A PRODUCT OF THE COLUMBIAN'S ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

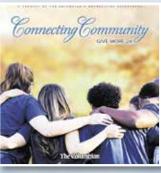
Connecting Community THE GIVING GUIDE

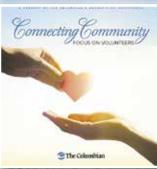
The Columbian

Connecting Community

Current issue published December 4, 2022

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







Special Section Coordinators
Teresa Davis
Kristin Dorsett
Laurie Stover



'Connecting Community' is not just the name of this special section, but the purpose of our Community Partnerships program, and the message of The Columbian as a whole. The newspaper is a tool to connect with our neighbors and share news and information. After a year of 'Connecting Community' publications, I'm happy to hear stories from nonprofits that have been able to reach more donors to support their programs and connect their services with the people and projects in our community that need the support. I've heard of increased engagement with volunteers, and how they have managed to adapt to a new way of doing business since the pandemic.

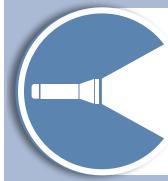
This past 15 months the topics included year end giving, volunteering, and the Give More 24 event. 2023 will bring some changes to our area with a new event called 'GiveBIG' May 2-3, 2023. The Community Foundation of SW Washington is going to focus on serving the community in different ways and has partnered with GiveBIG to transition GM24! into a new platform. Coordinated by 501 Commons, this 2-day state-wide giving event will "allow everyone who cares about Southwest Washington to find, support

and celebrate our local nonprofits." As in the past, Columbian Community Partnerships will have an option for our nonprofits to advertise in a special section in late April at special rates, as we did for the Give More 24 event.

Additionally, if you are a nonprofit, please contact me to learn of the options we have for promoting your organization's events, services and fundraisers. From Nonprofit Spotlights, to special rates for frequency advertising, to matching funds partnerships and local public service announcements, we are here to help your nonprofit reach our audience, both in print and online. If you have ideas for future topics for our nonprofit section, I'd love to hear from you.

And please enjoy this special publication, where you can learn about a variety of nonprofits that serve our community in a multitude of ways. They each have their stories and their needs and many of them are great gifts to share with friends and family, by making a donation or attending their events.

Happy Holidays,
Teresa Davis
CommunityPartnerships@columbian.com
360-735-4572









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 prekindergarten 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

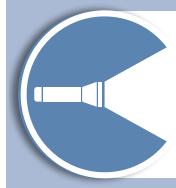
Since 1967, EOCF has been committed to disrupting the cycle of generational poverty by providing equitable access to childcare, early learning programs, and family resources for those furthest from opportunity. Each year, EOCF supports thousands of children and families across Clark County, Cowlitz County, 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.**



GROW TOGETHER

CAMPAIGN

NONPROFIT Spotlight 5







For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

LET'S GROW TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Double Your Donation by Giving Today.

Visit NWABA.org/growtogether

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION FOR BLIND ATHLETES. **GROWING OPPORTUNITIES TOGETHER.**

Fifteen years ago, Northwest Association for Blind Athletes (NWABA) began offering life-changing opportunities through sports and physical activity to individuals who are blind or visually impaired in the Pacific Northwest, providing a catalyst to build confidence, self-esteem, independence, and a sense of belonging.

Since 2007, NWABA has served more than 5,000 athletes throughout Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, delivering hundreds of hours of programming-both in-person and virtually-through more than twenty types of sports events annually, such as hiking, kayaking, skiing, track & field, goalball and more. NWABA's programs are uniquely tailored to individuals of all ability levels.

Being blind or visually impaired creates obstacles that can feel impossible to overcome, such as finding sustainable employment, participating in sports and activities, and connecting with one's community. When introduced to physical activity and sports, individuals with visual impairments are given the support and confidence needed to follow their dreams.

Our programs are so much more than just participating in sports and physical activity. They provide opportunities for an improved quality of life. Every day, our athletes are breaking down barriers and gaining the confidence, friendships, and independence they need to have a richer, fuller life with limitless opportunities.

Now, we look ahead to the next 15 years with our Grow Together Campaign to support the expansion of NWABA's key programs and services, such as fueling our Sports Outreach Program, transforming our Sports Adaptations Library, increasing the amount of adaptive equipment available to our athletes, and advancing our virtual programming to offer access to individuals who are blind and visually impaired across the world.

NWABA is on its way to becoming the national leader in transforming the quality of life for all individuals who are blind and visually impaired through participation in sports and physical activity.

We invite you to grow together with NWABA and invest in our tomorrow. To learn more, please visit www.nwaba.org/growtogether or contact Sue Warren, Sr. Director of Development at 360.984.5506 or swarren@nwaba.org.













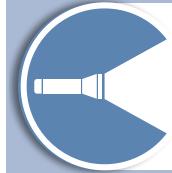
Your gift to Share today to help people and families in our community can provide instant relief and safety.

It takes all of us, working together, to help advocate for equitable access to housing and food stability while empowering every individual to grow and thrive.



DONATE ONLINE: sharevancouver.org

Thanks to: The columbian Thanks to:









For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com







OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES

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

Open House Ministries gives hope to families struggling with homelessness. Each day we focus on helping families heal and restore healthy relationships with one another, their community, and Christ. Certainly, we offer shelter. We also walk alongside families, helping them overcome addiction, and providing life-skills training in nutrition and finance. Our goal is to equip families with the tools they need to overcome obstacles and confidently rejoin society.

We believe homeless families need more than a place to stay. Residents at Open House Ministries benefit through vocational training and instruction from community organizations with a common purpose. And full-time chaplain is on staff, providing Biblical instruction and counseling. Residents working through our program thrive and experience new hope as they learn to place their trust in God.

