

A PRODUCT OF THE COLUMBIAN'S ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Connecting Community

THE GIVING GUIDE



The Columbian

Connecting Community

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Contact
CommunityPartnerships@columbian.com
for additional information.



Read past sections you
may have missed at
columbian.com/special-sections/

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'Connecting Community' has become the place to tell your story! This last year we had the opportunity to hear from over 25 of our nonprofit neighbors with topics on volunteerism, organization needs and who they support and why people get involved. Today's publication invites people to consider donating, either as part of Giving Tuesday, or anytime at the end of the year to help groups meet their end of year needs and set them up to start the new year in continued service to others. The feedback I hear again and again is one of gratitude. Our community has generous hearts, and every donation is stretched to help even more people than seems possible.

My hope for 2024 is that more of our local partners will be able to tell their story to the community and be able to make more connections. Whether you volunteer your time, give of your resources, or show support in other ways, you make our community stronger. And if you are part of a nonprofit and reading this – please do reach out to me. I would love to collaborate with you to share your story next year.

*Happy Holidays,
Teresa Davis*

communitypartnerships@columbian.com | 360-735-4572

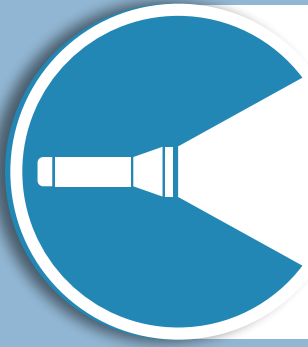


GI♥INGTUESDAY

GivingTuesday began on the east coast in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. It was based on the concept that we all have gifts and talents to give, and the belief that generosity is necessary for sustaining communities. Each generous action is a chance to connect, serve, and uplift one another. GivingTuesday is now a global movement that inspires people to give, collaborate efforts, and celebrate generosity in their local communities. On November 28, 2023, you can give back to your local community by giving support to your favorite charitable causes. There are many ways to celebrate this day whether by donating your funds or your time.

- Fundraise dollars or donations for your favorite organization.
- Find ways to collaborate with others to support your favorite cause.
- Host a holiday food drive for those less fortunate in your community, or fill a gap in much needed human services, or solve any immediate need you see in your community.
- Use the day to rally new volunteers or mobilize your community to give their voice to your cause – whether that involves signing a pledge, advocating for policy change, or simply getting the word out about your cause.

More information at www.givingtuesday.org



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

**WORKING TO PROTECT AND SUSTAIN
THE FORESTS, STREAMS,
WILDLIFE, & COMMUNITIES
IN THE HEART OF THE CASCADES
THROUGH CONSERVATION,
EDUCATION, & ADVOCACY.**



WWW.CASCADEFOREST.ORG

DONATE HERE



First 50 donors on GivingTuesday get \$1 off a drink at Dandelion Teahouse & Apothecary

Southwest Washington is home to lush forests, mighty rivers, abundant wildlife, and iconic mountain peaks, but the landscapes we treasure are facing dire threats from unsustainable development and a warming climate. That is why the Cascade Forest Conservancy's work is more important than ever.

The Cascade Forest Conservancy (CFC) is a Vancouver-based nonprofit organization that protects and restores forests, rivers, wildlife, and communities in the heart of the Cascades through conservation, education, and advocacy.

SPEAKING OUT FOR FORESTS

Since 1985, CFC has protected thousands of acres of forests and miles of rivers throughout the Gifford Pinchot National Forests and the surrounding region. They continue to act as protectors of mature, old-growth, and streamside forests by engaging in timber sale negotiations and by participating in the two forest collaboratives they co-founded, which guide land management decisions by finding common ground among conservationists, government agencies, Tribes, the timber industry, and rural community leaders.

BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

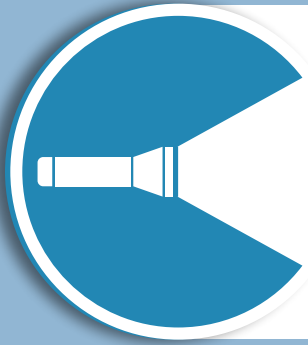
To ensure that life in the southern Washington Cascades thrives in an uncertain future, CFC is building climate resilient ecosystems. They are bringing beavers back to the forests to fight floods and droughts, and create important habitats for fish, birds, insects, and amphibians. They work to restore streams for salmon, combat the spread of invasive species, help forests recover from wildfires, monitor threatened wildlife species, and more! With the help of volunteers, partners, and supporters, CFC is making a difference that will benefit our region for generations to come.

INSPIRING COMMUNITIES

Cascade Forest Conservancy was founded by a group of volunteers who took it upon themselves to organize for the protection of forests in southwest Washington. Today, grassroots community action is still CFC's greatest strength in the fight to safeguard places we love. CFC empowers communities to take action against threats to our region. They founded the Green River Valley Alliance to protect areas bordering Mount St. Helens from the threat of open-pit mining. They help supporters use their voices to make a difference in environmental policy decisions impacting our region, and every year, they bring hundreds of volunteers into the field to learn about and make a difference for ecosystems across the forest.

This holiday season, give a gift to future generations by supporting Cascade Forest Conservancy. As thanks, Dandelion Teahouse & Apothecary of Vancouver, WA is offering \$1 off a drink to the first 50 people who support CFC on Giving Tuesday!

Learn more and get involved at www.cascadeforest.org



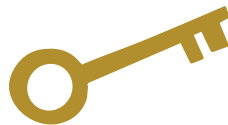
NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

Unlock the Possibilities

Open doors for students by donating to the General Scholarship Fund.



“TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SURPRISINGLY GET SOMETHING BECAUSE SOMEONE SAW VALUE, IT’S REINVIGORATING ME TO NOT GIVE UP.”

