

NWFS Capital Campaign Fundraising Dinner a great success!

NWFS is one step closer to building healthy and happy futures for Oregon youth. On April 22, approximately 350 people gathered at the DoubleTree Hotel (Lloyd Center) to celebrate and support the current and future work of NWFS. The evening's program included folk and classical music by John Luke Peck and Tanner Cundy, a keynote address by Dr. William Toffler, the Professor and Director of Predoctoral Education Department of Family Medicine, OHSU, and performances by the NWFS youth drama troupe.



Keynote Speaker Dr. William Toffler with Executive Director Rose Fuller and Mike Fuller

After enjoying a great meal and wine donated by local vineyards, guests were welcomed, awarded door prizes, and treated to a short presentation showing what the work of NWFS means to students, teachers, parents, and community leaders. Dr. Toffler then shared his own history with NWFS, regaling the guests with stories, both poignant and humorous, from his own family's involvement in FACTS family workshops, and from his extensive medical practice.

Perhaps the most powerful piece of the night came toward the dinner's conclusion, when 10 teen and young adult volunteers performed short skits taken from NWFS' abstinence dramas. The audience laughed, cheered and clapped as the actors on stage made their way through typical high school experiences, and showed that abstinence truly is a choice worth making. After bowing to great applause, the troupe members then introduced themselves and shared with the dinner guests their own personal reasons for choosing to remain abstinent. As the night wrapped up, guests mingled and chatted, enjoying old friendships and making new connections. From feedback that night and since, it is apparent that a great time was had by all.



Our youth drama members illustrated some of the highs and lows of being a teen for our dinner guests

The dinner overall served to convey the great vision of Northwest Family Services. Both long-time and first-time supporters of the work of NWFS were impressed by the scale of outreach in Oregon. Over the past fifteen years, NWFS has seen the breadth and depth of its services expand, and today over 30,000 youth statewide annually hear the message of abstinence and positive choices. We hope that in 5 years that number may double, thanks to the generous support of all the community members who share our vision. That hope is being realized, as the word spreads both of our service to others and our need for a new office and service center.

Thanks to the generosity of those present on April 22, we are now \$50,000 closer to our goal of close to \$1,000,000 needed to build a new center in Southeast Portland. All of the talent, technical help, and materials for the dinner were donated by benefactors and community members, so every dollar donated at the dinner has gone directly towards that goal. What a wonderful first event!