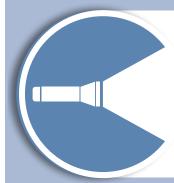
Finding affordable housing in Southwest Washington has become one of our biggest obstacles. Open House Ministries helps graduate residents find stable housing solutions in Vancouver and is beginning construction on a new 30-apartment complex near our campus. You can find out more about OHM West on our website at www.ohmwest.org.

Funding for Open House Ministries is met primarily through private donations. You can help by including our ministry in your end-of-year giving plans and help struggling families in our community recover.

To find out more about Open House Ministries go to our website at

www.sheltered.org

360-737-0300



Spotlight 5 NONPROFIT







For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

THE NEXT GENERATION IS

TRULY OUR GREATEST GIFT

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

Give the next generation the support they need today

Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington (BGCSW) was founded on and remains committed to providing a great Club Experience, meeting youth where they are, and understand what they need to grow and succeed.

What does it mean to be part of a BGCSW? It means being surrounded by friends and mentors. Sharpening skills and discovering new pursuits. Feeling heard and supported in every way, and knowing that there's a team of caring professionals in your court. Boys & Girls Clubs are not one of these things—they are all of these things, providing a safe space where kids and teens can spend time between school and home. In fact, this is something Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGC) have been excelling at for over a century; opening doors of opportunity and preparing young people for a great future. As the leading youth development organization, BGC sees the possibility in every young person and is committed to being a voice for all youth in America-no matter where they come from.

BGCSW operates eight Club sites, a connected, vibrant network that far exceeds "a place to go after school." Today, a safe community, adult mentorship, and well-established innovative programs focusing on academic success, leadership and healthy lifestyles are the fabric of their programming. Each year BGCSW serves nearly 450 youth, providing an array of social-emotional learning activities, enrichment programs, recreation and time after school just having fun with peers. Though many members come from homes with limited resources, no youth is ever turned away for their inability to pay for fees.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington is dedicated to doing whatever it takes to build great futures for local youth, especially those who have the most barriers to success. Giving helps ensure every child can have the great future they deserve. For today's kids to become tomorrow's leaders, innovators and problem solvers, they need meals, mentors and meaningful life experiences.

When kids have Clubs and Clubs have you, there is always hope for a great future. This holiday season and always, thank you for supporting Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington and Club members. After all, they're the only next generation we've got.

Donate today at mybgc.org because the next generation is truly our greatest gift.

Help Alleviate Hunger and Provide **Clothing for Families in Need**

Battle Ground Adventist Community Services (BG ACS) is a food and clothing pantry in northeast Clark County. It is a faith-based ministry of the Meadow Glade Seventh day Adventist Church located in Battle Ground.

Each week BG ACS purchases market quality produce and makes it available throughout that week to its clients. The food pantry is designed as a 'shopping style' small food market complete with canned, fresh and frozen foods. BG ACS is a partner agency with Clark County Food Bank. It is one of the 23 food pantries in Clark County

providing emergency food relief for families in need.

"BG ACS is concerned about our clients having good nutritional options and we are very proud of our unique fresh produce program called 'LETTUCE TURNIP THE BEET'," said Maury Parrish, Director at Battle Ground Adventist Community Services.

BG ACS receives donated clothing which is checked to be sure it is in good repair. Clothing is then displayed so that clients can shop similar to a regular clothing store. All items donated are provided free of any cost to clients. BG ACS also receives

other household items, such as linens, towels, small household appliances, books, children's toys, knick-knacks, kitchenware and dish sets. These are also made available to clients in need. Donations are accepted Tuesdays 9:00 am - 5:30 pm and Thursdays 8:30 am - 4:00 pm at 11117 NE 189th St, Suite 100. Battle Ground, WA 98604 on the lower level of the Center Point building. BG ACS cannot take large furniture items, appliances, car seats/cribs or mattresses.

BG ACS is also unique as the only nationally recognized Diaper Bank for all of Southwest Washington. BG ACS and its local nonprofit partners have helped distribute over 300.000 disposable baby diapers to financially challenged families in 2022. "One in three US families struggle to afford baby diapers. Diapers are made available free of any charge. Babies and young toddlers are the most vulnerable in our society and we believe a dry diaper is essential for their health," said Parrish.

BG ACS is 100% volunteer staffed and always needing more volunteers to work in the food or clothing areas. For more information about how to help this organization call 360-687-3459 or go online to www.battlegroundfoodbank.org.

Battle Ground Adventist Community Services

is a full service community partner, providing food, household items, clothing and diapers to Clark County families in need.



We are the only nationally recognized diaper bank for all of SW Washington, BGACS is a member of the National Diaper Bank Network. Through October 2022 we have distributed over 300,000 diapers this year into Clark and Cowlitz counties, about triple the amount of last year.



US FAMILIES STRUGGLE TO AFFORD BABY DIAPERS.

Diapers are made available FREE OF ANY CHARGE

Babies and young toddlers are the most vulnerable in our society and we believe a dry diaper is essential for their health

Proud member of the



TO DONATE OR VOLUNTEER, visit www.battlegroundfoodbank.org, call 360-687-3459, email bgacsfood@gmail.com or visit us at 11117 NE 189th Street, Ste 100, Battle Ground, WA 98604



"I want to share one story that frankly took my breath away. As you may know there is a sizable diaspora of Ukrainian refugees in the area who have been here for at least a decade. Our Ukrainian clients are our second largest group of clients. With the war in Ukraine, we are seeing many new Ukrainian families coming to our food pantry. Recently, a Ukrainian couple came with an interpreter and shopped for food. The man and woman had been in this country for one week, and they brought with them eight Ukrainian orphans that they had adopted into their family. I stand in amazement at this couple's commitment to not only start over but to do so with an instant large family in a new country." – Maury Parrish





Bridge the Gap is a cornmunity outreach program
providing resources to enhance
the stability, growth, and success
of children in foster care in SW Washington.

