2008 ANNUAL REPORT

SOUTHERN OREGON HEAD START

BUILDING A...

BRIGHTER FUTURE

...FOR EVERY CHILD
Head Start Builds Strong Families

We are very proud of our mission-driven agency, and the role we have played in helping build strong families for the last 42 years. We provide comprehensive early childhood education services to low-income children and pregnant women, children with disabilities, and their families. We strive to be a partner with our client families. We help parents articulate their goals and dreams, provide access to existing community resources, and help bust the barriers that stand in their way. These compassionate partnerships are effective because they recognize and honor that innate spark in each family to make a better life for their children.

We believe that the parent is the first and best teacher and advocate for their child. No family is mandated by law or government to come to Head Start. But over 1,000 families do come to us with their children each year because they care about their children. We are honored to have been given the trust of over 17,000 families over these last 42 years to care for life’s most valuable possession: our children. The stories that follow are told by our staff and client families. They illustrate some of the ways that children receive a Head Start and arrive at public school “Listo”, bright and ready to learn.

Our successful past is a strong foundation for our future. We received outstanding marks from our triennial Federal Monitoring Review in December. We have added 171 additional children and their families to our Head Start program in January 2009, and are looking forward to adding an additional 54 to Early Head Start and 18 to Head Start this year through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We have built buildings and developed experienced staff for 42 years, but we are most proud of our role in helping parents build strong families.
About Us
Southern Oregon Child & Family Council, Inc.

Southern Oregon Child and Family Council, Inc. is committed to providing services to young children and families that result in lifelong changes. We provide comprehensive services including early childhood education, family support, health, nutrition, disabilities, and mental health services. Preschools are located at 20 centers throughout Jackson and Josephine counties.

- **Head Start** teaches children age 3-5 years school readiness and social skills that help them learn throughout their lives.
- **Early Head Start** builds healthy, nurturing relationships between infants, toddlers and their parents, and supports the health and well-being of pregnant women.
- **Listo** helps low-income Spanish-speaking families learn literacy skills in the English Language.

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We have served over 17,000 children and families in Jackson and Josephine counties since 1967.

Total number of children and pregnant women served: 1,222

**ENROLLMENT:**
- (children 3-5)
  - Head Start | 1,013
- (pregnant women & children 0-3)
  - Early Head Start | 80
- (Spanish-speaking families)
  - Listo | 45

**COMMUNITIES WE SERVE:**

- **Jackson County**
  - Ashland
  - Central Point
  - Eagle Point
  - Medford
  - Phoenix/Talent
  - Rogue River
  - White City

- **Josephine County**
  - Cave Junction
  - Grants Pass
  - Kerby
  - Merlin
  - O’Brien
  - Selma
  - Takilma

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- 1964 | President Johnson declares “War on Poverty.”
- 1965 | President Johnson officially announces the creation of the Head Start program — 560,000 children served across the U.S.
- 1967 | Jackson County Day Care Centers, Inc. receives Head Start grant in Jackson County to serve 120 children.
- 1968 | Head Start funds a program that will become Sesame Street.
- 1972 | Head Start expands to include children with disabilities.
- 1975 | Head Start Performance Standards are issued to ensure high-quality services.
- 1977 thru 1981 | Major expansion of Head Start adds 43,000 children
- 1989 | Head Start in Jackson County renamed Southern Oregon Child & Family Council, Inc., Southern Oregon Head Start, and expands to provide services to 290 children in both Jackson and Josephine counties.
- 1999 | Southern Oregon Head Start expands to serve 875.
- 2005 | Nationwide, The Head Start celebrates 40 years of service!
- 2008 | Central Point Head Start center opens on the Central Point Elementary School grounds. Southern Oregon Head Start expands to serve 1,013.
Central Point Grand Opening

In September of 2008, we celebrated the opening of a new Head Start center in Jackson County on the Central Point Elementary School grounds. The Office of Head Start provided funding for this beautiful new center that has two classrooms, a multi-purpose room for parent activities, a kitchen, and staff offices. Its location next to the elementary school helps children transition from their Head Start preschool to their kindergarten experience.