Kelly Kelly

2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
SOUTHWEST
WASHINGTON



Learn More at cfsww.org

General Scholarship Fund Unlocks Possibilities for Local Students

November is National Scholarship Month, a time to reflect on the incredible impact scholarships have on students' lives. While the awareness month is national in scope, the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington is focused on supporting local students through its scholarship program.

This year – thanks to the vision and generosity of local donors – its scholarship program logged a record year, awarding \$1.1 million in scholarships to 381 local students.

The organization's General Scholarship Fund was a significant contributor to this growth. This fund offers a second-chance opportunity for determined students who narrowly miss other awards. Its criteria balance academic performance alongside the personal hurdles students overcome, such as financial instability, cultural barriers, disabilities and more. This year, it provided 28 awards that empowered students like Kelly Kelly.

After thirty years of chasing a degree, Kelly was beginning to question her path. Her educational journey has been interrupted by numerous family emergencies. These difficulties come up when you volunteer to raise nearly 30 children – including six nieces and nephews currently in her care. For her, it's worth fostering unconditional love.

Attending college as a working parent is especially difficult, but Kelly managed to finish her junior year pursuing dual degrees and earning multiple honors. She doesn't qualify for traditional financial aid, so scholarships are her only option outside of accruing debt. The funds are very appreciated, but her award is also a reminder that her hard work is paying off.

Kelly's next goal is to become a project manager in the tech field. She hopes this career can provide enough flexibility to continue providing her kids with consistent care and support, while also showing them how important it is to never give up on your dreams.

Like Kelly, every General Scholarship recipient is succeeding against difficult odds. Their awards provide extra momentum to help them achieve their postsecondary goals. Through December, the Community Foundation is working to make 40 more scholarships available in 2024. To do so, they are inviting the community to contribute to this transformative effort during Giving Tuesday and throughout December.

You can donate at www.cfsww.org and watch video stories like Kelly's to see the difference these scholarships are making in students' lives. Simply put, the General Scholarship Fund opens doors for local students. It's an impactful way to give, and the perfect gift to celebrate National Scholarship Month.

85 YEARS OF SERVICE – AND NEED GREATER THAN EVER

St. Vincent de Paul serves individuals, families with children, the homeless and veterans in need of food, clothing, hygiene and shelter. They are an Emergency Food organization and provide food to those in need.

The majority of funding for St. Vincent de Paul is from local donors, parishes, and local organizations who support their work. Over \$750,000 (83% of donations) was received from local donors in Fiscal Year 2023. “We could not accomplish our work without these generous donations,” says Carolyn Palmer, Executive Director.

In Fiscal Year 2023, St. Vincent de Paul provided food for 23,021 families serving 73,254 people. Rental assistance was provided to 272 families. A total of 71,200 diapers were provided to 1,507 families. During the holidays, over 400 Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes were provided to families. In cooperation with local parishes, Seton High School, and local organizations St. Vincent de Paul distributed over 4,000 toys to 415 families and 1,186 children.

For the upcoming holidays St. Vincent de Paul will be preparing over 400 Thanksgiving food boxes and over 400 Christmas food boxes. Clients will also be able to shop in the self-serve food line to choose food for the holidays.

“In the clothing area we are working to provide coats and winter wear as quickly as



we receive donations,” said Carolyn Palmer.

St. Vincent de Paul is also working closely with supporting parishes and Seton High School to provide toys and gifts to over 350 families. A Drive-up toy drive will be held at St. Joseph’s Marian Hall on Wednesday, December 13 from 10am – 5pm. Seton High School will host the distribution event to provide holiday happiness to their clients.

The list of donations that St. Vincent de Paul would like to receive for their clients includes coats, gloves, toys/gifts for children of all ages, winter clothes for all ages (particularly for men), gift cards, food, hygiene products, and monetary donations.

In October, St. Vincent de Paul Vancouver celebrated 85 years of service to those in need in the Vancouver area. From its start



at St. James in downtown Vancouver to the current location on Stapleton Road, the need is greater than ever. This organization serves approximately 130-150 families per day for food and 30-50 families per day for clothing and hygiene products. Also, they say rental assistance demand is almost 10 times higher than the ability to assist clients.

Vancouver St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference

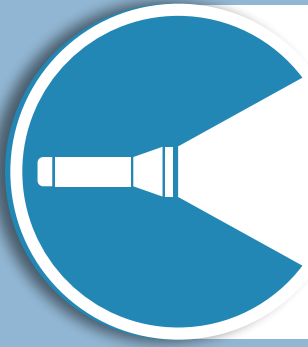
CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2023 10AM-1PM & 3-5PM

Drive Through Drop-Off

NEW Unwrapped Toys or Gift Certificates at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Vancouver

QUESTIONS? 360-694-5388
svdpvancouverusa.org



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

Your gift provides a safe home and a fresh start



Gerri and Jamie



councilforthehomeless.org

councilforthehomeless.org/donate-online

Or mail to:

Council for the Homeless
2500 Main Street, Vancouver, WA 98660



JOIN GERI AND HELP SOMEONE FIND A HOME TODAY

We want to introduce you to someone who inspires us to do all we can to end the suffering that comes from living without a home. That someone is Geri. Geri went from her own desperate situation to gaining stability. Then she began helping others end their homelessness. We can all model Geri's determination to solve homelessness on an individual and then community level.

Geri was working full time and was engaged to be married to her sweetheart, Daryl. They dreamed of their future together. Sadly, Daryl passed away suddenly, and Geri encountered a series of losses, including their home. After living in her van and then an encampment, Geri found the strength to work with Council for the Homeless to do what she needed to do to move forward into a home of her own.

Gerri is helping others find housing

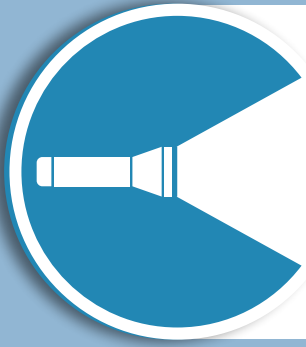
Geri is determined to help other people end their homelessness. "I tell them that they matter, and they are stronger than they think they are," she shares. "When you are made to feel like you don't belong in society, it is very hard to try and be a part of it again."

