



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Liberty House Launches Sustaining Hope Campaign

(Salem, OR-October 12, 2015) Liberty House has launched a sustaining giving campaign called “Sustaining Hope.” The goal of this project is to have 1,000 or more people sign up to become sustaining donors by December 1, 2015. While there is no minimum donation, organizers hope that donors will sign up to give at least \$25.00 per month, or more. Information may be found at www.libertyhousecenter.org or by calling Sally Lawson, the Community Engagement and Development Director for Liberty House.

Liberty House provides medical checkups and other important services for children referred for concerns of abuse or neglect. Specially-trained medical providers, interviewers and family support specialists ensure services are offered in ways that don’t add to the trauma a child might have experienced. 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 has seen an increase in demand for services over the last two years, and is raising revenue in order to increase its capacity to see more children.

“New sustaining donors will give us consistent revenue to help meet higher monthly expenses from trying to see more children,” explained Alison Kelley, Chief Executive Officer. It takes highly trained professionals such as medical providers and mental health therapists to provide services for the children, she added. “We are asking for the community’s help to raise enough money to hire the staff necessary to meet the need.”

Kelley noted that the District Attorneys in both Marion and Polk Counties report being inundated with cases of child abuse. The Liberty House Board of Directors decided in 2014 to work as hard as possible to address the need. After extensive fundraising efforts last year, Liberty House purchased a neighboring building and is in the process of remodeling its original clinic to add family waiting rooms and pediatric examination rooms. The organization is also developing mental health services to make it easier for children and their families to get the follow-up support they need. The “Sustaining Hope” campaign is the final phase of the overall expansion project.

Liberty House has consistently seen more children in order to meet the need, from seeing 360 in FY 2012-13 to seeing 502 in FY 2014-15. But new staff must be added in order to fully meet the demand. “Liberty House wants to be there for the children who need us, and we rely on the community’s support to help them,” Kelley added.

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ABOUT LIBERTY HOUSE: Liberty House is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization and relies on the generous support of donors: 52 percent of Liberty House’s annual funding comes from charitable contributions by individuals, businesses and foundations. Liberty House is located at 2685 4th Street NE in Salem, 503-540-0288, www.libertyhousecenter.org.

TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE: Call the DHS hotline for Marion and Polk Counties at 503-378-6704.