Although there was not adequate funding or time to complete the playground or landscaping prior to the beginning of school, our local community stepped in and helped us. Through the contributions of the United Way Day of Caring and the many volunteers who generously gave their time, these projects were completed soon after the school year began. The playground has walking and bike paths, garden boxes, a tree seat, and hand-built storage containers for outside toys. The entire center was landscaped with bark and attractive plantings. It’s beautiful!

We are very happy that our center is on the elementary school grounds and appreciative of all those who have helped make it a wonderful center for children and families.

ADDITIONAL NEW HEAD START CLASSES AND FACILITIES

In January 2009, we added a total of 171 new children in 9 classes in Jackson and Josephine counties: 3 in Grants Pass, 5 in Medford, and 1 in White City.

- We opened our new Foothills center, which is located in the Foothills Baptist Church on Springbrook Road, in order to accommodate three of the new Medford classes.
- The new White City class moved into our existing White City facility after we moved the full-day class from that center to a new one-classroom site at a facility of Child Development, Douglas County Education Service District, located at White City Elementary.
- All of the other classes were incorporated into existing centers.
Who We Serve

Research Findings

**HEAD START IS A QUALITY PROGRAM**

Head Start’s quality, comprehensive services ensure that Head Start provides significant educational, health, economic, and social benefits. Studies reveal that Head Start children have:

- better achievement scores in school
- decreased need for grade repetition and special education
- higher rates of high school graduation
- better employment and earnings as adults
- increased family stability
- less involvement in the criminal justice system
- decreased dependency on the welfare system

*(HighScope Perry Preschool Project, Chicago Child-Parent Centers)*

**EARLY HEAD START**

Early Head Start began in 1995 in response to brain development research showing that the prenatal period and the first three years of life are critical to a child’s healthy physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development.

Early Head Start longitudinal research began in 1996. Findings show that children in Early Head Start (as compared to similar children who did not get an Early Head Start):

- had higher cognitive skills
- had significantly higher receptive language skills
- had parents who became more self-sufficient
- had increased positive attachment to parents/caregivers

*(The Impacts of Early Head Start, Child Outcomes Research and Evaluation, January 2004)*

**Enrollment:**

- Head Start — 1,013
- Early Head Start — 80
- The average monthly enrollment for Head Start/Early Head Start is 1,093 children (100%).

**Demographics:**

- 65% White/Non-Hispanic
- 35% Hispanic/Latino
- 59% of families are from two-parent families
- 41% of families are from single-parent families
- 106 children in foster care
- 142 homeless children
- 1,194 families served
- Median family income — $12,059

**Over 600 children are currently on the waiting list for Head Start and Early Head Start**

**Percentage of eligible children served =**
- Jackson County: 73.4%
- Josephine County: 64.4%

**Cost Benefit:**

For every dollar spent on Head Start, the public benefit is $10.00 to $17.00 in return.

*(reference: Heckman, Grunewald and Reynolds, Zero To Three, 2006)*
What We Do
Relationships & Early Learning Experiences

Babies Can’t Wait!
During the first three years of life, children need nurturing relationships and rich early learning experiences. Early Head Start helps build strong families who are able to support their child’s healthy development. We also provide the early learning experiences infants and toddlers need to be successful in school and later life.

Lyn Segundo’s Story
My name is Lyn; I am the proud mother of four beautiful children: Monica 12, Cassandra 10, Miguel 5, and Mariana 3. My story starts in 2003 when I moved to Oregon to start a new life. I moved here with very little money, no job, and no family support. Two months after I got here, I found out that I was pregnant with my son. Two weeks after that, my children’s father was deported to Mexico and never returned. Within 3½ years, I had opened my own daycare and had my daughter.

Right about this time, Miguel began to have separation anxiety. I started to research preschools and found them to be too expensive, but then a friend told me about Head Start. After submitting my application, both my son and daughter qualified for Early Head Start. We went to class once a week and our family advocate, Maria Elena, came out for home visits two times each month. Maria Elena encouraged me to apply for a job at Head Start, which I was afraid to do. She also talked to me about different parenting styles and ways to help my kids grow.

