

Andrea's Story

By Dott Kelly, Clinical Director

As members of our community, we are moved to act on behalf of a child who we can see is abused. Yet neglect can be much harder, if not impossible, to see and respond to. Although the physical signs of abuse may not be present, the child of neglect suffers from many of the same harms from the adults around her, such as sudden, unpredictable bursts of anger or the use of fear to control behavior (to keep the child "in line"). Most pervasive in neglect is the lack of care — going without necessary food, clothing, or supervision.

Five-year-old "Andrea" was quiet and withdrawn when she entered kindergarten. At school, no matter what was going on in class, Andrea was "somewhere else." At recess, she played her own imaginary games, quietly and without social motivation. Worried that Andrea seemed to live in her own world and showed no learning progress, her school counselor recommended her to Jumping Mouse.

In the therapy room, Andrea held back. It felt a little unnerving to be with her as she searched for cues that would tell her how to please me. She seemed to wait until she knew what I needed before she really played. Over time, however, she began taking risks in her play therapy. She was a little poet, singing made-up songs from all those fantasies that had kept her safe. When I began capturing her words on paper, she was amazed that I was interested. We kept a journal of her songs, poems, and drawings, to contain the protections she had built and to make meaning of what had been a refuge. Andrea had retained this "hiding place" of making up stories and songs, inside herself, even in school. This world had been her sanctuary. No one knew where she really was, which is what had kept her safe from the neglect at home.



*She was a little poet,
singing made-up songs
from all those fantasies
that had kept her safe.*

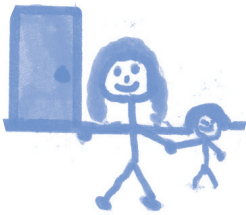
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It took several months before Andrea let me know about her real family environment. Both parents drank heavily and were often unable to care for their two children, and Andrea worried deeply about the care of her young sister. There was little food in the house. Andrea had taken to hiding a small box of what she could stash away in her closet, in case of "emergency."

I made a report to Child Protective Services. They sent out a caseworker, who set stern boundaries and made recommendations. The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) then sent in a Homebuilder caseworker, part of a special program to prevent a possible removal of children from a home, who began the slow process of reorganizing a family that needed many resources and had shut out the world.

Meanwhile, Andrea's courage had undergone a breakthrough. Eighteen months after she began play therapy, Andrea's teacher called to let me know how well Andrea was doing in the classroom. She had rather suddenly learned how to read whole books, and she was risking interactive play with other children. Her own imaginary side also was getting recognition, as Andrea began writing stories that could be shared rather than used as a fragile boundary against everyday realities.

The signs of neglect — poor hygiene, untreated illnesses or injuries, lack of warm clothing — can sometimes be difficult to differentiate from the effects of poverty and sudden transitions. It is crucial not to judge. Instead, if we remain compassionate and aware of the distress around us, we can offer assistance where we can. A child like Andrea who has experienced neglect may feel invisible and separate from those around her. But as teachers, neighbors, donors, and friends, we can create a community where Andrea and her family can be safely seen and cared for.



"Ours is just one story, and so small in the grand scheme of things, but the service you provided to my son has changed our lives!"
— Parent

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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

Now in the final year of our plan for CARE: Capacity and Resource Expansion, we continue our progress toward *doubling our services* by the end of 2015.

OUR PROGRAM

Last October we reached the benchmark of providing 80 play therapy sessions per week. From January to March of this year, we were able to add seven new children's appointments to our weekly schedule. Thanks to continued community and foundation support, **we are now seeing 87 children per week**—an 81% increase from 2012!

For the rest of this year, with additional staffing planned for July and September, we'll continue to increase our care and advocacy for kids—along with consultations, classes, and support for parents and guardians whose children come to Jumping Mouse.

