



A look at our year



Investing in our future

portland
children's
levy

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PORTLAND CHILDREN'S LEVY
2008-2009 PROGRESS REPORT
.....

Dear Portlander,

No one has been immune to these tough economic times. Yet throughout this difficult period, your continuing support of the Portland Children's Levy has provided a buffer for some of the city's neediest and most vulnerable residents.

Because of your ongoing investment in these children and their families, thousands last year found help with basic necessities such as housing and food.

Families on the brink received assistance to overcome challenges including domestic violence, substance abuse and mental health concerns.

Moms and dads, including immigrants and refugees from around the world, participated in parenting education classes and workshops to better monitor their child's health, nutrition and safety.

Young children enrolled in early education classes while their older peers had access to quality programs that promote academic achievement as well as music, art and athletics. Kids of all ages found a crucial lifeline through mentors who serve as positive and consistent role models during times of stress and uncertainty.

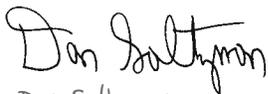
Street kids struggling with abuse and neglect have newfound hope and opportunity through programs providing intensive case management, counseling and therapy.

I'm particularly pleased with a new Children's Levy funding area that began in July: helping children and young adults in foster care succeed.

We are careful stewards of your tax dollars. The Levy is annually audited and operates with a 5 percent administrative cap so 95 cents of every dollar goes to proven children's programs. We have launched a new \$3 million Leverage Fund sure to match the success of its predecessor which partnered private dollars with public ones to maximize resources throughout the city.

Portland made children a priority by passing the Levy in 2002 and overwhelmingly renewing it in 2008. I invite you to take a moment to read this year's annual report and see how your commitment is making the city stronger and safer for us all.

Sincerely,



Dan Saltzman
Portland City Commissioner
Chair, Portland Children's Levy Allocation Committee
dan@ci.portland.or.us 503-823-4151



Portland Children's Levy Allocation Committee

The Portland Children's Levy is overseen by a five-member Allocation Committee that meets publicly to make funding decisions. It is composed of one Portland City Commissioner, one Multnomah County Commissioner and one member appointed by the city, county and Portland Business Alliance respectively.

Current members are:

Dan Saltzman,
Portland City Commissioner,
Allocation Committee Chair

Ted Wheeler,
Multnomah County
Commission Chair

Alissa Keny-Guyer,
Consultant for foundations
and nonprofits

Adrienne Livingston,
Executive Director,
Black United Fund of Oregon

Ron Beltz,
Vice President,
CommonWealth Partners
Management Services, LP

WHAT WE FUND

We support 70 different programs for kids from birth through age 24.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed.

- Early childhood education and intervention
- Parenting education
- Access to immunizations and health screenings
- Affordable, high-quality childcare

AFTER SCHOOL & MENTORING

Students stay engaged in school and safe after school.

- Quality programs to promote academic achievement in core subject areas and music, art and athletics
- Positive and consistent adult and peer role models
- Tutoring, homework assistance, community service and college prep activities

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

Stressed families most at risk receive support and intervention services.

- Intensive case management, counseling and therapy
- Respite care
- Parenting education

FOSTER CARE

Helping children in foster care succeed.

Funding began July 2009 (Programs will be profiled in next year's Progress Report.)



Offering hope



Learning new skills



Providing a loving environment



Creating opportunities



Feeling safe



Having a role model

A snapshot in time

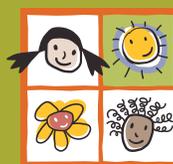
THE PORTLAND CHILDREN'S LEVY 2008-2009 PROGRESS REPORT

It's been a busy year for the Portland Children's Levy.

After a competitive funding process, the Children's Levy in Spring 2009 allocated more than \$37 million in three-year grants to 70 programs in Early Childhood, After School and Mentoring, Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention and Foster Care.

During this time we became the "Portland Children's Levy" rather than the Portland Children's Investment Fund. We did this because the Children's Levy more accurately reflects who we are and is better recognized by the general public who created the Levy in 2002 and overwhelmingly renewed it in 2008.

