



August 2017

## *Oregon Legislative Update 2017*

### *Bills that Matter to Kids*

The 79th Oregon legislative regular session adjourned on Friday, July 7th after weighing in on nearly 3,000 new measures, passing over 900 bills in each the House and the Senate, and with Governor Kate Brown signing over 500 of those bills into law. Of the total bills, 129 refer directly to children, and 31 of those were signed into law by governor Brown.

Most notably, this year's session resulted in progress for Oregon's children and families, a more efficient and transparent government, and a more sustainable transportation system. Morrison applauds the Oregon legislators for passing Senate Bill 558 and House Bill 2726, commonly referred together as Cover All Kids, which expand health coverage to 15,000 additional Oregon children. These bills modify which children qualify for coverage as well as the metrics for determining eligibility. Coverage will be extended to any child ages 0 through 18 who "resides" in the state, and "the income of the child's family is at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines." These are important distinctions as they replace guidelines that extended coverage only to children "lawfully present" in the state. This is a huge step toward ensuring that all children in Oregon thrive, regardless of their income or residency status. Greater access to preventative health care reduces a child's potential need for expensive emergency care and allows them to be more successful in school and later life. This bipartisan-supported measure will make a huge difference to Oregon's kids and their families who are ensured a brighter, healthier future.



Oregon Governor Kate Brown with Durham Elementary School Students in 2015

## *Windermere Foundation Strikes a Chord*

### *Foundation Supports Music for SAGE*

Last month, the Windermere Foundation presented Morrison with a \$2,500 check to purchase musical

instruments for our SAGE program. SAGE is a residential program for youth survivors of commercial sexual exploitation. The program serves girls, ages 11-17, from around Oregon and provides them with a safe and secure setting in which to move toward their goals, build self-esteem and resilience, and reconnect to the community.

Expressive arts therapy is regularly utilized at SAGE. Like art or movement therapies, music therapy is more about the process than the finished product as the girls discover mediums that enable them to communicate their experiences in new ways. These instruments will present opportunities for the girls to receive the cognitive benefits of playing music, as well as promoting pro-social behaviors as they share their favorite tunes and collaborate to compose new pieces. Thank you, Windermere Foundation, for your support! Click [here](#) to donate to SAGE or other Morrison programs.



## Join Our Charity Miles Team, MilesForMorrison Run, Walk, Dance, for a Cause!

Want to earn money for charity every time you walk, run, bike, skip, or dance? Now you can! Charity Miles is an iPhone/Android app that connects charities, individuals, and corporate sponsors to create social change. Every journey has a corporate sponsor that is repurposing their advertising budget for good, turning your activity into a charitable donation. When you head out on an indoor or outdoor run, bike ride, or walk, just turn on your Charity Miles app to track your activity. When you finish, you have the option to share your activity on Facebook or Twitter to build awareness about the cause you supported and to encourage others to join Morrison's team.



Morrison is on the waiting list to be added to Charity Miles' charity partners and we are more likely to be chosen (and start earning donations) if we have a large team. So, let's get moving! To begin, download the Charity Miles app and join MilesForMorrison. Our team's miles will support other charities in the app at first, but if we are chosen for the app, Morrison will get miles from app users and supporters of other charities going through the same application process.

The mental health benefits of exercise are abundant, from reducing anxiety and depression to improving self-esteem and cognitive function to alleviating social withdrawal. Now you can use this app to boost your own mental health and the mental health of children in our community by setting your fitness goals, staying motivated, and walking/running/dancing miles that add up to a tangible benefit for a good cause.

Feel good physically, mentally, and altruistically - it's a win-win-win!  
#CharityMiles #MilesForMorrison



## Alberta Street Fair Fun

### Say Hi at the 20th Annual Alberta Street Fair

Join us Saturday, August 12th from 11am-6pm at the Alberta Street Fair, a free community event with entertainment, music, food, drinks, and over 300 vendors. Hosted by Alberta Main Street, the event is one of Portland's most beloved neighborhood street festivals, drawing more than 25,000 people annually.

Staff from Morrison's foster care team will be there to share information about this valuable program and to raise awareness. The Street Fair is a great opportunity to connect with our community and to spread the word about the critical need for foster families.

# Sustainability Tip of the Month

## Morrison's Sustainability Committee's Tips for Staying Green All Year Round

This August, as summertime winds down, many of you may be starting to prepare your homes and gardens for the wet winter ahead. For some, this may mean giving your home a fresh coat of paint. Ideally, exterior paint should be applied during temperate weather, between 50-85 degrees and dry conditions, to prevent cracking or improper binding.

To tackle this project sustainably, consider using recycled paint from the Portland Metro MetroPaint line. Perfect for interior and exterior use, MetroPaint is an affordable \$13/gallon, contains mold and fungus inhibitors, is thick enough to apply just one coat, and has a 5-year warranty. The best part is that this program has remade millions of gallons of latex paint, rerouting it from landfills, preventing pollution, and saving resources needed to make new paint. This is a great way to reduce, reuse, and recycle and to beautify your home, inside and out.



To learn more about the Sustainability Committee or share your Sustainability Tips, email [sustainability.committee@morrisonkids.org](mailto:sustainability.committee@morrisonkids.org).



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## Our Mission

At Morrison Child and Family Services, we partner with families and communities to provide effective and responsive services for children and youth coping with adversity and trauma.

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