



Assisting families on  
their lifelong journey

# The Journey

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

Volume XXXXXVII

Spring 2015

ORPARC is a program of Northwest Resource Associates

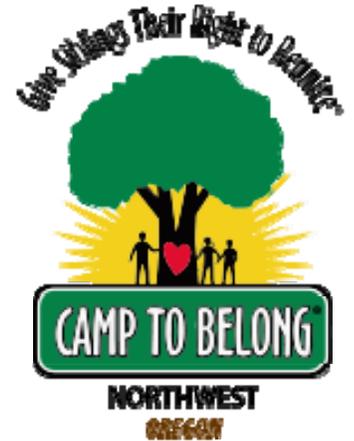
## Quarterly Message from Adoption/Guardianship Assistance Unit

### Camp to Belong, [www.camptobelongoregon.org](http://www.camptobelongoregon.org)

Camp to Belong is a five-day camp for children ages 8 to 18+. The camp is dedicated to reuniting brothers and sisters who are in separate home placements. It is a fun event where emotional empowerment and sibling connection create lifetime memories. Referrals go through Karyn Schimmels. There is limited space left but there are a few camper spaces available. Camp to Belong hosts kids from all living situations, including adoption. If not this year, keep the camp in mind for 2016! 2015 Camp Dates are: June 28 through July 3, 2015.

Camp Magruder will host this year's Camp to Belong. Camp Magruder is a little slice of heaven between the Pacific Ocean and Smith Lake in Rockaway Beach, Oregon. This is a camp where siblings can leave the cares of the world behind and rediscover the joy of fresh ocean air and the beautiful outdoors!

Please feel free to contact either Karyn Schimmels (971-219-4434) or Judy Helstrom (503-378-6337) with any questions or concerns. To learn more about Camp to Belong, please visit [www.camptobelongoregon.org](http://www.camptobelongoregon.org) or follow the camp on Facebook at "camptobelongoregon"!



Camp Magruder  
17450 Old Pacific Highway  
Rockaway Beach, OR 97136  
[www.campmagruder.org](http://www.campmagruder.org)



### Congratulations Lorri Harris DHS Post Adoption Services Manager!

Lorri Harris has been officially hired as the new Post Adoption Services Manager (replacing Carla Crane) in DHS Central Office. Already an Adoption Assistance Coordinator since 2007, Lorri has been operating as the interim Post Adoption Services Manager since September 2014. Lorri has been with DHS for over 10 years and has personal connections to adoption. She gets to lead a very seasoned, experienced group who does amazing work; and is excited to dive further into her new role. Lorri has always loved children, and truly appreciates hearing people tell their stories. In her personal life, Lorri enjoys reading, and spends substantial "bleacher-time" cheering on her two boys. *Welcome Lorri!*

### CareOregon: Polk & Marion Counties

CareOregon, Coordinated Care Organization (CCO), will be terminating their contract with the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) in Polk and Marion counties effective May 1, 2015. This change will occur in other counties in the future and Adoption Assistance/Guardian Assistance will update families as changes occur. Families with CareOregon that reside in Polk and Marion counties will receive a letter from OHP Medical Assistance Resource Coordinators showing which CCOs are available to them and the enrollment process. If you have questions about OHP coverage or enrollment in a new CCO, please call Tonya Burckhardt (503-945-5934) or Shelly Watts (503-945-6613).



### Newsletter via email?

If you would like to receive the ORPARC newsletter and mailings via email, email [orparc@nwresource.org](mailto:orparc@nwresource.org) with your name, address and email. Receiving the newsletter via email helps ORPARC curb printing and mailing costs in order to better serve families in other ways.

