

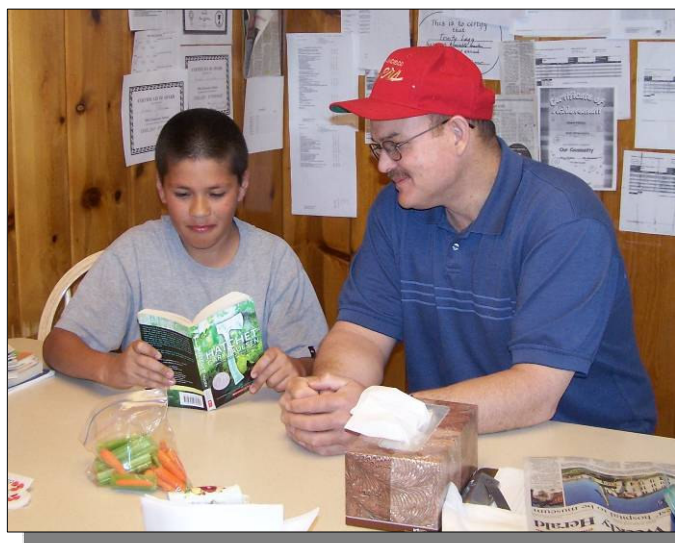
FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN

Changing the world—one child at a time

Friends of the Children of the Klamath Basin, founded in 2000, is part of a nationwide network that has created a unique model in the mentoring world. While other mentoring organizations rely on volunteers to work with our nation's most vulnerable children, ours are highly trained paid professionals committed to maintaining an on-going relationship with each of their eight mentees for twelve years—from the first grade until they graduate from high school.

We select each child based on factors that put him or her at risk for negative outcomes later in life, such as poverty, homelessness, neglect, neglect, abuse, foster care, drug and alcohol abuse, parental incarceration and domestic violence. While vulnerable, our children also demonstrate great resiliency and the potential for success.

The *Friend* spends at least four hours each week, both in and out of school, with each child. A *Friend* can be there to help with homework, cheer on a child at a school event, counsel when a child is working through relationships, or just go bowling. A *Friend* is one person that each child can count on, consistently, for twelve years. We currently have five *Friends* and forty children in the program, ranging from first graders to ninth graders.



Friends of the Children of the Klamath Basin provides 40 youth with long-term mentoring.

Friends of the Children is a privately funded non-profit organization which relies completely on the generosity of individuals and foundations to help us meet the costs of operations. Approximately half our annual budget is raised at our two annual fundraisers: the *Friendraiser* dinner/auction in the spring, and a potato sale in the fall.

We greatly appreciate the support we have received from the **Gordon Elwood Foundation**, which has generously contributed \$5,000 to our local chapter, primarily to support the activities and planning associated with the transition of our children into high school. The grant will allow us to provide necessary training for our *Friends* and Program Director, as well academic support and job/life skills training for our adolescents.

The value of this program is best expressed by the kids themselves. One of our adolescent girls remarked: “The **Friends**’ program has changed my life tremendously and I don’t know where I’d be today if I had never been asked to join in.”

If you would like to know more, please check out our website at www.friendsofthechildren.org, or call Terry Kenfield, Program Director, at (541) 892-1929.