

A PRODUCT OF THE COLUMBIAN'S ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Connecting Community

GIVE BIG



The Columbian

Connecting Community

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Contact CommunityPartnerships@columbian.com
for additional information.



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may have missed at
columbian.com/special-sections/

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Get that giving feeling

When you give, good things happen.

#GiveBIG #ThatGivingFeeling

GIVE 
BIG
POWERED BY
501 COMMONS
2024



Give now through May 7–8 at WAGives.org

GIVE BIG

POWERED BY
501 COMMONS

MAY 7-8

What: GiveBIG 2024
When: May 7 - 8
(kicks off April 23 - you can donate today!)
Why: It feels good to give, lifts spirits and makes you feel more connected. You just feel good!
Where: www.wagives.org/community/Givebig-Sw-Wa for local nonprofits, and www.wagives.org for statewide nonprofits.

Making a difference in your 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.

GiveBIG 2024 is continuing its theme of ‘getting that giving feeling by participating in GiveBIG. It’s still true - there’s a feeling you get when you do something for others, whether it’s volunteering to help in some way or donating to a worthy cause. According to Waterford.org, an equitable learning organization, supporting nonprofits can lead to a greater sense of happiness, improved mental health, a stronger sense of purpose and fosters a greater number of social connections.

SW Washington, and organizations across the state, can use your help to support their programs as they work to support those in need in our community. From children to seniors, from domestic pets to wild birds, from survivors of abuse to survivors of war, Washington Gives, through the GiveBIG 2024 campaign helps them to raise much needed funds.

Get that GIVING feeling! When you give, good things happen in SW Washington.

Since its inception, nonprofits have raised over \$188 million through Washington Gives, and their year-round giving platform that hosts the GiveBIG and GivingTuesday campaigns. Last year \$12.8 million was raised overall for Washington nonprofits in about 3 weeks including direct donation, in-kind, sponsorship, and employer matching. This year there are 109 SW Washington nonprofits participating with more signing up every day. WAGives is passionate about addressing, not just money, but engagement with nonprofits. Nonprofit organizations fill the gaps in our community. By giving together, we Give Big.

Since this year’s fundraiser kicked off on April 18, more than \$1 million has been raised statewide. In SW Washington \$46,000 has been raised, with 138 donations by 118 donors. This year GiveBIG culminates with a 48-hour giving event on May 7-8.

What a GREAT feeling, knowing we can come together to support nonprofits that serve our communities, steward the environment, create art, and improve ALL of our lives. YOU can get that great feeling too.

“We give so we can live in a society with less difficulty, less harm and suffering and help to solve big problems, like climate change, lack of access to education, job development and more. Giving helps to solve problems and makes the community better,” shares Nancy Long, Executive Director of 501 Commons. “It’s a win for SW Washington to have this event for our nonprofits.”

To help you decide which organization to donate to, you can sort by location, cause or special population. The local nonprofits can be seen here: www.wagives.org/community/Givebig-Sw-Wa.

You can set up a one time or recurring donation for the nonprofits you choose to support.

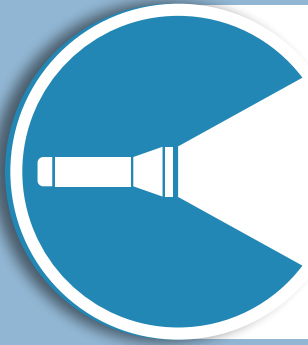
Get that GIVING feeling. When you give, good things happen.

The WAGives platform is open year-round. They count donations for GiveBIG through May 30. But individuals can donate to an organization year-round. You can set up recurring donations, even \$5/month can help a nonprofit. Fees can be covered by donors, platform providers and 501 commons. 88% of donors cover the fees for donations. Nonprofits pay about 1% of the fees so a majority of the money donated is going to the nonprofit to support the work they do.

If you participated last year, watch for an email. WA Gives makes giving really easy – sending previous donors a ‘give again’ message, with a checkout cart from previous year. These started going out April 23, and will be sent again each day of the giving period May 7 and 8.

