

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Child Center Celebrates 50 Years of Serving Children, Youth, and Families

Since 1971, The Child Center has been serving Lane County children and youth. What began as a novel program to provide an alternative to residential programs where kids had to leave their families and communities in order to receive mental health treatment, has grown into a comprehensive continuum of services across Lane and Deschutes counties. The original Day Treatment program still exists among the 9 programs offered, all focused on compassionate, child-centered and family-focused care. During the particularly difficult experience of the pandemic, it's become even more apparent how vitally important mental health care that is financially accessible is for so many in our community.

“We always believed in and got to see how our work impacted the lives of children and families, but this past year really drove home the point that mental health care is a necessity in our communities. Especially making sure it's provided to everyone, regardless of income. For us, we see how having holistic services where we can center our work on what the child needs, while supporting and involving the entire family, really makes the difference in helping a child, tween, or teen get support for what they're going through, find ways to heal, and go on to thrive.” says Meghan Melton, Director of Administrative Services and Crisis Response Program.

To mark their 50th year, The Child Center is hosting a digital event on June 9th at 7PM. “We're looking forward to taking a look at the ways The Child Center has grown over the years, and to talk about our goals for the future as we continue serving our communities where the need is.” says Executive Director Bill Wellard. “I've been with The Child Center for 38 years, and it is still so rewarding to get to help kids and families, and to work with our wonderful and dedicated staff as we continue to grow as an organization to meet the need while helping children and youth.”

The event will include hearing from Executive Director Bill Wellard on plans for TCC in the coming years, a trivia game with prizes, and a silent auction with items from local businesses. Tickets can be reserved at bit.ly/TCC50th or by going to www.thechildcenter.org and clicking on the 50th celebration banner. Tickets are free, although donations with ticket reservations are gladly accepted.