To learn more or to join our mailing list, call 503-823-2947 or visit www.PortlandChildrensLevy.org.



Investing in our future

portland children's levy

Who Where Why How we help

Who

Organizations receive funding through a competitive process and must have a track record of success, be cost effective and achieve positive results for children. All funded programs are monitored by staff and are subject to regular site visits and performance assessments. A five-member Allocation Committee meets publicly to make funding decisions.

Where

Our investments are felt in homes throughout the city, as well as preschools, home-based childcares, elementary, middle and high schools, community centers, nonprofit organizations, soccer fields, basketball courts, music auditoriums and parks.

Why

A majority of the children we serve come from low-income households. They must overcome low expectations and a lack of opportunity that comes with poverty, abuse and neglect, homelessness, exposure to domestic violence and risky behaviors such as drug and alcohol abuse.

How

In Fall 2008 Portland voters overwhelmingly renewed the Children's Levy which was created in a 2002 citywide referendum. City homeowners support the Levy through a property tax of about \$60 a year for a home with an assessed value of \$150,000. The Levy generates more than \$10 million a year. The Levy is annually audited and administrative expenses cannot exceed more than 5 percent of revenues so that 95 cents of every dollar is invested in children's programs.

Making a difference

IN EARLY EDUCATION

Studies show that participation in high-quality early childhood programs is linked with better reasoning and language skills and the development of healthy emotional and social traits. Research shows these positive effects last well into adulthood, including better educational attainment and earnings capacity and lower rates of delinquency, crime and school failure. Leading economic experts, including the RAND corporation and the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, agree that early childhood education has the highest return of any public investment – as much as \$17 for every dollar spent.

IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

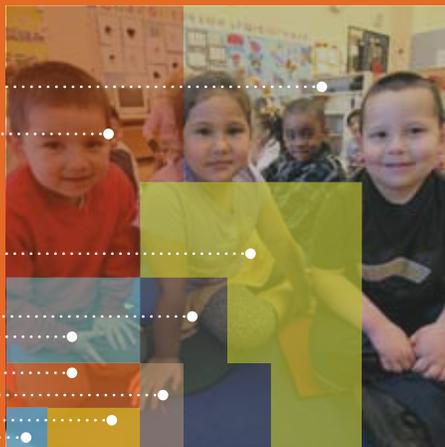
Quality after-school programs provide older students a safe place to learn and have fun while mentoring programs offer vital one-on-one help to increase both academic and social skills. Research indicates that mentored teens are less likely to get into drugs and more likely to get better grades and set higher expectations for themselves.

IN TROUBLED HOMES

Children in families struggling with violence, abuse and neglect can learn to build healthy, strong connections with social support systems that lead to positive, meaningful and lasting changes. These programs promote resiliency and increase stability for some of the city's most vulnerable families.

Ethnicity

- 36% White/ European American
- 22% Latino/ Hispanic
- 20% African American/ African
- 8% Multiethnic
- 6% Asian American/ Asian
- 3% Native American/ Native Alaskan
- 2% Other
- 2% Not given
- 1% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander



Neighborhood

- 34% Southeast Portland
- 29% Northeast Portland
- 15% North Portland
- 9% Southwest Portland
- 9% Not given
- 2% Homeless
- 2% Northwest Portland



Primary language spoken at home

- 64% English
- 16% Spanish
- 11% Not given
- 9% Other



Early Childhood

Results:

Mastering Skills

Based on results of more than 1,600 child development screenings performed with children in Early Childhood Levy programs, 79 percent of the children were meeting key milestones in growth and development. The remaining 21 percent were making progress toward meeting those milestones.

Making the Grade

99 percent of children at nine child care centers with access to mental health consultants were not removed from their preschool setting because of behavioral problems.

Measuring Up

Our funding is helping some of the city's most vulnerable children by boosting the quality of childcare centers and home-based childcare providers, as well as providing "scholarships" for 97 low-income children for quality childcare.

Meeting Goals

Of those parents assessed, a majority increased appropriate parenting skills and knowledge to better manage their children's behavior; interacted more positively with their children; and improved their use of social support services such as community centers, parks and schools.



