



Help wanted: TVCRN seeks teacher/interventionist

If you know someone with special skills in the area of early-childhood development, the Treasure Valley Children's Relief Nursery would like you to let them know of a job opportunity!

TVCRN seeks an energetic professional to manage and implement developmentally-appropriate therapeutic curricula for preschool-aged children. According to TVCRN board president Judy Gilmore, this position will require conducting monthly home visits so a child's development may be monitored.

HELP Wanted "This individual will monitor both child development and family functioning," Gilmore said, adding that maintaining an accurate file on each child and family will be critical, as will the ability to work collaboratively with many community partners.

"This position is part of the Therapeutic Early Childhood Program team and is supervised by a certified family interventionist/ registered nurse," Gilmore said, noting the successful candidate will report directly to the TVCRN Board of Directors.

Gilmore said the part-time position will require 10 to 15 hours per week at a rate of \$12 an hour.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

TVCRN TEACHER/INTERVENTIONIST

- Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, Education, Special Education, Psychology, or Social Work, or two years of experience in an early childhood program working with children and families.
- Knowledge of early childhood development (birth to 6 years), curriculum development and implementation, positive discipline practices, and early childhood learning stages.
- A satisfactory combination of education and experience is required.
- Successfully pass a criminal background check.
- Bilingual skills are beneficial, but not required.
- Applications must be received by Wednesday, May 6, at 5 p.m. Mail or bring completed application and résumé to TVCRN, c/o Commission on Children & Families, 1178 SW 4th St. #2, Ontario, OR 97914.
- For a full job description and application, go to www.tvcrn.org.
- TVCRN is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Fundraiser features raffle ticket sales for bedroom suites

During May and June, the TVCRN Board of Directors will sell tickets for two separate bedroom suite raffles: One for a girl's and one for a boy's room, according to board member Sara Serrano. Tickets will be sold May 1, at the Cinco de Mayo event on the TVCC campus, and May 2, at Nyssa's Kids Fair.

"These gorgeous bedroom suites will be raffled separately, with all proceeds going directly to

our Relief Nursery," Serrano said, adding each suite includes a twin bed frame, a twin mattress and box spring set, a bed-in-a-bag comforter set (donated by Ontario's Wal-Mart), pillows and hand-crafted wooden toy boxes.

The girl's suite features flowers, butterflies, and lady bugs. TVCRN board member Sharon Blacketter donated the twin frame, made from unique scrolled-iron metal. The toy-box features airbrushing

designs in the garden theme. *(Story continues on Page 4)*



Child Care Resource & Referral and Malheur Commission on Children & Families present:

Attachment Disorders/Childhood Trauma Training by Dr. Janis A. DiCiacco, Ph.D.

Four Rivers Cultural Center - Ontario, Oregon

May 13, 2009; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Training is FREE but REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by May 8!

(Lunch will be provided by Matsy's for \$7 per person; please make checks payable to MCC&F)

Janis A. Di Ciacco, Ph.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist and a certified school psychologist, with experience as a special education teacher in Denver. She has lectured and consulted nationally in the areas of pediatric traumatic brain injuries, neuropsychological issues in attachment disorders, and mental illness in children & adolescents; and the developmental journey of bereavement from infancy through young adulthood. She is author of *The Colors of Grief: Understanding a Child's Journey through Loss from Birth to Adulthood*. For the past 30 years, she has worked with children and their families around issues of attachment and loss, death and dying, foster placement and adoption.



Treasure Valley
Children's Relief Nursery

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We sincerely thank the
Commission on Children & Families
for its continued support of TVCRN.

TVCRN is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

We recognize these special acts of kindness by those helping to make the Relief Nursery dream come true ...

- Three cheers for the **OCE Sign Shop** for donating our Relief Nursery banners.
- A special thanks to **Wal-Mart, ITYSE Bag Enterprises**, air brush artist **Bill Closson**, and **Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution** for their generous donations that will help make our spring raffle fundraiser possible! (Thanks to board member **Sharon Blacketter**, too!)
- Some applause please for the **Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries** for its ongoing support.
- We appreciate the continuous support from **Joyce Davis** and **Treasure Valley Community College**.
- Thanks to all **community members in the Western Treasure Valley** who support the mission of the Treasure Valley Children's Relief Nursery.



What is a Children's Relief Nursery?

Relief Nurseries provide comprehensive family services in safe and nurturing environments to children ages 6 and under, explained Kelly Poe, executive director of the Malheur Commission on Children and Families, adding that "these children's families are experiencing numerous stresses linked to abuse and neglect."

"Relief Nurseries in other cities in Oregon have helped keep families together and have successfully reduced foster care placement," added Judy Gilmore, president of the TVCRN board of directors. "TVCRN is a strength-based program modeled after the 25-year-old, highly successful Relief Nursery, Inc. located in Eugene. Initially, we plan to serve families with children between 6 weeks and 4 years of age, who are at risk of child abuse or neglect."