I finally filled out a job application and was hired as a bilingual center assistant. During this time, my son attended the Early Head Start toddler group for one year and then transitioned into full-day/full-year Head Start for two years. My daughter was in full-day/full-year Early Head Start for two years, and then transitioned to the toddler group for one year. This year, she goes to Head Start.

It is important to me as a working mom that the people who see my children more often than I do are supportive of my parenting style; I feel that this is the case with Head Start and Early Head Start. The staff members of both programs have helped me raise two very loving, emotionally strong kids. They have given my kids the words to use when they are angry, sad, mad, or happy. They have helped my children to grow independent and to speak up for themselves.

I love to listen to Mariana sing songs that she learned at school, or to hear my son say that he loves me with all his heart. All of the people at Early Head Start have done so much for me and my family. Words can’t even express how I feel. THANK YOU all so much. Because of you, I am living my dream of being a bilingual family advocate.
What We Do

Education and Disabilities

Every child is unique. Head Start teachers plan an educational curriculum in a learning environment that supports each child’s individual needs. Developmental progress is assessed three times per year and child goals are developed to prepare each child for kindergarten.

Linzey’s Story

Using only her right hand, Linzey gathered cup, milk, and chocolate syrup to create a delicious self-made snack of chocolate milk. She completed this task during head teacher Sara Ross’ initial home visit immediately prior to Linzey entering the Head Start program in Merlin.

At that time, Linzey’s left side was recovering from paralysis; she had very little movement or use of her left hand and walked with a defined drag of her left leg.

Throughout her ensuing two years in the Head Start classroom, Linzey displayed this same irrepressible spirit. When she first saw the handrail in the toileting area, she said very matter-of-factly, “I don’t need that. I can do it by myself.” She developed her fine-motor skills, using both hands to do such things as scraping her plate and rolling playdough. With the help of adaptive straps (designed by her occupational therapist) to hold her hand to the handlebar and her foot on the pedal, she began riding a two-wheeled bike, whereas before she had only been able to push a tricycle with her feet.

On top of her own can-do attitude, Linzey has had wonderful support from her mom, Candi Stange. Over her past six years as a Head Start parent, Candi has served in many parent group officer positions and attended parenting classes sponsored by Head Start. She has consistently availed herself of opportunities to increase her parenting skills for both her typically-developing children and for Linzey. Candi and Linzey’s family advocate, Joy May, has “watched Candi grow in both her skills as a parent and as an advocate for her child” over the years.

Recently, when Linzey’s diagnosis was confirmed as cerebral palsy, Candi took the initiative to request a meeting of Linzey’s Head Start team to discuss the diagnosis and how it might effect changes in Linzey’s care. According to head teacher Sara Ross, “Consistent and open communication with Candi has provided the staff with a wealth of information about Linzey’s development and needs, as well as created shared environments at home and at school.”

If only one word could be used to describe the effect that Candi’s dedication and Linzey’s determination have had in the Head Start program, that word would be GROWTH (which is what Head Start is really all about).

“It has been a pleasure to work with Candi and her family for all of these years. We have all grown in the process!”

— Joy May, Head Start family advocate
What We Do

Family and Community Partnerships

Involving parents at all levels of the program is very important in Head Start and Early Head Start. Opportunities include classroom volunteering, participation in center parent groups, and Policy Council. Collaboration between community partners, parents, and staff results in a richer community for all of us.

Head Start Parent Education Level at Enrollment

- 53% Not a high school graduate
- 26% High school graduate/GED
- 18% Some college
- 3% Bachelor’s degree

In 2007-2008, Head Start assisted parents to increase their education level

- 246 parents received adult education services (GED/college enrollment)
- 108 parents received job-training services

Bike Path Donated

Our new toddler trike riders needed a smooth surface for pedaling their tricycles at Early Head Start-Merriman Campus. Through the generosity of the Table Rock Kiwanis Club and Batzer, Inc., the path was designed, planned, and implemented. The Kiwanis group gave their time and financial help to oversee this project. Batzer, Inc. donated much-needed construction supplies and lent us their concrete foreman to assist in the laying of the path. A formal ribbon-cutting ceremony was held September 18, 2008 at Early Head Start-Merriman Campus to recognize the volunteer efforts that culminated in this new bike path for the toddlers. The Chamber of Commerce was on hand to recognize this generous project, providing an enormous pair of scissors and red ribbon. Toddlers are having a terrific time tricycling around their new path!

