

TO ASSIST THE CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ONE OF THE MOST CRUCIAL ASPECTS IS TO ASSIST THEIR PARENTS TO UNDERSTAND THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM. TO THAT END, WE HAVE ESTABLISHED PARENT LEADERS, WHO ARE ALL PREVIOUS CHILD WELFARE CLIENTS AND HAVE IN THE PAST HAD THEIR CHILDREN REMOVED FROM THEIR CARE. THESE PARENT LEADERS HAVE OVERCOME THEIR ISSUES THAT BROUGHT THEIR CHILDREN INTO CARE AND ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO HELP OTHERS. PARENT LEADERS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THREE DISTRICTS, CLACKAMAS, WASHINGTON AND MORROW/UMATILLA COUNTIES.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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PROJECT DIRECTOR
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**SOC
COORDINATORS**

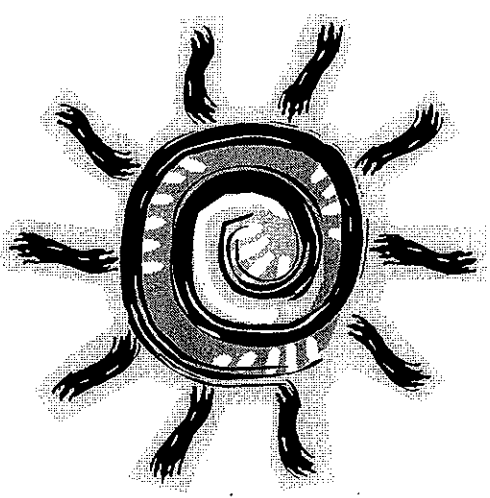
**WASHINGTON COUNTY
503-646-7234**

**MOLLY WISE,
CLACKAMAS COUNTY
503-657-2112**

**WOODY KOENIG,
UMATILLA COUNTY
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HOPE

*HELPING OTHER
PARENTS EXCEL*



HOW ARE PARENT LEADERS HELPING?

Parent leaders are involved in many ways within their communities.

- ☀ Facilitators and members of Child Welfare Advisory Boards.
- ☀ Training community partners and DHS staff.
- ☀ State and National presentations.
- ☀ Teaching Guide to Child Welfare System.
- ☀ Volunteering at Drug Court.
- ☀ Working at Recovery Centers
- ☀ Volunteering for Parents Anonymous.

"Each time someone stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others....., he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope."

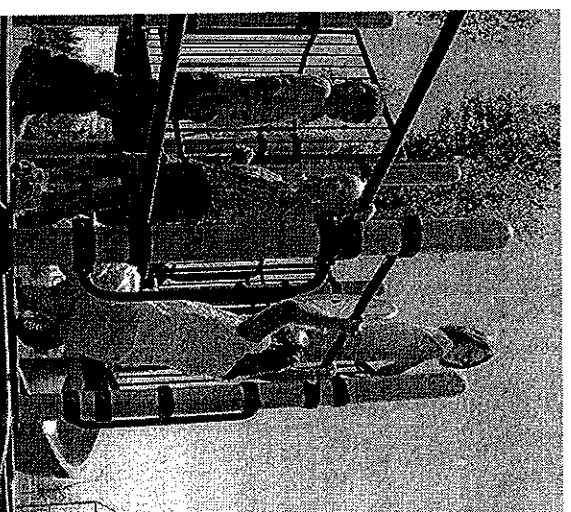
Robert F. Kennedy

WHY PARENT LEADERS?

Parent leaders have successfully navigated the child welfare system and understand what other parents are going through. They possess insights into working with the courts, caseworkers, CASA's, attorneys and others who direct case planning. These parents have been working with the child welfare system through System of Care to learn leadership skills and ways to interact within the complex system.

WHAT ARE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS?

- ☀ Previous personal experience with the child welfare system in Clackamas, Washington or Morrow/Unatilla Counties.
- ☀ Willingness to offer experience to make a difference and improve services to families.
- ☀ Child Welfare case is closed and issues that brought person to the system are resolved.
- ☀ Clean and sober for one or more years.



"I never stopped loving my children, just myself."

Jamie

"Becoming a HOPE Parent Leader meant forgiving my DHS past and returning to an organization where I had once felt 'HOPEless' and intimidated. It was very difficult for me----but was so worth it!"

Brigette

"Being in HOPE gives me the chance to help others believe in themselves."

Shawn