Tutoring, music and dance lessons, camps, athletic participation, martial arts, graduation expenses and leadership experiences, are just some of the opportunities Bridge the Gap provides to children in foster care to help them thrive.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BRIDGE THE GAP OR TO MAKE A DONATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www. Bridge The Gap For Kids CC. org





Give the Gift of Your Time this Holiday Season!

Your Donation Makes a Difference in the Life of a Child in Foster Care!



SCAN TO DONATE TODAY!





1024 Broadway Street · Longview, WA 360-414-5212 · www.childsdvocatescc.org

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: A WORTHY GOAL

Making a difference in one's community is a worthy goal. There are many paths a person can take to be a catalyst for change. One of the easiest ways to make positive change is to support nonprofit organizations.

Nonprofit organizations make it their missions to serve specific causes - whether those causes are the environment, a certain demographic of people, animals, schools, or social issues. Supporting nonprofit groups furthers a worthy cause and even benefits those who lend their support. According to Waterford.org, an equitable learning organization, supporting nonprofits can lead to a greater sense of happiness, improved mental health and a stronger sense of purpose and fosters a greater number of social connections. There are many different ways to be involved with nonprofit groups.

MAKE FINANCIAL DONATIONS. Nonprofit organizations require funding to meet their missions. Support from donors can cover operating costs and ensure missions are not stalled or canceled due to lack of funding.

ENGAGE IN PEER-TO-PEER FUNDRAISING.

Sharing information about an organization with others and asking them to support the nonprofit is known as peer-to-peer fundraising. This can happen by word-ofmouth advertising on social media, asking for fundraising for a cause in lieu of traditional birthday or special event gifts, or sharing fliers or other advertisements around town. This type of fundraising is especially valuable



because it does not require nonprofit organizations to allocate their own resources in order to generate donations.

PROVIDE PTO TIME TO WILLING

VOLUNTEERS. Business owners in a community can be sure their employees have adequate paid time off to volunteer with local nonprofits. A company may establish a set amount of hours or days per quarter or month that can be used for volunteerism in any aspect.

SPONSOR AN EVENT. While private individuals can sponsor events, the collective resources of a business or other group, such as a school, may be better equipped to spearhead a charity event.

PARTICIPATE IN OR ATTEND AN EVENT.

Even if you cannot donate or sponsor an event, you can still be involved. Showing up to support a cause can help raise awareness and inspire nonprofit workers and volunteers.

Individuals and businesses can support nonprofit groups in their communities in various ways and reap the rewards that such support produces.



HOPE

for recovery and community

through vour continued support of our programs:

- St. Paul's Men's Shelter
- Satellite Overflow Shelter
- Street Outreach Team
- Clark County Unhoused **Resident Mail Services**
- The Outpost Safe Stay Community
- Community Cooks Volunteer Meal Train

Thank You for your support & donations!

www.outsidersinn.org/donations











At HARPER'S PLAYGROUND Everybody Plays!

Harper's Playground (HP) is driven by a vision of the world in which no one is left out. Their sustainably built, nature-inspired playgrounds are places where people of all abilities can play together and thrive. This spring Harper's Playground will open the reimagined Chelsea Anderson Memorial Play Station (CHAMPS) at Marshall Park in Vancouver.

"In partnership with the City of Vancouver and local firms Pence Contractors and AKS Engineering, we are honored to lead the

design and building of the new CHAMPS at Marshall Park, which is currently under construction," said Chief Play Officer, G Cody QJ Goldberg.

The organization's largest project to date, CHAMPS @ Marshall Park broke ground on July 11, 2022, at a community ceremony and will be Vancouver, Washington's first inclusive playground.

Plans for the 1.22 acres
will feature wheelchair
accessible equipment
including Washington's
first wheelchair swing;
an integration carousel, or
merry go round that a wheelchair
user can access; an elevated sand
area; and, a fire engine play structure
with original levers and buttons. Other
play features in the building plan include

a log fort, mobius climber (think rock wall climbers), swings, musical instruments, and winding paths. A key element to the design will be nature, as well as art inspired by nature such as custom bronze animals like turtles and beavers.

"Every playground we create is natureinfused, which means we utilize the existing tree canopy and will add dozens more trees, bioswales, and plantings," said Goldberg.

The newly designed CHAMPS @ Marshall Park will also feature "Harper's Hill"—an

enormous hill, equipped with seating at the top and 360° views, accessible by a bridge with custom mosaic art by a local indigenous artist displayed underneath and adjacent to it.

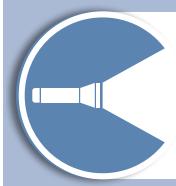
"While our primary focus for the playground will be young people impacted by disabilities, the revitalized Marshall Park will also serve local youth who attend nearby Washington and Harney elementary schools, and members of the general public of all ages seeking a socially vibrant outdoor gathering space," Goldberg said.

Harper's Playground has raised a total of \$2.75 million to date in donations and is just \$450,000 shy of its \$3.2 million

goal needed to complete the CHAMPS @ Marshall Park project. They are continuing to fundraise to close the gap before year-end and seek community support in the form of purchasing a recognition brick or paver by December 31.

"As with most nonprofits, a majority of donations come before the end of the year. We are selling bricks and pavers which makes wonderful holiday gifts!" said Goldberg. "When this project is finished, it will be a treasured public asset and belong to the community who built it."











For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

HARPER'S PLAYGROUND

The New Chelsea Anderson Memorial Play Station at Marshall Park is under construction!