OUR CAMPUS

Our four play therapy rooms, children's art room, two parent consultation rooms, meeting/classroom space, and expanded office all are being put to full use now, while two additional rooms are providing temporary storage and an overflow work area for staff. This spring we're turning our attention to exterior improvements, including new paint in a warm, unifying color for both buildings; a safe, therapeutic play yard for our kids; and a small garden area, where

staff also can partake in the benefits of nature. Support from CenturyLink, an anonymous foundation, and more than 20 individual donors to our **Home Outside project** are making these next nurturing steps possible.

OUR COMMUNITY

Jumping Mouse Children's Center is pleased and proud to be awarded a **2015 Public Health Hero award** from Jefferson County Public Health, which recognizes "contributions toward making our community a healthier place to live." We're deeply honored to share this year's award with the Nurse-Family Partnership for our "positive and lasting impact on our community by working with the youngest citizens of Jefferson County."

"Relationship" is one of our core organizational values, and we know that Jumping Mouse does not work alone. To our partners, supporters, clients, and friends: *Thank you* for sharing our vision of healthy children, healthy families, and a healthy community for all!

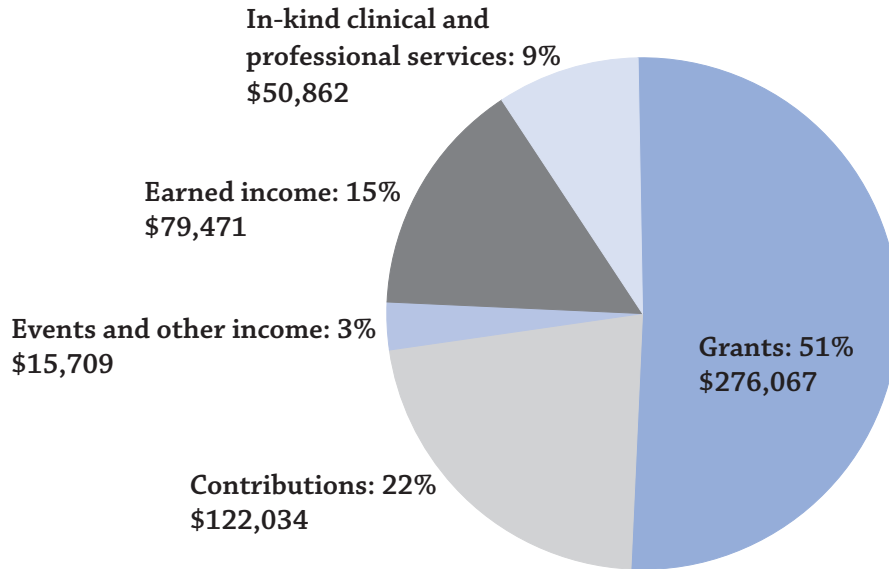
"Thank you for helping me feel better. You make Tuesday a wonderful day."