If your nonprofit is interested in participating in GiveBIG 2025 or the Giving Tuesday later this year, sign up on the WaGives.org platform. The platform is good for year-round special fundraising campaigns, not just GiveBIG and Giving Tuesday.

Can you feel that? That’s the collective good feeling of people across Washington who have come together to donate to nonprofits. Keep the good feeling going.



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 many obstacles keeping families from succeeding. Broken relationships, dealing with addiction, a lack of education, or basic job skills can all play a role. At Open House Ministries, we walk alongside families with love and compassion, helping them overcome obstacles for stable futures.

More than a shelter.

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

Our full-time Chaplain counsels families while they attend classes. We provide vocational training in our thrift stores, Secondhand Solutions, and Wheel Deals Bicycle Shop, where residents gain new job skills and confidence to reenter the workforce. Graduate residents receive help locating affordable housing so they can build stable 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 families in our community recover and build new lives.

Volunteering at Open House Ministries is easy with flexible hours and opportunities available throughout our campus. 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.

Join us for Tours & Talks. First Friday of each month from 12 to 1 pm.

www.sheltered.org
360-737-0300

GIVE 
BIG
POWERED BY
501 COMMONS MAY 7-8





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.

1
1

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



Your support makes a BIG difference!




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.



HOPE Dementia Support, a program of CDM Caregiving Services, provides Support, Education, and Advocacy to individuals caring for people with all types of dementia.

CDMCaregiving.org
HopeDementiaSupport.org

DONATE TODAY!

Empower Change: Join Us in Building a Brighter Future

Join us Odyssey World in our mission for lasting change. Your donation directly supports initiatives that uplift and empower our community. Together, we can create a brighter, more equitable future. Thank you for your generous commitment to creating positive change!



THANK YOU!



P: 360-326-8565
E: info@Odysseyworld.org



VILLAGES CLARK COUNTY

360-553-1520
(Part of Villages NW, 501c3)

*Help us
Help others
Help themselves*

Donate:




Rides

Social Activities

Chores



We affectionately call southwest Washington the **heart of the Cascades**—a region defined by lush forests, life-sustaining rivers, abundant wildlife, and iconic mountain peaks, including Mt. Adams, Mt. Rainier, and Mount St. Helens.

But these treasured landscapes and the species that depend on them are facing dire threats from unsustainable development and a warming climate. That is why the Cascade Forest Conservancy's (CFC) work is more important than ever.

Cascade Forest Conservancy is the only nonprofit focused entirely on safeguarding the health of the cascades in southwest Washington by protecting and restoring forests, rivers, wildlife, and communities through conservation, education, and advocacy.

