

jumping mouse

What Our Mission Means for Our Kids

by Dott Kelly

Our comprehensive approach and commitment to long-term therapy are part of what makes Jumping Mouse particularly unique. But what does it mean to see a child for “as long as necessary” and to “nurture supportive relationships?”

Sara's Story

Let's walk beside a little girl we'll call “Sara.” Sara came to Jumping Mouse at age four and a half and is now six years old. Born to an addicted mother, Sara has been through Child Protective Services and the court system and currently lives with her grandparents, who are her legal guardians.

When Sara entered therapy, she was understandably struggling with her feelings of loss and her mistrust of adults. Sara's wariness of new situations and sensitivity to sudden loud noises were adaptive behaviors resulting from her early years of trauma. As her therapist, I began by slowly building trust and attachment between Sara and me. Reading Sara's facial cues, I began to narrate her worries and fears as she selected her toys for the sand tray or plugged her ears in fear of sudden noises. Feeling understood and listened to was calming for Sara. She began to fill in some of my unfinished sentences: “When that truck goes by, you...” “Yes, I get scared because it can come in here.” Only then could I reshape her associations with sudden noises.

For a child who has never known the bond that usually begins at birth between a parent and child, building a safe and trusting relationship with an adult takes time. Sara will stay at Jumping Mouse for about another year while she practices this new trust in her grandparents and catches up in emotional development. Giving Sara and her grandparents the time to heal and bond is what we mean by “as long as necessary.”

Meanwhile, how do we nurture Sara's healthy development at home and in the community? While Sara has been seen at Jumping Mouse, her grandma chose to come in weekly for more concentrated

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MISSION STATEMENT

Jumping Mouse Children's Center transforms children's lives by providing expressive mental health therapy for as long as necessary. We nurture each child's healthy development and supportive relationships at home and in the community.



“I like the helpful and honest counsel we have received, and different ways of looking at parent-child relationships in times of transition.”

—Jumping Mouse parent

*“I like going to Jumping Mouse.
It makes my body happy!”
—Eight-year-old*

*“I noticed in the past couple
of months, [my child] has the
light back in her eyes.”
—Jumping Mouse parent*

therapeutic parent support through our Securing Connections parenting program. During weekly meetings with our parent clinician, Sara’s grandma had her own space to discuss her fears, uncertainties, and questions. For instance, what had made her adult child become addicted? Could she trust herself to raise another child, since perhaps she herself had done something awful that resulted in this hurt grandchild? These fears needed to be shared with someone who wouldn’t blame her the way she blamed herself. We also discussed how her commitment to raising a child with high emotional needs conflicted with her own expectations for more time in this phase of her life, a situation that may require extra support and understanding for a grandparent.

Each week I walk Sara from Grant Street Elementary to therapy and then back to school, a routine anticipated by Sara and her teacher. As her therapist, I also am a part of the team that meets and sorts the particular needs that Sara brings with her to school. Meanwhile, Sara’s teacher has chosen to be part of one of our new teacher consult groups that regularly meet at Jumping Mouse. Teachers share ideas confidentially for supporting Sara and other students coping with traumas, while building compassion for themselves, their students, and their students’ families. The partnership between Jumping Mouse and Grant Street Elementary weaves a stronger, tighter web of support for Sara and other children.

As we walk beside Sara, it becomes apparent that each child truly requires a community’s awareness. Each child’s interior world needs to be in tune with that child’s outer world. When we think of how many children we cross paths with each day—how many times we get to choose even a few minutes to build a relationship—we see a little bit of Sara in each child.

“Jumping Mouse has been my lifeline.”—Jumping Mouse parent

**Jumping Mouse
Children’s Center**

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Jumping Mouse is inspired by a Native American legend of a small creature who dreams of a new way. He journeys into the world beyond the familiar, with compassion and awareness. He grows, discovers his strengths, and transforms into Eagle. Like the myth, our children’s center is about offering the tools that will assist each child in meeting the challenges of daily life.

An Update on Our Three-Year Plan

At nearly the halfway mark in our plan for CARE: Capacity and Resource Expansion, we are well on our way to doubling our services by the end of 2015.

