

Highlights

A letter from one of our Board Members

The Northwest Children's Home repairs broken lives. They are helping children that have been traumatized by life to regain their self esteem, to learn how to function as part of society, and to learn how to love. Please look at what these children have gone through thus far in their short lives before placing a negative label on them. Some of them have been through horrible physical and mental abuse by people in their lives who were supposed to love them, care for them, and teach them about moral and societal mores and structure. How would any of us respond, as a child, to being ignored by our family; to see your parents using drugs and alcohol; to be physically and mental beaten on a consistent basis; to have schools ignore the obvious signs of your being abused, malnourished, and agitated. Many of these children have absolutely no sense or basis of understanding for what childhood should actually consist of.

NCH is transitioning into the use of Trauma Informed Care; which is an organization structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma and emphasizes psychological, physical, and emotional safety for both the child and the facility providers. The goal is to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment that has been eroded and erased by the individual traumas of a child.

NCH is, literally, in the business of saving a child's life. Do some kids act out, have meltdowns, be aggressive and sometimes physical in their road to recovery? Regrettably, yes, and if we'd experienced their lives thus far, I'm sure some of us may have the same attributes. I'm not dismissing nor attempting to minimize the damage caused by the few. (I have known, all my life, and been friends with the person and family of one such victim of a child's misplaced aggression.) I'm suggesting that some of these children know of no other way to get the attention they so badly desire and deserve, but with the help of NCH and Trauma Informed Care, they can be shown that they do have a value; that their lives thus far are not the norm, and that some of their actions are contributing to their cycle of abandonment, fear, and societal rejection.

There are those that feel that NCH is a breeding ground for criminality and social depravity. Some have, through their political and judicial powers, wreaked havoc with the reputation and financial stability of the NCH. They fail to grasp that, by their actions, they are furthering the demonization and ostracizing of children that the NCH is desperately trying to save. Please research their efforts, read about Trauma Informed Care, or take the time to visit the campus before negatively labeling the organization; or those children that are regaining their lives through the treatment received at NCH.

My wife and I have lived in Lewiston all our lives. We grew up with some of the same negative perceptions of those detractors of NCH. We have lived, for 28 years, just a driver and a pitching wedge from the facility. I am in my second stint on the board of directors and have developed a deep respect for the efforts of those that deeply care about the children in their care. It is a difficult yet rewarding job. Please support the efforts of the Northwest Children's Home. Help save a child's future.

William C. Stellmon



A special Thank You to all our supporters and our Board Members

Mike Salisbury, Chair
 Kathy Cone, Chair Elect
 John Keatts, Past Chair
 Bill Stellmon
 Kelly Carper
 Sue Martin

Development Board
 Connie Salisbury
 Heidi Zellerhoff
 Sunshine Seibert

Winter/Spring 2018

A note from the Desk of Brian Pope, CEO/Clinical Director

We are looking for good staff to work in one of our 6 programs: Education Center; Boy's side (2 programs); Girl's side (2 programs); and Triumph (Independent Living Services). Supervision and engagement with our youth is priority to assure their safety and well-being. The youth we are fortunate to serve here at the Northwest Children's Home are "trauma survivors" due to being abused and/or neglected and there are various opportunities to work with them as part of their healing process. Some of these include but are not limited to engaging in activities on our campus such as playing basketball or other outdoor sports, going for walks, interacting with them individually or in small groups and helping them develop healthy leisure time. Any time you engage with these youth it is an opportunity to increase socialization, interaction and build healthy relationship skills. Other specialized activities can also be coordinated if you are interested in running an activity such as knitting, sewing, fly tying, various vocational skill building activities, gardening, etc.

Please come join our team and bring your talents in working with youth – the work is meaningful, fulfilling and purposeful - it's the hardest job you will ever love

Brian Pope, CEO/Clinical Director

NCH
Website



Donate and/or apply online today!
www.northwestchildrenshome.org

Kid Profile

Edith (not her real name) came to us a year and a half ago. She was struggling after her mother passed away, living with extended family and foster homes. Because of the trauma in her life, she was missing months of school. We are excited to say that this semester, with the structure and consistency she gets here along with staff support and encouragement, she has been able to attend everyday and pass all of her classes. We are excited to see her excel, congrats Edith!

Call Us!

Brian Pope, Chief Executive Officer 208.413.4403
 Bruce Grimoldby, Chief Advocacy Officer 208.413.1487
 Hy'D Andrews, Development & Operations 208.790.4181
 Christy Lunceford, Children's Services 208.305.7012
 Kenny Robertson, Quality Assurance 208.791.5272
 Kim Bacon, Education 509.552.9483

Staff Profile



After more than 30 years at Northwest Children's Home, and holding many

positions, Bruce Grimoldby is retiring. We are excited for this new chapter in his life, although he will be missed! We are thankful for all the years he has invested in the lives of both kids and staff!!

***Please let us know if you would like to be removed from our mailing list or would prefer a digital copy to save on postage, call us at 208.743.9404 or email thorak@northwestchildrenshome.org.**

Building Brighter Futures Since 1908