Geri met Jamie as Geri was moving out of the encampment and Jamie was moving in. They stayed in touch and Geri encouraged and helped Jamie contact Council for the Homeless, where she was placed into a housing program that will enable her to move out of her car and into an apartment. Jamie says, "When people show they care about you as a person, it makes a big difference."

We can all follow Gerri's example

There are many Geris and Jamies in Clark County currently without the safety and foundation of a home. Join Geri in helping someone find a home today. Your gift will provide effective and supportive assistance for people like Geri and Jamie. Your gift supports the costs associated with finding and securing an apartment and accessing healthcare, employment resources, and more. It also powers our team to walk alongside people during their darkest time with compassion, empathy, and solutions to their homelessness. This cannot happen without financial support from people like you.

When people have a home and support, they win, and the entire community wins with them. Your compassion and support will change a life today.



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



CHANGING LIVES ONE JOB AT A TIME

**EMPOWER.
OVERCOME.
THRIVE.**

ASK HOW YOU CAN HELP

3210 NE 52nd St., Vancouver, WA 98663

360-696-8417

www.partnersincareers.org

sharon@swwpic.org

Who We Are

Partners In Careers (PIC) is a nonprofit organization that strives to create self-sufficiency through specialized job training and employment services. This is accomplished by helping people break through barriers to employment, which often means addressing generational poverty.

PIC serves low-income parents who want to create stability for themselves and their children, refugees and immigrants looking for a new life in the United States, homeless veterans wanting to reintegrate into civilian life with safe and stable housing and meaningful employment, unemployed and underemployed individuals who are seeking living wage jobs; and young people aged 16-21 years of age struggling to graduate high school or receive their GED in order to build a better future.

PIC's work is centered on providing equitable services to all who seek financial stability through employment. PIC connects job seekers to workforce skills and jobs in partnership with local businesses and community members focused on building a strong, healthy and inclusive community.

Success Stories

Before PIC, I had been a stay home mom for about 8 years. Suddenly I found myself alone as a single mom dealing with addiction issues. I ended up losing my kids, but I went through treatment, did all the right things and got my kids back in 4 months. It was time to start supporting my family on my own again and I was referred to Partners in Careers (PIC).

The PIC program gave me the opportunity to work at Restored and Revived; a small non-profit who is part of the recovery community. This was an amazing opportunity for me to brush up on my admin skills as well as learn new skills which lead to permanent employment.

Thank you, PIC for the opportunity in growing my life for my family.

I become immigrated to USA from Afghanistan with my husband and two children in October 2021 when the Taliban attacked my country and women are no allowed to go to school and work. I had lost my country, job, house, and I was very worried about my future and my children's future. I was afraid to have contact with people because I did not know their culture, their people, or their language.

One day my friend took me to PIC to prepare my resume and cover letter. The staff at PIC changed my mind as they worked with me to learn and get back on my feet. I had completely lost my self-confidence, but they believed in me and invited me for an interview. After two days I received a job offer and that day I cried and I laughed, because I did not believe I could start again.

I can say that my self-confidence is back. I have a job, got a driver's license and I am on my own feet. Thank you, PIC, for changing my life and giving positive points in my life. Now I am happy.

THE GIFT OF GIVING

How Seniors Are Giving Back During the Holidays

The holiday season, a time synonymous with giving, presents numerous opportunities for seniors to volunteer their time and skills. Their contributions not only enrich the community but can also enhance their own sense of purpose and fulfillment.

A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE

With a lifetime of skills and knowledge, seniors have much to offer. They bring to volunteer roles a wealth of experience, a deep well of wisdom, and a unique perspective shaped by years of lived experiences.

The opportunities for seniors to volunteer during the holidays are diverse. They range from organizing toy drives, preparing meals at community kitchens, and wrapping gifts for underprivileged children to singing in local holiday choirs or hand-knitting warm clothing for those in need.

BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering provides seniors with several benefits. It offers social interaction, which can combat feelings of isolation. It can provide a sense of purpose and accomplishment, boosting self-esteem. The act of giving back can foster feelings of happiness and fulfillment, enhancing overall wellbeing.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Physical limitations or health issues might pose challenges for some seniors wanting to volunteer.

However, many opportunities don't require strenuous activity and organizations often have roles that can accommodate various levels of mobility and stamina. Additionally, virtual volunteering options have expanded, enabling seniors to contribute from the comfort of their homes.

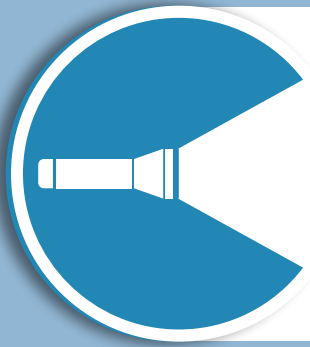
MAKING AN IMPACT

The impact of senior volunteers during the holiday season is substantial. They not only support organizations in meeting increased demands but also set a powerful example of generosity and community spirit for younger generations.

Seniors volunteering during the holidays embody the true spirit of the season, the spirit of giving. As they contribute their time, skills and energy to help others, they inspire a sense of community and mutual support that strengthens holiday celebrations.

-Green Shoot Media





NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



EOCF made my kids
feel confident
and valued.

Nakia, Mom of Three
Program Parent & EOCF Accounting Manager

EOCFWA.org



K-12 Readiness with EOCF Introducing the Next Generation

When you think of pre-kindergarten, what do you think of? Is it behavioral assessments to develop customized curriculum? What about on-site, multilingual interpreters, or guided homebased learning projects?

