



A GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY was held Sept. 13 for the new Clark College Early Learning Center. Back row, left to right: Clark College President Robert K. Knight, Washington State Senator Craig Pridemore, Clark College Board of Trustees Chair Jack Burkman, Clark College Foundation Board of Directors member Jan Oliva, Foundation Board of Directors Chair Keith Koplán, Clark College supporter Kitty Welsh, Clark's mascot Oswald and Clark College Foundation President/CEO Lisa Gibert.

Groundbreaking ceremony held for Clark College Early Learning Center

Anonymous donor donates \$1.1 million for facility

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Sept. 13 for Phase I of the new Clark College Early Learning Center.

The state of Washington provided \$1 million in matching funds for the Early Learning Center and during the groundbreaking ceremony, it was announced that an anonymous donor had provided \$1.1 million for the new facility. Prior to the donation, \$100,000 had been raised.

Phase I of the project is expected to cost about \$2 million and is slated to be finished in the summer of 2011. The indoor area of Phase I will contain two flexible classroom spaces, a large multi-purpose room, kitchen and resource center. The multi-purpose room will contain a double-sided fireplace and stage, a kitchen pass-

through counter and moveable furniture.

The first phase of the project also includes an outdoor play environment with a sensory herb garden, live willow hut, rock spiral area for storytelling, bubbling creek bed with hand pump and a tiered hill for climbing and playtime.

LSW Architects, based in Vancouver, designed the 5,000 square foot project, which is being built by JWC Construction.

Phase II of the project, which is expected to cost about \$4 million, is still in planning stages in terms of design and funding. The project is expected to include extensive remodeling of the two remaining buildings in the Children and Family Servic-

es complex. In the indoor area, two pods will each contain two classrooms that share bathroom facilities and an art studio.

There will also be classrooms for adult students and office space for staff, as well as a centralized waiting/reception area, industrial kitchen and laundry room. The outdoor area will incorporate tree houses, large rocks and downed logs in an enchanted forest to encourage climbing and experiential play, a grass maze with modular parts, a garden and child-directed research areas.

Phase I and Phase II will be linked into a single facility. Clark College and the Clark College Foundation are seeking at least \$3.8 million more for Phase II of the project.