



THE *chronicle*

THECHILDRENSCENTER.ORG | MEETING FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS | SPRING 2025



Dr. Borkan Retires

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FOSTERING OUR CULTURE OF HOPE

During a recent effort to clarify the five core objectives of our work "HOPE" landed at the top of the list, because it is the number one priority for us. Children's Center aims to foster in our clients the belief that things will get better. That relief from the suffering caused by a mental health condition is possible.

We see hope take seed in our clients and their caregivers faces when they realize that they do not have to face their mental health challenges alone and there are treatment options. We have so many people — staff, donors, volunteers — to thank for fostering this culture of hope, and we highlight three of them on page four. **Dr. Eugene Borkan** has been a faithful champion of Children's Center since our founding in 1989 and retired in March. He provided the best care for our clients, exceptional clinical consultation with staff, a great sense of humor, and wise counsel. We will miss you, Dr. Borkan.

We are excited to share that **Dr. Daniel Lam**, who has been one of our consulting psychiatrists for over two decades, has moved into the role of our Medical Director. This is a significant development for Children's Center, and a rare gift for an agency of our size. We thank the **Marilyn Moyer Charitable Trust** for making this possible. Dr. Borkan and Dr. Lam we are grateful to you for all you do and for the hope you inspire in the lives of so many.

Matthew Butte, Executive Director

NEWS FROM CHILDREN'S CENTER

- **SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL LUNCHEON MAY 15TH**

Our Annual Benefit Luncheon is coming up fast. Join us Thursday May 15th at the AC Hotel on the Vancouver Waterfront. See the back cover for more information!

- **SPECIAL THANKS TO...THE CLARK COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS**

CCAR donated \$1,200 to fund materials for 'care kits' filled with therapeutic tools, like journals and fidgets, for our clients. Neighbors like you are why we love Clark County!

- **SPECIAL THANKS TO...DUTCH BROS**

Three local Dutch Bros franchises took part once again in their annual Buck for Kids day last September and raised \$10,689.20 for Children's Center. Way to go, bro!

- **SPECIAL THANKS TO...IDM COMPANIES**

Volunteers from IDM Companies visited Children's Center and helped with Heavy Helpers and our Holiday Food Drive and Toy Drive. We're so grateful for the much needed help!

COMMUNITY VOICES

What do you want people to know about children's mental health? Join the conversation by sending your thoughts to Jennie Hoheisel at jennieh@thechildrenscenter.org.

"It is so important for people in crisis and time of need to not feel alone; to know that there is support within their community. Supporting Children's Center helps give a voice to those that struggle and sheds light on the topic of children's mental health. This is truly why our clinic partners year-after-year to help with food and toy drives. To feel like a difference can be made in our own backyard."

— TAYLOR MEAD, FRONT OFFICE COORDINATOR AT THERAPYDIA PHYSICAL THERAPY

OUR MISSION

*We serve children,
youth and families
through comprehensive
community-based
mental health services.*

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Revved up for a cause: Classic cars drive donations at The Brothers Collection

The private car collection opened its doors and car lovers from across the nation opened their hearts in support of children's mental health

The gleaming chrome and timeless beauty of classic cars set the stage for an unforgettable afternoon at The Brothers Collection in Salem on September 22, 2024. More than just a showcase of rare cars, this exclusive event was a heartfelt fundraiser in support of Children's Center Children's Center was honored to partner with The Brothers Collection for this first-of-its-kind event, uniting car enthusiasts and community members for an important cause.

The Brothers Collection, one of the most comprehensive car collections in the world, features over 600 vehicles, including rare muscle cars and exotic sports cars. While not open to the public, The Brothers Collection occasionally hosts nonprofit fundraisers, providing a unique opportunity for guests to explore this impressive display while giving back to the community.



A PASSION FOR CARS AND A COMMITMENT TO MENTAL HEALTH

Guests traveled from near and far, from the Vancouver/Portland area, Bend, Seattle, California, and even as far as Louisiana and Kansas. Among them was Bobby Spedale of Central, LA, a vintage car enthusiast for more than 60 years. Spedale was especially thrilled to see his favorite car, a 1969-70 Shelby Mustang Convertible.