Forty eager students at Mt. Hood Community College's Head Start program in Southeast Portland have a safe, nurturing preschool environment preparing them for kindergarten.



A monthly "family night" is a fun place for parents and kids to enjoy an evening of food, games and educational speakers.



The Head Start program for 3-5 year olds includes home visits where staff meet with parents to monitor their child's development, assist with obtaining essential health services and provide information about necessary life skills.



"He's paying more attention now. Before he was shy - he's not anymore. Once he was sick and he cried all day because he wanted to come to school," said Yalia, mother of 4-year-old Jesus. "On weekends he asks, 'When can I go to school?'"



Mt. Hood Community College Head Start



After School & Mentoring

Results:

Mastering Skills

68 percent of all students in Levy After School & Mentoring programs met or exceeded state benchmarks in reading and 66 percent met or exceeded in math.

Making the Grade

44 percent of Portland Public School students in Levy programs who were not meeting state benchmarks in reading last year move to a higher performance category this year and 49 percent moved to a higher performance category in math.

Measuring Up

69 percent of PPS students in Levy programs attended school at least 90 percent of the time and 47 percent improved their attendance as compared with last year.

Meeting Goals

68 percent of PPS students in Levy programs who were suspended or expelled last year received fewer or no referrals resulting in suspension or expulsion this year.



All kids are scientists in this after-school program serving more than 1,200 middle school students in Portland, David Douglas, Centennial, Reynolds and Parkrose school districts. The goal: to foster enthusiasm and interest in science among youngsters, especially minorities, with the hope it may lead to a career in the healthcare industry.



Many students at Harold Oliver Intermediate in Southeast Portland said that if not for after-school programs such as A.K.A. Science, they'd be home parked in front of the TV or hanging out with friends with no supervised activities.



Hands-on activities - usually ones requiring students to roll up their sleeves and get elbow-deep in messy fun - are enjoyable and engaging for students.



Lots of laughter and exclamations of "cool, neat, gross, weird" and "wow" punctuate an afternoon of experiments as the students make "Fantastic Flubber," an "un-poppable bubble" using water, glue, baking soda and food color.



Oregon Health Career Center: A.K.A. Science



After School & Mentoring





Family of Friends pairs caring adults with children in a mentoring relationship and asks for a minimum one-year commitment.

After retiring from the corporate world, Michael Jordan wanted to give back to the community. As a Family of Friends mentor he devotes weekends and after-school time for outings with his young friends.



As an adoptee herself, Melody Myers knows the importance of having someone special in your life to make you feel wanted. She treasures the time she spends with 9-year-old Victoria as the two cook, rollerskate, swim and pamper themselves to pedicures. "Mentoring adds a whole other dimension to my life. It brings me so much joy."



Twins Paul and Brandon have blossomed from the one-on-one attention they get when their mentors spend special time with them.



Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention

Results:

Mastering Skills

85 percent of vulnerable children in five Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention Levy programs experienced an increase in stability in their lives, including reduction in risk of family violence and improvement in family functioning.

Making the Grade

Multnomah County Child Abuse Hotline received no further referrals for 91 percent of families in one Levy program within 180 days of completing services.

Measuring Up

79 percent of children with mental health issues (in four Levy programs) demonstrated an increase in emotional well being.

Meeting Goals

81 percent of parents with mental health issues (in two Levy programs) showed a decrease in depression and anxiety.

www.PortlandChildrensLevy.org



Project Metamorphosis offers support, resources and treatment to street kids battling alcohol, drugs and mental health problems. Through a strong outreach program, these teens become engaged in activities that offer them positive alternatives.



Metamorphosis is a collaborative effort of Janus Youth Programs, Depaul Treatment Center, New Avenues for Youth, Outside In and NAYA Family Center.



Teens find themselves on the streets for lots of reasons. Jake, 17, made a series of bad decisions, was kicked out of his home and landed downtown with no money or friends. With the help of Metamorphosis, he went through drug treatment to get clean and sober. "Without this I wouldn't have any hope."



