for families and caregivers. This symposium will help enhance awareness of the psychological and environmental factors that create bullying and school violence, particularly among children who experience special health needs.

9:00-10:30 am.....*Peer Relationships During a Unique Childhood: Skills for Surviving and Thriving*

10:45 am-12:00 noon.....*Panel of Experts*

12:00-3:00 pm.....*Resource Fair*

Register to attend this event at www.providence.org/classes, click on "online class catalog" and search by class name for "Swindells Center—Bullying! It must stop!—Portland." To register by phone, call 503-215-2429 or 1-800-833-8899 ext. 52429. Spanish language registration and interpretation services are available; please call 503-574-6595 before February 1st. Limited childcare is available for this event; call 503-215-5400 to reserve a space. There is a \$25.00 fee for a certificate of attendance.

Adoption Onstage!

What got you interested in writing plays about the adoption of a special needs child? My interest started when I led trainings for caseworkers and foster parents about the mental health of infants and toddlers in foster care. I wanted some way to communicate about the inside emotional life of a young child who had experienced trauma, the loss of a home and move to a new place; and what it felt like to be so young and helpless and not understanding the bigger world. So I wrote some monologues from the young child's point of view and acted them out in the trainings. That led me to think of putting the monologues together into some sort of one-person stage play. At that time, I counseled adoptive parents when their relationships with their newly adopted child had gotten off-track. The parents had gone into the adoption with high hopes, eager to give their love, yet the child struggled to receive and reciprocate that love directly -- it was heartbreaking. As a playwright, I recognized that these two intersecting emotional narratives could provide a compelling play. That was the genesis of my first play "Shadows."

Why do you think stage plays are a good vehicle for helping audiences learn more about trauma and adoption? We all want to see children as happy, and childhood as a carefree time. We tend to avoid the reality that for some children there is an overwhelming level of pain, confusion, terror, and helplessness. We do not want to see that or by contact with it feel overwhelmed ourselves. In the mainstream culture, adoption is still something of a mystery, especially the emotional experiences of those going through it.

*Local psychologist Redmond Reams, PhD,
speaks up on adoption, his upcoming play and the arts.*

When we go to live theatre we open ourselves up to learning about the inner lives of the characters we are going to see. If we know the play is a drama, then we ready ourselves to see and experience some painful emotions. Because it is live and not on a screen, it is a more real, immediate emotional experience.

You have written two plays about the same boy, Mark. How are they different? "Shadows" followed Mark from his abusive birth home to foster care to an adoptive home where he felt scared and didn't yet trust his adoptive parents to be safe. We see Rachel and Tom move from their pain over a miscarriage, through the decision to adopt and welcoming Mark, to their frustration and pain over not connecting with him. In the last part of the play, all three learn how to connect better with some help. In "Threshold," Mark, now five years old, feels safe with his parents but kindergarten looms and he fears the larger world. Tom and Rachel differ strongly over how much to push Mark versus to accommodate to his fears. Mark's fear leads him to "run away" and the play looks at how all three learn how connection can help with fear and danger.

How can we go see "Threshold" if we want to? There will be two performances of "Threshold" on January 30, 2015 at Hipbone Studio (1847 East Burnside Street, Portland, OR 97214):

-7:00 pm: Featured with "The Conditions of Unconditional Love"

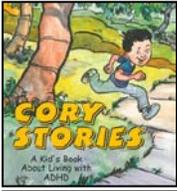
-9:00 pm: The play "Threshold" and post-play discussion

Tickets: <https://www.boxofficetickets.com/bot/wa/event?id=238195>



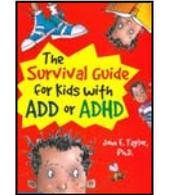
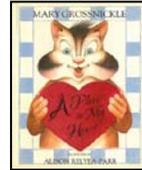
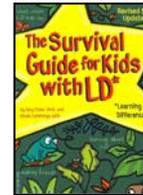
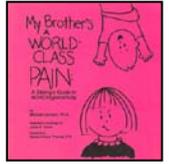
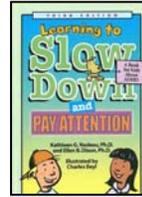
What's new in the ORPARC Library

Special thanks to the Patton family, Sue Clyde, and Toni Ferguson for donating so many of their wonderful, loved books to ORPARC!



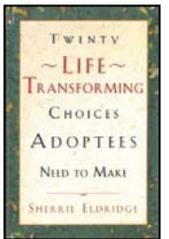
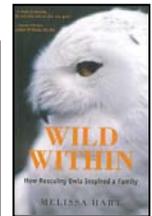
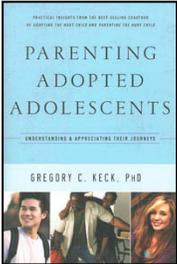
Books for Children and Teens

- 📖 *Cory Stories: A Kid's Book about Living with ADHD*
- 📖 *Jumpin' Johnny Get Back to Work: A Child's Guide to ADHD/Hyperactivity*
- 📖 *Learning to Slow Down and Pay Attention: A Book for Kids About ADHD*
- 📖 *My Brother's a World-Class Pain: A Sibling's Guide to ADHD/Hyperactivity*
- 📖 *A Place in My Heart*
- 📖 *The Survival Guide for Kids with ADD or ADHD*
- 📖 *The Survival Guide for Kids with LD (Learning Differences)*



Books for Parents & Professionals

- 📖 *Ghosts from the Nursery*
- 📖 *Parenting Adopted Adolescents: Understanding and Appreciating Their Journeys*
- 📖 *Twenty Life-Transforming Choices Adoptees Need to Make*
- 📖 *Wild Within: How Rescuing Owls Inspired a Family*



DVDs

- 📺 *The Dark Matter of Love (DVD)*