Educational Opportunities for Children & Families (EOCF) thinks of pre-kindergarten as the foundation for growth. Between the culturally inclusive curriculum to their balanced nutrition, to the ongoing development of social-emotional skills, program children receive comprehensive and holistic care that exceeds the expectations of typical preschool programs.

Legacy of Change

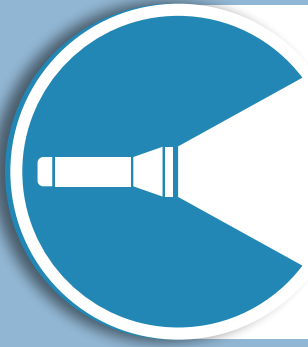
Since 1967, EOCF has been committed to disrupting the cycle of generational poverty by providing equitable access to childcare, early learning programs, and family resources for those furthest from opportunity. Each year, EOCF supports thousands of children and families across Clark County, Cowlitz County, and Pacific County, throughout 40 classrooms inside 30 learning centers, along with homebased learning environments for various program families.

From prenatal support to family unit goal setting, even opportunities to continue education and career development through Parent University, EOCF's program families receive the child-focused support they need, as well as the resources necessary to provide for their entire household's health and well-being.

Supporting the Future

As a nonprofit, EOCF's programs are sustained by thoughtful contributions from community donors and leaders within the region who support Early Childhood Education and the impact it has on the future of the community and the workforce. Year after year, EOCF's Champions for Children, our generous supporters, have the chance to witness the exponential growth of our children and families furthest from opportunity. With your support, we can define what it means to provide our next generation in education, and in life.

Learn more about what it means to be a Champion for Children at EOCFWA.org/Donate.



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



Season of Giving

<https://nccfoodbank.org/donate-2/>

FoodBank
NORTH COUNTY COMMUNITY



Sarah's story is one of rejoicing.

When she first came to the **North County Community Food Bank**, Sarah was facing extreme health issues. She was close to 150 pounds overweight and barely able to walk on her own. Connecting Sarah with a number of our community service partners, we were able to help her lose the pounds seriously impacting her health and regain her mobility. Today she is able to live an active life again with a regained sense of hope, and going on long walks with her dogs numerous times per day.

North County Community Food Bank provides healthy food choices, educational programming, and a network of wrap-around services to neighbors in need. The organization's mission is creating a community where no one goes hungry. However, NCCFoodBank is continuing to see a dramatic increase in the number of individuals needing their help. The food bank is currently serving over 1,100 households per month. And astonishingly, NCCFoodBank is averaging between 5 to 10 new families each week. Clearly, their mission is becoming a far more daunting one to achieve.

In today's economic climate, with increasing food shortages, production, distribution, and transportation barriers, compounded by staffing issues and rising operating costs regularly experienced throughout the retail industry, North County Community Food Bank is managing the same struggles local businesses and families are experiencing, while at the same time addressing this growing demand.

Your help goes a long way in helping the organization create a stronger, healthier community. In today's economy, the struggles are growing for everyone. You can make a difference with your donation. Please give with your heart and help in providing these miracles for our neighbors in need.

Join forces with the North County Community Food Bank in conquering hunger and addressing the many root causes interwoven in the lives of those living in poverty. Help NCCFoodBank reach their Season of Giving goal of raising \$100,000 with your gifts? These funds go a long way in providing hope and the necessary life skills and tools needed for so many.

<https://nccfoodbank.org/donate-2/>



GIVE THE GIFT OF REAL LIVING

Stephen's Place is on a mission to level the playing field.

This Giving Tuesday donate to help neurodiverse peers live life to the fullest.

Help Us Make Our Mission A Reality 



SCAN ME



WE HELP CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE EXPERIENCE PERMANENCY AND BELONGING.

Your giving provides:

Tangible Resources + Basic Necessities

A Nurturing Environment

A Caring Companion

A Meaningful Connection to Community



fosterful

Learn more at fosterful.org



COMMUNITY FUNDED JOURNALISM



You can invest in our community

The Columbian's Community Funded Journalism Program is designed to raise awareness for important issues in Clark County, including homelessness, transportation, climate change, and the environment.

Give Today and Support Local Journalism



The Columbian


In partnership with

LocalMedia
Foundation

Donations to LMF for this program are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Please consult a tax advisor for details. No goods or services are provided in exchange for donations. This program is administered by Local Media Foundation, tax ID #36-4427750, a Section 501(c)(3) charitable trust affiliated with Local Media Association.

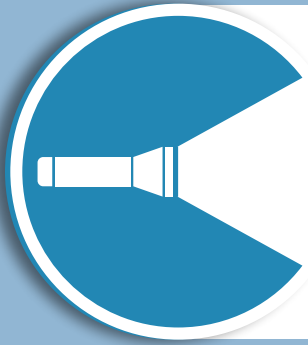
Have a little **color** with your **Holidays!**




GENEROSITY
IS LOVE IN ACTION.
HAROLD W. BECKER



Providing guidance, training & support around disabilities
9414 NE Fourth Plain Rd., Vancouver, WA
98662 360-823-2247 • www.peacenw.org



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



DID YOU KNOW THAT MOST SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN EVEN LIMITED PHYSICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM?

When introduced to Northwest Association for Blind Athletes (NWABA), there are no barriers to access sports and physical activity, and no limits to what our athletes can achieve.

Alaina G. was introduced to NWABA and Camp Spark in 2018, and now also attends NWABA's high performance soccer and goalball skills camp. Alaina's family has seen her blossom from a shy young camper to an outgoing, independent person and skilled athlete. This year, Alaina was back at Camp Spark as a Counselor in Training, helping other youth with visual impairments learn new skills, gain independence, and find community.

"This organization is Alaina's lifeline. NWABA gives her so much; community, a place to just be herself, a place to see her amazingness reflected back to her, a place to be with others like her. I am unspeakably grateful." ~Angela A., Athlete Parent

NWABA offers limitless opportunities for greater independence, building confidence, and a better quality of life, providing unlimited access to the following programs:

Sports Outreach - Offers unlimited in-person sports and physical activity programs to athletes of all ages and abilities.

