FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Giving Circle Awards Challenge Grant to Jumping Mouse

Port Townsend, Washington August 17, 2009 – Jumping Mouse Children's Center is $13,000 closer to instituting an intensive parent education and support program thanks to Women Who Care Giving Circle a program of the Jefferson County Community Foundation. The giving circle, the first in Jefferson County, has chosen Jumping Mouse to receive their 2009 grant award if they are able to raise the additional $8000 in funds required to institute the *Parent Education and Support Program.*

"We selected to fund this program because Women Who Care Giving Circle is focused on assisting nonprofit organizations to bring systemic and sustainable change in our community" states giving circle member Darlene Durfee. "The purpose of the Parent Education and Support Program is to bring about lasting, positive change in the families of the communities most troubled kids. They have worked to develop evaluation and measurement tools to determine the effectiveness of the program, which is critical to long term success."

Jumping Mouse Children's Center provides therapy for children ages 3 to 12 who have experienced severe trauma from neglect, abuse, loss, or as a witness to domestic violence. "From our 10 years in working with children, we know that a child cannot heal without support from home." states Mary Ann Seward, Executive Director. "Our Parent Education & Support program helps parents in building the emotional and physical resources to care for and understand their child." The term parent can include foster parents, grandparents, stepparents, or other primary caregivers of a vulnerable child. This comprehensive approach not only benefits the child receiving therapy services, but the entire family.

"After making site visits to Jumping Mouse Children's Center and thoroughly evaluating their grant request, it was apparent to our giving circle members that working with families in an intensive education program is inherit to the health and wellbeing of high risk children in therapy," says Teri McComas. "We hope that others in the community will also be inspired to see this program implemented. Donations, large and small are welcomed." Donations can be made directly to Jumping Mouse Children's Center, 1809 Sheridan Street. For more information about the program, visit their website at www.jumpingmouse.org/

The Women Who Care Giving Circle was established by Jefferson County Community Foundation (JCCF) as their first giving circle. JCCF was founded in 2006 as a vehicle for promoting and increasing responsible and effective ways of investing in our community. Created by and for the people of Jefferson County, JCCF's goal is to provide leadership, education, and support to strengthen local non-profit organizations, as well as provide tax efficient investment opportunities for our citizens. Please go to www.jccfgives.org or call

Kris Mayer 379-3667 for more information on JCCF and Women Who Care Giving Circle.

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