

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to you today to share my family's experience with and show our support for treatment courts in Jackson County, Oregon specifically, Community Family Court (CFC).

We were introduced to CFC in 2010 after Child Welfare stepped in and removed our two children because of the safety risks that we were exposing them to. My wife Ashley and I were living heavy in active substance use and were both engaging in criminal activities while our children were under our care. In April of 2010, we went to Target in Medford Oregon to steal Blu-ray DVD'S. After we made it out of the store and into the vehicle that we were driving we were immediately surrounded by Medford Police Department (MPD), I was taken into custody for having active warrants and Ashley was cited and released for unlawful possession of methamphetamine. Child Welfare was notified by police because our daughter Emma was in the car seat while all this was happening. While I was incarcerated Ashley went right in to treatment and started viewing CFC sessions and I joined her in treatment upon my release from custody.

We joined CFC in June of 2010 and began the process of repairing the wreckage that we had caused. In CFC we were surrounded by a team of people that were willing put in the work to help teach Ashley and I a new way to live. We were supported and encouraged to get to know ourselves clean and sober and we were held accountable when we made poor life choices (relapse). CFC connected us to the necessary resources that were suitable for our treatment needs, Alcohol and Drug treatment (A&D), Domestic Abuse Awareness Program (DAAP), parenting classes, 12 steps groups/meetings etc. They believed in us even when we didn't believe in ourselves. **Susie Wahl** and **Judge Lisa Greif** refused to give up on me even after giving the team plenty of reasons to terminate me from the program. They saw our potential before we did and after 27 months in the program we graduated in September of 2012. Unfortunately, after graduating CFC we both relapsed and moved back to Grants Pass. In September of 2013 Child Welfare opened a new case on us and removed our children again. In March of 2014 Ashley and I moved back to Medford and started engaging in A&D treatment. We signed in to

CFC again in June of 2014 and successfully completed in June of 2015. We have been clean and sober since March 6th, 2014 and both Ashley and I have taken the necessary training courses to be certified Peer Support Specialist/ Recovery Mentors (PSS/CRM).

Today we are both active and productive members of our community and we are fortunate to have the opportunity to help struggling families find a new way to live free from substance use. Ashley works at a residential treatment center for mothers in Medford and I work as a Peer Parent Mentor for the Family Nurturing Center in Medford. We now have 4 amazing children Kristopher (DOB XX/XX/2006), Emma (DOB XX/XX/2007), Brendon Jr (DOB XX/XX/2011), and Joseph (DOB XX/XX/2015). We get to live today and provide a life for our children free of the chaos that comes with substance use and criminal activities. I do not believe that I would be here today in the position that I am in if it weren't for the dedication and determination that we received from CFC. It is my firm belief that CFC saved my life and by doing that, they also saved my children from a life of trauma. My hope for the future is to see some form of treatment courts in every county across this great Nation. I am forever grateful for everything that CFC did for my family.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Brendon Kinzel PSS/CRM

Parent Mentor

Family Nurturing Center

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