Another long-distance guest, Lyle Beckman from Lenexa, KS, attended with his wife, Carol. A lifelong car enthusiast, Lyle has visited numerous car museums and shows across the country. He was impressed by The Brothers Collection's restoration and presentation of vehicles. More importantly, he was proud to support Children's Center, acknowledging the urgent need for mental health services for children.

Throughout the afternoon, guests strolled through the collection, sharing memories, talking about engines and personal stories tied to these iconic cars. The event was more than a trip down memory lane — it was a powerful demonstration of community coming together to make a difference.



With hundreds of rare classic and collector cars in their pristine garage, The Brothers Collection is the largest collection of automobiles in the Pacific Northwest.

As the fundraiser came to a close, attendees left not only with admiration for the stunning collection but also with the satisfaction of knowing they had contributed to a meaningful cause.

Children's Center extends its deepest gratitude to The Brothers Collection for opening their doors and to all who attended in support of children's mental health. Together, we are driving change for a brighter future!

From Powell's to podcasting: The journey of *Hope & Healing with Children's Center*

How a chance book sighting led to a collaborative podcast on mental health and healing

GUEST POST BY JOHN MOE

*Awhile back, I got a text from a friend in Portland. They had been at Powell's City of Books downtown, saw my book, *The Hilarious World of Depression*, prominently displayed and sent me a picture. This was delightful to receive, not just because Powell's is an amazing bookstore but because it meant more people might read the book and be helped by its positive message of mental health awareness and openness.*

A few weeks later, I received an offer to deliver a speech on mental health to an organization called Children's Center in Vancouver. Hadn't heard of it, but I love giving speeches and it would be nice to be back in the Northwest, where I'm from. "Sure," I replied, "Sounds good."

As the date approached, I got an email saying Children's Center was offering a tour of their facility and a chance to meet the people who run the place. For guest speakers, this is unusual. Usually, you fly in, give your speech, then leave. I was intrigued and said a tour sounded great.

When the day of the speech came, I was on-site and met Matthew Butte, Executive Director of Children's Center, who conducted the tour personally, walking me through the facility, introducing me around, and explaining the organization's commitment to the health and welfare of the young people and families they serve. In talking with Matthew, I learned that there was a connection between my being in Vancouver and that display at Powell's. Turns out the book had caught the eye of Matthew's wife when they were at Powell's and she thrust it into his hands. He read it, tracked down my speaking agent, and an invitation followed. So that's why I was there. Thanks, Powell's!

The speech, taking place after the tour, went well. It also felt different than most speeches I give. Again, they tend to be drop-in kinds of affairs. With Children's Center, I felt like I was now part of something, like I had bought into the mission and the cause of what they were trying to achieve.

Returning home, Children's Center really stayed with me — as did Matthew's skill as an empathetic communicator. I love giving speeches, but much of the work I do is in podcasting. I make shows that help people understand mental health better and feel less alone on their mental health journeys.

What if, I thought, I produce and Matthew hosts a podcast that gets across what's so special about Children's Center? He's already a great communicator: he's authentic, and he represents an organization that is doing great things that more people need to know about. Plus his accent just sounds cool. So I reached out, and before long we were on the same page. Matthew and I felt that a great role to play in the podcast space would be to provide what Children's Center already offers: a sense of hope for the future of mental health and to promote the idea of healing. The podcast *Hope & Healing* was born; a series of conversations with people around the country making a real difference.



Executive Director — and podcast host — Matthew Butte with the book that inspired it all

We are now in our second season of the podcast with some amazing interviews to share. Everyone from brilliant writers and poets, to influential medical experts, to some of the therapists and volunteers who make Children's Center what it is. It's our hope that you give these episodes a listen and that you come away from each conversation feeling a little better than you did before. I've loved working with Matthew and everyone at Children's Center on this project. They truly are beacons of hope and of healing.