Through group counseling sessions, field trips and an emphasis on outdoor activities, the teens build a trusting relationship with counselors. In addition to healthy and positive outings, the teens are assisted in their efforts to complete their GED or enroll in college, find employment or join employment programs such as Job Corps.



Janus Youth Programs: Project Metamorphosis



The Leverage Fund

The success of the Leverage Fund during the first phase of the Levy was a compelling argument for its continuance as we move forward in the next five years. Recently, \$3 million was set aside for a new Leverage Fund to match public dollars with private ones to maximize community impact and make more resources available for Portland's children.

Below are highlights of more than \$6 million in public-private matches in 2008-2009 that sustained and expanded programs at:

- Saturday Academy with Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and David and Christine Vernier
- Multnomah County Library Foundation's Raising a Reader Program with Meyer Memorial Trust
- Peninsula Children's Center with the United Way of the Columbia Willamette and the Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund



Neighborhood Partnership Fund's Bridges to Housing is a local, four-county effort to alleviate family homelessness in the Portland area.



Partnering with the Gates Foundation and Meyer Memorial Trust, the Levy dollars allow the program to leverage local resources and provide case management services and childcare subsidies for some of Portland's neediest children and families.



Through the Bridges program, Jimmy and Kimberly Davis got off the streets, out of transitional housing and into a permanent apartment. Having space for family photos, mementos and toys for their toddler twin boys is a new and treasured experience. A case manager helps the couple access health services for Jordan and Matthew to ensure the twins' stay on track with their immunizations and dental, vision and health screenings, as well as provide necessities such as diapers.



"I want them to be well taken care of and to have everything I didn't have," says Kimberly, who dropped out of school in eighth grade. "Jimmy and I want a stable environment for them."



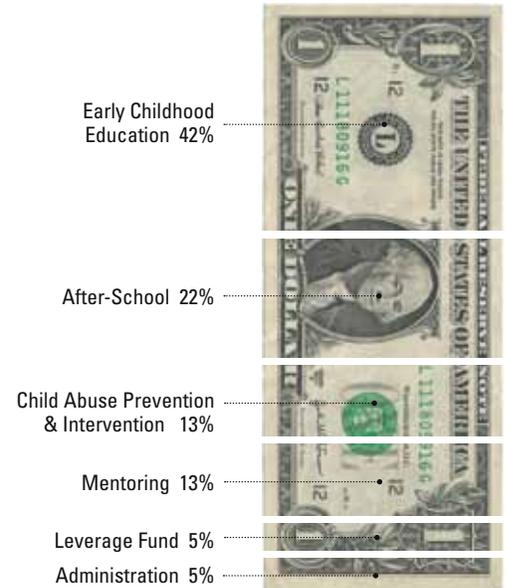
Bridges to Housing



Snapshot: The numbers

The Portland Children's Levy is annually audited and administrative expenses cannot exceed 5 percent of revenues; 95 cents of every dollar is invested in programs helping the city's children. The most recent audit completed in June 2009 by independent auditor McDonald Jacobs, PC found that administrative expenses were less than 5 percent of revenues, were necessary and proper, and all grant disbursements were properly documented and in accordance with approved budgets.

Public Accountability



Using Tax Dollars Wisely

PORTLAND CHILDREN'S LEVY

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

Revenues

Earned in FY 2008 - 2009	\$	608,069
Accrued from July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2008	\$	15,769,663
	\$	16,377,732

Investments and Commitments

Program Investments, FY 2008 - 2009		
Early Childhood	\$	4,499,478
After-School	\$	2,383,293
Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention	\$	1,423,504
Mentoring	\$	1,339,891
Leverage Fund	\$	744,756
Administration, FY 2008 - 2009		
	\$	524,427
Encumbered Fund, FY 2008 - 2010	\$	5,462,383
TOTAL	\$	16,377,732



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a green plant stem over a body of water. The background is a soft-focus blue sky and water. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box.