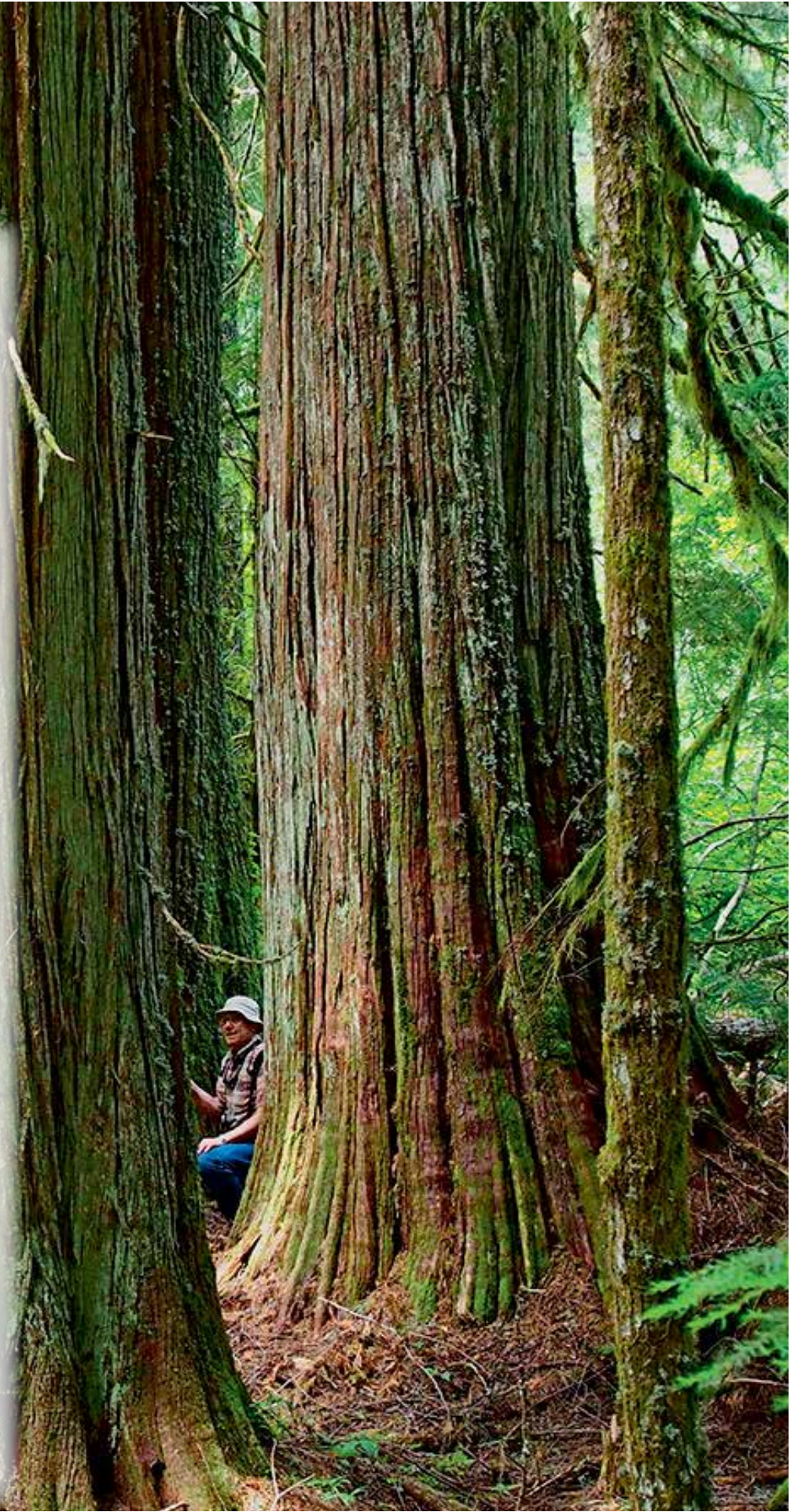
Since 1985, CFC has been working to build climate-resilient ecosystems, creating and improving critical habitats for threatened or endangered wildlife, while providing hands-on opportunities for members of our community to learn and connect with the ecosystems around them.

We've been able to do all this because of the support of people like you. Your support ensures that life in the heart of the Cascades has the chance to thrive in an uncertain future.

Join us, our volunteers, partners, and fellow supporters in making a difference that will benefit our region for generations to come.



Learn more and get involved at
www.cascadeforest.org





YOU HAVE THE **POWER** TO EMPOWER

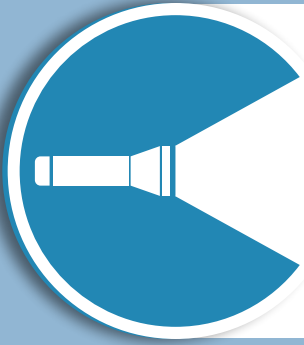


Stephen's Place helps neurodivergent individuals to not just survive, but thrive.

Donate to our GiveBIG to help your neurodivergent neighbors live happy, fulfilled lives.

SCAN HERE 
Or go to wagives.org





NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



NW ASSOCIATION
FOR
**BLIND
ATHLETES**

SUPPORT OUR ATHLETES BY GIVING BIG TO NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION FOR BLIND ATHLETES

Since 2007, Northwest Association for Blind Athletes (NWABA) has been on the move providing life-changing opportunities through sports and physical activity to children, youth, adults and veterans who are blind and visually impaired in our community. At just fifteen-years-old, NWABA Founder, President & CEO, Billy Henry, created his own opportunity to participate in the sport of powerlifting, wanting to ensure access to sports for all individuals.

