



December 2021

Dear Friends,

The support we have received this year has truly made a difference for our Gorge community. Because of supporters like you, **our team was able to see 130 kids and respond to 170 calls for advice and referrals.**

Without SafeSpace, these children would have gone to an Emergency Room, or to Portland. Your support means SafeSpace can provide the specialized care needed to help reduce further trauma for these children.

Still, we know even more children need care. That is why SafeSpace is in the early stages of establishing a permanent facility, where we can see more children and better serve all children in our community.

We hope you will consider making a contribution to SafeSpace this year to help us respond to more children in need of care.

www.safespacecac.org

As you consider a gift to SafeSpace, here's a story about the impact our program had on a child we will call Timmy (name changed for confidentiality).

It's a Tuesday morning, and I receive a call from a Child Protective Services (CPS) worker asking me if SafeSpace is ready, right now, to do an exam on a 4-year old child who may have been sexually abused. Yes, you read right, Timmy is only 4 years old.

In this moment, I am so relieved to be able to say "Yes, we are ready."

At SafeSpace, the child-friendly exam room is always ready, with cameras and recorders that are invisible to the uninitiated and turn on at a touch. The physicians we work with give our exams emergency priority. Today, our physicians arrive just 15 minutes after I call, followed shortly by a trained interviewer and child advocate. The whole team is ready when Timmy, his mom and his two siblings arrive accompanied by CPS and a detective.

I know that Timmy is scared, and so are his siblings and mom.

But I feel grateful that they are coming here, to a place designed to make a very, very difficult day as healing as possible. Before SafeSpace, Timmy would have gone to an Emergency Room, or to Portland. It makes such a difference to have a team ready, right here in The Gorge, to help Timmy get through this day without further trauma.

Once Timmy is in our care, we stay by his side for the entire process.

Through the exam and interview, through therapy, through the trial, we make sure Timmy and his family are connected to the best advocates, therapists, and medical professionals. We want Timmy to know and remember—on this day, he was treated with kindness and compassion.

Your support makes it possible for SafeSpace to go into action, anytime, day or night, to help a child like Timmy go through a scary, difficult time.

You make it possible for us to keep working with Timmy and his family, to keep him safe, and help him heal. You make it all possible when you support SafeSpace.

As you can imagine, the service we provide to Timmy and other children has a cost. So please, while SafeSpace is on your mind, take a moment and contribute to this essential service.

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On behalf of Timmy, the next child who will walk into the exam room today, and all the children who will come to SafeSpace for help—Thank You. Thank you for how much you care.

Yours for a compassionate response to child abuse,

Beatriz Lynch

Beatriz Lynch, Executive Director

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