Relief Nursery Services

Services are voluntary and may include:

- Parenting education
- Mental health services
- Substance abuse assessment, counseling, treatment and support
- Family strengthening /preservation programs
- Criminal involvement prevention
- Special education
- Advocacy services

"Our goal is to help families succeed by providing the services they need to provide a safe and nurturing environment for their children at home," Gilmore.

Therapeutic Classroom Program

The Therapeutic Early Childhood Program is the cornerstone of the nursery. Children from birth to 6 years participate in a developmentally-appropriate early childhood environment, with families typically receiving home visits, parenting education and support, and family advocacy.

"The involvement of parents and families is critical for the children's success," Poe said, sharing what she has learned from other nurseries. "Parents

and families are given support in developing parenting skills and learning how to deal appropriately with stresses they encounter."

Early childhood specialists agree that when an infant's or toddler's world is highly chaotic, that child needs a safe, predictable, empowering environment. This is what a Relief Nursery offers, according to Gilmore.

"It's a place where at-risk, distressed infants and children can thrive," she said. "The majority of children will receive therapeutic support, because they are experiencing a variety of delays, and if these aren't dealt with early, these problems can lead to learning disabilities or problems with their social development."

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- The Relief Nursery model is based on nationally-recognized standards for the best practices in early childhood education and family support.
 - Nurseries connect with other services in the community to help families meet their various needs.
 - Relief Nurseries help prepare children for school both academically and socially, and they help keep families together.
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The Need for a local Relief Nursery

Unfortunately, there is a need in our community. In 2007, in Malheur County, 244 children were victims of child abuse or neglect – that's nearly 30 children per 1,000 children in our county! Sadly, this rate was 91 percent worse than Oregon's average, and nearly 50 percent of these victims were under the age of 6. Additionally, 173 of Malheur County's children have been in foster care at least once in 2008.

TVCRN-TVCC collaboration is unique

TVCRN has created a powerful collaboration with Treasure Valley Community College. Teachers today need to have experience and training in the observation, assessment, and treatment of children and families of neglect and abuse. A Lab School will be placed in the Relief Nursery to provide specialized training to TVCC Early Childhood Education majors in therapeutic intervention.

Fall 2009 TVCC child development classes focus on interventions for abused, neglected children

Course 1 – EDUC 230

Introduction to Child Neglect & Abuse, 3 credits

Purpose/Focus: An exploration of definitions, scope, and impact of child neglect and abuse and how to assess child neglect and abuse. An overview of risk and protective factors, child neglect/abuse prevention, and therapeutic interventions.

Course 2 – EDUC 231

Special Populations; Children of Incarcerated Parents, 3 credits

Purpose/Focus: Working with the children of incarcerated parents and the unique issues confronting those children in classroom settings.

Course 3 – EDUC 232

Therapeutic Interventions for Young Children of Neglect & Abuse, 3 credits

Purpose/Focus: Combining a theoretical foundation with a practical basis for therapeutic interventions in Early Childhood environments; Understanding the emotional lives of children of neglect and abuse. Learning how to aid children in integrating experiences in affective ways, developing adult-child relationships, developing emotionally-based curriculum, and addressing the needs of families of these children.

Course 4 – EDUC 233

Understanding Critical Factors in Parent Neglect, 3 credits

Purpose/Focus: The study of child neglect, neglectful parents, the forces that have damaged parents, and strategies for teachers and caregivers working with neglectful parents.

To register for these classes, or for more information, contact Joyce Davis, Education Department Chair, (541) 881-8822, ext. 408, jdavis@tvcc.cc or Melissa Bates (541) 881-8822, ext. 258, mabates1@tvcc.cc.

Spring raffle

(Continued from Page 1)

The boy's bedroom theme is all about sports. The twin bed frame, donated by ITYSE Shopping Bags, is created from wood with custom- designed airbrushing art work by Bill Closson, a correction officer from Snake River Correctional Institution. The bed frame will feature soccer ball, football and basketball designs. The boy's suite also will have a hand-crafted toy box featuring a sports-themed pattern.

Raffle tickets will be sold for \$6 each or two for \$10. The Board will have an information booth at the Nyssa Kids Fair on May 2, with raffle tickets available for purchase at that time.

Serrano said board members will sell tickets throughout May and June, with the drawing for the bedroom suites to be held in July.



Tips for parent of toddlers

Positive Parenting

- Set up a special time to read books with your toddler.
- Encourage your child to engage in pretend play.
- Play 'parade' or follow-the-leader with your toddler.
- Help your child to explore her surroundings by taking her on a walk or wagon ride.
- Encourage your child to tell you his name and age.
- Teach your child simple songs like *Itsy Bitsy Spider*, or other cultural childhood rhymes.



Put Child Safety First

- Encourage your toddler to sit when eating and to chew her food thoroughly.
- Check toys often for loose or broken parts.
- Encourage your toddler not to put pencils or crayons in his mouth when coloring or drawing.
- Never leave your toddler near or around any water (that is, bathtubs, pools, ponds, lakes, whirlpools, ditches, the ocean) without someone watching her.
- Never drink hot objects while your child is sitting on your lap. Sudden movements can cause a spill.
- Learn how to properly install car seats, and always insist on their proper use.

Source: The Centers for Disease Control