

In hard times, the Relief Nursery offers hope for kids at risk

By Hope Nealson
Emerald Reporter

Fidgeting in his bus seat and eagerly waiting for the fun to begin, Eric Miller said he was most excited to see the elephants during his field trip to the Portland zoo.

Why?
"Because they're as big as this bus and could smash it!" he said.

Eric is one of 30 kids from the Lane County Relief Nursery who got to go on the Thursday trip, which was anonymously donated.

Each week, the Relief Nursery serves more than 150 children who are in families that are at high risk for abuse. All families are low income and all services are free, funded through federal, state, and local grants.

The donation for the zoo trip came during tight times for child abuse programs, which are being cut although child abuse in Lane County is going up.

Lane County has seen a dras-

tic increase in reported cases of abuse in the last year, said Susan Dey, Branch manager of Lane Children Services Division.

"Each month, there are 500 new reports of child abuse," she said. "That's over 2,000 in the last four months."

Dey said the increase could be caused by more people becoming aware and calling in abuse when they notice it in their neighborhoods, as well as by more stress put on middle and low income families burdened with making ends meet.

Dey said CSD has not only seen more reported abuse cases, but also an increase in infant deaths.

"We've had 15 babies die in Oregon this year, with two confirmed deaths in Lane County," she said. Dey said many of the babies die from being shaken by their parents, causing concussion and brain injury.

Dey said that because of Measure 5, CSD is forced to cut out some of its priority services and help only a percentage of the abused.

"Something has to give, and what's going to give is services," Dey said "we'll be just be taking the most serious cases and that really scares me."

One of the service organizations CSD works with, the Relief Nursery, already has a waiting list of 235 families.

The Nursery, established in 1976, is the only organization in Lane County offering a family-focused program at no cost to low income parents and their infants or young children.

The Nursery is currently on a fund-raising campaign to raise \$1.2 million for a permanent facility in Eugene. So far, the group has raised \$600,000.

Campaign Chairman John Sheppard said that with a new building, the Nursery could increase its capacity by 75 percent.

The Nursery's 60-90 volunteers come from all walks of life, with many being former parents in the program.

They review the children's cases and set up the toys and facilities in the three donated rooms of the Presbyterian

Church, where the nursery is housed.

The program prides itself on working with both the child and family.

"When you see a child, you see a family," said Community Relations Director Linda D'Spain.

D'Spain said some programs are negative in their approaches, and thus not as successful.

"Typically, child abuse programs are more punitive — you are a bad parent because you've done this to your kid."

D'Spain said the reason the Nursery is seen as a national model is due to their philosophy. She said it is important to build a parent's confidence and teach coping skills through support groups and home visits by Nursery staff and volunteers.

"We take one good quality that parent has and build on

it," she said. "As the parent grows more confident in their ability, the better the parenting."

D'Spain said many of the calls come from parents who are on the verge of violence, and just need a little help and guidance.

"We look at the risk factors involved, if there was a history of child abuse in the family, if they are a low-income family, if they are under a tremendous amount of depression or anxiety," she said.

Typically, CSD will get a report of child abuse and investigate the claim. CSD works in conjunction with organizations like Lane County Relief Nursery, designating kids for programs.

"Children on the waiting list who are in an abusive situations continue to be at risk," D'Spain said.

Two GTFs win 1992 teaching awards

By Julie Swensen
Emerald Contributor

Two University graduate teaching fellows have commanded respect for their teaching methods, using enthusiasm and patience to inspire their students to learn.

The talents of sociology GTF Susanne Bohmer and math GTF Jon Clauss have been recognized with the 1992 GTF awards for outstanding teaching, awarded to only two out of the approximately 1,000 GTFs who teach at the University.

"I recognize that a teacher can make a big, big difference," said Clauss, who said he's had boring teachers in the past that turned him off to the subject. "It's very big for me personally to take responsibility for my actions as a teacher and to accept the consequences of my actions."

Clauss, who makes a point to get to know each of his students personally, said student-teacher relations are also important.

"When you like the teacher, and the teacher respects you, you perform better," he said.

Bohmer also pointed out the significance of the teacher's role.

"I didn't do that well in some classes in part because the teachers weren't really that great," she said. "I had to study a lot of the material so I could look beyond the teaching."

Bohmer used those experiences with poor teachers to make sure she teaches the class well, which her students will attest to.

"She's definitely one of the best, if not the best, instructor I've ever had," said Sheila

Page-Edwards, one of Bohmer's students.

"What I like most about her teaching is her patience with the students, and her ability to convey the information to the students in a way that is understandable," she said.

Bohmer said her students probably praise her teaching techniques because of her patience.

"I think part of it is I'm really patient," she said. "I ask them to stop me when I'm going too fast, and I ask for feedback on how I'm doing."

Clauss is the only GTF who has been chosen to teach a regular Honors College math sequence, "Topics of Modern Math." The Honors College selects its faculty based on excellent teaching evaluations.

Clauss said his teaching methods work well because he tries to instill the same enthusiasm he has for math into his students.

"You can't be exciting unless you're excited," he said. "Math excites me, so I try to pass that along."

Clauss said he makes his students participate actively in his lectures and in small groups, and he likes to get away from the traditional methods of teaching math.

"Memorization is crap," he said. "Memorization is for the birds. People that come into my math class and think they can memorize formulas and survive quickly realize that's not how it works."


"That scares some people, I imagine, but it

Turn to GTF, Page 12

SIMPLY SEND ROSES.
Cash & Carry Special
6 for \$9.50

- For Graduation
- Finals Pick me up
- "See You Later"

Eugene's Flower Home
THE UNIVERSITY FLORIST
610 E. 13th at Patterson 485-3655

SUMMER STORAGE
Indoor Storage Units
5X10s 8X10s
No unit fee with 3 months rental paid in advance (\$5.00 value)

We have rental trucks and packing boxes.
747-4573

***PROTECTED STORAGE CO.** 361 Shelly St. Springfield, OR

Disappointed With Your MCAT Scores?

Don't despair! Stanley H. Kaplan has helped over 100,000 students overcome their fears and improve their scores...

- Small intimate classes — Expert Instructors.
- Free repeat guarantee.
- Computer analyzed diagnostic exam.
- Scholarships and student discounts available.
- Over 50 years of experience.

KAPLAN
STANLEY H. KAPLAN EDUCATIONAL CENTER LTD.
The world's leading test prep organization.

MCAT Classes begin Saturday, June 27
GRE and LSAT classes begin in July
Call 345-7496 to enroll

RESUMES Have your resume professionally typeset at Letter Perfect Graphics.
346-4381 9-5 Mon-Fri

Weekend Special \$48.00
250 FREE MILES
Friday afternoon to Monday Morning

A-WAY
RENT A CAR
683-0874
110 W. 6th
(By the Hull Center)
Some Restrictions

PERSONALITY

People who have NOT experienced panic attacks are needed to participate in a study comparing the personality traits of panickers and non-panickers. **PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A FREE PERSONALITY PROFILE.** Participation is strictly confidential. If interested please phone:

KIMBERLY HARDING at 484-0256

This study is part of my doctoral dissertation at the University of Oregon and is supervised by Dr. Ray Lowe.