



April 2018

Silver
LININGS



On March 14, Morrison Child and Family Services hosted our 5th Annual [Silver Linings Luncheon](#) in the Governor Ballroom at the Historic Sentinel Hotel in downtown Portland. This year's event was a wonderful success! We were joined by over 350 of our city's most prominent business and community leaders; it was our best turnout yet!

Every year, we present a video to share a behind-the-scenes view of one of our programs. This year, we highlighted our [SAGE Youth Residential program](#).



SAGE Youth Residential Program Video

SAGE, which opened in January 2015, is a secure residential program for long-term stabilization for teenaged girls (ages 11-17) who are survivors of commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC).

This year's keynote speaker was local attorney, victims' advocate, and policy adviser Joel Shapiro. Joel has extensive sex trafficking policy experience, including serving as Chief Counsel to U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, where he crafted the first federal legislation focused on child sex trafficking, as a policy adviser to Multnomah County Commissioner Diane McKeel, and as the lobbyist for the "Kids Are Not For Sale in Oregon Coalition." Joel presently represents victims of sex trafficking and other crimes in civil litigation. Joel also serves on the Oregon Department of Justice's Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee, and continues to advocate on behalf of sex trafficking victims at the Oregon Legislature. Joel's speech shed light on his personal background and he spent more than a little time championing his mother's spirited advocacy on behalf of women as his inspiration for doing the work he does.

Thanks to everyone who could join us this year and to our supporters who contribute in other ways - we look forward to seeing you at Morrison events in the future!

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luminosa

2018 summer metric

Registration Now Open!

Join Us August 4th For Our Summer Bike Event

You are invited to join our multi-distance ride on August 4th to tour some of Oregon's most beautiful scenery in the Willamette Valley.

Presented by Pacific Office Automation and The Morrison Foundation, this first-class, multi-distance bike ride supports the youth and families of Morrison Child and Family Services. The routes tour the [Tualatin Valley Scenic Bikeway](#) and include distances of 26 miles, 43 miles, and 62 miles. The start and finish lines are at [Oak Knoll Winery](#), where riders will enjoy lunch, beer and wine, live music, and the opportunity to visit vendors and information booths.

Date: Saturday, August 4, 2018

Location: Oak Knoll Winery, 29700 SW Burkhalter Rd, Hillsboro, OR 97123

Click [HERE](#) for registration.

If your organization is interested in sponsoring Luminosa, please contact Deanna Kavanaugh at deanna.kavanaugh@morrisonkids.org.



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Get to Know Morrison

Featured Staff: **Tim Phipps**

This month, we are happy to feature [Parent Mentor](#) Tim Phipps, who will be celebrating his 5th anniversary at Morrison next month. Tim is on the left in the photo above, which was taken last month when he presented on a panel, with another Parent Mentor Duane Kowalski (right), in Los Angeles at the national Fathers and Families Coalition of America conference. Tim, who often speaks at seminars all over the country, said that this was among the most inspiring events he has been to thanks to the great turnout of dedicated people and their use of qualitative as well as quantitative data. Tim has dedicated his life to systems change, particularly in child welfare, and spends much of his time educating parents and practitioners about ways to successfully resolve their child welfare case.



Tim and Morrison's team of Parent Mentors provide guidance, support, and friendship to parents who are involved in the child welfare system. Morrison is the only organization in the Portland Metro region that provides this unique model of services for parents with DHS child welfare involvement, peer-delivered by parents who have successfully navigated the system. This model is extremely effective because it allows parents to feel heard, to receive empathetic support from a person who has been in their shoes, and it provides them with the tools they need to succeed.

Tim believes that his recovery has allowed him to develop a life philosophy and set of values. He loves that his job allows him to use his experience to help other dads who are going through the same thing. Throughout his five years in this position, Tim has seen how the opioid epidemic is impacting families and resulting in more out-of-home placements. He has also seen firsthand the ways that the Parent Mentor program has changed people's lives for the better.

There was one father in particular who made an impact on Tim. He had been homeless, a substance user, and an inconsistent parent. Tim met regularly with this dad to talk about his case and they often discussed things like personal responsibility and the impact his actions had on his whole family. This dad, who regularly spent time in jail, was incarcerated again, but this time he used the time more productively and began to take their conversations to heart. He entered a recovery program. He started believing in himself again and once he got out, he got a job and made a plan to reverse the court decision that put his two daughters up for adoption. Now, thanks to the help of Tim and his team, this young father is in active recovery and is parenting his children. Tim attributes this, and the multitude of other successes he has witnessed, to the model's relationship-based structure that therapists or other providers do not have the capacity to provide. Parent Mentors allow the moms and dads in their program to be vulnerable, without fear of reprisal or judgement, with someone who has walked in their shoes and overcome the same challenges and now has the tools to help other parents who are struggling. Tim sees this as an extremely effective way to remove the barriers to engagement that many parents face.