Camp Spark - No cost, residential, summer and winter sports camps for youth and young adults teaching athletes to live without limits through sports, physical activity, and orientation and mobility instruction.

Virtual Programming - Provides limitless reach for individuals to exercise online at home, throughout the world.

Sports Adaptations - Access to our adaptive equipment lending program, comprehensive instructional video library, and consultations for athletes, educators, school districts and families, for unlimited inclusion and participation for all.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND HELP OUR ATHLETES—LIKE ALAINA—DISCOVER LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES BY GIVING TODAY.

Donations made before December 31, 2023, will be **DOUBLED** thanks to a Rite Aid Healthy Futures' Neighborhood Grant Award and several generous donors!



PROVIDING LIMITLESS
OPPORTUNITIES



Give today at www.nwaba.org/limitless
or scan to donate.



Your gift today will directly impact outreach services for our most vulnerable Clark County individuals.



\$50 Provides **one day of gas** for our **mobile teams**



\$300 Provides **one day** of essential **mobile team supplies**



\$250 Supports **one community response team visit**



\$600 Helps to get a **peer certified** and/or **receive crisis intervention & de-escalation training**

Scan to donate today
crmhs.org



Columbia River Mental Health Services

FR1ENDS of the
CH1LDREN
SW Washington



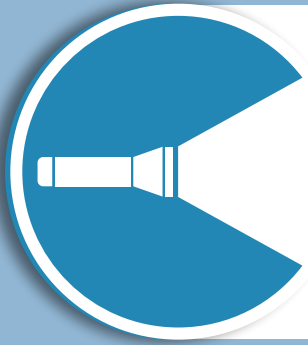
Friends of the Children-SWWA is breaking the cycle of generational poverty.

We invest in each youth for 12 ½ years, no matter what. Join us in walking alongside our youth, breaking down barriers and opening doors to a brighter future.

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1

Make a gift today that has generational impact – **friendsswwa.org**.





NONPROFIT Spotlight



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

**EVERY PERSON IN OUR
COMMUNITY DESERVES
ENOUGH FOOD TO EAT.**



YOU CAN HELP, DONATE NOV 28
sharevancouver.org

Help Us Reach Our \$100,000 Goal!
Donations matched up to \$55,500 thanks to:



Keller Family
Foundation

Larch Corrections
Center Inmates

Joan & Ronny
Plushnick

Tod & Maxine
McClaskey Family
Foundation

Debbie & Paul
Speer

Nolan
Yaws-Gonzalez

Plus Anonymous
Donors, too!



Help Share's Meal & Nutrition Programs to Serve Those in Need

Local households on limited budgets face a constant, daily question when it comes to making decisions for the health and wellness of themselves and their family: what should we pay for first? The monthly heating bill, a vital medical prescription, the mortgage or rent or enough nutritious food to eat? All of these are necessary, but the difficult decision to prioritize means that a family sometimes must do without one or more essential need.

These households include families with children, seniors and grandparents and single people who need help to provide a nutritious breakfast before school or work, to fill bags with healthy lunches and to prepare a wholesome dinner each night.

Share's Meal & Nutrition programs provide access to meals and food assistance through our Backpack, Hot Meals, Summer Meals and Outreach Food Kit programs. And trends in those programs show the need of our community.

"Just last month, Share's Hot Meals served 8,630 free meals, the highest since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020, when the average monthly meal service was just 3,750," said Molly Evjen, Share's Volunteer & Community Resources Director. "And every day in Clark County, more than 34,120 students* in public school districts qualify for free and reduced-price meals. But when school doors close on Fridays or during holiday breaks, they may face bare or empty shelves at home."

You can help support Share and our community with a donation on Tuesday, November 28 in honor of #GivingTuesday at sharevancouver.org. Donations will be matched up to \$55,500 thanks to Fred Meyer, Keller Family Foundation, Larch Corrections Center Inmates, Tod & Maxine McClaskey Family Foundation, Joan & Ronny Plushnick, Debbie & Paul Speer, Nolan Yaws-Gonzalez, plus anonymous donors.

Donations of food items are also welcome and can be dropped off at the Share Fromhold Service Center, 2306 NE Andresen Road, on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Some high-need examples include canned vegetables, fruits, beans, tuna, chili, soup, spaghetti sauce; dried rice, beans, pasta; cereal, oatmeal, mac and cheese, boxed dinners and snack items, such as tuna packets, chewy granola bars and squeezable packets of apple sauce.

It takes thousands of people, like you, to help Share pursue a stronger community, advocating for equitable access to housing and food stability while empowering every individual to grow and thrive.

**Source: Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction*



MUSIC IS FOR EVERYONE

Throughout the 45 seasons of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the VSO has gone beyond the performance halls to bring music into our community. The VSO:

- performs in schools for local classes;
- sends Maestro Brotons to work with student bands and orchestras;
- offers master classes to student musicians;
- offers discounts and free admission to students;
- offers discounted tickets through the Arts 4 All program;
- performs at assisted living facilities; and
- offers a free concert each day of the Vancouver USA Arts & Music Festival in collaboration with the City of Vancouver.

Discover that world-class music belongs to everyone and support our mission to bring music into our community.

For tickets and to donate, visit vancouversymphony.org
To get involved, contact thevso@vancouversymphony.org

YOUR YEAR-END GIFT* WILL ALLOW THE VSO TO EXPAND OUR OUTREACH INTO THE COMMUNITY

***The first \$30,000 raised by December 31 will be matched dollar-for-dollar by a generous supporter**

Vancouver Symphony Orchestra | (360) 735-7278 | www.vancouversymphony.org



**VANCOUVER
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**



SUPPORT FOR EARLY LEARNING & FAMILIES SEEKS INVOLVEMENT AND DONORS

Support for Early Learning & Families serves the children and families of Southwest Washington through advocacy and partnerships at the local and state levels to provide quality child care and early learning opportunities for all.

