



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Liberty House Invites Public to attend Champions for Children Luncheon

Russ Lewis of KGW to Speak

(Salem, OR- Sept. 11, 2014) Russ Lewis, KGW-Channel 8 News anchor, will act as Master of Ceremonies for the Liberty House Champions for Children benefit luncheon to be held Sept. 23 at the Salem Convention Center. The luncheon will provide an opportunity to learn about and support the critical work of Liberty House, a child abuse assessment center. Seating starts at 11:30 a.m. and the program will begin at noon. Pre-registration is required.

Liberty House provides medical checkups and other important services for children referred for concerns of abuse or neglect. Specially-trained providers, interviewers and family support specialists work closely with the appropriate authorities to ensure services are offered in ways that don't add to the trauma a child might have experienced. The coordinated approach means that children and their families can get the help they need with fewer appointments and less stress. The services are neutral and objective. Liberty House serves Marion and Polk Counties, where there are over 8,500 calls to the child abuse hotline and over 1,100 confirmed cases each year. Liberty House currently has the space to see only one child or family at a time, and that is not enough.

In August the Liberty House Board of Directors and CEO Alison Kelley announced a major effort to purchase a neighboring building in order to increase the organization's capacity. Non-clinical services would be moved to the new building so that the original building could be remodeled to add exam, interview, and family consultation rooms.

"We really need the community's help," Kelley said. "More children need to be seen at Liberty House than what we can currently handle. We need to be able to offer more appointments for children, especially for those children who need to be seen promptly. We also need to provide space for our partners; that way we bring the services to the children in one place instead of making families drive to multiple locations. We can't do that in our current space." Kelley added that they have the staff in place to provide the services; they just need to raise the \$1.5 million to purchase the new building and remodel the original building.

"It is critical for us as a community to provide a location for law enforcement, the Department of Human Services, and our counseling professionals, where they can immediately help children and families in crisis," said Board of Directors Chair Scott Sadler. "We believe this space will allow Liberty House to serve the community at the highest level possible."

Guests at the luncheon will be able to contribute to the capital campaign as well as ongoing program expenses. The Champions for Children Luncheon is free but pre-registration is required to ensure sufficient space. Guests will also have an opportunity to sign up to volunteer. To attend, call Adrienne Christian or Elisa Ford at 503-540-0288.

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ABOUT LIBERTY HOUSE: Liberty House provides specialized assessment services for children referred for concerns of abuse or neglect and offers a centralized place for children to receive medical and interview services. Liberty House

serves children of all ages -- from infants through age 18. Services are voluntary and free of charge. Liberty House also provides community education and information about the issue of child abuse and the protection of children. Over one-half of Liberty House's annual funding comes from charitable contributions by individuals, businesses and foundations.

Liberty House is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. It is a safe and special place for children. When there are concerns about children who may have been hurt by abuse or neglect, Liberty House is here to help. Liberty House is located at 2685 4th St. NE in Salem, 503-540-0288, www.libertyhousecenter.org