



Dear Friend,

Thanks to your generosity, the families partnering with Friends of the Children – Lane County have accomplished so much this year.

Generational change does not always happen quickly or easily, but it is our privilege to walk alongside children and families who are making incredible progress. In 2025:

- Friends provided **10,271 hours** of support to vulnerable children in Lane County
- This included over **14,000 targeted mental health interventions**
- 92% of families reported that communication in their homes improved
- 80% of parents and caregivers reported their child's relationships with both peers and adults improved
- 78% of caregivers reported greater success for their child at school

Yet, there is still urgent work ahead. While 75% of our families are working (47% full-time or more), the average household income in 2025 was just over \$35,000 for families of 4–5. In addition, 69% of families experienced a major destabilizing event last year, such as homelessness or a mental health crisis. With the departure of Medicaid insurers and reductions in services for marginalized populations, the need for Friends in Lane County continues to grow dramatically.

As the year comes to a close, we are launching our Annual Campaign to raise \$130,000 so we can expand services to another 26 children and families this fall. Will you join us to ensure that kids like Teddy (read his story on the next page) are not left behind?

Your past support has been critical. With a monthly gift of \$50, you can continue to support a community of people committed to our 12+ year promise of breaking cycles of disadvantage in Lane County. Your gift fuels hope and makes an immediate difference right here at home.

Giving is easy: donate online at Friendslanecountyor.org, mail a check using the enclosed envelope, or call us at 541.731.1643. Please give by December 20, 2025, so we can meet this urgent need.

Thank you for believing in our mission and making transformation possible year after year. We are deeply grateful—none of this would happen without generous supporters like you.

Warmly,

Matt Springer, Executive Director
Friends of the Children – Lane County

P.S. Your Investment changes generations of lives. By supporting this expansion, you will strengthen Individual children and families and transform the mental health landscape of our community.

Donations to Friends of the Children - Lane County, a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (85-0786203), are tax deductible.



*Teddy's story is one we've highlighted before because he and his family had made an incredible amount of progress. While that progress has continued, so too, has tragedy connected to their story. So we are giving Teddy the spotlight again because it highlights why long-term consistent support across the whole family is necessary to break cycles of disadvantage.

Resilience Forged in Fire: Teddy's Story

*"When the smoke cleared, Friends of the Children was the first to step in and hold us up. They did more than that – they gave us hope and a way forward," *Jenny, Teddy's mom.*



When Teddy began his journey with Friends, he was a gregarious affable young man, big for his age and with an insatiable desire to experience the world with his hands. Teddy's energy, size and physical nature created complications in the classroom where sitting still and concentrating are challenging.

Over time his mentor began working with Teddy around managing his body, being mindful of his anger and exploring ways to redirect his sociable behavior in positive ways. Through intentional activities his interactions with peers and adults improved significantly, his engagement in school improved and he was making huge strides in literacy. He began to grasp his potential.

Then, on the morning of June 16th, the family suffered a huge setback when their trailer went up in flames.

*"*Duncan and I had spent years climbing out of poverty and creating a safe life for our children. In one terrible morning we watched those years of hard work turn to ash," said *Jenny.*

Of course, there were concerns about how to help their three children cope with the trauma of losing everything and the need to figure out solutions for both immediate and long-term housing.

Our Family Engagement Team quickly connected us with emergency resources, secured temporary housing, and arranged counseling for everyone in the family. Critically this also involved coordinating an army (Bethel School District, The Eugene Mission, Nikki Aguiar, McIntyre Construction, etc.) of other people, organizations, and resources that would be required to help keep Teddy's family afloat during this transition.

Then began the work of demolishing the remains of their home, identifying another manufactured home they could afford, gaining state permits to transport the new unit, gaining City Permits, tax assessments, and lining up contractors to make their new home livable.

While there is still a long way to go to successfully re-home this family, we hope they will be able to move into their new trailer by the holidays. The kids are attending school and Jenny and Duncan have done a remarkable job of keeping their family safe and whole throughout the experience.

If you are interested in helping this family directly please find more info at: <https://gofund.me/3e66a93fe>

Your support of Friends of the Children – Lane County, helps us support kids like Teddy and his family. Thank you for contributing to our ability to keep this work going. It is the work of a community refusing to let the cycles of disadvantage continue.

**FR1ENDS of the
CH1LDREN**
Lane County Oregon



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