“We’ve done this work for more than 20 years and will continue in order to ensure every child in our community thrives,” said Executive Director Debbie Ham. “While we do receive funding through contracts and grants those funds are often restricted. We rely heavily on local donations to fund gaps in resources, training or other activities that complement and enhance the projects with restricted funding.”

According to this organization, approximately 50% of their donations come in around the holiday season. These funds are used to support programs such as the



Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, the SW Washington Child Care Partnership, the Shared Services Alliance, and the Children’s Council.

In 2022 donations put 57,000 books into the hands of children (birth to five) in our community. Funds also helped eight LatinX entrepreneurs open their bilingual bicultural family child care businesses providing child

care to 52 children; helped launch a Shared Services Alliance to

increase the stability and profitability of child care programs; and launched a Children’s Council a unified regional voice that elevates the child care crisis while amplifying community needs for those who are furthest from opportunity, resulting in quality affordable, accessible, and inclusive child care for all.

“Our goal this holiday season is to raise money and awareness for the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. We are looking to raise \$15,000, which would provide the children in our community with 12,000 books,” Debbie said. “Overall, stronger public awareness about the importance of early care and education for children birth to five growing up in Clark County. To that end we are excited to be the local affiliate for Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. Spreading the word about our involvement while gaining serious donors for this program would be our idea of success.”



Give & Receive

If you **give** today, local children will **receive** a free book each month until they turn five from Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. Donate or enroll in this outstanding program and give the gift of reading!

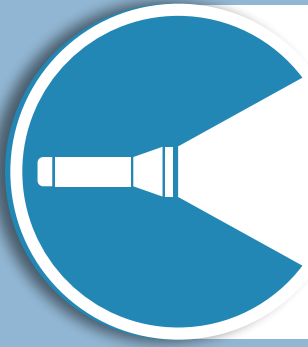


Support For Early Learning & Families

Ad sponsored by:



DONATE or ENROLL today at SELFVA.ORG



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

YWCA IS ON A MISSION TO ELIMINATE RACISM, EMPOWER WOMEN, AND PROMOTE PEACE, JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DIGNITY FOR ALL.

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Clark County



BE BOLD THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

YWCAClarkCounty.org

As the holiday season begins, it is time to reflect on the transformative power of community and compassion. For over 100 years, YWCA Clark County has served women, children, and families in Southwest Washington, tirelessly combating domestic violence and actualizing our mission of eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. We invite you to join us in making a difference this holiday season. Your support, in any of the following forms, whether volunteering, donating gifts, or offering financial assistance, can create waves of positive change and bring festive cheer to those in need in our community.

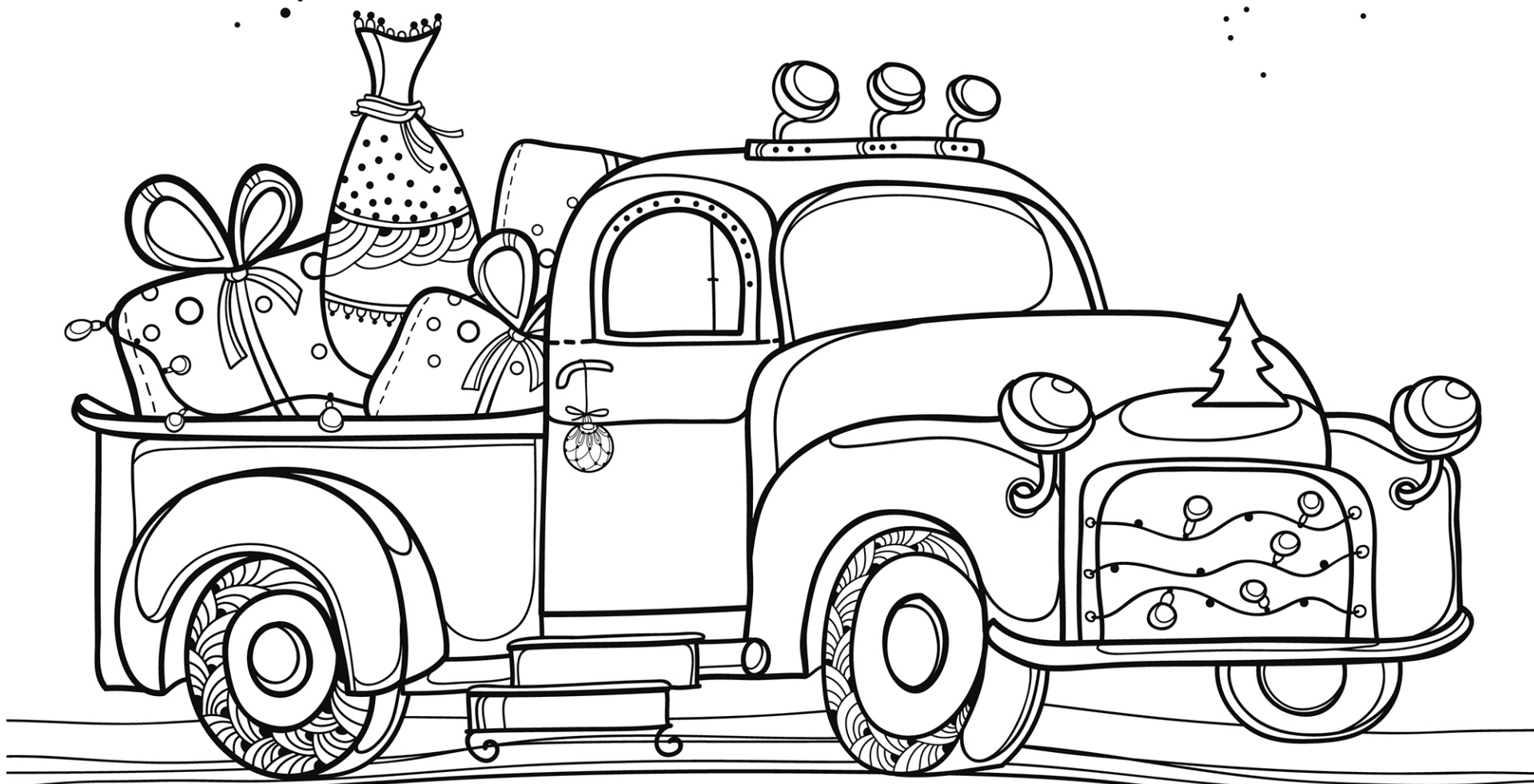
Volunteer at Our Holiday Shop: One impactful way to contribute this holiday season is by volunteering with the YWCA Clark County Holiday Shop. Just a few hours of your time can make a difference as we organize and wrap gifts donated by community members for families who have escaped violence, youth caught in the foster care system, or individuals who have dealt with trauma. To become a volunteer and participate in this rewarding experience, please contact: Haddy Jobe | hjobe@ywcaclarkcounty.org.

