

## Family Building Blocks' Calendar of Advocacy Email

---

### January



Happy New Year! Haven't thought of a New Year's resolution yet? We have one that we're sure you can keep! Start your year off strong by simply sharing our Facebook page with 10 of your friends. Take it a step further and include a message about why you support Family Building Blocks!

Did you know that we read 29,340 books to children last year? This is one way we support positive, healthy brain development for children. Spread the word about providing safe environments for learning.

### February



It's so easy to lend a hand. Ask a group of friends, co-workers, or neighbors to help you host a food, clothing, or supplies drive. Your group can decide when and where to host the drive and what you want to collect! Drive ideas include diapers, food, hygiene and safety items, clothes, shoes and socks, books, and educational toys. Have an idea for other drive items? Let us know because we may have a need!

Did you know last year Family Building Blocks received 4,565 diapers through a local drive? We were really grateful as we change roughly 220 diapers a day in our classrooms.

### March



The best solution to child abuse and neglect is to prevent it. Be part of the solution.

Host a table or invite five friends to the Spring Dream Builders Luncheon. Your support will help us maintain the dream of keeping children safe and families together.

RSVP to *[contact information and/or website link]*

Did you know that 49% of Family Building Block's annual budget is made up of private donations? Holding events like the Dream Builders Luncheon is just one of the ways we raise money to support our programs.

## *April*

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Help your community by promoting child well-being in one of the following ways:

- Praise good parenting when you see it
- Help a parent “catch their child being good”
- Donate children’s books about feelings
- Call, email, or write to your legislator about the importance of relief nurseries
- Wear a blue ribbon or tie one to the antenna of your car to raise awareness
- Attend a Child Abuse Prevention event or rally
- Choose your own way to increase awareness of child abuse



Did you know that there were **11,188 child abuse and neglect victims** in Oregon in 2010? Child abuse hinders brain development. The key to prevention is to reach out to parents as early as possible in a child’s life and offer support and education. Family Building Blocks and other relief nurseries foster healthy brain development and effective parenting.

## *May*



Raise a glass and ask five others to join you on May 18<sup>th</sup> at our Uncorked Wine Auction. It’s a one-of-a-kind fundraising event that incorporates fine wine, gourmet food, good friends, and great auction items. It’s a “must attend” event that goes well with company. Cheers!

Did you know this will be the sixth year that Family Building Blocks has held Uncorked? Each year, hundreds of attendees raise their paddles in support of our therapeutic classrooms, home visitations, and parenting classes.

## *June*



Roll up your sleeves and organize a work crew. It’s that time of year where bushes need trimming, weeds need pulling, classrooms need organizing, and buses need washing. Our needs often vary, so grab a group of friends and volunteer for an afternoon!

Did you know volunteers donate more than 2,000 hours a month at Family Building Blocks? Volunteers are the heart of our programs, and we rely on them to continually serve our community.

## July



If you've never been to the Riverfront Family Fest, then you don't know what you've been missing! Get ready to enjoy interactive, hands-on activities while learning about health and safety from 40+ local businesses and vendors.

Ask 10 people to join you on the first Saturday in August!  
<http://familybuildingblocks.org/riverfrontfamilyfest/index.html>

Did you know Riverfront Family Fest draws over 1,000 people each year? It allows families to engage with one another in a free, safe environment while connecting with community resources and information.

## August



Lend a hand and encourage others to lend theirs too! Donate an item off of our wish list to support children and families in your community.

### WISH LIST

- Non-perishable, high protein foods
- Children's shoes and sandals (new or gently used)
- New children's socks and underwear
- Children's sunscreen
- English & Spanish board books
- Bus passes
- \$20 grocery store gift cards
- Pre-paid gas cards

Did you know Family Building Blocks made 3,805 home visits last year? While home visitors help parents who experience challenges, they also distribute donated items to those who need them most.

## September



Share Family Building Blocks' dream with your network. Invite us to speak at one of your groups, e.g. Rotary, a church group, Lions Club, Bible study, MOMS club, Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce, and more. Share our work with others and show them why you are a supporter.

Did you know Family Building Blocks served 858 children last year? Speaking to community members is one way we inform the public about our services and how we help to strengthen families. Keeping children safe and families together is an investment in the future of our community.

## **October**



While the leaves are falling, we're raising funds. Make a difference by hosting a table or inviting five friends to the Dream Builders Luncheon. Together we can lift up families in our community and prevent child abuse and neglect.

RSVP to *[contact information and/or website link]*

Did you know investing in prevention saves money and lives? The rate of children arrested for serious crimes in adolescence *decreases* from 23.8% to 3.7% when an early childhood program like ours intervenes (Childhaven Study).

## **November**



Making your holiday shopping list? Don't forget about Reruns for Kids! Tell 10 friends when they shop Reruns they are buying for two. Every dollar they spend on their family directly supports child abuse prevention services for another family. Reruns has name brand clothing, quality furnishings, and new and hand-made specialty items. All proceeds from the store are used to help prevent child abuse in our community!

Did you know purchases at Reruns makes up almost 5% of revenue needed to run Family Building Blocks programs each year? These purchases help to offset the cost of serving children and families throughout our community.

## **December**



Happy Holidays! Spread a little holiday cheer by adopting a family or hanging Christmas tags. Family Building Block's Hope for the Holidays allows the delivery of food boxes, books, coats, heat vouchers, toys, and more to families. For most, these gifts are the only ones they receive during the holiday season.

Did you know Family Building Blocks supporters provided gifts to 315 children last holiday season? Each child received a shirt, pants, socks, shoes, a book, toy, and gift card! Donations were provided from 180 businesses/individuals totaling \$8,495 in gift cards and \$9,400 in financial donations!