Thanks Portland

- 13,000 children, including those in foster care, were helped.
- Nearly 800 parents participated in classes or home visiting services focusing on children's health, development, nutrition and safety.
- More than 650 children were screened for physical health and wellness needs.
- Nearly 900 substance abuse counseling sessions were offered for homeless youth.
- More than 4,000 hours of respite care were provided for young children at risk of abuse and neglect.
- More than 3,900 students participated in school- and community-based after-school programs in five city school districts: Portland, David Douglas, Parkrose, Centennial and Reynolds.
- More than 2,000 students were mentored in mentoring programs.

Early Childhood Programs

Albertina Kerr Centers Classroom-based therapeutic and outpatient services for children with special needs and their families; citywide. www.albertinakerr.org

Albina Early Head Start Three Early Head Start classroom and home-based Early Head Start services; N, NE, SE Portland. www.albinaheadstart.org

Cascade AIDS Project Case management and support services to HIV-affected children; citywide. www.cascadeaids.org

Child Care Improvement Project Quality improvement and support for two networks of in-home childcare providers; SW, SE Portland. www.nhweb.org

Friendly House Preschool Subsidized preschool for children from low-income families; NW Portland. www.friendlyhouseinc.org

Hacienda CDC Child health outreach, info/referral, health education with Latino families; citywide. www.haciendacdc.org

Housing Authority of Portland "Story time" early literacy sessions with children/families in public housing; N, NE, SE Portland. www.hapdx.org

Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization Home-visit child development services with immigrants & refugees; citywide. www.irco.org

Impact Northwest Home-visit child development services, case management and kindergarten transition services; NE, SE Portland. www.impactnw.org/

Insights Teen Parent Program Home-visit child development services and case management for children of teen parents; citywide. www.insightstpp.org

Morrison Child & Family Services Mental health consultation, parenting education, child outpatient services with 10 childcare sites & preschools; citywide. www.morrisonkids.org

Morrison Child & Family Services Listos Para Aprender Home-visit child development services and case management with Latino families; citywide. www.morrisonkids.org

Mt. Hood Community College Head Start Expanded Head Start classroom in Gateway Children's Center; SE Portland. www.mhcc.edu/pages/1058.asp

Mt. Hood Community College Childcare Resource & Referral Quality enhancement for childcare providers and childcare subsidies for low-income families; citywide. www.ccrf-mc.org

Native American Rehabilitation Association Child health and development screenings, parenting education, case management; citywide. www.naranorthwest.org

Neighborhood House Early Oregon Pre-kindergarten with children in care of home-based childcare providers; SW, NW, N Portland. www.nhweb.org

Neighborhood House Home-based early Oregon Pre-kindergarten with children from low-income families; SW, NW Portland. www.nhweb.org

Peninsula Children's Center Childcare subsidies for children from low-income families; N, NE Portland. www.penchild.org

Portland Community College Child Development Center Expanded childcare and parent education classes at Sylvania campus; SW Portland. www.pcc.edu/resources/child-care/development-center/index.html

Portland Public Schools Head Start Two Head Start classrooms at Kelly Center and one summer Head Start session; SE Portland. www.headstart.pps.k12.or.us

Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Programs

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Portland Mentoring program for children in foster care; citywide. www.bbbsnorthwest.org

Catholic Charities Therapeutic intervention services for Latino children of victims of domestic violence; citywide. www.catholiccharitiesoregon.org

Children's Relief Nursery Classroom based therapeutic care for children ages 0-3, home visits, parenting education and respite care; citywide. www.cm4kids.org

Janus Youth Programs Substance abuse treatment and mental health services for homeless teens; citywide. www.jyp.org/

Lifeworks NW Multi-systemic therapy for children at risk for child abuse and neglect; N, NE, SE Portland. www.lifeworksnw.org

Lifeworks NW Case management for families at risk for child abuse; citywide. www.lifeworksnw.org

Listen to Kids Therapeutic intervention services for children of victims of domestic violence; citywide. www.listentokids.org/home/html

Native American Rehabilitation Association Parenting education, case management and public campaign to prevent abuse & neglect; citywide. www.naranorthwest.org

