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### **Liberty House Receives \$150,000 Gift**

The Liberty House Board of Directors announces that a gift in the amount of \$150,000 has been received from the Larry & Jeannette Epping Family Foundation. This gift will go toward the capital campaign, "Nurturing Growth and Hope," which is the project to expand services for children referred for concerns of abuse or neglect. The project includes purchasing an adjacent building to house administrative staff and multidisciplinary team members. The organization will then remodel the existing clinic to create more examination and family support rooms. This will allow more appointments to be available for children who need to be seen.

Liberty House is a child abuse assessment center that serves Marion and part of Polk counties. Since 1999, Liberty House has offered a centralized place for children to receive objective medical and interview services to address concerns of abuse, while offering support and resources for families. Liberty House serves children of all ages -- from infants through age 18 -- and services are offered at no cost to the family. The team of highly skilled professionals work with community partners to provide a safe environment for children and their families to address these concerns. In addition to these services, Liberty House 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.

"It is imperative we support efforts to address the short term and long term implications of child abuse," said Scott Sadler, Board Chair. "This gift will put us that much closer to achieving our goal of making more services available for children who need them."

The overall capital campaign budget is \$1,750,000. To date, the organization has raised \$1,227,000, inclusive of this gift. The building on the adjacent property is currently owned by the Homebuilders of Marion and Polk Counties and the Oregon State Homebuilders Association. Liberty House has entered into a purchase and sale agreement and the transaction is scheduled to close on or before September 30, 2015. The project will allow Liberty House to see over 200 additional children each year. Of the 8,500 calls to the Child Abuse Hotline, there are over 1,100 confirmed cases each year. Liberty House leaders are also in conversations with the local mental health community and are exploring options for adding mental health services to assist children and their families with accessing follow-up services.

Liberty House is hosting a community dinner in honor of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The dinner will be held April 1, 2015 at the Trinity Ballroom in the Reed Opera House. RSVPs are required. Information may be found at <http://www.libertyhousecenter.org/events.php?spid=11> . Liberty House is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation and relies on the generous support of the community.

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