

FACT SHEET

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

FREE TO GROW

Umatilla-Morrow Head Start, Inc. was one of 18 Head Start programs in the Nation in June 2001 to be funded for Free to Grow through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant process. This is a four year substance abuse prevention grant with the first year capacity building. UMCHS was one of 15 Head Start programs to be successful during the capacity building year and to be funded for the three years of implementation.

Free to Grow strives to strengthen families and to strengthen the communities in which they live. Free to Grow is grassroots prevention. Families and neighbors are assisted to develop their family and community leadership skills. Families work together to decide what is best for their neighborhood, and how to make change happen. Working with Free to Grow community partners, individuals and families connect with each other, and through their connections they enhance their lives and the lives of children and families across the Hermiston area.

With Free to Grow neighbors work together to strengthen families and communities, and keep them Free of Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

Through this grant opportunity UMCHS has built some new strong partnerships and strengthened others. Community partners for Free to Grow include: Housing Authority of Umatilla County, Hermiston School District, Hermiston Police Department, United First Methodist Church, Umatilla County Department of Human Services, Umatilla County Commission on Children and Families, DHS - Services for Children and Families and DHS - Services to Senior and People with Disabilities.

Free to Grow funding partners include: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation, US Department of Justice, and Umatilla County Commission on Children & Families,