\$2,750,000 raised

GOAL: \$3,200.000

Donate to help us reach our goal and build an inclusive, nature-infused playground for everyone!









n 2023. Harper's Playaround, in partnership with the City of Vancouver, will open the reimagined Chelsea Anderson Memorial Play Station (CHAMPS) at Marshall Park in Vancouver, Washington. The redesigned CHAMPS will carry on the legacy of the firefighter theme from the previous playground. and will even feature a real fire truck and decommissioned firefighter gear transformed into interactive play pieces. A special tribute area will be created for Chelsea Anderson and memorial plaques will be integrated into the design.

This park encompasses 1.22 acres and will also feature:

- An enormous signature "Harper's Hill," equipped with seating at the top and 360° views, that's prime for rolling, jumping, sliding, and playing
- Washington's first wheelchair swing and a wheelchair accessible merry-go-round
- A log fort, sand area, wall climbers, swings, musical instruments, winding paths, and more
- A wheelchair accessible skatepark
- Lots and lots of nature and custom bronze art featuring animals like turtles and beavers

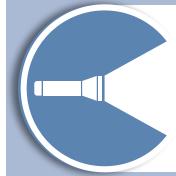
Harper's Playground is driven by a vision of a world in which no one is left out and where everyone knows they belong. We design and build sustainable, nature-infused playgrounds where people of all ages and abilities play together and thrive. While it has been over 30 years since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and despite the evidence of benefit and need, most play areas are neither accessible nor welcoming for kids or adults experiencing seen or unseen disabilities.

"We are committed to making Vancouver parks welcoming spaces where all members of our community can build connections with neighbors and nature. Creating radically inclusive play spaces with the support of Harper's Playground is an important step for our community." - Julie Hannon, Vancouver Parks and Recreation Director

Harper's Playground asks for your help in completing our largest inclusive playground to date, right here in Clark County. **Purchase a recognition brick** or paver to make your name and/or message a permanent part of the park. The re-envisioned CHAMPS at Marshall Park will be unlike any other play space you've experienced, and like all Harper's Playgrounds, will be free and open to the public!

Our goal is to create parks that are magnets for people from all walks of life. In doing so, we cultivate vital communities where people gather and celebrate each other's uniqueness. At Harper's Playground, everybody plays!

www.harpersplayground.org/playgrounds/marshall-park









For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com











45+ Years of **Educational Programs**

Since its creation in 1977, the Lelooska Foundation has sponsored a variety of educational programs aimed at preserving the rich cultural heritage of the Native Peoples of North America.

Students, parents, teachers and the general public learn through living history programs, workshops, classes and museum tours offered throughout the year.

Living History Programs & Performances

A favorite field trip among elementary schools in Oregon and Washington, the educational programs were developed in the 1960's by the late Chief Lelooska and the late Chief James Aul Sewid along with

many elders from that time.

Free Museum With Diverse Artifact Collection

The museum holds an immense collection, sharing the art and culture of many indigenous cultures across North America.

The items include baskets, parfleches, corn husk bags, dolls, spoons, cradles, moccasins, tomahawks, pipes, pipe bags, dresses, a 15 foot birch bark canoe and an entire replica fur trade store fully furnished to the period.

Classes, Workshops & Community Events

Classes include woodcarving, northwest coast flat design, button blankets and more. Special events include hands-on learning about cordage, native plants and their uses, parfleches, rock art, bentwood boxes, beadwork, and woodcarving.

Your gift will help the Lelooska Foundation deliver a variety of educational programs preserving the rich cultural heritage of the Native Peoples of North America.

Visit: 165 Merwin Village Road, Ariel WA Mailing: PO Box 526, Ariel, WA, 98603 www.lelooska.org info@lelooska.org 360-225-9522

Friends of the Children: Give the Gift of Positive Mentoring Experiences

Friends of the Children specializes in serving youth who live with the intersecting pressures of poverty and complex trauma. They work with the child welfare system and local schools to enroll youth between the ages of 4-6. Once enrolled, they walk alongside the children and their caregivers for 12+ years—from kindergarten through graduation and entry to post-secondary education and the workforce.

This organization is 100% funded through the generous contributions of local individuals, businesses and foundations. Year-end giving can represent up to 20% of their annual revenue.

Funds are used for salaried, professionally trained, full-time mentors who work intentionally with each child to teach valuable life skills, model healthy behaviors, and create pathways to more choices and opportunities. Funds are also used to provide enrichment activities and experiences for youth and mentors which take place at the Friends of Children club house or throughout the community.

Executive Director Allison Pauletto said donations last year funded mentor salaries, art supplies, books, healthy snacks, sports fees and memorable outings exploring the community.

"Funding this year will help us hire additional mentors for our growing roster of youth," said Pauletto. "Unrestricted gifts allow us the greatest flexibility to meet the changing needs of our youth and their families."

Studies have shown the power of one positive relationship in the life of a child who has experienced trauma. After 30 years of proving the benefits of long term mentoring, Friends of the Children-SW WA offers every youth in their program a full time, salaried mentor who will walk alongside them for 12 ½ years, no matter what.

Pauletto says, "Our model is unique,

courageous and proven. We have redefined the youth mentoring field by creating the first and only long-term professional mentoring program in the country. Our mentors are experts in building

sustained and nurturing relationships with youth. Our model was founded on research showing that the single most important factor in overcoming childhood adversity



is a long-term, nurturing relationship with a consistent and caring adult."

Go online to friendsswwa.org or call 360-207-4352 for information how to donate.

Unique. Courageous. Proven.

We impact generational change by empowering youth who are facing the greatest obstacles through relationships with professional mentors – 12+ years, no matter what.

After 30 years of walking alongside our youth - we know it works, it really works!



92% of youth go on to enroll in post-secondary education, serve our country or enter the workforce.



83% of youth earn a high school diploma or GED.



98% of youth wait to parent until after their teen years.

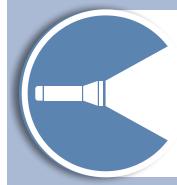


93% of youth remain free from juvenile justice system involvement.

FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN

SW Washington

Invest in Friends of the Children-SWWA youth. **friendsswwa.org/donate**









For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

Easing Transitions to Adulthood





Options Youth Program guides youth ages 14-24 as they transition into adulthood.

We have openings! Call 360-750-7033 for services or drop in any Thursday from 4pm-6pm at the Youth House, 1012 Esther St. Vancouver, WA 98660



Changing Lives in Our Community

Columbia River Mental Health's Options Youth Program guides teens into adulthood.

At the age of 10, Layla began discovering disturbing new things about herself and her family that were hard for her to process. Since the age of 2, she was raised by her greatgrandmother. She didn't know much about her biological parents because of their addiction problems.

Layla often felt alienated from her peers as a result of her childhood trauma. Increasingly she isolated herself from friends and classmates. Depressed and lonely, she was no longer the free-spirited child she once

During her freshman year in high school, a teacher recognized Layla's symptoms and referred her to Columbia River Mental Health Service's Options Youth Program. Layla started seeing a child therapist, who helped her work through her emotions. When Layla was feeling alone or anxious, Options Youth staff were there to support her.

Learning coping and social skills

Over the next few years, Layla's counselor helped her build coping skills to work through her anxiety and despair. Layla also received help with her social skills to make new friends.

Because of our youth programs, Layla was able to grow into adulthood with Columbia River's support. Layla shares, "If I could give someone a piece of wisdom about accessing mental health treatment at Columbia River, it would be no matter what life throws at you, no matter your age, there's always someone available to help."

Donor support crucial for Options

Thanks to local donations and support, the Options Youth Program is able to continue assisting local youth, such as Layla, as they learn to explore their emotions and make the transition from adolescence to adulthood.

Open to all Clark County youth ages 14 to 24, Options offers a range of activities, from art and music to social events, adult skills development, educational support and counseling. Our guiding principle is to meet each youth where they are at on their journey and to make that journey to the adult world a success on their terms.

Options Youth Program currently has openings! If you or someone you know between the ages of 14 and 24 are struggling, we encourage you to reach out to us online (crmhs.org/requestservices) or drop in any Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Youth House (1012 Esther St., Vancouver, WA 98660). We'll be there to help!



Personal growth is at the heart of many New Year's resolutions. Few paths to positive personal growth are more noble than resolving to help others through increased acts of generosity and kindness.

According to Psychology Today, doing good for others, no matter how big or small the deed, feels good but also provides reciprocal benefits. The link between volunteering and lower rates of depression has been well-documented, and there is neural evidence from MRI studies suggesting a link between being generous and signs of happiness in the brain.

The following are several ways to improve oneself by being more mindful of others.

BE AWARE OF SOCIAL ISSUES. Read your local newspaper to stay up-to-date on the pulse of your community as well as the world. Educate yourself about current issues that are affecting people from all walks of life. Understanding the needs or plights of others may boost your willingness to get involved with nonprofit organizations. It also may make you more empathetic and compassionate toward other people.

VOLUNTEER AT A CHARITY. Find a charitable group with which you can volunteer your time. This is a great way to support a cause you believe in and makes it possible for you to collaborate with others who are like-minded, potentially helping you make new friends.

LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE. North America is a melting pot that's home to people from many different parts of the world. Learning a new language may facilitate interactions with fellow community members who might not speak English as a first language.

HELP SOMEONE YOU KNOW. It's commendable to want to assist a charity or a global cause, but what about people close to you who may need a boost? Whether you're lugging boxes to help a friend move or babysitting a niece or nephew so their parents can enjoy a much-needed night out, when you help someone, those good deeds will return to you in time.

When making resolutions, people should consider goals that involve helping others. While this assistance can benefit the people who are on the receiving end of the care and attention, those who are giving of themselves also reap considerable rewards.



BREAK THE HOMELESSNESS CYCLE

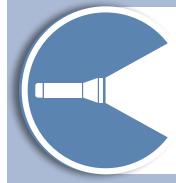






Community Roots not only creates affordable housing solutions, but wrap-around support services to break the cyclical challenge of homelessness.

Help break the cycle: www.c-roots.org/donate



2/10-2/26

4/14-4/30

2/1-12/17

NONPROFIT Spotlight







For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

MAGENTA THEATER 2023 SEASON

THE PLAY THAT GOES WAONS

BY HENRY LEWIS, HENRY SHIELDS, & JONATHAN SAYER

FLOORED!

AN ORIGINAL PLAY BY LOCAL PLAYWRIGHT KC COOPER

6 DANCE LESSONS IN 6 WEEKS

Anélie

MUSIC BY DANIEL MESSÉ BOOK BY CRAIG LUCAS LYRICS BY DANIEL MESSÉ & NATHAN TYSEN

THE WICKHAMS

Christmas at Demberley

By Laura Gunderson & MARGOT MELCON

WWW.MAGENTATHEATER.COM • (360) 949-3098

Magenta Theater is running "Christmas Belles" written by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten,

December 2nd - December 18th

concluding the 20th Anniversary season

You may order tickets for "Christmas Belles" or season passes for the 2023 season on our website: https://www.magentatheater.com

Magenta is excited to announce next year's line-up of mainstage shows.

- The Play that Goes Wong by Henry Lewis, Henry Shields & Jonathan Sayer
- Floored! An Original Comedy by K.C. Cooper
- Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks by Richard Alfieri
- Amelie Music by Daniel Messé, Lyrics by Daniel Messé and Nathan Tysen Book by Craig Lucas.

Based on the motion picture Amélie written by Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Guillaume Laurant.

 The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley By Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon

Magenta Theater is located at 1108 Main Street in the heart of the downtown arts district. Our marquee and website list our upcoming plays and events. We are accessible to all mobilities and have 142, comfortable, brand-new seats.

