

**MAAD**

MAAD is a non-profit organization that works to improve the lives of children in the community.

**Come to the First Annual "Jump Into the Holidays" Fall and Craft Market**

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 28, 2006

**WHERE:** Maranath Hotel  
1234 E. 2nd Avenue, Clatskanie, OR  
(70000 Avenue Fall or November  
Call and to Clatskanie Presenters)

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Admission is FREE

Please donate 2 non-perishable food items for the Oregon Food Bank.

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# 'How Are the Children?'

Oregon Receives a 'D+' in Child Well-Being

As we note in our feature on the "magic years" (page 12), Portland Mayor Tom Potter begins city council meetings with the traditional African Maasai greeting: "How are the children?" According to Children First for Oregon's latest "Report Card on the Status of Children," the answer would have to be, "Not very well at all."

Children First, a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy group, gave the state a grade of "D+" in overall child well-being in its 2006 Report Card, the same grade it received in 2004 (2005's grade was a slightly improved "C-"). Despite a jump in the Family Financial Stability category - from an "F" to a "C" - downward trends in several areas resulted in the state's mediocre score. In particular, the grade in Early Care & Education slumped from a "B" in 2005 to a "D-" this year.

According to Children First, political and public will are needed to move the state in a positive direction. "Every candidate running for office should look at this report card and ask themselves what they can do to get us to an 'A' grade," says Robin Christian, executive director of Children First.

"If your children continued to bring home C's and D's on their report cards, wouldn't you do something?" Christian asks. She adds that "The solutions aren't the problem. What we lack is the courage to act."



## How Oregon Can Earn an "A"

Children First for Oregon recommends these five steps to move Oregon toward an "A" grade in child well-being:

- 1. Protect Our Investments:** Defeat Measures 41 and 48 at the ballot in November.
- 2. Stabilize State Revenue:** Convert the corporate kicker tax refund into a "rainy day" fund.
- 3. Increase Access to Health Care:** Enroll all children currently eligible for the Oregon Health Plan (approximately 67,000 of the 117,000 uninsured children).
- 4. Improve Outcomes for Abused and Neglected Children:** Increase supports to foster families, including relatives, and expand the availability of proven substance abuse prevention and treatment programs.
- 5. Invest in Early Childhood:** Fully fund Head Start/Oregon Pre-kindergarten and strengthen the state's child care subsidy program for working families.

**Summary of Oregon's 2006 Report Card**

Overall Grade:	D+
Family Financial Stability	C
Health	D+
Early Care and Education	D-
Youth Development and Education	C
Child Welfare	D

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