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New program aims to prevent child welfare cases; stabilize local families

Shangri-La's Family Resources Northwest will provide life skills and parenting training

Salem, Ore. – Shangri-La's Family Resources Northwest, will provide life skills education, parenting training and support services to parents receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The program aims to prevent allegations of child abuse or neglect, and to stabilize families that are considered high risk for child welfare intervention.

Family Resources Northwest will assist with abuse-prevention education and provide services to families exhibiting one or more risk factors for child abuse or neglect (e.g. families with substance abuse, teen parents, parents of special need children, single parents and low income families) in Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties.

Services provided by Family Resources Northwest include, but are not limited to:

- Home visiting program for parents
- Parent support groups
- Support accessing respite for parents of a child with a disability
- Parenting classes focused on teaching parenting behaviors that ensure a child's basic needs for safety, health, learning and socialization are consistently met
- Support in navigating other community resources

"By identifying risk-factors and providing support before a family experiences a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect, we will effectively help prevent children from entering the foster-care system and can help keep families together," said Kendra Morgan, Director of Family Resources Northwest.

The program, which is set to launch on August 1, 2015, is expected to serve over 300 families during its first year of operation. Program participants are referred to Family Resources Northwest by DHS case workers.

Job seekers with barriers to employment will continue to receive support

Shangri-La's contract to provide workforce-skills training to participants in the Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) Program was renewed by the Department of Human Services Self-Sufficiency Department.

Services will be provided through the Employment Resources Northwest (ERN) Program in Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties. Services will include, but are not limited to, job readiness training, life skills education, job search assistance, and on-the job training opportunities. Employment Resources Northwest has provided services since 1996. Over 3,000 individuals receive ERN services each year.

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BACKGROUND

Founded in 1963, Shangri-La is a diverse non-profit human services organization serving individuals with disabilities and disadvantages so that they may recognize and achieve their full potential. Housing, employment and enrichment services are provided at over 100 locations in the Willamette Valley and Oregon Coast.