Our Kids

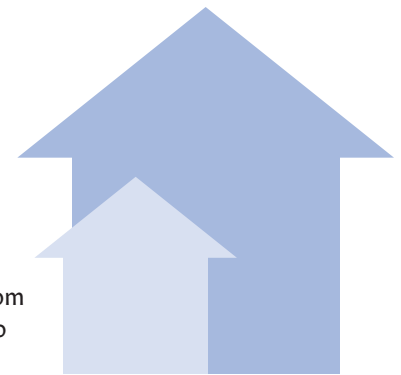
On January 1 we were once again able to increase our staff time for children's therapy, bringing in all of the children who were wait-listed at the end of 2013 and significantly reducing the waiting time for new clients in 2014. In addition to current staff working more hours per week, we also hired a new therapist and selected two additional master's level interns for our professional training program. We're now providing 67 children's therapy sessions per week, toward our goal of 80 weekly sessions by the end of the year. Support is provided to each child's primary parent or guardian as well as to other significant adults in the child's life.



67 children's therapy sessions per week

Our Campus

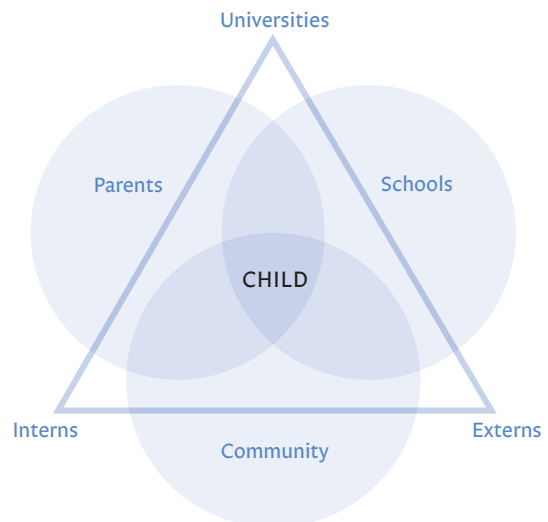
Since launching our plan for CARE in 2013, we have nearly doubled the square footage of our Jumping Mouse campus. An extensive remodel of the home directly behind and adjacent to our original building on Sheridan Street now gives us an additional children's therapy room furnished with therapeutic toys purchased by local donors; two new parent consultation rooms; a meeting space for group work, seminars, and parent classes; and an expanded office space with upgraded phones and technology.



Our facility has increased in size from 1,350 square feet to 2,520 square feet.

Our Community

In 2013 and 2014 we have continued our advocacy for children in the community, helping adults to understand the effects of childhood stress, the meanings of children's behavior, and ways to nurture children's healing and growth. Our program is made possible by cooperation with physicians, public health nurses, domestic violence advocates, guardians ad litem, and graduate counseling programs. Our partnership with Grant Street Elementary, in particular, has deepened this year, through shared programming and professional development focused on the needs of children who have experienced complex emotional trauma.



Together, we build a safe and nurturing community where kids and families can thrive.



Thank You, Ian!

We have been trying to find the words to express our gratitude to Jumping Mouse volunteer Ian Keith. As lead architect, contractor, and builder, Ian donated more than 1,200 hours to realizing our campus expansion. His care and meticulous attention to detail shines throughout the newly expanded space, now ready to house parent meetings and groups, teacher groups, and our staff office, as well as opening up space for an additional children's therapy room. Many thanks to Ian on behalf of our staff, board, families, and the community!

Ian and volunteer Jeff Youde preparing for the construction of the breezeway.

Our new children's therapy room was completely furnished by our community through our Amazon wish list toy drive.



Jumping Mouse board members show some of the many puppets donated during our toy drive in 2013.

From L to R: Teresa Janssen, Coe Hutchison, Kitty Knapp, John Nowak, Joe Mattern, Jan Garing, Mary Sepler. Not pictured: Juelie Dalzell, Aldryth O'Hara, Bob Slater, and Bev Schaaf.



Thank you to our 2013 donors, in-kind supporters, and volunteers

OUR 2013 CIRCLE OF CARE

Our Circle of Care recognizes donors who give \$500 and above in the calendar year.

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"I know I'll be safe now."

