

Supporting Parents Helps Kids

Since Jumping Mouse opened in 1999, we have known that parents need to be involved in their children's work. A child cannot heal without support from home, so we have always provided support and advocacy for parents, as well. Parenting can be a stressful and challenging task in the best of circumstances. Without the required financial and emotional resources, the challenge is even greater.

Like their children, our parents need a safe place where they can receive help without feeling judged or reproached. At Jumping Mouse, our therapists provide support and education about children's age-appropriate behavior and expected developmental milestones. If necessary, our therapists also meet with the child's teachers, advocate for the child in court, or collaborate with community social services. In addition, we work directly with parents to increase their confidence and parenting skills, supporting them as they address their own experiences and break the cycle of abuse and neglect.

This work with parents has always been on a monthly and on-call basis, but recently many parents have expressed the need for more intense support. In response, we have expanded and formalized our **Parent Education and Support** program.

Angie's Story

This program is designed to help parents such as Angie. Twenty-two-year-old Angie is a single parent of two girls under age 5 who were ordered by the court to receive therapy services at Jumping Mouse. The oldest girl was sexually abused by her father. The youngest suffers from serious physical handicaps that often make it difficult to keep food down. Consequently, she spends significant time in and out of Seattle Children's Hospital.



Parent Clinician Catharine Robinson meeting with a parent.

We work directly with parents to increase their confidence and parenting skills, supporting them as they address their own experiences and break the cycle of abuse and neglect.

Two years ago, Angie divorced the girls' abusive father and got a restraining order against him. The father retaliated by initiating a custody battle, naming Angie as the abuser. As a result, Angie has spent the past two years fighting to keep custody of her daughters.

While the girls are seen at Jumping Mouse, Angie meets with both her children's therapists and the parent clinician to help her address her children's needs. As the custody battle proceeds into its second year, Angie is filled with doubt and fears that her ex-husband's accusations will be found valid in court. Support from Jumping Mouse means that someone will walk with her through the uncertain future until she feels safe again.

Support for Angie means constant availability. When her anxiety and uncertainty are high, she may call her child's therapist several times per week. Additionally, the parent clinician is available to help her build new parenting skills. When Angie becomes too tired to believe her struggle will end, she must have someone who trusts that it will. The therapist serves as a partner, offering a different

Happy Birthday, Jumping Mouse!

More than 150 people joined us at Chetzemoka Park on August 29 to celebrate Jumping Mouse's tenth birthday. Kids and adults enjoyed a magic show, storytelling, food, and balloons. Thank you to all who helped make this event a success!



Friends Lauren and Corinne help set up for the Jumping Mouse birthday party.



Joey Pipia performs magic with young audience members at the Jumping Mouse birthday party.

BIRTHDAY EVENT SUPPORTERS

About Time Clothing
Abracadabra
Anonymous
Valerie Cadwell
Bruce Cowan and friends
Jeff and Nancy Denson
Diva Yarn & Trim
Elevated Ice Cream Co.
Enclume
Finnriver Farm
Lisa Hoffman, LMP
Dan Huntingford
Patrick Jennings
Jan Jones
Jumping Mouse staff,
board, and volunteers

Kitsap Bank
Manza Editorial
Joey Pipia
Port Townsend Food Co-op
Quimper Sound
John Reed
The Rose Theatre
Rotary Club of Port
Townsend
Scribe Typography
Shopgirls
SOS Printing
Sport Townsend
Summer House
T's Restaurant
Uptown Nutrition
Veronica's Hair Studio

Jumping Mouse Children's Center

1809 Sheridan Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368
(360) 379-5109

www.jumpingmouse.org
info@jumpingmouse.org

Jumping Mouse is inspired by a Native American legend of a small creature who dreams of a new way. He journeys into the world beyond the familiar, with compassion and awareness. He grows, discovers his strengths, and transforms into Eagle. Like the myth, our children's center is about offering the tools that will assist each child in meeting the challenges of daily life.

Staff

FOUNDER AND CLINICAL DIRECTOR
Dott Kelly
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MaryAnn Seward
THERAPISTS
Catharine Robinson
Lisa Madelle Bottomley

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Jenny Manza

VOLUNTEER THERAPISTS

Carol Brannan
Anita Fraser
Deb Gruber
Rick Harris
Adam Stone
Llory Wilson

VOLUNTEER WEBMASTER

John English

Board

PRESIDENT
Kristin Becker
VICE PRESIDENT
Christine Ota
TREASURER
Aldryth O'Hara
SECRETARY
Susan Jacob-Humiston
MEMBERS
Chris Pierson
Jessica Rice
Bob Slater

Angie's Story

continued from page 1

perspective, encouraging Angie to believe that things will improve. Together, Angie and the parent clinician navigate social services, talk with attorneys, and collaborate with the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program of Jefferson County.

For Angie, Jumping Mouse is a place where she can be seen and heard rather than being lost in the bureaucracy of social services. Abused as a child and then again by her ex-husband, and homeless for a time, Angie is determined that her children should have a different life—one with a happy and healthy home. With help from Jumping Mouse's **Parent Education and Support** program, and her own courage, intelligence, and compassion, Angie is slowly building a life in which she and her family can thrive.



An image of celebration at the end of therapy. The butterflies represent the child's transformation and are kept safe by the surrounding figures facing the outside world

As of October 2009, Jumping Mouse has served over 300 children and their families.

Our Community Rises to the Challenge

On October 20, Jefferson County's Women Who Care Giving Circle presented Jumping Mouse with a check for \$13,000 for our **Parent Education and Support** program. The grant was presented earlier this year in the form of a challenge: If Jumping Mouse was able to raise the additional \$10,425 necessary for the expansion of this program by the end of 2009, the Women Who Care would give \$13,000. Thanks to the generous response of our community, we met this challenge early!

The Women Who Care Giving Circle was established as Jefferson County Community Foundation's first giving circle. For more information on JCCF and the Women Who Care Giving Circle, go to www.jccfgives.org.

Community supporters also stepped up to match a grant of \$5,000 from the Lucky Seven Foundation. In fact, the community went above and beyond, contributing \$7,449 toward this challenge grant. These funds go directly toward ensuring that children from low-income families can receive therapy services.

Thank you to all of our supporters for caring about children and families in our community. We did it!



Support both UGN and Jumping Mouse

United Good Neighbors supports local people through hard times and has been a longtime supporter of Jumping Mouse. Right now, UGN is raising funds for its 2009 campaign, and you can make a donation that helps both UGN and Jumping Mouse. Go to their website at www.unitedway-wa.org/jefferson and click on "Donate." You can allocate your donation directly to Jumping Mouse.

Seven-year-old 'Jason' was neglected by alcoholic parents. In therapy, he depicts a pirate protecting his cache of gold. The pirate represents Jason's increasing confidence in his ability to safeguard his own identity.

Jumping Mouse Children's Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Donations are accepted directly to JMCC.

Tax ID# 94-3096216

JMCC is a member agency of United Good Neighbors.

Newsletter design donated by Scribe Typography. Editing donated by Manza Editorial. Printing by SOS.



Address Service Requested

1809 Sheridan Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368
(360) 379-5109
www.jumpingmouse.org
info@jumpingmouse.org

Healing through play therapy
jumping mouse
CHILDREN'S CENTER

PRSRST STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 158
Port Townsend, WA
98368