

## About Children's Trust Foundation



**Who we are:** Children's Trust Foundation is dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect. We fund Family Support Centers in communities across the state of Washington to help ensure that parents have the knowledge, skills and encouragement they need to manage the challenges of parenting in today's demanding society. We advocate for children, for families and for efforts that support our mission of preventing abuse and neglect *before* it occurs.

**What we do:** Founded in 1987, Children's Trust Foundation is the only private, non-profit organization in the state focused exclusively on funding programs in Family Support Centers that help parents learn to better nurture, discipline, communicate with and bond with their children. In 2007, we awarded \$129,000 in grants – a 50% increase in grant funding from 2006 – aimed at expanding Family Support Centers' capacity to offer parenting education classes, child development activities, parent-to-parent support groups and mentoring, and other programs. Children's Trust Foundation relies on individual, corporate and foundation donations to fund our important work.

**The need:** Each year, more than 80,000 reports of child abuse are filed in Washington State. Nationwide, some 906,000 children are victimized and 1,500 die from abuse every year – that's just over four fatalities a day – and many researchers believe that abuse and neglect is underreported by as much as 60%. Child abuse occurs at every socioeconomic and educational level and across all ethnicities, cultures and religions. Abused children are more likely to drop out of school, experience teen pregnancy, abuse drugs and alcohol, commit violent crimes, be imprisoned, suffer psychiatric disorders and abuse their own children.\* By preventing child abuse and neglect, we not only save lives, we save taxpayer dollars. For every 2 cents spent on prevention, \$1 is spent to deal with the after-effects of child abuse and neglect – criminal justice, health care, social services, foster care and more. A study by Prevent Child Abuse America estimated that the direct costs associated with abuse and neglect, such as protective services and hospitalization, total more than \$24 billion each year.

**Our impact:** While we once saw child abuse and neglect solely as failures of individual parents, we now understand the complex interaction among individual and societal factors that contribute to the problem. Family Support Centers address the social isolation, lack of knowledge of child development, lack of parenting skills, substance abuse, economic distress and other risk factors that contribute to abuse and neglect. Because the Centers are open to all, they avoid the stigma of programs targeting abusive or neglectful parents and are moving parent education and support into the mainstream of community life.

**Our beliefs:** We believe... that every parent can be a great parent and that we make a difference in the lives of our children by investing in the potential of their parents... that we can break the cycle of child abuse by giving families the opportunity to learn parenting skills in a safe and supportive environment... and that an investment in preventing abuse and neglect is an investment in the future well being of children, families and communities.

*\* Sources of statistics available upon request*

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