See page 6 for instructions on how to listen and a sneak peek at the episodes coming up next.

We bid farewell to Dr. Eugene Borkan — and welcome our first Medical Director

Longtime advisor and advocate Dr. Borkan retires; Dr. Daniel Lam fills a new leadership role

After more than 54 years in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Dr. Eugene Borkan officially retired March 25, 2025. All of us at Children's Center are filled with gratitude as we look back on his incredible legacy.

Dr. Borkan has been connected to Children's Center from the very beginning. In the early days, he played a key advisory role, offering steadfast support, invaluable guidance, and expertise in children's mental health. He was key in recruiting child psychiatrists to the agency, helping lay the foundation for a strong and dedicated clinical team.

In April 2006, we were fortunate to welcome him as part of our team. Former Executive Director Pat Beckett recalls, *"It was a true gift when he agreed to do direct service for the agency. His presence on site offered staff clinicians direct support and guidance, expertise with high-risk clients, training on psychiatric conditions and medications, and help navigating managed care and administrative issues. He treated everyone with such respect and always offered hope to clients and their families who were dealing with difficult situations. We were so blessed to have had Dr. Borkan as part of our team."*

For nearly two decades, Dr. Borkan has cared for the children and families we see,

"Working alongside Dr. Borkan for many years was truly a privilege. He engaged staff and clients in such a relatable manner with his humor and genuine approach."

— PAULA DUNHAM, CLINICAL DIRECTOR

always with kindness and insight. As he now steps into a well-earned retirement, he plans to be available to his four daughters and grandchild, spend time with old friends, ride his bike, work out and, most importantly, support goodwill and civility.

Congratulations, and abundant thanks, Dr. Borkan, on an extraordinary career. We wish you all the best in this next chapter — you will be deeply missed!

WELCOME DR. DANIEL LAM — OUR NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR

We are excited to announce a big step forward for Children's Center, as of March 1, 2025, Dr. Daniel Lam will serve as our first Medical Director!

The position of Medical Director is made possible by a \$500,000 grant from the Marilyn Moyer Charitable Trust. This is an incredible milestone for Children's Center and a generous gift that means so much to an agency of our size.

Though new to the title, Dr. Lam is certainly not new to Children's Center. A board-certified psychiatrist in child, adolescent, and adult psychiatry, Dr. Lam has been providing care to the children and families we see since 2000. He brings experience in the treatment of ADHD, mood and anxiety disorders, OCD, and others. Clinical Supervisor, Ashley Hernandez, states *"It has been incredibly helpful working with Dr. Lam and being able to coordinate care for my clients. He brings so much knowledge to the table and is great to*



Dr. Daniel Lam in Children's Center's Maxine McClaskey Therapy Garden

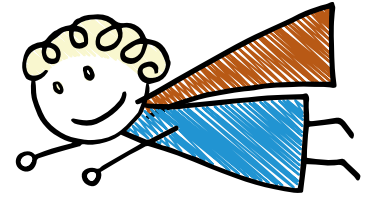
collaborate with! Dr. Lam is looking forward to this next chapter, and stated that seeing the progression of clients has been a truly remarkable aspect of his work." He's excited to collaborate closely with therapists — providing consultation, sharing education, and learning more about the therapeutic approaches they use. Dr. Lam is also excited to support planning, recruiting, and coordination efforts that will shape the future of Children's Center.

"Dr. Lam has been a valuable resource to consult with. I appreciate the care he puts into his work with children and families. He is very receptive to therapist concerns or insight, and families really appreciate the care he puts into understanding symptoms within a larger context," said Clinical Supervisor Katelyn Turner.

Thanks to the generous support of the Marilyn Moyer Charitable Trust, Children's Center is proud to have a Medical Director on staff. We are thrilled to have Dr. Lam step into this role and can't wait to see what we accomplish together.

Champions of Hope

When you support Children's Center's mission, you become a 'Champion of Hope' for a child in need. Here's what our generous Champions have been up to lately...