Magenta is excited to be back this upcoming year with a full lineup of plays as well as the regular Magenta Theater Improv (MIT) events and the return of MAGENTOTS, children focused shows performed by adult actors.

Following the pandemic challenges, Magenta has begun to recover and has received amazing support from the community. Some of the ways you can support the theater include front of house volunteers, actors, crew and other behind the scenes tasks. If you have talents to contribute to the theater, consider signing up at Magentatheater.com!

Magenta's board of directors is filled with people having critical knowledge of the community at large but the theater is always looking for a variety of people to join the board to further our diversity, equity, and inclusion commitment to the Vancouver metro area. If you are interested and have board experience, you can sign up at Magentatheater.com.

Everyone at Magenta hopes to see you soon at one of the events so you can learn why Magenta Theater is the longest running independent live theater in Vancouver!

MAGENTA THEATER

Creating Community One Stage At a Time



Magenta Theater is a non-profit community theater located in the heart of the downtown arts district of Vancouver. They offer quality performances to the stage including comedies, mysteries, dramas, and musicals. In addition to their main stage season, Magenta Theater also encourages creativity through its improv team (MIT), staged readings (Black Chair Projects), and inspires young minds with shows performed for young audiences (MagenTOTS). Magenta promotes education through acting classes and internships. They also open their stage to host a variety of local performers.

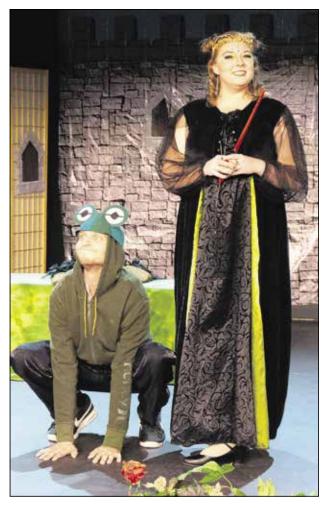
Executive Director David Roberts says the entire theater is run by volunteers from the community and funds go to pay the building lease, insurance, utilities and website/ advertising.

"Tickets sales only account for about 70% of our budget typically and we rely on donations for the balance. During Covid recovery it has been even more," said Roberts. "Last year we were still suffering from Covid closures so donations and grants pretty much kept the doors open since we had very little income coming in."

Magenta Theater has a campaign going for Giving Tuesday that runs through Dec 8. They are also highlighting end of year donations for tax deductions as well as pushing their new 2023 season tickets.

"We get a lot of end of year donations for tax purposes and there are special giving dates like Giving Tuesday that we see a lot of donations. We are starting our children's

MAGENTOTS program back up next year, so if someone sponsored that it would be a great aift for us and the community. We are so proud and thankful that so many people have supported us through this difficult time and people have realized how important theater is in our lives.



We are always humbled when surprise donations appear in the mail," said Roberts.

Go online to magentatheater.com or call 360-949-3098 to find out how to donate.

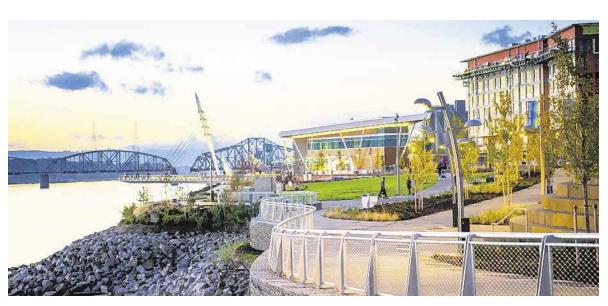








COMMUNITY FUNDED JOURNALISM







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



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."



Babies in Need is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to serving new parents who need help providing the basics for their newborn's care during the first three months of life. They also provide supplies for young children up to age four via their Diaper Bank which supplies diapers, wipes, diaper cream, formula, baby wash, and clothing for children under 4 who are residents of WA State.



An outreach ministry of All Saints Episcopal Church

Founded in 1999, our all-volunteer organization provides layettes and carseats to families in need through the birth centers at Clark and Cowlitz County medical centers and local caseworkers.

Our Diaper Bank, funded by a generous grant from the State of Washington, now provides diapers, wipes, formula, and diaper cream for children under four years.

Thank you to the many generous donors in our community and the region!



Babies In Need PO Box 1441, Vancouver 98668 www.BabiesInNeed.org 406-439-6694 The basic needs of care includes car seats, diapers, clothing, baby hygiene products, and layette supplements.

Donating to this organization helps to provide these needs as well as office expenses, shipping, and fees necessary to supply these items to needy newborns in Southwest Washington.

Since 1999 Babies In Need has provided 2725 car seats, 5342 layette gift bags, and 908 sibling bags to families in need in Southwest Washington.

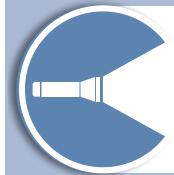
In October they served 178 children in 116 families with 14,448 diapers. Each child got about 60 diapers. Thirty percent of this organization's donations come in around the winter holiday season so now is the time to donate money or gifts to help needy newborns and young children.

This organization is requesting help with monetary donations for their car seat fund as well as preemie and newborn sizes of clothing, especially warm sleep sacques, gowns and pajamas. Babies In Need relies solely on monetary donations, gifts, and volunteers.

"What we share in common with donors and volunteers is joy and excitement about the opportunity to serve the youngest members of our community," said Kitty Ash, Executive Director. "We give thanks for the love and generosity of people near and far who share our vision and commitment and support our ministry."

You can donate to Babies In Need by calling 406-439-6694 or go online to babiesinneed.org, or finding Giving Trees placed by Kiwanis groups in local McDonald's Restaurants, Perfect Look Salons and other venues such as churches, businesses, and community groups.











