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## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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### **CARES Northwest receives \$5 million gift to help break the cycle of child abuse in Oregon**

PORTLAND, ORE. – CARES Northwest announced today a transformational gift of \$5 million from an anonymous donor to fund significant expansion of its services for abused and neglected children. The gift will expand medical assessments and evaluations, trauma-focused therapy, prevention programs and establish a pediatric child abuse fellowship program.

CARES Northwest is a community-based medical program for the assessment, treatment and prevention of child abuse and one of the oldest and largest child abuse assessment centers in the nation, serving more than 5,000 children annually. Founded in 1987, the program is a collaboration among four of the region's health systems — **Kaiser Permanente, OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Providence Health & Services and Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel.**

A report of child abuse is made every ten seconds in the United States. Over the past 27 years, CARES Northwest has served more than 32,000 children referred for concerns of abuse and has developed a reputation for quality child abuse intervention regionally, nationally and internationally. **CARES Northwest is the only child abuse program serving Multnomah and Washington Counties,** and also serves children throughout Oregon.

"The mission of CARES Northwest is to stop child abuse and neglect. Not slow it down or reduce it. But, to end it. This tremendous gift will make it possible for us to serve hundreds more children in our region, reduce wait times for services, and strengthen prevention efforts," said Kevin Dowling, program manager for CARES Northwest. "And, still, our work will not be done. This gift represents the key role our community has in protecting our children, and we hope it inspires others to join in the effort."

As the first program in Oregon to combine physicians, child interviewers, children's protective services and law enforcement agencies together in a multidisciplinary team, CARES Northwest ensures that children obtain needed professional services in one child-friendly location. "This approach minimizes trauma to the child, helps prevent future abuse and sets them on the road to healing," said Dan Leonhardt, M.D., medical director at CARES Northwest.

To learn more about how you can help support CARES Northwest contact Legacy Health's Office of Philanthropy at 503-415-4700 or visit [www.caresnw.org](http://www.caresnw.org).

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