Salvation Army/West Women's and Children's Shelter Therapeutic intervention services for children of victims of domestic violence; citywide. www1.usw.salvationarmy.org/usw/www_usw_cascade.nsf

Volunteers of America Classroom-based therapeutic care for children ages 0-5, home visits parenting education and respite care; citywide. www.voao.org

After-School Programs

Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Portland After-school program and mental health counseling at Club sites; N, NE, outer SE Portland. www.bgcportland.org/

Camp Fire USA Portland Metro Council After-school academic, recreation and service learning program at three elementary schools; outer SE Portland. www.portlandcampfire.org

Chess for Success After-school chess program in five elementary schools for children in grades 4-8; outer SE Portland. www.chessforsuccess.org

Community Cycling Center After-school Bike Safety Club at six elementary schools for children in grades 4-5; N, SE Portland. www.communitycyclingcenter.org

Ethos Music Center After-school music education program at five elementary schools for children in grades 4-5; N, NE Portland. <http://.ethos.org/>

Girls Inc. of Northwest Oregon After-school program for girls focused on youth development at six elementary and four middle schools; citywide. www.girlsinc.org

Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization After-school program, family services and parent education for immigrants and refugees at two elementary schools and one middle school; SE Portland. www.irco.org

Impact Northwest SUN Community School program for children in grades 4-5 at Whitman Elementary and Fernwood and Sellwood middle schools; NE, SE Portland. www.impactnw.org

Lifeworks NW After-school program at five Portland public housing sites; N, NE, SE, SW Portland. www.lifeworksnw.org

NAYA Family Center Cultural and sports after-school program for Native American/Native Alaskan children in grades 4-8; citywide. www.nayapdx.org

Neighborhood House SUN Community School program at Jackson Middle School; SW Portland. www.nhweb.org

Open Meadow After-school program for 8th graders focused on successful transition to high school; N Portland. www.openmeadow.org

Oregon Health Career Center After-school science program at 40 SUN Community Schools in Portland; citywide. www.ohcc.org/

Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center After-school tutoring program at Ockley Green Elementary School; N Portland. www.portlandoic.org

Self Enhancement, Inc. After-school academic and enrichment services for children in grades 4-8, focused on African-American youth; N, NE Portland. www.selfenhancement.org

Tears of Joy Theatre Arts-based, after-school program at five K-8 schools; N, NE Portland. www.tojt.com

Mentoring Programs

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Portland Community-based, one-on-one mentoring program; N, NE, outer SE Portland. www.bbbsnorthwest.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Portland Latino Mentoring Initiative including school-based and community-based services; N, NE Portland. www.bbbsportland.org

Boys and Girls Aid Community-based, one-on-one mentoring; citywide. www.boysandgirlsaid.org

Friends of the Children Long-term, community-based, one-on-one mentoring program for children grades K-12; Addition of tutoring program and Teen Space program to supplement long-term mentoring program; citywide. www.friendsofthechildren.com/

Impact Northwest School and community-based, one-on-one mentoring program at eight elementary schools; NE, SE Portland. www.impactnw.org

Metropolitan Family Services One-on-one mentoring program serving seven elementary schools, retirees serve as mentors; N, NE, SE Portland. www.metfamily.org/

Portland State University Chicano/Latino Studies Mentoring program pairing Latino high schoolers with Latino middle schoolers; N, NE, SE Portland.

REAP Group academic mentoring and in-school suspension program at three high schools; NE, SE Portland.

SMART Literacy mentoring program for children grades K-3 at 24 elementary schools; N, NE, SE Portland. www.getsmartoregon.org

Trillium Family Services Family-to-child mentoring program for elementary school children; N, NE, SE Portland. www.trilliumfamily.org

Urban League of Portland Community-based, one-on-one mentoring program serving African-American middle and high school students; N, NE Portland. www.ulpdx.org



Thank you Portland

The Portland Children's Levy believes every child has the right to a bright future and the opportunity to succeed and thrive in our community. We support early childhood development programs and parent education; quality after-school and mentoring programs; child abuse prevention and intervention programs and programs to help children in foster care succeed.



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