



## Providence Children's Health Foundation

Shelly and her son have stable housing thanks to your support of the Safety Net for Families fund.



# A place to call home

Thanks to your support of the Safety Net Fund for Families, Shelly and her two children have a safe place to live.

Shelly was pregnant with her second child and living in her car when she was referred to Project Nurture at Providence Milwaukie Family Medicine Primary Care Clinic. Project Nurture provides prenatal care, inpatient maternity care and postpartum care for women who struggle with addictions as well as pediatric care for their infants. Providence Beginnings social workers also work with the women to help them have the healthiest pregnancy possible.

The Safety Net Fund for Families addresses unmet needs of families receiving care in our women’s clinics and family practices. Providence Beginnings social workers use the fund as a “last resort” after other community resources are accessed.

Providence Beginnings social worker Maria Wunderbro helped Shelly secure a Section 8 housing voucher. Unfortunately, though, the voucher couldn’t be used for to cover the last month’s rent, which is typically required by landlords.

“Without these funds, Shelly would have faced insurmountable barriers in accessing a long-term solution to her housing dilemma,” said Maria. “We are able to help women get to the next step in their journey towards independence.”

A grant from the Family Safety Net Fund for the last month’s rent was awarded just in time, enabling Shelly to secure the apartment. Shelly says that without help, her children might be in foster care and she would be on the street. Getting an apartment “gave me the ability to get to where I needed to be.”

Shelly is now the Latinx community coordinator at Ant Farm Youth Services. “When I started at my job, I was just a janitor. They saw how hard I worked, and in a few months I was promoted twice.” Without your help, Shelly’s story could have ended differently. Thank you for supporting essential resources for mothers in need.

## 2020 Highlights

### Pediatric Neurology

Providence Pediatric Neurology Department, led by Alison Christy, M.D., Ph.D., is building the Pacific Northwest’s first Center for Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology. The center offers clinical and diagnostic support for pediatric patients and is researching new approaches to of these rare diseases. Because of donor support, “we will be able to offer novel therapeutic options and improved care to children in the Pacific Northwest, while working to improve the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of these devastating illnesses,” said Dr. Christy.



### Swindells moves online

Swindells Resource Center caregivers worked with Help Me Grow Oregon, a free and confidential resource line for families, to create a seven-point plan to support families during the coronavirus crisis and beyond. Tip sheets, video vignettes, recorded trainings, virtual support groups, virtual family conversations and learning care packages were created to help families of children with special health care needs. The Swindells team focused on helping families increase resilience and decrease isolation. Thanks to your support of Swindells, families continued to receive the information and care they needed.

## 2020 total dollars raised by fund

- Area of Greatest Need | 36%
- Center for Medically Fragile Children | 13%
- Children’s Health | 1%
- Festival of Trees | 33%
- Swindells Resource Center | 3%
- Women and Infants | 12%
- Other Funds | 2%

