

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever." Psalm 136:1

## A MIRACLE OF GROWING TRUST: GOD'S PEOPLE, FOSTER PARENTS + DHS

In January, *Every Child* and CAFA will launch an 8-week TIPS class for foster parents in Lane County. It's training to care for children impacted by trauma. Foster parents will attend free-of-cost, along with dinner and childcare! The training will be held at First Baptist in Eugene, and it will also be **simulcast to five rural towns**. Teams of churches in Florence, Veneta, Junction City, Creswell & Cottage Grove will host the satellite sites.



[everychildlane.org/connect/upcoming-events](http://everychildlane.org/connect/upcoming-events)

Here's the miracle: **DHS is inviting all Lane County foster parents!** They're thrilled about the material & presenter, a local Jesus-following counselor.

One pastor, and longtime foster parent, held back tears as he expressed the tremendous trust that's developed between DHS & churches through *Every Child*. When he became a foster parent, he never thought he'd see something like this happen between churches and the foster care system.

An *Every Child* volunteer reflected on the change she's seen in DHS staff since God's people started serving through *Every Child*. "From providing breakfast for DHS workers & organizing unmanaged clothing closets, to recruiting more foster parents & babysitters, the impact on staff is visible: **They know we are Christians. They believe we don't have a secret agenda. They trust us.** They say 'Thank you.' **They expect to see us again.** What hasn't changed is their shock and gratitude to know they're appreciated, and that we do it together."

## FAMILIES STAYING TOGETHER

A DHS employee made this comment, "It seems that right now **there are more kids exiting the system than entering foster care!**" We've prayed for more families to remain in homes together & have support!

## A HEART FOR PRAYER

A ten-year old boy asked his parents if he could go to his church's pre-service prayer meeting. Since then, he regularly attends! Adults in the group say he often prays the same things that are on their hearts to pray. One morning he asked a woman in the group, "Can you teach me how to pray scripture better?"

Another church polled the people who signed up to pray on their *One Church – One Day* prayer day more than three years ago. They were delighted to find that 86% of those who originally signed up are still praying!

## COLLABORATION ON THE RISE

A Register Guard article articulated an answer to prayer for city & county government collaboration:

"Whether or not community members are happy about the decision to establish a low-barrier camp for the homeless in Eugene, **many should agree that it's nice to see the city & county working together** to address the camp downtown & the people who need shelter..."

"The fact that the county approached the city with a **viable alternative and moved quickly to activate the plan** - and the collaboration on camp management that is sure to continue - **are signs of needed cohesion among stakeholders who have previously struggled to find common ground** in addressing the growing number of unhoused people..." (RG 11/2).



## MENTAL HEALTH + OPIATE ABUSE FUNDING

Lane County's community health centers will receive federal funding to expand mental health & substance abuse services. "These resources allow for a critical expansion to [the opiate treatment] model and an important step towards fighting opiate addiction and dependency," said the Director of Lane County Health (KVAL 9/19). We've prayed for God to intervene for those with mental illness and opiate addiction.

# SYNERGY + SIGNS OF A GOD-APPOINTED LEADER

We regularly ask God to lead the process & selection of new community leaders. Often when the right leader is appointed, it's clear because of how the new leader brings positive change in areas we pray for on the prayer guide.



Eugene Police Chief Chris Skinner's interview with the Register Guard is one example (RG 11/2):

*"I feel more connected to this community in the first six months than any other experience I've had before. People really warned me about this being a very tough climate to be a police officer, and I have not found that to be the case. I have found everybody to be very supportive and really want to do the things that are necessary to create a unique & special relationship between their police department and their community."*

- An answer to prayer for positive relationship between the public & law enforcement.

*"I've always said that the cornerstone of our relationship with this community starts with hiring the right people. So we're really working hard on continuing to do that. Now it's my job to just make sure we hire the right people, and give them some direction and hold them accountable, and make sure they are fiercely protective of the relationship that we have with the community."*

*"We have tremendous momentum right now around recruiting and hiring. I have 13 brand new officers. And that basically brings us up to full staff for the first time in [many years]. I challenged this organization to compress our hiring process from six months down to 90 days, because I felt like we were losing good candidates to other agencies. And they did. They stepped up, and they made it work."*

- In his first six months, he put a system in place to help bring an answer to a long-term prayer for more quality, "charactered" recruits to be hired. *Did we mention the department is fully staffed for the first time in years!? First Responders & Government Leaders call it a huge answer to prayer.*

*"I hope to learn where we can have better partnerships with other local jurisdictions. I'll continue to look forward to finding those partnership opportunities and being a better partner with my local and state and federal partners around this area."*

- Plans for increased collaboration; a frequent prayer.

*"The new street crimes unit - we're super excited about this. On Sept. 26, we presented to Council & they took a really strong leadership position on helping us enhance our community safety in a variety of areas."*

- We pray for God's "shalom" in the downtown park blocks. Skinner's ideas helped lead to the new public safety plans. See last month's testimonies for more.

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## **STOP + THINK GRANT**

We prayed for Dove Medical's *Stop & Think* program, a God-oriented & value-based sex-ed program in schools. That month, Dove Medical began to receive funding from a three-year grant! It allows them to provide more presentations in high schools & middle schools, increase staffing & share resources with other pregnancy centers around the country! The Dove Medical Team thanks you for continuing to pray.

## **HOUSING EFFORTS HARMONIZE**

A government leader, who is focused on the housing crisis, was deeply encouraged by the steps churches have taken to be part of the solution. Some of the ways churches discerned to serve in the affordable housing effort, correspond with the plans of upcoming government initiatives. The harmonizing ideas served as an affirming sign to the leader that we are all on the right track.