



Family Building Blocks

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE AND FAMILIES TOGETHER



April 17, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means:

Please accept this as Family Building Blocks' letter of support for the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center project to create a multicultural, intergenerational community facility, housing family stability organizations, with capacity for public and private events and space for spiritual renewal. We are excited about the opportunity to house our Woodburn Relief Nursery in this innovative co-location model. We believe this is a unique opportunity to transform the lives of Woodburn families.



Family Building Blocks is the Relief Nursery serving Marion and Polk counties. Our mission is to "Keep Children Safe and Families Together." We partner with parents who have young children, five years old and younger, who are facing overwhelming life circumstances. Our core services include Therapeutic Classrooms, Home Visiting, Parenting Education, and Respite Care. Our services are free and voluntary for parents who bravely come to us ready to make a positive change in their family's life.

All of our child abuse and neglect prevention programs are designed to reduce the number of stressors or risk factors a family is facing. We know that the more stress a family is facing, the less likely it is for that family to stay together. Poverty is one of the most common risk factors for potential child abuse and neglect.



In Woodburn, 13.7% of residents live in poverty. Per capita income in Woodburn is \$22,311, compared to \$35,393 statewide. Children under age 5 comprise 6.9% of the population, compared to 5.4% statewide. Hispanic individuals represent 57% of Woodburn's population, compared to 13.4% of all Oregonians. Fifty-four percent of Woodburn residents speak a language other than English in their home, compared to 15% statewide. Seventy percent of adults in Woodburn are high school graduates, which is significantly lower than the statewide rate of 91%. Though the need in Woodburn is great, the opportunity to transform the lives of children and families is greater.



We are honored to support the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center in achieving this vision. We are prepared to partner in the effort by providing on-going information on our own outreach efforts, providing input into project design, and participation on the project committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrice Altenhofen
Executive Director