Yvonne’s Story

The Success of the SLIDE Program at Head Start

Earlier this year, I sought assistance from the JOBS Plus program in overcoming significant barriers to employment. Dianne Ferreira and Geri Lane of the Job Council were wonderful resources for me. When they learned of my history as a Head Start parent (four of my children have been enrolled in the program over the years) and my potential with administrative office duties, they suggested the SLIDE program at Head Start as a way to transition to full-time, living-wage employment.

Since coming on board with Head Start as a SLIDE participant, I have had the opportunity to work at numerous agency sites with various staff and supervisors. I am currently an area assistant for the Central Point and Foothills Head Start centers and feel that Head Start’s SLIDE program is giving me the chance to get my foot in the door, to prove myself. At Head Start, I work in a supportive and encouraging environment; I love the people I work with and the fact that the agency’s values mirror my own.

I feel as if I’ve come full circle. Achievements that long ago seemed like wild fantasies are now becoming reality. I am much more calm, mature, and confident than ever before; I have learned to apply myself to become “a better me,” and I really like who I am.

“I would like everyone to know that the SLIDE program is worth it.” – Yvonne Cox, Slide Participant

“I am finally achieving one of my goals in life of finding consistent, long-term employment.”
During a routine vision screening at the Rogue River Head Start center, concern arose regarding Melissa’s eyesight. Due to the screening results, Melissa’s mother was referred to an optometrist so that Melissa could receive a complete vision exam. The exam results showed that Melissa had a serious lazy eye condition that was severely blurring her eyesight. Before learning of this condition, Melissa’s mother was concerned that she was clumsy or not paying attention because she ran into things so often. She says that when Melissa got her new glasses in March, however, a whole new world opened up to her. Melissa began to point out things in the distance and say enthusiastically, “I can see that!” Once Melissa started wearing her new glasses, her teacher Judy noticed that Melissa could now sit with the other children at story time instead of sitting right under the book to see it. Melissa is now successfully learning to write her first name and enjoys cutting things out because she can see the lines. Her opportunity for success in kindergarten next year looks very bright. Melissa’s mother expressed her gratitude to the Rogue River staff by saying, “If it wasn’t for Head Start, I probably would have never known my child had difficulties with vision.”
Listo Program

The Listo program served 45 families in 2008 — 2009 at Howard School in Medford and at Mountain View Elementary in White City.

WHAT IS LISTO?

The Listo Family Literacy Program is a collaboration between Southern Oregon Head Start, Southern Oregon Education Service District Migrant Education, and Rogue Community College. The goal of the program is to increase literacy skills for Spanish-speaking low-income families in Jackson County. Listo means “bright and ready” in Spanish. Listo families attend literacy classes two nights each week, with their children in tow and their study materials in hand. Children 3 months to 14 years engage in culturally appropriate literacy activities. Parents at Listo study English as a Second Language (ESL) and basic General Educational Development (GED) content knowledge in Spanish. This approach helps build the language skills necessary for learning English. Parents also participate in regularly scheduled literacy activities with their children. The friendship and support that Listo families offer to each other helps build community and reduce the isolation that many immigrant families often feel.

Roberto is a first grader at school. He likes Listo because he gets to make books and play soccer. “Tengo muchos amigos aquí. I have a lot of friends here.” His little sister, Rubi, loves her friends in the infant/toddler group. Together, they recently pretended to make a big pot of sopa de papas (potato soup). Rubi’s mom, Sylvia, was impressed by the effort and exclaimed, “Wow! I’ve never made potato soup before!”

Sylvia studies English in the advanced ESL class, has completed her basic adult courses, and is ready to study for her GED. Through her efforts, she has begun to climb the Listo career ladder — she will begin working as a Listo teacher assistant with the infants and toddlers in White City this year. Sylvia’s husband, Leonel Cortez, has also benefited from his participation with Listo. He studied ESL at Listo for one year and is now working full-time as a tree planter, so is unable to attend this year.

