

Children's Trust Foundation



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Doubling Our Support for Children and Families in 1998-99: **CTF Funds Will Boost Eleven Family Center Programs**

Trust Foundation's Family Center Initiative, launched in 1997, took a giant step forward in October, with six proposals for family center projects selected for 1998-99 funding. The centers are geographically spread from Battleground in Washington's southwest to Port Angeles in the northwest corner of the state. They serve families living in diverse circumstances, from rural Clark County to Tacoma's urban Hilltop neighborhood. One proposal was submitted on behalf of six Snohomish County family centers, which means the \$35,000 available from endowment earnings for these grants were stretched to impact a total of eleven centers.

Children's Trust board members and volunteers are committed to hands-on involvement with each of the projects funded. Centers have requested help with needs as different as public awareness, space utilization design, mentoring young adolescents, family support training for staff and locating a reasonably priced family center site. The grants represent a doubling of both financial and volunteer investment in family center programs over the preceding year.

The following projects will receive support through our 1998-99 Family Center Initiative:

North Clark County Family Resource Center, Battleground

Children's Trust funds and volunteers will be put to use in the design and creation of a multi-purpose child care room for the center, to be used during parenting classes and parent support groups. Additionally, part of the funding will be used for two monthly activity groups for rural, pre and early-adolescent boys and girls, designed to provide support and positive role models.

First Step Family Support Center, Port Angeles

Funding from Children's Trust will enable the First Step Family Support Center to reinstate their environmentally enriched preschool program for 2 and 3 year



Parents and kids enjoy the Children's Room at Seattle's FamilyWorks, furnished by Children's Trust Foundation as part of the 1997-98 Family Center Initiative. In 1998-99 CTF will furnish a childcare room in Clark County.

olds, which emphasizes parents learning to be their children's "First Teacher" and advocate.

Bryant Family Resource Center, Tacoma

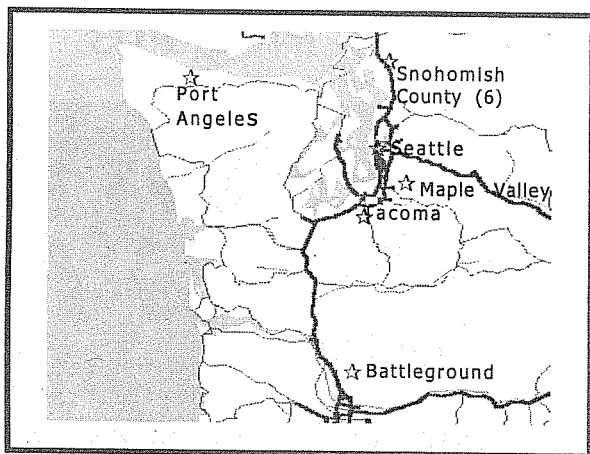
With this grant, Children's Trust returns to support the family center at Bryant Elementary School in Tacoma's Hilltop neighborhood, a center which was created through an earlier Children's Trust project (1993-95). The funds help support the family center's coordinator, allowing her to spend more time and energy in developing family programs and activities at the center.

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CTF Funds Will Boost Eleven Family Center Programs (Continued)

North Seattle Family Center

Children's Trust's grant will supplement the North Seattle Family Center's budgeted rent allotment, allowing the overcrowded center to move into larger and more adequate space, thus serving more children and parents. In addition, Children's Trust volunteers will assist the center in its search for reasonably priced larger space.



Map of Western Washington, showing location of six new Children's Trust Foundation family center projects.

Maple Valley Community Center

A friendship-building program aimed at improving the self-esteem of 10-12 year old girls will be supported by this grant. The program will include crafts, creative expression, sports and personal improvement, and will involve local community members as volunteers.

"Gathering Events," 6 Snohomish County Family Centers

The grant is to be divided among six family centers, each one using the funds to support community-building social events for children and families. The purpose of the events is to foster connections among families and to encourage families to share experiences and "stories" about the strengths they have discovered in themselves. The six centers are the Stanwood-Camano Family Resource Center, the Family Center of South Snohomish County, the Lake Stevens Family Center, the South Everett Neighborhood Center, the Darrington Family Support and Resource Center and Sky Valley Community Resource Center.

Also in the Works for 1999

FamilyLink: Parent Support on the Web

Families in the Seattle area will soon be able to search and browse the Web for services, activities and support they need, using a new Internet website, currently being developed by Children's Trust. **FamilyLink**, designed primarily as a resource for parents using family centers, will also be a training site, intended to introduce parents to the Internet.

FamilyLink will give families user-friendly access to a panorama of family programs and activities—from parent education and support to family recreation and entertainment. It will also provide a parent-to-parent bulletin board where parents can share concerns, problems, ideas and resources directly with one another. Through a grant from the City of Seattle, Children's Trust has funding to provide Internet training to parents at each of the centers. These parents will, in turn, become trainers of other family center parents. The web project is being coordinated by Board Member Suzanne Bennett Flint with web design and development services donated by Anna Farr of Top Dog Studios.

Building Our Endowment: More Support for Families

If we have learned anything from our two years of funding family center programs through our Family Center Initiative, it is that the needs of centers for more funding and more volunteer help far exceeds our limited capacity to support them. The Board engaged in a spirited debate in both years, finding far more worthy programs than resources. This has led to a renewed commitment to build the endowment so that more prevention dollars can be put to work in Washington's communities. Board Members Sibby Deforest and Del Miller are organizing the endowment drive. Watch for more information about how you can help with our Spring 1999 endowment campaign! OR, if you can't wait, call us to offer your help now (206)343-5911.

REDOUBLED EFFORTS MEANS REDOUBLED NEEDS!

As Children's Trust steps up to the challenge of supporting more prevention-oriented family center programs than ever, our need for additional volunteers and dollars is greater than ever too.

Please consider a generous year-end gift and think about becoming a Children's Trust volunteer in 1999.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!