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## Program Description:

The concept of a network of social service agencies partnering closely to support disadvantaged families began in Deschutes County in 1993. Out of the initial conversation and planning came the Family Access Network (FAN). FAN is unique to Central Oregon in two ways. First, FAN has created and maintains a network of health and social service providers, schools, businesses, community organizations and individuals who collaborate to ensure children receive the services they need most. Second, FAN provides advocates in all throughout Central Oregon including Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties. FAN advocates are hired by the schools as service brokers who link children and families to critical social supports in the community. Working through one dedicated advocate, a child or parent is referred for dental work, job opportunities, clothing, rent assistance, childcare support, health insurance, and more. Since its inception, FAN has proven itself to be an extremely successful program and model.

Many families in our communities struggle to make it from day to day. Inadequate housing, hunger, health and mental health problems and unemployment all contribute to an ongoing cycle of poverty. FAN connects families with what they need to move past road blocks so that their children can stay in school and benefit from the advantages of a good education. FAN's comprehensive network of services available in Central Oregon makes it extremely effective. **FAN advocates improve the lives of nearly 8,000 children and family members in our community each year.**

Since inception FAN has had a Steering Committee to help guide the program, ensure strong partnerships in the community, and strengthen services to disadvantaged families. The FAN Steering Committee is made up of representatives from 15-20 local agencies including NeighborImpact, Saving Grace, Dept. of Human Services, Deschutes County Health, Mental Health, and Juvenile Departments, Bend Metro Parks and Recreation, Bethlehem Inn, the COPY program, Housing Works, Jericho Road, High Desert ESD, local school districts and more.

In 2006, the FAN Foundation, a 501(c)(3), was incorporated with the goal of supporting the long-term fiscal stability of FAN and increasing community awareness of the program. The FAN Foundation Board cultivates relationships, develops resources and implements initiatives to strengthen the sustainability of FAN. The FAN Foundation has developed a funding model that will increase the long-term sustainability of FAN services to our community. The FAN Foundation conducts annual fundraising events, an annual giving campaign, secures corporate sponsorship, and conducts special events during the year. The expansion of FAN to include the FAN Foundation has ultimately allowed the organization to increase the number of disadvantaged children served through FAN advocates.

**Vision: A community where children flourish and families thrive.**

**Mission: To offer assistance, possibility and hope to Central Oregon families in need by connecting them with crucial resources that will help children flourish in school and in life.**

*familyaccessnetwork.org*  
2125 NE Daggett Ln  
Bend, OR 97701  
541-693-5675