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

NWABA continues to make significant strides and now provides more than 3,000 program and service interactions throughout the Pacific Northwest. NWABA athletes learn to engage in different sports and recreational activities, develop friendships, increase self-esteem, lead healthy lifestyles, and improve their orientation and mobility skills. Most importantly, they thrive in all aspects of their lives by building confidence, making connections, and become part of a community.

Your gift today will support NWABA's year-round programming throughout the state of Washington, including:

- **Sports Outreach** - In-person sports and activities offered year-round, including hiking, tandem biking, rock climbing, water & winter sports, and more.
- **Camp Spark** - Overnight summer and winter camps for children, youth and young adults (ages 8-21), where campers can gain independence and make friends while having fun learning and building upon their athletic skills.
- **Virtual Programs** - Open to individuals of all ages and fitness levels, we offer a variety of 60-minute live and pre-recorded, audio described online workouts to keep our athletes healthy and active at home, across the globe.
- **Sports Adaptations** - Offers comprehensive instruction and consultations for athletes, educators, school districts and families. Our Sports Adaptations Program includes no-cost adaptive equipment lending, a video resource library offering instructional movements and strategies, and physical education consultations to support inclusive physical education and sports for individuals who are blind and visually impaired.

With our summer programs just around the corner, our athletes need your support more than ever to keep the momentum moving forward, so that every individual who is blind and visually impaired can experience sports and physical activity.

Support our athletes by giving big to NWABA! Any amount makes a difference, and **your gift will be DOUBLED during GiveBIG Washington!** Visit www.nwaba.org/givebig to donate.

If you miss GiveBIG, you can still donate to NWABA at www.nwaba.org/donate.



SCAN TO
GiveBIG





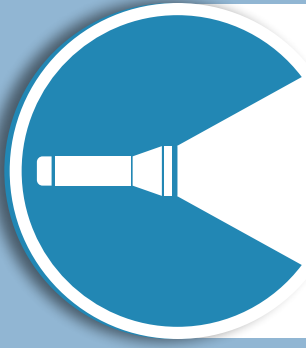
COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS
Leadership • Advocacy • Solutions

**We all
win when
everyone
has a
home**





wagives.org/organization/Council-For-The-Homeless



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

FoodBank

NORTH COUNTY COMMUNITY



creating a community where
no one goes hungry



North County Community Food Bank provides a network of wrap-around resources and services to assist our neighbors in need.

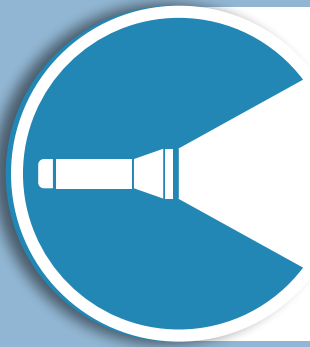
In today's economic climate, with increasing food prices, families and individuals are finding themselves struggling to make ends meet. Seniors living on fixed incomes, will often comment on managing their monthly finances by skipping meals, and not purchasing the prescriptions as they try to get by.

Your help during **GiveBigWA 2024** goes a long way in assisting area seniors, veterans, and each of our neighbors in need. Your generous gift provides a sense of relief, and a helping hand to someone who has no where to turn.

Please donate today and help the North County Community Food Bank successfully reach the generous matching fund contributions being made available in our communities efforts to win the war against hunger.

With your help we can reach our goal of raising \$100,000 to provide nutritious food items to our neighbors in need.

<https://www.wagives.org/donate/NCCFoodBank>



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
SOUTHWEST
WASHINGTON

40 years of
local giving

Shine
On!

Mary Granger was a visionary. Forty years ago, she and a caring group of residents founded the Community Foundation. Their dream: **To create an enduring source of community support.** Since then, we have partnered with hundreds of local donors and businesses to provide \$311 million in grants to local nonprofits.

