



Providence Children's Health Foundation

Mimi Orozco-Caravantes was so thankful for the support her family received for her two sisters Genesis and Onieda, that she joined Providence Swindells Center four years ago.

Serving children and families with special needs

Maria Edith Rangel Valle said the experts at Swindells Resource Center – a part of Providence Children’s Development Institute – have made an “enormous” change in the life of her 6-year-old son, Alan, who has autism.

Alan’s resource specialist, Kathy Keese, helped

recognize that Alan had far more potential than anyone realized. The little boy with a big smile taught himself to understand numbers and to read simple words.

“At Swindells we assume competence, and Alan is a perfect example of this,” said Hannah Lobingier, director of Swindells Resource Center.

“Kathy has been and continues to be an important part of Alan’s progress,” said his mom Maria. “I am very thankful for all the support I’ve received from this marvelous person.”

Since 1994, Swindells Resource Center has been supporting parents and caregivers of children with special health, behavioral or developmental needs. The center had more than 35,000 interactions with families in 2019, providing resources, information and education in two locations in Portland and one in Medford. Swindells services are available at little or no cost to families because of your gifts.

Mimi Orozco-Caravantes originally came to Swindells as a family member – she has 7-year-old twin sisters with Down syndrome and autism – and then was recruited to work there four years ago. As a bilingual community resource specialist, she often works with the Latinx community.

“I don’t know what my mom would have done without Swindells,” says Mimi. “Throughout this whole process, they’ve helped us mold our path for the journey we’re on with my sisters.”

Swindells Resource Center celebrated its 25th year of serving children and families in 2019.

2019 Highlights

Child life therapists help young patients feel at ease

When 2-year-old Lilla needed to get tubes in her ears, she was nervous. But thanks to child life therapists at the Gerry Frank Center at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center and to generous donors, Lilla’s mind soon was at ease. The curly-haired toddler drove around the waiting area in a mini red Ferrari, donated by Ron Tonkin Gran Turismo. The car is among several tools used by child life therapists, and supported by you, to help young patients feel less fearful.



Aquatic spa brings relaxation for children and families

There’s nothing more soothing than relaxing in a pool of warm water. Add aromatherapy, gentle waves and quiet music, and it becomes a true spa experience. Young residents at the Center for Medically Fragile Children soon will have a tranquil aquatic spa, thanks to your support. Although the center has a larger Jacuzzi tub, it’s not ideal for some children because of their medical limitations. The new spa will include a special tub equipped with a hydro-therapy system that produces sound waves through the water to soothe muscles and ligaments.

2019 total dollars raised by fund

- Area of Greatest Need | 18%
- Center for Medically Fragile Children | 22%
- Children’s Health | 1%
- Festival of Trees | 45%
- Swindells Resource Center | 5%
- Women & Infants | 3%
- Other Funds | 6%