For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

Our Adult Day Center is Open!

Now proudly offering HOPE **Dementia Support Services**



Learn more at: CDMCaregiving.org HOPEdementia support.org

(360) 896-9695

2300 NE Andresen Rd. Vancouver, WA 98661

CDM Caregiving Services is Southwest Washington's oldest and largest in-home care agency for the elderly and disabled of all ages who need care. We are also proud to offer adult day services that offer restorative exercise, meaningful therapies, activities, and socialization.

e have been a vital part of our community for nearly 45 years. Volunteer leaders founded CDM to serve a growing segment of our population in need of services that did not exist at that time. We have continued to grow with the help of our clients, staff, donors, and volunteers who make our mission possible.

Our vision at CDM Services is purposefully ambitious: We are and will continue to be the recognized leader and resource provider of comprehensive programs and services, including care for the elderly and people of all ages with disabilities.

After over three decades of providing tens of thousands of people with millions of hours of in-home care, CDM Caregiving Services realized that there was more that we could do for the community - we already offer the best care in YOUR home, now we also offer the best care in OUR home.

The CDM Adult Day Center (ADC), located at 2300 Andresen Rd. Vancouver, leads the way in adult day services that provide respite for family caregivers and meaningful activities for clients.

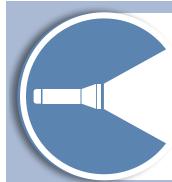
Our ADC services include:

- Individualized restorative exercise program by a licensed Physical Therapist.
- Services such as Music Therapy, Art Therapy, Therapy Animals, and memoryboosting activities.
- Socialization with others and being part of a "community" has proven to reduce depression and increase general health.
- Nutritious meals and snacks.
- Registered Nurse on staff during core hours.

We provide services funded by Medicaid, Respite, the Family Caregiver Program, and other publicly funded programs. We also accept most long-term care insurance and have competitive private-pay rates.

Our newest program, HOPE Dementia Support, provides counseling and services to families dealing with Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia. HOPE Dementia Support has been supporting our communities since January 2012. CDM is proud to incorporate HOPE into our family of services.

For more information visit www.CDMcaregiving.org or HOPEdementiasupport.org









For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

ifeline Connections

ope, help. Healing.

www.lifelineconnections.org



We are a bridge to your child's recovery



Don't let your teen or young adult use TikTok to self-diagnose their mental health symptoms!

Many teenagers are turning to this social media platform at a time when they're most vulnerable. Sometimes, kids are not ill but can be led to believe they are. Fortunately, Lifeline Connections has a professionally trained team of youth counselors to assist in making a proper diagnosis, develop an individualized treatment plan and work with young people to accomplish their goals.

How do you know the difference between normal adolescent behavior (where kids experience a wide range of emotions) and a mental health disorder?

Sometimes it's hard to know. It's normal for teens to experience a wide range of emotions and common for teens to feel anxious about school or friendships, or to experience a period of depression following the death of a close friend or family member. Mental health disorders are often characterized by persistent feelings that impact the way the adolescent feels, thinks and acts. Mental health disorders can interfere with regular activities and daily functioning, such as relationships, schoolwork, sleeping and eating.¹

Signs to look for are low energy, self-harm, difficulty sleeping, low interest in activities that they once enjoyed participating in, isolation, extreme exercise, dieting or binge eating, risky or destructive behaviors, use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs, etc.2

Lifeline Connections' team of youth counselors are passionate about working with young people to overcome both mental health and substance use disorders. LGBTQAI+ youth experience these emotions and behaviors at a higher rate than other teens. Fortunately, our youth counselors relate well with all teens and are currently serving many individuals who identify as LGBTQAI+.

Call (360) 984-5511 today to schedule an assessment and take advantage of one of the current openings in the youth program at our Orchards location, 11719 NE 95th St., Vancouver. Take the first step today to start your teen on their journey to wellness.

1 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Mental Health. (2019). Child and $adolescent\ mental\ health.\ https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/child-and-adolescent-mental-health/index.$ shtml

2 Mojtabai, R., Olfson, M., & Han, B. (2016). National trends in the prevalence and treatment of depression in adolescents and young adults. Pediatrics, 138(6). https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27940701/





Thank you

foir your Generosity



According to data from Charity Navigator and Giving USA, slightly more than \$410 billion was given to charitable causes in 2017. Philanthropy helps nonprofit groups and the people they serve, and such charitable efforts also benefit donors.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of charitable

giving is helping others and the way that makes volunteers and donors feel. But there is also a financial benefit to charitable giving. Charitable donations are often tax deductible, and budgeting for such donations can teach people how to properly manage their money.

This season, community matters more than ever. We all win when everyone has a place to call home.

3 WAYS TO DONATE

Online at councilforthehomeless.org/donate-online Mail to CFTH, 2500 Main Street, Vancouver WA, 98660 Text CFTH to 44321



Donors who want to make the most of their charitable dollars can consider the following tips.

STICK TO ONE OR TWO CAUSES.

Being a "giver" doesn't mean you have to contribute to every cause that draws your attention. It is important to believe in the cause you're donating to and that the message and efforts resonate with your values. This way you can focus your attention directly, and it will not seem like a financial burden. That might require you to narrow your donations down to one or two causes.

TREAT CHARITABLE GIVING AS ANY OTHER MONTHLY BILL. Look at giving to charity as a necessity rather than a luxury. Create a recurring "bill" that you pay each month and factor it into your overall spending budget. Some charities may even be able to arrange for automatic deductions from your bank account.

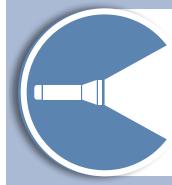
SET UP A SPECIFIC SAVINGS

ACCOUNT. Much like you might create a separate account for a Christmas club or vacation savings, create an exclusive account for charitable endeavors. Over time, that account balance will grow and the money can be used for whichever causes you deem fit.