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

☎ 503-241-0799 (telephone) ♦ ☎ 800-764-8367 (toll-free) ♦ ☎ 503-241-0925 (fax)  
✉ [orparc@nwresource.org](mailto:orparc@nwresource.org) ♦ 🌐 [www.orparc.org](http://www.orparc.org) ♦ 📺 Follow ORPARC on Facebook  
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

# Grandparent Retreats & Conferences



## 11th Annual 'A Gift of Time' Retreat

Friday-Sunday, May 8-10, 2015  
Macleay Christian Retreat, Salem



*A weekend break for non-professional family caregivers and relatives-as-parents raising their children's children or other relative children.*

Have you put your life on hold as you care for a loved one, a parent, a spouse or a special needs child or raise your grandchildren? A Gift of Time will be held at Macleay Christian Retreat in Salem and is a weekend retreat designed with you in mind! Join others in similar situations for self-renewal, education and a break. Attendees have a chance to relax, meet new people or reconnect with old friends, attend educational seminars, listen to music, visit resource tables, arts/crafts, chair massages, and enjoy wonderful meals all in a delightfully peaceful setting. The total cost for two nights/double room and five meals is \$80.00. For information about registration, please contact Janice Wolcott, Event Coordinator, at 503-831-5593 (home), 503-559-4001 (cell), or email [agiftoftimeoforegon@gmail.com](mailto:agiftoftimeoforegon@gmail.com).



## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference

Wednesday, May 20, 2015 ♦ 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Roth's Supermarket (upstairs), West Salem

This free conference is for grandparents raising grandchildren and other relatives parenting again who reside in Clatsop, Marion, Polk, Tillamook and Yamhill counties. The conference will offer insightful information about the issues relatives parenting again face, and an opportunity to connect with others. For more information or to register, contact Ladena Borchers at 503-304-3439. This conference is sponsored by NorthWest Senior & Disability Services.

## 9th Annual Grandparents (and elder relatives) Raising Grandchildren Retreat

Friday, May 29, 2015 ♦ 9:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.  
Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
11560 SE Market Street, Portland, OR 97216

Join us for fun and educational activities, a place to learn about community resources that can help you, a place to meet other grandparents raising grandchildren, and a special day for you! Free lunch and door prizes offered. Contact Jon Molenkamp at 503-988-9405 or email [jon.molenkamp@multco.us](mailto:jon.molenkamp@multco.us) for information and registration. This retreat is sponsored by the Multnomah County Family Caregiver Support Program of the Aging, Disability and Veterans Services Division.

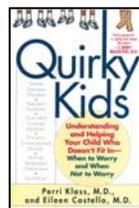
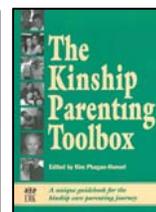
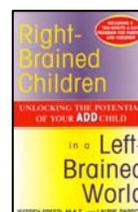
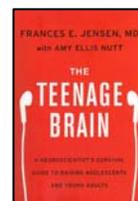


## What's new in the ORPARC Library

*Special thanks to the Nichols-O'Connor family, the Nelson family, and Francine Florendo for donating so many wonderful books to ORPARC!*

### New Materials for Adults/Professionals

- 📖 *Adopting our two Dads: A story about the Leffew Family*
- 📖 *The Body Keeps The Score*
- 📖 *For When I'm Famous: A Teen Foster-Adopt Lifebook*
- 📖 *The Kinship Parenting Toolbox: A Unique Guidebook for the Kinship Care Parenting Journey*
- 📖 *Parent as Coach: Helping Your Teen Build a Life of Confidence, Courage and Compassion*
- 📖 *Parenting Adopted Adolescents: Understanding and Appreciating Their Journeys*
- 📖 *Right-Brained Children in a Left-Brained World: Unlocking the Potential of Your ADD Child*
- 📖 *The Teenage Brain: A Neuroscientist's Survival Guide to Raising Adolescents and Young Adults*



### Donated Materials for Adults/Professionals

- 📖 *Adoption Parenting: Creating a Toolbox, Building Connections*
- 📖 *Beyond Consequences, Logic, and Control: A Love Based Approach to Helping Children With Severe Behaviors (Volume 1)*
- 📖 *The Connected Child*
- 📖 *Easy to Love, Difficult to Discipline: The 7 Basic Skills for Turning Conflict into Cooperation*
- 📖 *Older Child Adoption*
- 📖 *Quirky Kids: Understanding and Helping Your Child Who Doesn't Fit In*



### Nuevo libro en español

- 📖 *Más allá de las consecuencias, la lógica y el control: Un enfoque basado en el amor para ayudar a niños con comportamientos severos*

### Donated Materials for Children & Teens

- 📖 *Adopted Teens Only: A Survival Guide to Adolescence*
- 📖 *Help! I've Been Adopted*

## 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.

### Navigating Family Connections

**Wednesday, April 15th ♦ 6:00 to 7:30 pm**

DHS Henrietta Room  
950 SE Columbia Drive, Suite C  
Hermiston, OR 97838

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.