Donate a Gift to Our Holiday Shop: While shopping for gifts for your loved ones, friends, and family, consider buying a gift for someone YWCA Clark County serves. Over 12,000 individuals—including children, youth, and adults—benefit from our programs at no cost each year. The holiday season, while joyful, can be particularly challenging for these individuals, many of whom face hardship in providing gifts for their loved ones. Your thoughtful donation can ease this burden and bring much-needed holiday cheer. For more information on how to donate, what items are on our Wishlist, or how to shop online using our Amazon gift registry, please visit bit.ly/YWCA-Holiday-Shop.

Make a Financial Gift for Survivors of Domestic Violence: In the spirit of giving, we invite you to extend your support through a financial donation to aid survivors of domestic violence in our community. Every contribution, whether large or small, directly enables YWCA Clark County to provide essential services, resources, and a safe haven for individuals fleeing domestic violence. Your generosity can profoundly impact the lives of those who urgently seek our support, offering them hope and assistance in their time of need.

To donate, please visit bit.ly/Make-a-Gift-Today.

Have a little **color** with your **Holidays!**



An outreach ministry of
All Saints Episcopal
Church

Founded in 1999, our all-volunteer organization provides layettes and car seats (new only) to families in need through the birth centers at Clark and Cowlitz County medical centers, local caseworkers, and refugee resettlement agencies.

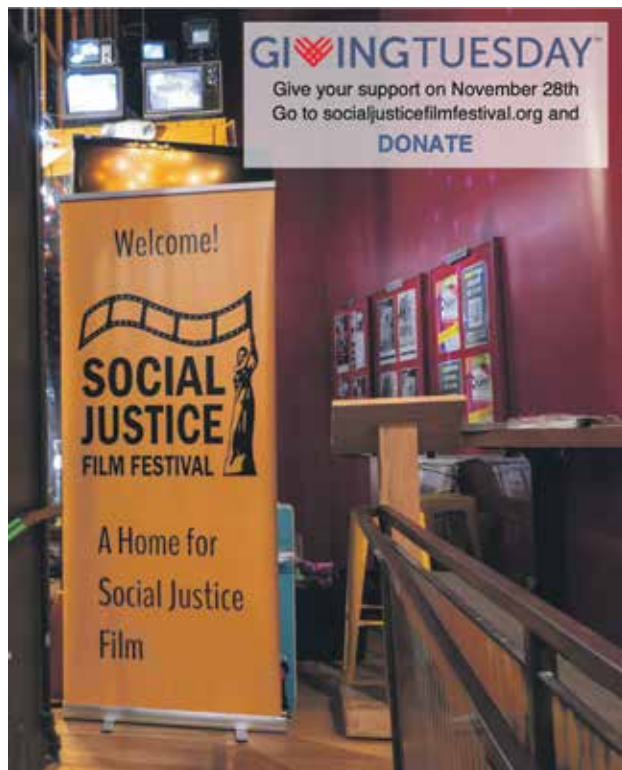
Most needed items: new and gently used gowns, warm pj's, fleece sacques, receiving blankets. Newborn & preemie sizes. Drop off: 2206 NW 99th St.

Sorry, but we are unable to accept used carseats, equipment, large toys or large bulky items!

Thank you to the generous donors in our region!



Babies In Need
PO Box 1441, Vancouver 98668
www.BabiesinNeed.org
406-439-6694



Providing compassionate, **FREE** healthcare to low-income adults throughout SW Washington.

 **Battle Ground
HealthCare**
bghealthcare.org



There are many ways to donate in Clark County, including donation bins and giving trees. You might want to consider dropping off a toy or other gift this holiday season.

What are toy donation bins? These are bins you may see throughout the community where you pick out any toys you want and drop them off into the bin. These toys then get distributed to those in need and are sometimes the only toys that these kids receive for the holidays.

What is a giving tree? Typically, giving trees

have an ornament of some type with the name, age, and possible interests of the person the toy would be donated to. If you pick up a name or two, you would go out shopping specifically for that person. Giving trees are a little more personal since you may learn a little about who will receive the gift.

Why donate this holiday season? Not only does it put a smile on someone's face to receive a gift, but it also makes the holiday season less stressful for the entire family. Parents and

caregivers can focus on providing essentials for their family instead of feeling pressured to balance making their child's holiday special while still paying for their basic needs. By donating, you ease the stress of some and help provide those life-long memories.

Also, by giving to those in the community, you can teach others about generosity. If you take your family to pick out gifts to donate to others, they will learn from you about how to be generous and why it's important.

So, this season when you are out shopping, maybe pick up something extra and share at a donation spot or tree. Think about all the hope and joy you would be providing to others during the holiday season.

