



SARAH CORSON CHILD CARE & LEARNING CENTER

August 2018 Newsletter

Pre-K graduation

Our annual Pre-K graduation will be Friday, August 3 at 9:30 a.m. in our Pre-K classroom at the Center. We will graduate seven five-year-olds, many of whom have been with us since infancy. All are welcome to attend! Please see Jaime or Pre-K Teacher Katy for more details.



Center Closed August 16 and 17

We will be closed to students **Thursday and Friday, August 16-17** for our annual staff in-service training and work party. Our staff will spend two days painting bathrooms, cleaning, organizing and rearranging classrooms, and will also be involved in training.



Riding the train at Medford Railroad Park

Train Park Fun

Thank you to all families and staff who attended our annual Family Day at the Train Park. It was a special time for children and families and staff to get together outside of our school. We look forward to next year's event.



A sweet toddler girl poses on the playground

Center Closed September 3

A reminder— we will be closed Labor Day, Monday, September 3.

—Jaime Snider, director

Cooling off



Chris Hardin, left, shares a laugh as she and Robert Fenwick watch the Holly Street door for guests last Friday

It's 10:30 on a morning that Medford's afternoon high temperature is forecast to reach 103. Robert Fenwick sits in the hallway of our Christian Education wing, arranging the sign-up register. Chris Hardin, a one-time homeless person, relaxes on the stairs leading up to the Great Room.

Brandi Barnes from Rogue Retreat comes in with a sack full of "disaster kits" and digs in her pocket for "today's message." It's a verse from Jeremiah 29 that goes right next to Robert's sign-up register. "When you come looking, you will find me," Brandi says, smiling as she reads the verse.

The Medford Cooling Shelter is ready to open.

Launched July 12 when the first of the 100-degree plus weather arrived, our participation in the Cooling Shelter ministry was approved by Session for "as long as it is needed." Organized by Rogue Retreat, the same folks who created Hope Village and the seasonal Kelly Shelter which welcomes homeless people overnight from January through March, the Cooling Shelter is a partnership of downtown churches.

Rogue Retreat provides the staff, organized by Barnes, along with the water and the food.

Barnes is Rogue Retreat's case manager. She has over a year's experience ministering to the homeless on a one-to-one basis.

Our facilities are used Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. until dusk. On Wednesdays and Saturdays, the Cooling Shelter is hosted by First United Methodist. Mondays and Tuesdays, it's at the Set Free Christian Fellowship building on West Main Street.

"They love it," says Robert, "because it beats being in the heat."

He says on most hot days, folks start showing up about 1 p.m. For the past couple of weeks, the Cooling Shelter has averaged 40 visitors a day. The most who've shown up is 50. Robert greets them and spells out the rules set by our Building and Grounds Committee. Chris and at least one other person are upstairs in the Great Room during operating hours.

As part of the community program to reduce danger of fires from homeless camps along the Bear Creek Greenway, there's a carton of small fire extinguishers. They go to folks who say they are heading out for the Greenway when the shelter closes. Barnes notes there's another deterrent to starting a fire – if they get fed at the shelter "there's no reason" to build a cooking fire that night.

"Last night was good," says Robert, "they had lots of pizza and plenty of water."