**Join us Thursday,
June 6 at 6 p.m.** to honor people like Mary and celebrate our 40th Anniversary.

*"What we're doing isn't
just for now. It's forever."*

MARY GRANGER



Mary Granger, circa 1984

Purchase your tickets today at cfsww.org.

Community Foundation for Southwest Washington Celebrates 40 Years of Impactful Philanthropy

Southwest Washington's spirit of generosity is well-documented, but lesser known is a quiet organization that has spent forty years nurturing local giving. The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington is a unique charity that partners with donors to channel support toward nonprofits that address a range of community needs.

The late Mary Granger, a longtime community advocate and philanthropist, was the visionary behind this idea. It started when Governor John Spellman appointed her as a regional representative in 1980. Her tenure began with two recessions in just three years, which left her answering hundreds of calls from people in crisis.

"Welfare was being cut back and people were without food, power and, in some cases, a place to live," Granger recalled. "They were turning to the governor's office as a place of last resort."

When Mary saw a need, she acted. She quickly formed a task force of business and nonprofit leaders. The group held food drives, raised funds for emergency housing and organized free medical care for those in need.

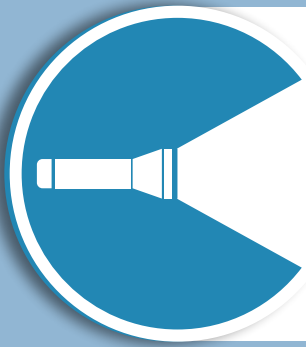
Steeped in the work, Granger recognized that local nonprofits needed sustainable funding to respond to crises. She became aware of the community foundation model and brought the idea forward. The community made it a reality.

Despite the economy, Granger and a group of caring neighbors managed to raise more than \$1 million in three years. A decade in, their collective efforts began compounding. Partnerships with major donors and businesses resulted in a long list of transformative projects and programs.

Residents enjoy these philanthropic investments daily at places like Esther Short Park, The Historic Trust, and Firstenburg Community Center. Programs launched through the Community Foundation like Operation Warm Heart, the Principal's Checkbook Program and Give More 24! have also made an impact and evolved over time.

Today, Granger's seed of idea has grown beyond what anyone expected. Working with local donors, the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington has facilitated giving and stewarded funds to build a corpus of \$385 million for ongoing impact. Closing its fourth decade of operations, the organization has now distributed more than \$300 million in grants.

Behind all those dollar signs are caring people who have chosen to give through the Community Foundation. Many of their stories and collective contributions will be honored at the organization's 40th Anniversary Celebration on the evening of Thursday, June 6. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit cfsww.org.



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



The Need Has Never Been Greater.

Please remember Vancouver St. Vincent de Paul during GiveBIG May 7-8

Our Society is inspired by Christian values to serve God's children, providing help and hope to the vulnerable population and homeless that visit us. The greatest demand is for rent, utility, and emergency shelter services, and we are serving only a fraction of the need in the Vancouver community. The population we help is very diverse culturally and ethnically, those often underserved in Clark County. Our objective is to help break the cycle of poverty, while working with other local agencies, advocating for resources for more stable lives.

In FY2023, our Conference touched the lives of 88,394 people, supplying 1,265,017 pounds of food through several programs, and helping 518 families with rent, utility, and emergency shelter assistance totaling \$373,771! Our total value of goods and in-kind services provided was \$3,519,353! This couldn't have occurred without the help of over 120 weekly volunteers and our many generous donors.

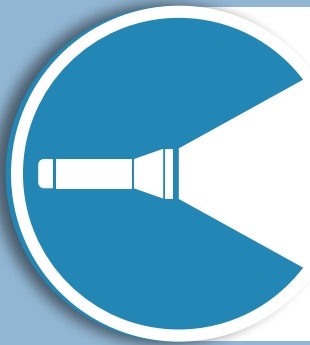
"I like working with people who strive to help others; it makes me a better person," said a dedicated volunteer. Our charity recently celebrated 85 years in the community. Key to the Society's active ministry is the person-to-person involvement of volunteers. 26 volunteers serve with their family members, helping over 6,000 individuals monthly, providing free food, clothing, hygiene, and diapers,

in addition to various other services. "It becomes like family; (I) enjoy working with other volunteers".

