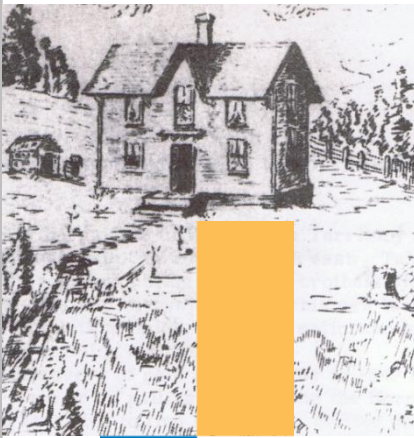


“The essential thing is to love the children  
**and understand them.”**”



## MOTHER OLLIE RYTHER: RYTHER'S LEGACY

Since 1885 the name Ryther has identified a place where children in crisis and conflict can find safety, compassion, loving care and guidance. Over 125 years ago, “Mother” Ollie Ryther opened her heart and her home to her dying neighbor’s four children. She raised them alongside her own children in a log cabin built by her missionary husband, Noble. She truly had a “Mother Heart.”

In 1887, *Ryther Child Home* moved to 813 Alder Street, which later became the *City Mission Foundling Home*. In 1905, she moved to Denny Way and, in 1920, the home moved to Stone Way. Before her passing in 1934 after raising 3,000 children, Mother Ryther said, “The essential thing is to love the children and understand them.” She provided them with education, job skills and a safe, caring home.

Ryther closed for a year, but was reopened in 1935 by the Community Fund (precursor to United Way) in cooperation with the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Wash. as *Ryther Child Center*, a residential treatment center for “emotionally disturbed children.” Lillian H. Johnson was employed as the new executive director, a board was created, a constitution was adopted, a budget defined and a staff employed. In 1957, Ryther’s ten-acre, tree-shaded campus in North Seattle was acquired, where the agency is located today.

Mother Ryther’s sentiments still guide our work today and have led us to become one of the region’s most enduring nonprofit organizations. As a thought-leader in our field, we evolved beyond the traditional orphanage model to serve children and adolescents referred by parents, physicians, state agencies, courts and schools. We have expanded our services to include solutions for families with children who have challenges stemming from trauma, mental illness, substance abuse, Autism Spectrum Disorders or adjustment issues with school, peers or parents.

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**Ryther**  
Healthy Children. Stronger Families.