DONATE WHAT YOU CAN. You need not donate hundreds of dollars to make a huge difference. Organizations can benefit greatly from small donations. Do not avoid donating because you think your donations are too small to make a difference.

FIND OUT IF YOUR COMPANY WILL

MATCH. Ask your employer to match your donations. Even if they decline, drawing attention to a cause may inspire your bosses and coworkers to donate. Nonprofits benefit greatly from word-of-mouth. Simply talking up a charity to others can make a big impact.









For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

Humane Society FOR SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

rescue • return • restore • rehome • reconnect one animal at a time

Help Us Make the Season Bright for the Animals

For more than 125 years, the Humane Society for Southwest Washington has been in service to the pets and people in our community. Every day at HSSW, pets receive shelter, medical care, behavior support, and a second chance at a happy home. And our work extends beyond the walls of the shelter, reaching our community of pet owners with programs that help keep families together.

In 2022, thousands of pets found their new families at HSSW. Through the spring and summer months, hundreds of kittens arrived at our doorstep, requiring special care from our medical team and dedicated foster volunteers. Beagles bred for a future as the subjects of medical testing were rescued, finding their new homes in our community. Nearly 100 rabbits were rescued from a single home in our community, receiving the care and shelter they needed until they could find new homes. And our transport program offered a second chance to pets from overcrowded shelters across the country.

This year we also saw a growing need for programs that support our community. Whether seeking shelter from historic wildfires or medical care, we are here for the pets of families in our community with programs like free pet food, wellness clinics, spay and neuter services, temporary shelter, and more. Hundreds of people and pets have received support from our community programs this year.

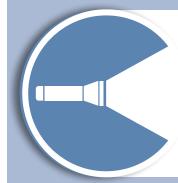
HSSW is a lifesaving pathway for animals in need.

When you support the animals this season, your gift will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$25,000 by a generous donor and friend of the animals. Your donation will make twice the impact, allowing us to serve more pets, save more lives, and bring us closer to our vision of a community where everyone loves and cares for animals.

> Help us make the season bright for the animals, make a gift at hssw.org/donate.

From all the people, dogs, cats, and rabbits of HSSW: thank you for your generous support and your dedication to our mission to rescue, return, restore, rehome, and reconnect one animal at a time.

Wishing you peace and joy in the new year.









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.ora

Providing Employment Readiness to the Community

We work with hundreds of families and individuals to help them become economically self-sufficient. Our programs provide employment readiness services to low-income to families in Clark County through job training, work experience, and individualized assistance. We strive to adults and parents stabilize their families and envision a pathway to success.

Career Academy provides one on one support for job seekers. In the program, participants learn job search strategies and skills such as finding jobs to apply for, applications, resumes, cover letters, and interview practice. Career Academy participants have access to transportation support and PIC technology lab to support their job search process. Connections to short term training opportunities to build skills are also available.

Partners in Careers serves individuals through a combination or language learning support, employment placement, required equipment for jobs and training connection when available. Participants are typically connected with local employers within their community, providing on-thejob training and employment.

Success Stories

Brigitte had been job searching for many months and had not worked a paying job in at least 20 years. Through attending the Career Academy workshops she realized she had great volunteer experience that she could talk about in interviews, and that her passion for the community and the Earth was something she could also share during an interview. Just when she was beginning to doubt herself, she got the call to say she was hired full time at IKEA. WITH BENEFITS. She is so excited to join their team and would not have heard of this opportunity without PIC!

Andrew moved to Vancouver three years ago. He was depressed and felt very unmotivated to work. He discovered Partners in Careers while surfing the web and read about the Career Academy. His experience was a very positive one. Andrew described this experience as "This was the first time anyone has ever stuck with me and stood up for me". His perseverance and refusal to give up lead him to being offered a job with Securitas. Due to his increased confidence, his new resume, and the fact that people believed he could succeed, Andrew is meeting his goals. He is saving for his own apartment and said for the first time, the future looks good. What does it feel like to be back on his feet? "The paycheck is amazing" he said, with a smile.

Have a little Holiday Color!











STEPS TO TAKE **BEFORE DONATING** TO CHARITY

Donations from private citizens are the lifeblood of many nonprofit organizations. Without donations from millions of well-intentioned individuals, many charities would not be able to fulfill their missions. When donating to charitable organizations, donors typically want to know their donations will make a difference. With a little pre-donation research and a few smart giving strategies, prospective donors can make sure their donations ultimately end up doing the most good.



REFINE YOUR ONLINE SEARCHES

The Federal Trade Commission recommends searching online for a cause you care about but adding certain terms to the search before choosing a charity. For example, if you're passionate about helping the homeless, instead of entering "charities for the homeless" into the search engine, search for "highly rated charities for the homeless." Such a search may uncover red flags about certain organizations and direct you to the most reputable charity possible.



VET A CHARITY BEFORE DONATING

Transparency is important when choosing a charity. A charity should willingly share information such as how donation dollars are spent and the programs that have been established to help it meet its mission. Such information should be readily available on the organization's website. The FTC recommends donors learn how much of their donations will be used to provide direct support to the programs. The FTC also recommends being suspicious of charities that do not provide detailed information about their missions and programs.



DON'T GO IT ALONE

Vetting charities is important, but donors shouldn't feel like they have to do all that legwork on their own. Various organizations, including Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Navigator and CharityWatch exist to protect donors and ensure they give wisely. Local government regulators also may be able to provide information about charities to help donors avoid fraud.

Charitable donations help millions of people every day. Donors can protect themselves and ensure their money is used wisely by doing their homework before giving to nonprofit organizations.

What could you BUILD with a little help?



The Columbian

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 Give More 24! participants we are able to share our Columbian 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**.