With great care and compassion, we help very fragile people in many situations - for example, a few days of shelter in a hotel before accessing housing, or rest and a shower before landing a new job. Another volunteer recently expressed "I like helping others and making our community better". One of the most precious gifts that we receive from a homeless individual is a smile of gratitude. When their hopes have been dampened while waiting in line, our volunteers touch each one with love and support, providing warm socks, a pair of clean pants, a coat, or a blanket. Living on the streets of Vancouver can be frightening and a challenge. When faced with hunger, fatigue, lack of clean clothes and sanitary services, a visit to our busy food and clothing pantry can help in a small way. "It gives us a chance to do what Jesus wants".



Visit: wagives.org/organization/Vancouver-SvdP-Society-Conference



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

Easy as 1, 2, 3 - Everyone donate with me!
GiveBIG is May 7 - 8!



let's
learn!



love to
read!



find
jobs!

Support for Early Learning & Families plays a vital role in our community!

Driven by a shared commitment to enrich the lives of children from an early age, Support for Early Learning & Families (SELF) is making a BIG difference for children and families across Southwest Washington. These three initiatives exemplify the collective action of our community as we work to support children and families.

1. YOU CAN... open your own child care business! The **Southwest Washington Child Care Partnership (SWCCP)** addresses the critical shortage of quality child care in our region. The partnership expands access to affordable, high-quality child care services in Southwest Washington. SWCCP also creates pathways for aspiring child care professionals. Those seeking entrepreneurship in early childhood education can acquire skills and credentials to open their own child care business. By investing in the workforce, the partnership not only enhances the quality of child care but also creates economic opportunities within our community.

2. YOU CAN... get free books delivered every month! Our partnership with **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**, a beloved literacy program that gifts free books to children from birth to age five has garnered state-wide notoriety for its impact on early literacy and school readiness. Inspired by Dolly's childhood experiences and passion for fostering a love of reading, the country music icon launched the Imagination Library to promote literacy and encourage family engagement in reading.

3. YOU CAN... land a great job in early education! Rounding out our efforts, SELF helps provide **employment in early care and education**. As strong advocates for quality early childhood education programs, we create opportunities for employment for educators, caregivers, and support staff. SELF fosters a workforce dedicated to promoting children's cognitive, social, and emotional growth while simultaneously bolstering economic opportunities for individuals passionate about early childhood education.

By investing in child care infrastructures, literacy initiatives and employment, we help ensure every child in our community thrives! **Please help us continue this work by donating at bit.ly/SELFGiveBIG or selfwa.org**

 Support For Early
Learning & Families

Donate May 7-8 online at:
bit.ly/SELFGiveBIG

GIVE 
BIG
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
MAY 7-8



Meals on Wheels People Seeks Donations to Continue Providing Food and Social Connection in the Senior Community

Meals on Wheels People enriches the lives of seniors and assists them in maintaining independence by providing nutritious food, human connections, and social support. They deliver and serve meals to anyone age 60 or older, regardless of their income, immigration status, national origin, religion, race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. Since 2006, their service in Clark County has continued to grow. Last year, they delivered more than 165,700 meals to more than 1,740 older adults across the county. In addition to delivering

meals to homebound seniors, they operate five centers in Clark County that host congregate lunch at least one day a week.

"Our mission goes beyond meals. People need food to survive, and human connection. For many participants, a visit from a Meals on Wheels People volunteer or staff member is the only contact they have with another person all day," says Mary Ann Naylor, Director of Marketing and Communications, Meals on Wheels People. "We couldn't do this without the support of more than 405 dedicated volunteers who give more than 12,414 hours every year to help us stay connected with our older neighbors in Clark County. They say volunteering for Meals on Wheels People helps them feel needed and connected to

their community."

