

"... Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." John 16:24

FOSTER PARENTS EQUIPPED

All Lane County Foster Parents were invited to attend a free 8-week parenting class, thanks to a dynamic partnership! The True Insight Parenting Classes are designed for parents who care for kids with trauma histories. CAFA provided the training and Every Child rallied volunteers. An Oregon Community Foundation grant made it possible. It was held live at First Baptist and simulcast to four rural locations (Veneta, Florence, Junction City and Creswell). **What an answer to prayer for partners to support foster families!**

In total, 45 volunteers served meals and provided free childcare. Over the 8-weeks, people engaged with the material 492 times online, and parents attended 440 times. **Here are a few stories:**



10-YEAR-OLD AMANDA

She stayed in the quiet room while her foster parents attended the classes. She sat by herself and didn't get along with other kids. While one of the volunteers sat with her, she confided that she hated her life. The volunteers gave her one-on-one attention every week. Soon the change was evident: She smiled, sang, made paper airplanes and played with other kids.

DETERMINED MOTHER

After the final class, a mom took a selfie with her TIPS completion certificate in front of an Every Child yard sign that challenged Oregonians to "show up for kids in foster care." She wasn't a foster parent, but rather a parent working to regain custody of her son. She was thankful because the class taught her how to be a better parent. She took a yard sign with her, determined to make the number of kids in foster care to "one less."

CHURCH HOSTS PARENTING CLASS FOR SCHOOL + COMMUNITY



A church in Eugene stepped into a needed gap to serve families this spring. In partnership with CAFA, they hosted a 6-week parenting class for neighbors, DHS clients and parents from a nearby middle school. They offered holistic support, by offering a meal and childcare as well. The school offered enthusiastic support, and the church was free to invite the school's families.

Their example is inspiring other churches to do the same with their school partnerships. It's an answer to prayer for parents to be equipped and for church/school partnerships to grow and flourish.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT

We prayed for the process and selection of the next Springfield Superintendent for four months. Todd Hamilton was unanimously selected as the next leader for Springfield Public Schools!

Todd has a wealth of knowledge having served in numerous roles across the K-12 continuum, including most recently as the Creswell Superintendent. The Board confidently hired him, believing he is the "right person to continue the positive trajectory of recent years."

OPEN DOORS



Recently, a woman remembered how she often used to share her faith. She prayed earnestly, asking God for opportunities. Following the prayer, five days in a row she had the opportunity to share her faith with five different people. Each person initiated the Gospel conversation - she didn't!

Each encounter had a similar theme: they were people who were beginning to follow Jesus, but not because a Christian shared the Gospel with them. In one way or another, each had sought Jesus on their own. **God is drawing all people to Himself & answering our prayers for salvation!**

She shared the story with a friend, to learn her friend had a similar interaction. While at a downtown restaurant, a waiter heard her pray for her meal. He began to ask questions, sharing how he had recently come to faith. He said, *"My family doesn't even know I believe. Soon I need to come out and tell them."*

May these testimonies spur you on to share your faith, as the harvest is ripe!

HEALTH CARE ANSWERS



We've prayed for local emergency rooms, and there have been less people needing emergency care! This trend has alleviated some of the stress on hospital staff, as leadership continue to create systems to best support staff and patients.

During the February snowstorm, health professionals went above & beyond to care for people. Leadership made excellent decisions and staff worked extra hours, sleeping at the hospital and Serenity Lane to be available to care for people.

GRANTS: SHARING THE LOVE

A Eugene pastor learned of a company's grant opportunity that could benefit a local faith-based nonprofit. He called the nonprofit, and they suggested he share the opportunity with two other nonprofits as well. Last month, **all three organizations received their grant requests!** Plus, the pastor's church also received funding for a school partnership project. It's an answer to prayer for greater trust and collaboration between both churches and nonprofits!

DOVE MEDICAL'S STOP & THINK



Dove Medical's STOP-AND-THINK (faith-based sexual risk avoidance presentation for public schools) faced scrutiny from some parents of the 4J School District.

The concerns went before the 4J School Board, and Dove Medical's team feels the meeting was "60% positive." While some adults and 4J students spoke negatively about Dove and STOP-AND-THINK, those who spoke on behalf of STOP-AND-THINK carried themselves with humility, love and simply agreed with the School District's policy to "allow diverse sex education from a variety of perspectives." ***We've prayed for Christians to carry themselves with love and humility in all of public life and for STOP-AND-THINK.***

The meeting ended on a positive note: A school board member/Planned Parenthood supporter spoke for the school board **in favor of STOP-AND-THINK.** The board member affirmed that any and all faith-based organizations may present in classes if the content is not religious and waivers are given to parents. She went on to say that even though she doesn't agree with everything Dove Medical is, the school board should not discriminate.

The meeting, along with an additional time with the superintendent, resulted in greater understanding on both sides. STOP-AND-THINK will continue to present at least through the end of the school year!