— Child, age 8

2014 Financial Report

Support and Revenue

Total Support and Revenue: \$544,143

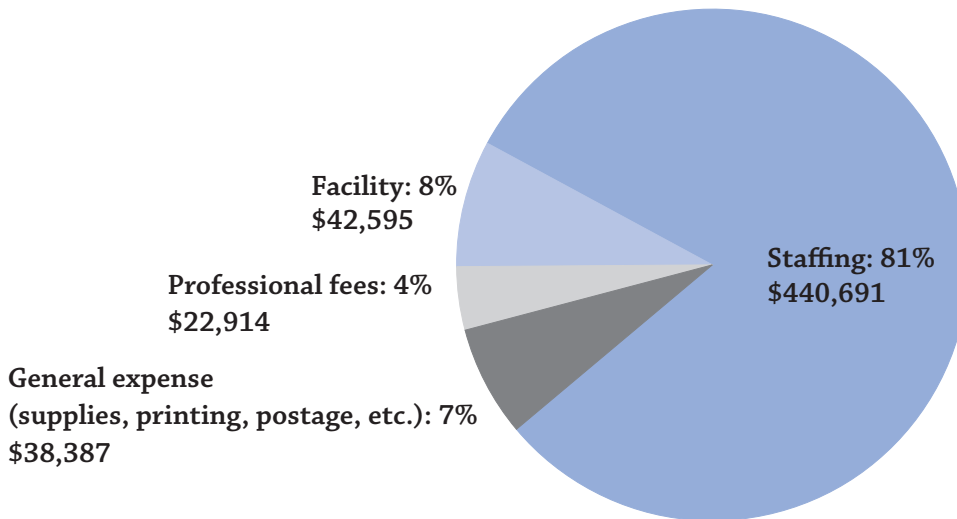


2014 FOUNDATION, CORPORATE, AND GOVERNMENT GRANTS

- Anonymous (2)
- Costco Wholesale
- Elizabeth Lynn Foundation
- Glaser Foundation
- Harrington-Schiff Foundation
- Jefferson County
- May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
- Medina Foundation
- Norcliffe Foundation
- Northwest Children's Foundation
- Port Townsend Marathon Association
- Port Townsend Rotary Club
- Satterberg Foundation
- United Good Neighbors

Expenses

Total Expenses: \$544,587



Staffing is our largest investment, since our people are the heart of our program and the trusted relationship between a child and their therapist is the most important part of healing. We are committed to a warm, supportive environment for our staff, as well as our families. In our 2014 staff survey, 100% of staff agreed that they were satisfied with their decision to work at Jumping Mouse.

2014 Operating result: (\$444)

Thank you to our 2014 donors, in-kind supporters, and volunteers

*Members of Jan's Club, our monthly giving program

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Our 2014 Circle of Care

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

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Rick and Mary Sepler

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Ernie Baird and Randy Pendergrass

In memory of Bill Howard
Howard Family Fund

In honor of Dott Kelly
Bridget and Kim Buckley

In honor of Carrie Lennox
Tumbl Trak

In honor of Gertrude Luosey
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“It felt like a safe place for me to talk.”

– Parent

OUTCOMES:

How Do We Know Our Program Is Working?

Our in-depth work with kids, their parents, and their surrounding community strengthens families and transforms patterns that affect multiple generations. We provide as many sessions as each child needs to heal at his or her own, unique pace, so kids can stay in our program until they are ready to move on. To ensure we are meeting the needs of our children and families, we focus on three main areas of evaluation.

1. Therapeutic progress and achievement of treatment goals. Jumping Mouse therapists measure every child’s unique progress in therapy on a weekly basis. Treatment and support are continually reviewed and refined according to each child’s needs, and more than three-quarters of our children show positive gains over the course of their therapy.

2. Attendance and accessibility of services. In partnership with our families, we work to address barriers to participation, including homelessness, mental and physical health issues, employment changes, and economic instability. In 2014, 71% of our kids successfully completed therapy or are continuing their therapy at Jumping Mouse. The remaining 29% withdrew for various reasons, including a geographic move, transportation problems, custody changes, or a family member’s health needs.

3. Participant survey. At the end of a child’s therapy, Jumping Mouse asks parents to rate 23 statements that assess our program’s long-term goals: their child’s health and well-being; their relationship with their child; and their feeling of support in the community. After completing the program:

- 92% of surveyed parents report that their child seems happy or content;
- 94% feel our program has helped them to understand their child; and
- 100% feel they have confidence in their ability to parent and take care of their child.



Another Successful Hearts in Bloom!

Once again, more than 140 guests came out for our Hearts in Bloom fundraiser on February 7. This sold-out event brought in almost \$35,000 for children’s therapy services—more than ever before at this annual event.

“The work that this organization does is essential, it is life changing, it is crucial, and it is something that I see every day as principal of Grant Street School,” said keynote speaker and Jumping Mouse board member Mary Sepler. “As a community, we must stand behind Jumping Mouse as an essential piece of our fabric.”

We are thankful to be a part of community that cares so deeply for its children and families.



GiveBIG

May 5, 2015

Once again Jumping Mouse is participating in GiveBIG, the Seattle Foundation's online giving day. Your gift goes further on May 5, 2015. 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.

Tax ID# 94-3096216

JMCC is a member agency of United Good Neighbors.

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