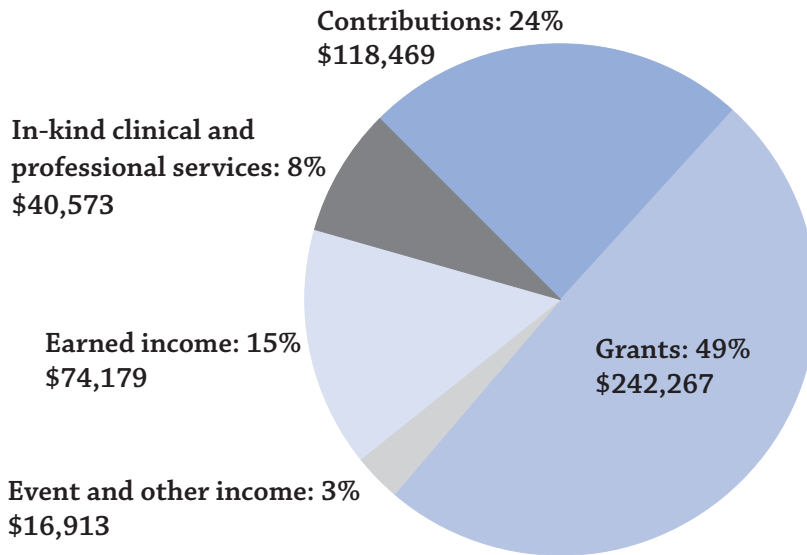
—Nine-year-old

This list is complete as of December 31, 2013. Please let us know if your name was misspelled or mistakenly omitted. Contact Jenny Manza, development director, at jenny@jumpingmouse.org.

2013 Financial Report

Support and Revenue

Total Support and Revenue: \$492,401

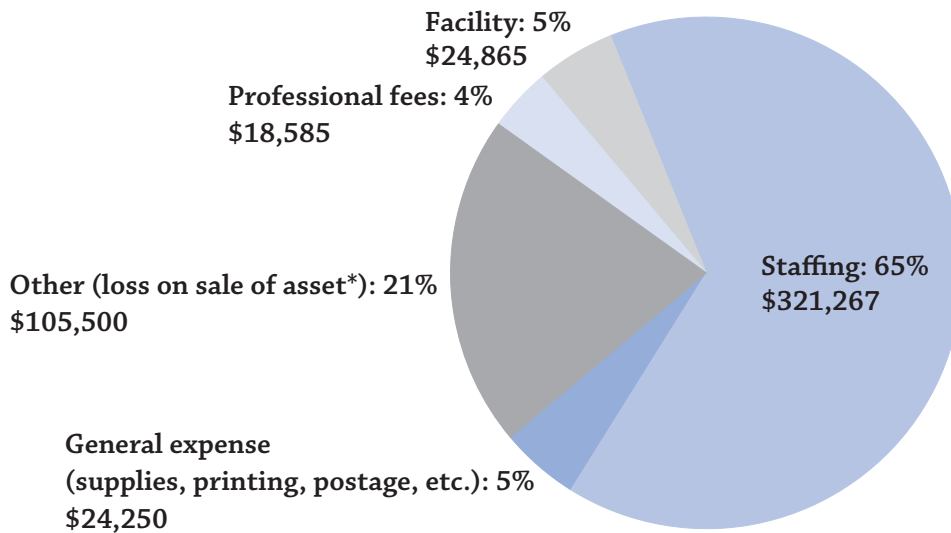


2013 FOUNDATION, CORPORATE, AND GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Costco Wholesale
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 Karakin Foundation
 May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
 Medina Foundation
 Norcliffe Foundation
 Northwest Children's Fund
 Port Townsend Marathon Association
 Port Townsend Rotary Club
 United Good Neighbors

Expenses

Total Expenses: \$494,467



At Jumping Mouse, our program is people.

Jumping Mouse Children's Center is fortunate to have a dedicated, highly-trained staff with diverse experience and expertise, from infant mental health to parent-child relationships and family support. We're also supported by an excellent, active Board of Directors with skills in law, finance, education, medicine, social services, and more. In 2013, 100% of our staff and board reported being "very satisfied" with their involvement at Jumping Mouse, on behalf of our community's kids.

2013 Operating result: (\$2,066)

*Refers to the sale of bequeathed property below its original assessed value, due to unforeseen repairs and maintenance required to bring the property up to code.

give BIG

 The Seattle Foundation

MAY 6, 2014

GiveBIG May 6, 2014

Once again, Jumping Mouse is participating in GiveBIG, The Seattle Foundation's online giving day. Your gift goes further on May 6, 2014. Stay tuned for details by signing up for our e-mail newsletter list on our website, www.jumpingmouse.org.

Jumping Mouse Children's Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Donations are accepted directly to JMCC.

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JMCC is a member agency of United Good Neighbors.

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