Presented by Nicole Russell, LMSW  
ORPARC Family Support Specialist

Register by calling ORPARC at 1-800-764-8367  
or email [orparc@nwresource.org](mailto:orparc@nwresource.org).

### It's a Brain Thing—Supporting Individuals with FASD and other Neurobehavioral Conditions

**Monday, April 20th ♦ 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

Developmental Disabilities Service Office  
900 Richmond Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

*Collaboration between ORPARC & Swindells Resource Center*

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and other neurobehavioral disorders present a unique challenge to families, schools, caregivers, and social workers. This training will address some of the major behaviors and symptoms that parents and caregivers see, including lying, stealing, difficulty understanding what is being said, and memory. The training will help participants understand what is going on in the FASD/NB brain, and to empathize with how this affects the individual experiencing it. Parents and caregivers will be given practical suggestions and tools to help address these behaviors from a skills-based foundation.

Presented by Nate Sheets, FASD/Neurobehavioral Consultant,  
Oregon Behavior Consultation, [www.oregonbehavior.com](http://www.oregonbehavior.com)

Register with Kathy Keese at [katherine.keese@providence.org](mailto:katherine.keese@providence.org) or call 541-732-5958. Spanish language registration & interpretation is available.



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. Best of all, it's FREE with a copy of one of Heather's parenting books! Your parenting book (one per couple) is your ticket for free admission.

When registering, **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 to use as their free admission.

**Portland, OR**

**Saturday, May 16th**

**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)

**Save the Date! →**

**Multiple Portraits: One Child**

**Friday, June 5, 2015**

Chemeketa Community College

Presentation • Panel • Resource Fair

*In collaboration with Swindells Resource Center, Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs at OHSU (OCCYSHN), Salem Health*

Morning Keynote: Dr. David Conant-Norville, Child and Family Psychiatrist

Join us for this free symposium for families and caregivers. It will help enhance awareness and identify strategies that respond to a child's co-occurring mental health and developmental disability diagnoses. Visit [www.orparc.org](http://www.orparc.org) for more details about this upcoming training.



## Federal Adoption Tax Credit for Special Needs Adoptions

Families who finalized the adoption of a child with special needs in 2014 can claim the full adoption tax credit of \$13,190 on the line that asks for expenses—whether or not they had any expenses. A child with *special needs* is a U.S. foster child who receives adoption subsidy or adoption assistance program benefits.

Although the credit isn't refundable, families are encouraged to submit IRS Form 8839 ("Qualified Adoption Expenses") with their 2014 taxes even if they do not have tax liability. 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.

Year Finalized & Credit	Explanation of Applicable Adoption Tax Credit
2014 = \$13,190 2013 = \$12,970 2012 = \$12,650	The federal adoption tax credit for adoptions finalized in either 2012, 2013 or 2014 is <b><i>NOT</i></b> a refundable credit, which means taxpayers can only benefit if they have federal income tax liability. The amount of credit for <i>each</i> child is based on the year the adoption finalized.
2011 = \$13,360	The federal adoption tax credit of up to \$13,360 per child <b><i>IS</i></b> refundable, which means taxpayers can typically get the credit refunded regardless of what they owe or paid in taxes for the year. The credit is paid one time for <i>each</i> adopted child, and should be claimed when taxpayers file taxes for 2011. You will need to amend your 2011 taxes.
2010 or earlier	Since October 16, 2014, the tax year 2010 closed for everyone. Adoptions finalized in 2010 or earlier are no longer able to file.

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](http://www.nacac.org). IRS information is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), type "Adoption Credit" in the Search box.