One option for donations is at www.columbian.com/adopt-a-family

It looks like a simple need, want, or wish on a tag. It's an easy grab on the next trip to Target or click to cart on Amazon. The gift is not the end, it's the beginning. It becomes a burden lifted from a family stretched thin, a relief for a relative who hadn't planned on one more child for Christmas. Mostly it's ensuring that the simplest joys are achieved for each of these youth regardless of where they celebrate this season.

We work with community partners to host a holiday party for all the foster and caregiver families in Clark, Cowlitz, and Skamania counties each year. With more than 500 people in attendance, it takes the whole community to create a magical experience for displaced children and families experiencing foster care (or working to strengthen their family with DCYF) this time of year. Healing starts with a simple act of love and a gift they can call their own. We use a phrase around here "Getting to the heart-work faster" and a simple gift does just that.

We are grateful to our community partners for hosting holiday giving trees and gift drops. You don't need a tag, you can simply bring in quality stocking stuffers and toys for youth and teens.

For more information and to donate today please visit <https://clothandfoster.org/>

Thank you to our partners:

Evergreen Dental, Union Commons, Orange Theory Hazel Dell, Denim & Frills, Club Pilates Camas & Hazel Dell, Results Fitness 192nd, Flutter & Wink, Vancouver Fitness Studio, Parlor 73 Battle Ground Village, Brothers Cascadia Brewing and Brothers Cascadia Brewing Evergreen, Discovery Dental Washougal, Vice Beer, and A Little Vice locations.



CCCA SEEKS SUPPORT THROUGH DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS

Clark and Cowlitz County Child Advocates serve as Guardians ad Litem for children and youth ages 0-18 who are subject to dependency proceedings due to allegations of abandonment, abuse, or neglect. If a member of the community has time, about eight hours per month, and is looking for a rewarding opportunity to serve children and families, please reach out to this organization. There are many ways to give and often program support is provided through financial donations.

CCCA is a local non-profit powered by volunteers and relies heavily on donations to continue effective advocacy for the best interest

of children and youth in dependencies. About a third of their donations come around the winter holiday season. CCCA utilizes community donations to provide direct services for children and youth, recruit and train volunteers and staff members.

“Thank you to all who have given in the past and for consideration for future donations,” said Jennifer Harley, Executive Director. “We appreciate you. Together we thrive! With your generous donations, CCCA advocated for a total of 1,134 kids in 2022!”

Cowlitz and Clark County Child Advocates
<https://childadvocatescc.org/>



Our Advocacy Starts with You!

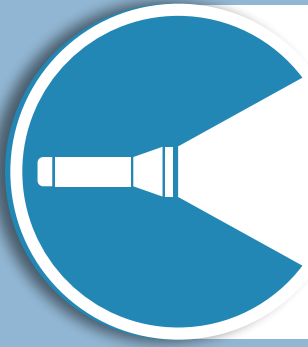
Empowering Young People, Strengthening Families, and Investing in the Community!
Together we Thrive!



Scan to
Donate!

Cowlitz & Clark County Child Advocates
1024 Broadway St. Longview, WA 98632
www.childadvocatescc.org





NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



Healing our community is at the heart of what we do each day, one family at a time.



Open House Ministries

Providing shelter is only the beginning.

When it comes to helping families struggling with homelessness, the high cost of housing is only part of the challenge. There are often many obstacles keeping families from succeeding. Broken relationships, dealing with addiction issues, a lack of education, or the need for basic job skills can all play a role.

At Open House Ministries, we walk alongside families, helping them overcome obstacles and equipping them with the tools they need not only to live, but to thrive.

More than a shelter.

Open House Ministries was founded in 1986 in a small boarding house by the faith community in our area, and we continue to partner with churches in Clark County. Today, our shelter houses 34 families who receive guidance through case managers and life-skills training.

Our full-time chaplain helps counsel families while they attend classes and work to rebuild their lives. We provide vocational training in our thrift stores, Secondhand Solutions, and Wheel Deals Bicycle Shop, giving residents an opportunity to gain new job skills and fresh confidence to reenter the workforce.

When they are ready, we help graduate residents locate stable housing so they can move forward and build successful futures for their families.

Stronger through partnering.

Residents at Open House Ministries advance through a wealth of community partnerships. We work with Clark College and WSU Vancouver, Clark County School Districts, Clark County Food Bank, YMCA, Community Services Northwest/ Sea Mar, Department of Children, Youth and Families, Jail Re-entry Program, Partners in Careers, Teach One to Lead One, and more, strengthening the social services network offered within our community.

How you can help.

Funding for Open House Ministries is provided primarily through private donations from individuals, businesses, churches, and foundations. Your financial support helps give families in our community a chance to recover and build new lives.

Volunteering at Open House Ministries is easy, with flexible hours and opportunities. Donating gently used items to our shelter helps support our organization through job skills training in our thrift stores, and sales revenue for our general operations.

Hundreds of families passing through our doors have been restored, finding hope and a fresh start because of people who care. You can help end homelessness by supporting Open House Ministries. Together, we can help families in Clark County thrive.

**www.sheltered.org
360-737-0300**

Let us help
you
write
your story



The Colombian
COMMUNITY
Partnerships

Columbian Community Partnerships has worked with hundreds of local area nonprofits to help them meet their goals over the past 30 years. Through our Local Public Service Announcements, Community Partnerships matching funds program, Nonprofit Spotlight promotions and offering specially priced advertising options to our GiveBIG participants we are able to share our Colombian audience and help nonprofits get their message out.

We are proud to support southwest Washington nonprofits and our neighbors by encouraging our community to get involved and give generously of time, talent and resources to nonprofits of all varieties across our area.

If you'd like more information on how Columbian Community Partnerships can help your nonprofit organization imagine the future, contact **Teresa Davis** at CommunityPartnerships@columbian.com or **360-735-4572**.