



Providence Milwaukie Foundation

Kasey Edwards Snider provides support to pregnant women participating in the Project Nurture program.

Project Nurture saves families

Project Nurture is a low-barrier outpatient substance abuse treatment program for pregnant women. “Project Nurture not only saves moms, it saves families,” said Kasey Edwards Snider, peer support counselor for the program. Project Nurture provides prenatal care and drug treatment as early in pregnancy as possible and care for the mothers and their infants for up to a year postpartum, providing peer support, case management and advocacy services throughout.

The program is centered in the family medicine primary care clinic at Providence Milwaukie Hospital. “We have three doctors who help these women meet all their medical needs on the same day they come to treatment group,” said Kasey. “Our doctors genuinely care about these women and want them to succeed; they don’t have negative preconceptions of them. Many of the women struggle to stop using while pregnant.”

Participants attend a treatment group on Mondays. While there, “we are able to connect them with all the resources they need to get where they want to be in life,” said Kasey. She helps her clients prepare for meetings with the Department of Human Services by working with the mother to create a plan for addressing the challenges she faces. “Many times, my participation in the meeting between the mother and DHS is a game-changer for both of them. It is one of the most important things I do,” she said.

Kasey knows what it’s like for these mothers. “I am almost 9 years clean, but I struggled with substance abuse, homelessness and domestic violence while I was pregnant with my daughter. I think I am trusted because I have lived a similar life,” she said. Her daughter is now 11 and thriving.

Your support helped provide educational materials and training to staff.

[Project Nurture is a collaboration between Providence, Legacy, Lifeworks NW, CODA, OHSU, Oregon DHS Child Welfare and Health Share of Oregon.]

2019 Highlights

An oasis of calm

Amid the noise and chaos that occurs on the Senior Psychiatric Unit at Providence Milwaukie Hospital is a small cozy room that can provide patients with a bit of calm. The sensory room offers patients a place to ease their anxiety and to quiet racing thoughts. Your generosity provides some of the items patients can use to self-soothe and calm themselves. “We are so grateful to donors for supporting these vulnerable patients by giving them the items needed to make their stay a little less stressful,” said Kendra Munroe, occupational therapist, who has worked on the unit since 2016.



Challenges of poverty

The Cost of Poverty Experience - Health Care Training offers participants a glimpse into the lives of low-income people in our community. Participants receive a profile of a low-income patient and then have to navigate a social service and health care system. As participants make their way through the morning, they experience the impact of poverty on chronic medical diseases, mental health and substance abuse. “I am so grateful for the foundations’ support of this experience,” said Charlotte Navarre, COPE facilitator.

2019 total dollars raised by fund