“I like the Listo program because it helps the Latino community. I have the chance to bring my children here with me while I study. We can learn English and we work on laptops to get computer skills. Our kids are learning reading and writing while we learn English to improve our communication for work.”

– Sylvia Valencia
National Beating the Odds Award Winner

Brandy Walker

“When I became determined to survive my malignant thyroid and 25-year meth addiction.”

When the state police and National Guard showed up in my driveway with armored vehicles and an infrared helicopter looking for someone I had never met, I became determined to survive my malignant thyroid and 25-year meth addiction. I was evicted from my family home of 28 years and moved a 19-foot trailer to a piece of land with no electricity, water, or sewer. It was all I had left and I was glad to be there.

My 10-week old granddaughter was taken by the state of Oregon and my three grandsons (6, 3, and almost 2) followed her into foster care. I went over people’s heads to supervisors as I challenged the state to consider me as a resource. I enrolled in and completed parenting classes the state required. I wanted these children.

Providing a home for them was my next task; I was still in a travel trailer with no services. By God’s grace, miracles began happening! I found a free two-bedroom mobile home, but it had to be moved in six days. Believing this home was meant for us, I persevered. I found a mover, drove the pilot car myself, and used all my savings to pay for the move and setup.

I then became a certified foster care provider for my middle grandson. We had no electricity, used an outhouse, and had our water trucked in.

My granddaughter’s adoption by her foster parents was already in process. Naturally, I wanted all of my grandchildren, but my grandsons were all extremely needy, so her adoption by such loving parents was a blessing. Thankfully, we can see her and have her for visits regularly.

When the adoption of my other two grandsons by their foster parents went awry, the state (seeing what progress I had made with my middle grandson) offered to let me try providing for all three grandsons and I jumped at the chance.

It has been two years since we started living together. During that time, I found the financing to install electricity and a septic system. Now, as a 48-year old Head Start grandparent with ‘modern conveniences,’ I’d like to give something back to the society I escaped through my addiction by contributing to the Family Stabilization Project and using the SLIDE program to become a family advocate for Head Start.

On December 6, 2009, Brandy will be honored as the National Beating the Odds Award recipient at the National Head Start Association’s 26th Annual Parent Training Conference in San Jose, CA.
Financials
Balance as of October 31, 2008

Assets

Current Assets
- Cash in Bank $397,642
- Accounts Receivable 701,759
- Prepaid Expenses 44,094
  Total Current Assets 1,143,495

Fixed Assets
- Land 636,462
- Buildings 5,631,569
- Leasehold Improvements 119,569
- Equipment & Furniture 397,332
- Vehicles 1,548,426
- Less Accumulated Depreciation (3,389,543)
  Total Fixed Assets 4,943,815

Other Assets
- SOCFC Retirement Plan & Trust 1,872,974
  Total Other Assets 1,872,974

Total Assets $7,960,284

Liabilities

Current Liabilities
- Accounts Payable 105,840
- Accrued Payroll, Taxes, & Benefits 684,153
- Accrued Interest 3,606
- Accrued Self-Insurance 102,516
- Current Portion of LTD 140,453
  Total Current Liabilities 1,036,568

Long-Term Debt
- Notes Payable net of Current Portion 1,336,463
  Total Liabilities 2,373,031

Net Assets
- Unrestricted Operating Fund 3,598,069
- Board Designated 789
- Temporarily Restricted 115,421
- SOCFC Retirement Plan & Trust 1,872,974
  Total Net Worth (Net Assets) 5,587,253

Total Liabilities & Net Worth $7,960,284

*The Audited Financial Statements in their entirety are available on our website: www.socfc.org.*
Southern Oregon Child and Family Council, Inc.

