# maryhurst Embrace

## Client Profile:

- Male or Female
- Age 0 to 21, emphasis on serving sibling groups and adolescents
- Unable to receive parental care in their own homes
- Able to participate in family and community life without danger to self or others
- At risk for failure or have failed in traditional foster care
- Not in need of medical detoxification

- Youth transitioning from group/institutional care, many from other Maryhurst programs
- Displays emotional and/or behavioral issues that require special family training to support in a home setting
- Placement is not available with extended family or other community resources

## The Treatment:

**Embrace Family Model**

The Maryhurst Embrace Family Model (modeled after the Mockingbird Family Model) was developed and implemented in South and West Jefferson County as an innovative approach to overcoming several shortcomings of the current foster care system, including:
- Children enduring multiple placements
- Children being placed in culturally irrelevant environments
- Siblings being placed in separate homes, and
- Lack of support for foster parents/caregivers who often are caring for children with challenging behavioral and emotional disorders.

Under Maryhurst's model, foster families can seek support and knowledge-sharing from an experienced home, known as "The Hub." The Hub Home provides respite care (i.e., temporarily caring for another home's foster children), support, training, resources and family-focused social activities to build a micro-community of support among the foster families. Respite care is available on both a planned basis and as needed for emergency situations.

**Goals**
- Maintain and strengthen cultural, familial and neighborhood connections while children are in out-of-home placements and after they are reunited.
- Provide children with a family-focused community that serves as a support network of "extended family."
- Facilitate healthy interaction between children and biological family members as appropriate.
- Promote placement stability and permanency.