



# The Journey

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

Volume XXXVII

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ORPARC is a program of Northwest Resource Associates

## November is National Adoption Awareness Month *Celebrate National Adoption Day on November 19th!*



In celebration of **National Adoption Awareness Month** and **National Adoption Day**, the **Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS)**, **Boys & Girls Aid (BGAID)**, **Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center (ORPARC)**, and other Oregon adoption advocates are joining together for a free, fun family event to celebrate the joys of adoption. Whether you are a family who has already adopted or you are exploring adoption for the first time, we welcome your attendance!

With more than 107,000 children in foster care waiting to be adopted in the United States, the need in Oregon is great. Children in your own communities are waiting for permanent and loving families.

Join us at **Lloyd Center Mall** in Portland from **11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** on **Saturday, November 19th** to learn more about adoption, and enjoy free, family-friendly festivities like face painting and clowns, story-time, adoptive family photo shoots, giveaways and much more. This is a not-to-miss adoption event for the entire family! **Celebrate the joys of adoption**, and help advocate for the many children still waiting for a family to call their own.



## National Adoption Day Televised Adoption Special *The Stars Are Out Tonight...For The Kids* Saturday, November 19, 2011 ♦ 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Don't miss watching ***The Stars Are Out Tonight...For The Kids*** airing on the **Discovery Fit & Health Network**. Highlighting our nation's waiting children, this show will feature profiles and stories of children in foster care waiting to be adopted, including children right here in the Pacific Northwest! Learn about children around the United States in need of loving adoptive families.

## State of Oregon Budget Cuts Affecting ORPARC

In April 2011, ORPARC received notice of potential program elimination due to statewide budget cuts. Through the compelling efforts and hard work of many, we are very thankful to report that we will continue to provide services, although with a 30% reduction to our budget. The following services will remain, some at a reduced frequency:

- ◆ Information, Assistance, Referral to Services
- ◆ In-Depth Consultation, Advocacy and Support by phone
- ◆ Parent Education and Trainings (reduced to 6-8 a year)
- ◆ Lending Library (replacement/acquisitions on hold)
- ◆ Support Groups (consultation by phone)
- ◆ Website and Seasonal Newsletter
- ◆ Reduced Bi-lingual Services
- ◆ Outreach by mail and phone

We are grateful to all of you who spoke out on behalf of continuing services for post adoptive families, and who supported ORPARC through this time. We hope that in the future our services will be fully restored, and we look forward to assisting Oregon's state adoptive and guardianship families for many years to come.

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)

## ORPARC welcomes Kendra Morris-Jacobson as Director of Oregon Programs



Kendra oversees the general functioning of three programs housed and based in Oregon, including the Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center (ORPARC), the Oregon Adoption Resource Exchange (OARE), and the Washington State Resource Family Lending Library (WSRFL). While Kendra's role at ORPARC is more administrative, she is extremely proud of the inspiring and important work that ORPARC staff do on a daily basis with families. Likewise, Kendra is equally impressed with the strength, resilience and commitment of the adoptive/guardianship families that ORPARC serves.

Kendra has spent well over 15 years in foster care adoption, including work with Boys & Girls Aid, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, and Voice for Adoption. As a prior editor, writer and adoption recruiter, she has captured the stories of hundreds of foster and adoptive children and families, and it has fueled her enthusiasm for this cause. In previous clinical work at Oregon Health Sciences University, Kendra counseled children and families, led groups for adolescent depression, and contributed to research projects. In her spare moments, Kendra cherishes family time with her husband, sons and rambunctious white shepherd; and gardens and bakes.



## ORPARC welcomes Azizi Evans as Administrative Assistant

Azizi joined ORPARC as an Administrative Assistant in August 2011. After earning her Associates of Arts from Portland Community College in 2008 she continues her education, pursuing a BA in History at Portland State University. Azizi helps maintain the lending library, performs a variety of welcoming tasks, keeps families updated on the ORPARC website, and assists the staff in preparation for upcoming and ongoing trainings. In her free time, Azizi enjoys time with her children exploring local entertainment and volunteering in her community in an effort to give back. Welcome Azizi!

## Calling All Therapists!

### Certificate Program: Adoption & Foster Family Therapy

Oregon DHS, ORPARC, and PSU's Graduate Schools of Social Work & Education have created the Oregon Certificate Program in Adoption and Foster Family Therapy. The Certificate Program provides 100 hours of advanced education and training for licensed mental health professionals (at the Master's level and above) in the specialized theories and practices for addressing the needs of adopted children who have histories of abuse and neglect. In particular, mental health professionals learn how to identify and build on family strengths, and coach adoptive and foster families in alternative approaches, expectations and interactive strategies for helping their children.

This program increases the number of accessible and affordable mental health professionals for adopted/foster children and their families. A directory of professionals who have completed this training certificate is available on the ORPARC website.

*If you know of a therapist who would benefit from this training, please have them contact Kellie Herold at 503-725-8539 or e-mail [kellieh@pdx.edu](mailto:kellieh@pdx.edu).*

13th Annual  
**Shoulder to Shoulder  
Conference**  
November 1, 2011

Coming of age



 Oregon Convention Center  
777 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Portland, OR 97232  
Visit our Web site at [www.stsconference.com](http://www.stsconference.com)

ORPARC has limited scholarships available to eligible families. Contact us for details.

## Douglas County Honors Adoptive Families on National Adoption Day

**Saturday, November 19 ♦ 11:00 to 1:00**  
**Roseburg High School**  
**400 W Harvard Avenue, Roseburg**

Contact Barry Forte at 541-440-3373 x 2073,  
or email Barry at [barry.forte@state.or.us](mailto:barry.forte@state.or.us).