Revenue Sources (FY 2008)

**Federal**
- U.S. Dept. of HHS – Head Start $4,724,175
- U.S. Dept. of HHS – Early Head Start 1,058,469
- U.S. Dept. of Agriculture 391,074

**State of Oregon**
- Oregon Prekindergarten Program 3,512,096
- Oregon Dept. Of Human Services 370,400
- Migrant Education Program 63,800

**Foundations**
- Oregon Community Foundation:
  - Reed & Carolee Walker Fund 25,000
  - Carpenter Foundation 21,000
  - Leightman Maxey Foundation 15,000
  - Chaney Family Foundation 10,000
  - Cow Creek Indian Foundation 10,000
  - Gordon Elwood Foundation 10,000
  - Anna May Family Foundation 10,000
  - Oregon Community Foundation:
    - Latino Partnership Project 4,000

**Local Contributions**
- Jackson County Commission on Children & Families 18,750
- Jackson County Strengthening Families Program 16,632
- United Way of Jackson County 8,738
- ExCEL Project Contract 7,183
- Volunteer Time, Space, & Materials 93,164

**Total** $10,369,481

Expense Budget (FY 2009)

**Personnel & Fringe** $9,124,033
**Furniture & Equipment** 220,111
**Supplies & Materials** 328,698
**Occupancy** 903,962
**Child Transportation** 203,102
**Food Service** 522,508
**Child Services** 112,072
**Parent Services** 105,386
**Training & Other** 558,153

**Total** $12,078,025
Federal Monitoring Review

In December 2008, a federal review team of eight experts came to review our Head Start and Early Head Start programs. We are very proud of the results of our review, which identified two small areas that needed correction out of over 2,500 Head Start Program Performance Standards and federal regulations.

The report highlighted many program strengths. One was the comprehensive program planning that “integrates our Community Assessment as a launching point and involves the Board, the (parent) Policy Council, and staff in developing a well-designed and comprehensive plan to link the communities’ and agency’s needs to provide needed services to enrolled children and families.” Other strengths identified included:

Head Start
- Comprehensive training program
- Support to teachers to earn Early Childhood AAS degrees
- Redwood Center — a Head Start center and training site for students in the early childhood program at Rogue Community College
- High-quality facilities
- Outdoor environments that enhance exploration of nature and outdoor learning experiences

Early Head Start
- Infant massage instruction for parents to promote bonding and attachment
- Health manager is a certified doula who provides labor support to pregnant women
- High-quality nurturing environments
- Relationships as a number one priority to promote healthy social/emotional development
- Ongoing staff development in mental health

“An Exemplary Program!” – Federal Team Leader

Our Future

Head Start and Early Head Start Expansion

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, funds were allocated to expand Head Start and Early Head Start across the nation. Both our Head Start and Early Head Start proposals were successful in receiving funding. Early Head Start will add 54 children in Josephine County at a center in Grants Pass, and Head Start will add one class (18 children) to an existing center in Medford in Jackson County in January 2010.
Thank You

Board of Directors
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Vice-Chair – Linda Deba
Treasurer – LeArta Romero
Past Chair – Greg Lecuyer
Policy Council Liaison – Robert Oman
Alternate Policy Council Liaison – Rebekah Equibel

Board Members
Linda Fern
Holly Goff
Marty Jacobson
Karen Ludwig
Eric Foster
Royal Standley

Parent Policy Council
Policy Council Executive Committee Chair – Jason Luba
Vice-Chair – Linda Bronson
Treasurer – Stephanie Cooper
Alternate Treasurer – Patricia Martinez
Secretary – Tiffani Grogan
Board Liaison – Robert Oman
Alternate Board Liaison – Rebekah Esquibel
Senior State Representative – Flemette Reyes
Junior State Representative – Kitti Keitges
Alternate State Representative – Colleen Kiser

Policy Council Representatives
Amber Andresen
Enriqueta Arellano
Blanca Axotla
Rochelle Blankenship
Linda Bronson
Reanna Cook
Teri Crosby
Dylan Daniel
Guadalupe De La Cruz
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March Kara
Cheryl King
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Nicole Lingg
Jimmy Long
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Tabasha Paige-Criado
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Emeterio Rodriguez
Jesus Sevilla
Jessika Shannon
Tabatha Siemer
William Snell
Jessica Sunshine
Ramon Tellez
Oliva Valdovinos
Cherry Vichi
Grace Well

Thank you to all our Head Start and Early Head Start volunteers!

In 2008, more than 1,300 parent and community volunteers gave over 14,792 hours of their time to our programs.
SOUTHERN OREGON
CHILD AND FAMILY
COUNCIL, INC.

SOUTHERN OREGON
HEAD START

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United Way