Lyle & Carol Beckman pose with a 1966 Plymouth Belvedere at The Brothers Collection. See page 2 for more!

WANT TO SEE MORE PHOTOS?

Find us on  & 

Children's Center Clark County
@childrenscenter_clarkcounty



Champions came together during our annual Toy Drive to make the holidays bright for our clients and their families. Pictured clockwise from top: Supporters from K&M Rebar, Mustang Club, Raymond James, Korey's Joy Drive, MacKay Sposito, Pacific Lifestyle Homes and their gigantic Santa bag haul, Cascadia Montessori, and Rosemere Tavern.



Champions in the Spotlight

GINN GROUP

What do you do? "Ginn Group is a Real Estate Investor and Land Developer whose staff has volunteered many times making Heavy Helpers. Our mission statement is 'We make a difference by creating community'. This extends beyond our office walls and into our community."

Why does children's mental health matter to you? "Children's mental health not only impacts the child, but the family as well. Having a resource like the Children's Center can help a child find joy, coping skills, and therapy to help them succeed. Children are our future, and it is important to help raise awareness and fund programs that supports this need. There is nothing

better than to help make a child and their family's life better."

What moved you to take action and support Children's Center? "As a company, we like to support and volunteer in our local community. In 2021, an employee suggested Children's Center as a volunteer event, and we've been making Heavy Helpers since. Making the Heavy Helpers is not only supporting the Children's Center, but it is also a great team building event for our team. To know a simple Heavy Helper can bring a child comfort and security during a difficult time is very rewarding."



Ginn Group volunteers pose with the Heavy Helpers they made for our clients. These weighted stuffed animals are soothing tool, particularly for kids with sensory issues.

Hope & Healing Podcast

COMING UP ON THE SHOW



EPISODE 6

The Hilarious Author Jenny Lawson and the Value of Openness

In this candid and, at times, very funny interview, Jenny talks about the healing power of being open about her longtime struggles with depression and anxiety.



EPISODE 7

Dr. Courtney Tracy, "The Truth Doctor", Opens Her Door to Social Media

Dr. Courtney Tracy dispenses mental health wisdom and advice on social media to over two million followers across a variety of platforms.



HOW TO LISTEN

You can tune in for free on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and YouTube Music (formerly Google Podcasts) or on our website at: thechildrenscenter.org/podcast.



DONATION WISHLIST:

We need healthy snacks to restock our snack cabinet

It's hard to focus on therapy if your stomach is growling — but each week our snack cabinet is picked bare!

Please help us restock with individually packaged items like:

- protein bars
- peanut butter crackers
- fruit leather
- trail mix
- goldfish crackers
- popcorn

DONATION DROP-OFF

Donation drop-off: Mon–Thurs 8am–7pm

WANT TO SHOP ONLINE?

You can have donations sent to us directly at:

Children's Center
Attn: Jennie Hoheisel
13500 SE 7th Street
Vancouver, WA 98683



CHILDREN'S CENTER
13500 SE 7th Street
Vancouver, WA 98683
t: 360.699.2244, f: 360.699.1900
www.thechildrenscenter.org

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HOPE *unites us*

you're invited
children's center 2025
Benefit Luncheon

Join Children's Center supporters and staff as we come together as a community to stand up for Clark County kids. Enjoy a catered lunch, live entertainment, sweeping views over the Columbia River, and an inspiring keynote address by Dr. Courtney Tracy.

when
Thursday, May 15th 2025
11:15AM – 1:15PM

where
**AC Hotel on the
Vancouver Waterfront**
333 West Columbia Way
Vancouver, WA 98660

r.s.v.p.
Reserve your table or ticket

Scan the code with your phone's camera, or visit:
thechildrenscenter.org/benefit25



Keynote speaker
Dr. Courtney Tracy
aka "The Truth Doctor"

Dr. Courtney Tracy has dedicated her life to understanding and improving the mental health of fellow human beings. As the founder of Truth Doctor Media, she aims to break the stigma of mental health through informative, entertaining, relatable, and inspirational writing, speaking and social media content.