# Accessing OHP services for your child or young adult

On August 29th, the state launched “OR-KIDS,” Oregon’s new Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System, which contains information for clients served under DHS-Children, Adults and Families (CAF) Division. Under the new system, children keep their biological case Oregon Health Plan (OHP) Recipient ID (also known as Prime Number) up to the point of adoption finalization. At the point the adoption finalization case is opened a new prime number is assigned. This means your child will receive a new Medical Care ID and coverage notice showing the current OHP managed care enrollments for the new prime number. CAF is working to ensure continuous coverage and enrollments for children with new prime numbers. Should your family encounter any difficulty accessing covered OHP services, please do not hesitate to contact the resources at the end of this article.

## Private Health Insurance

Under your child’s adoption assistance agreement, if you requested OHP coverage, you are not obligated to provide private health insurance. However, with private health insurance there is the potential for a broader array of coverage than the OHP may provide alone. If you have a change, addition, or loss of private insurance for your child, please notify your adoptions assistance coordinator. They will work with you to complete an insurance verification form. Depending on the change, your child may be sent an updated OHP managed care coverage notice and ID card.

## Changes to the OHP Prioritized List

The OHP “prioritized list” of covered services is reviewed and often adjusted on October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. With the global budget crisis, some OHP services covered last year are no longer funded. For information about planned changes, visit [www.oregon.gov/OHA/OHPR/HSC/docs/IM/10\\_11.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/OHA/OHPR/HSC/docs/IM/10_11.pdf) (letter addressed to Senator Courtney).

## Healthy Kids Coverage

For children who have “aged out” of adoption or guardianship services, there is an avenue to provide OHP Plus coverage through your child’s 18<sup>th</sup> year. On or around your child’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday the Child Welfare Federal Compliance Unit conducts a continuing medical eligibility review and a new case number is established for continuous coverage up to your child’s 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. This process is meant to be invisible to parents. As your child nears their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, it is vitally important to respond to any requests for new/changed information. At age 19 a youth may not be eligible for the OHP Plus level of coverage. The eligibility determination will include a review for all types of eligibility. Again, please remember to respond to all requests for medical and financial resource information within the given timelines.

## Questions?



- ◆ Child’s Eligibility: Contact the following individuals in the Child Welfare Federal Compliance Unit:
  - Leslee V. Star, [leslee.vstar@state.or.us](mailto:leslee.vstar@state.or.us), 503-947-2598
  - Margaret “Marj” L Roberts, [margaret.l.roberts@state.or.us](mailto:margaret.l.roberts@state.or.us), 503-945-5720
- ◆ OHP managed care enrollments/billing matter: Contact DMAP Client Services Unit, 1-800-273-0557.
- ◆ Contact ORPARC at 1-800-764-8367, [orparc@nwresource.org](mailto:orparc@nwresource.org), or on the web at [www.orparc.org](http://www.orparc.org).

*Submitted by Tamara Hammack-Ryan, Medical Assistant Resource Coordinator, DHS - Children, Adults & Families*

## New Grandparent Support Groups



### Grandparent Support Group in Beaverton

*For grandparents or relatives 55 years or older in Washington County*

Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Beginning Tuesday, October 18th  
Standard TV & Appliance

3600 SW Hall Boulevard, Beaverton, OR

Contact Mariko Clark at 503-684-6289  
Misty Mountain Family Counseling Center

### Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising and Parenting Children in Portland

*For grandparents and other relatives who were most likely not expecting to be raising children at this time in their lives*



Meetings are held every other Friday  
(10/07; 10/21; 11/04; 11/18; 12/02; 12/16; 12/30)  
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Bridge Meadows

8502 North Wayland Avenue, Portland, OR 97203

Contact Liisa Heard at 503-285-6565 ext. 2, Program Supervisor,  
Impact NW North Portland Senior Center



## 2011 7th Annual Adoptive Family Portrait Project

📄 [www.voice-for-adoption.org](http://www.voice-for-adoption.org) ♦ 📧 [voiceforadoption@gmail.com](mailto:voiceforadoption@gmail.com)

This November, Voice for Adoption’s (VFA) 2011 Adoptive Family Portrait Project will once again celebrate families who have adopted children from foster care. The primary goal of the project is to raise awareness among members of Congress about the real experiences and needs of families that have adopted children who were in the foster care system. During the project, family stories and portraits are featured in the Washington, D.C. offices of the participating members of Congress for the month of November. For 2011, VFA hopes to particularly emphasize the importance of post-adoption support for adoptive families. Here in Oregon we are thrilled to report that for the first time in the project’s history every single Oregon Congressional member is participating! The following families will be featured in these Congressional offices:

- ♦ Senator Ron Wyden—Lisa and Wendy’s family
- ♦ Senator Jeff Merkley—The Robbins family
- ♦ Representative Greg Walden—The Ebert family
- ♦ Representative Kurt Schrader—The Germond family
- ♦ Representative Peter DeFazio—The Hart-Smith family
- ♦ Representative Earl Blumenauer—The Stumbo-Leonardi family

Congratulations and thank you to all of these above participants for representing our state!



### Newsletter via email?

If you would like to receive our newsletter and mailings via e-mail, please call us (800-764-8367) or email [orparc@nwresource.org](mailto:orparc@nwresource.org) with your name, address and email. Receiving the newsletter by e-mail helps us curb our printing and mailing costs so that we can better serve families in other ways.

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