



# OCTOBER Newsletter



### A heartwarming event highlights a significant need

On September 26th a group of state representatives, business leaders and child care professionals poured into the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce to hold a roundtable event to discuss child care in Clark County.

Imagine for a moment that you are a parent seeking child care for your toddler. Like any parent, you are looking for quality care close to home and work, but you find yourself living in a child care desert, one of many throughout our country. There is a growing need for licensed child care providers in critical areas such as the 4th Plain corridor. For many, the lack of child care in their community is a tremendous strain.

During this meeting members of our community discussed a new project piloted by Support for Early Learning and Families called the Southwest Washington Child Care Partnership. This program utilizes community-led, neighborhood organizing strategies, to recruit and train future child care providers and support them in attaining their child care license and building a sustainable child care business. The attendees learned about the first three participants to graduate from the program, Lucero, Gloria, and Maria. The audience was able to listen to their stories and share in their journey. To create even more impact the child care business owners opened up their homes to show firsthand what they had accomplished upon completing the Southwest Washington Child Care Partnership program.

The goal of this program is to meet the child care needs of families and employers so that our communities can rely on this stable infrastructure to increase livability, prosperity, and economic vitality.

It was heartwarming to witness the impact that this program is having on our community, not only for the participants but for the representatives, business leaders and child care professionals who attended.

To learn more about this project click here.

Debbie Ham  
Executive Director | Support for Early Learning & Families

### Give a gift that lasts a lifetime!

As we round the corner into the holiday season we focus our efforts on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Support for Early Learning & Families is the local Southwest Washington affiliate for the Imagination Library and this year we want to highlight our efforts in fostering partnerships and growing awareness for this amazing program. Our goal is to get as many books as possible into the hands of children in our community. If you have it in your heart to give to this outstanding program over the holiday season, we would be overjoyed! Will you join us?

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