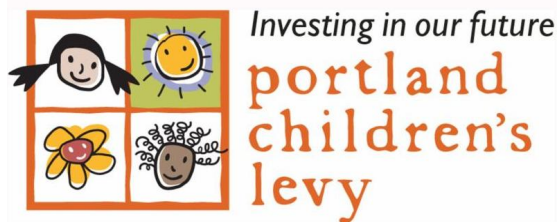
As a former consumer of the system, Tim brings a unique perspective to the conversation and is driven to understand the system in a national context in the hope of bringing the parent perspective to the table. Tim's friends and family are proud that he has a positive impact on people's lives, changing minds about what is possible for a family who has experienced hard times. Tim believes he was given a second chance at life through recovery and decided that the best way to use it is to help other fathers also have the chance to participate positively in their children's lives. Tim says that he loves his job and that this position as a parent mentor has made him better in all his roles: as a father, employee, friend, and more.

In addition to a very busy speaking schedule, Tim spends his free time learning, participating in research projects with national agencies, and drawing. Tim has been recognized with numerous local and national awards and Morrison is so grateful for his contributions to our programs and our community. To hear directly from Tim and his colleagues about their experiences as Parent Mentors, check out our [video](#) from 2015's Silver Linings Luncheon.

Vote For Kids This May

Portland Children's Levy is on the Ballot

The Portland Children's Levy was created by voters in 2002 and overwhelmingly renewed in 2008 and 2013. In the 15 years since voters first approved the Levy, over \$150 million has been invested in over 50 organizations, including Morrison. Levy funds have annually supported services for more than 14,000 children and hunger relief services to more than 15,000 children.



The organizations funded by the Portland Children's Levy are committed to providing programs in:

- * Child abuse prevention and intervention: protecting children from terrible circumstances, which also addresses juvenile crime, school failure, drug and alcohol abuse, and homeless youth.
- * Early childhood programs: preparing children for success in school and making quality childcare more affordable. Ensuring that children arrive at school ready to learn also assists our schools and teachers.

- * After school, summer and mentoring programs: promoting academic achievement, reducing the number of juveniles victimized by crime, and increasing graduation rates.
- * Children in foster care programs: giving foster children a better chance at success with educational support, mentoring, and access to mental health services.
- * Child hunger prevention: improving children's access to nutritious meals, leading to better physical and mental health, as well as academic success.

On May 15th we have the chance to [vote to Renew the Portland Children's Levy \(Measure 26-197\)](#) and continue our funding for this great program. A Yes vote for Measure 26-197, does not increase the rate but instead renews the Children's Levy at the same tax rate we are paying now.

The Children's levy only supports programs that are cost-effective and proven to work. The levy is overseen by a five-member Allocation Committee who ensures that there are annual independent audits and that administrative expenses are limited to 5% or less - a commitment they have kept for over 15 years which allows 95 cents of every dollar to go directly to programs.

Renewing the Portland Children's Levy is an important way to say that in Portland, we care about our kids - and put those values into action every day.

Please Vote YES for Measure 26-197 by May 15th.
More information is available at the [campaign's website](#).

Sustainability Tip of the Month

April is Earth Month, Let's Celebrate!

In honor of [Earth Day](#) on April 22nd, this month's sustainability tips are based on the Earth Day Network's 2018 theme of ending plastic pollution. These tips were also all chosen with children in mind - it is never too early to teach children about their role in protecting our planet!



1. Neighborhood litter cleanup: Gather your kids, friends, and neighbors for a neighborhood litter cleanup. This is a great way to demonstrate to your children that it is everyone's responsibility to keep our planet clean.
2. Spend Earth Month doing a [30-day Zero Waste Challenge- For Kids!](#)
3. Be Straw Free: Every day in the US, over [500 million plastic straws](#) are used once and thrown away. This has led some cities, big businesses, events, people, and even whole countries to initiate [bans on straws](#).
4. Choose products that have no packaging, reduced packaging, or plastic-free packaging. For example, if you have a choice between pasta in a cardboard box or in a plastic bag, choose the box because it can be recycled easily in your curbside bin.
5. Don't use microbeads: Much of the plastic that pollutes the ocean is micro-plastic, tiny pieces that are nearly impossible to filter out.
6. Enjoy sustainability-themed activities and programs that expose you to the wonders of nature, and remind you of what is at stake. Well-known documentaries like *Blackfish* and *Planet Earth* are making a huge splash among influential people and decision-makers, like [the Queen of England](#) who, after watching Blue Planet II, recently banned plastic straws and bottles from royal estates and launched a 10-year greening of Buckingham Palace.
7. Do a plastic audit: there are many items that we use each day that can be replaced with a reusable alternative. Take a look at what you throw away regularly and see if any of those disposables can be traded for their trash-free counterpart. Remember that the most important of the 3 Rs is not recycling, but reducing. This great [infographic](#) shows why we must say no to plastic and provides examples of how to reduce your plastic use.

Disposable Item	Sustainable Alternative
Diapers	Cloth diapers
Razors	Straight razor or razor with reusable handle, disposable blades
Bottled water	Bring your own water bottle and fill with tap water
Shopping bags	Bring your own reusable shopping bag
Menstrual products	Washable pads or menstrual cups

Food wrappers	Buy in bulk, make your own snacks, and choose high post-consumer recycled content and recyclable packaging where possible.
Batteries	Rechargeable batteries
Ziplock bags and cellophane	Glass and metal food storage containers
Paper coffee cups	Bring your own cup
Takeout containers	Bring your own container for leftovers
Cleaning products	Many cleaning products can be replaced with a simple baking soda and vinegar mixture

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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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