The efforts of Meals on Wheels People in Clark County are supported by The Diner Vancouver, which provides a dining site for people age 60 and older in Clark County who are eligible for Older Americans Act meals (on a donation basis) while also providing an excellent local restaurant for everyone living in the surrounding neighborhoods as regular paying customers.

"The intergenerational nature of The Diner increases the opportunity for human connection and community support, thus expanding the healthy benefits that come from that connection," Naylor says. "Seniors who choose to eat at The Diner can order off a menu and come in at a time that

An advertisement for Washington Gives. It features a photograph of a smiling woman wearing a white shirt, glasses, and a white hat with sunglasses on top. She is holding a black cane. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a dining setting. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the text "Get That Giving Feeling" in white and green fonts. Below this is the Meals on Wheels People logo and the Washington Gives logo, which includes a heart icon and the text "POWERED BY 501 COMMONS". At the bottom, the website address "wagives.org/Meals-On-Wheels-People" is displayed in white text on a black background.

Get That
Giving
Feeling

Meals ON Wheels PEOPLE

WASHINGTON GIVES
POWERED BY 501 COMMONS

wagives.org/Meals-On-Wheels-People



Continued on next page ▶



suits them, rather than just at lunchtime on weekdays. Every purchase and donated tip supports our mission to end hunger and social isolation among older adults in Clark County.”

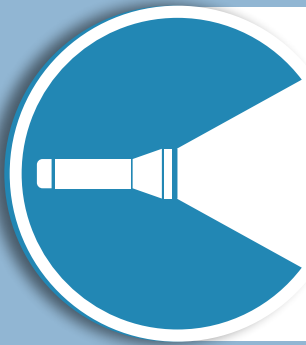
Naylor reports that Meals On Wheels People raised \$36,175 from 87 donors the last time they participated in the GiveBig campaign. “Through the generous contributions of donors, last year’s fundraising allowed us to serve 536 more of our Clark County neighbors. We went from serving 1,204 individuals in 2022 to 1,740 participants last year.”

She says a large portion of this growth

occurred at the congregate dining sites, highlighting an essential but often overlooked aspect of well-being among older adults which is social connection. “These sites have become vibrant hubs where individuals not only share a meal but also form meaningful relationships, proving that what we provide goes far beyond mere nutrition.”

This year their fundraising goal is to raise \$30,000 to ensure they can continue offering services to any older adult in Clark County and never have a waiting list for meals.





NONPROFIT Spotlight



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

SAVE
the
DATE



I AM
NAMI
National Alliance on Mental Illness
Walks

NAMI | Southwest
Washington
National Alliance on Mental Illness

This is WHY WE WALK

PERSONAL STORY:

For the past few years I've shared posts on social media about why the NAMIWalk is so important to me. These posts chronicle my sister's battle with mental illness, revealing the profound challenges and occasional triumphs we've faced together. Initially, she was ensnared in the grip of chronic suicidal ideation, her distress often met with ignorance and insensitivity. By the following year, she had spiraled into psychosis, her reality obscured by voices that many, including mental health professionals, dismissed—exacerbating her isolation.

The journey took a harrowing turn when she ceased speaking. This period of mute suffering transitioned into one of delusion, where rational conversations veered into uncharted territory, challenging the fabric of our relationship. I feared the vibrant soul I knew might be changed or worse, lost forever.

Navigating this relationship has tested my patience and understanding, pushing me to learn and adapt in ways I never anticipated. **It's a poignant reminder that the roles could easily be reversed**, highlighting the importance of empathy and recognition of one's fight against mental turmoil and suffering.

My sister's experience underscores a broader societal failure to honor the resilience of those battling mental health issues with the same reverence afforded to physical illness survivors. Despite brief spikes in awareness, conversations about mental health often dissipate, leaving those affected to fend for themselves in silence. However, sharing our family's story has sparked dialogue, revealing a shared struggle among many, and underscoring the pervasive impact of mental illness.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) champions the cause against this stigma, striving for a future where people with mental illness find more acceptance and better care. My participation in the NAMIWalk is a testament to my hope for a world that offers my sister, and others like her, a smoother journey through the tumultuous terrain of mental illness. I walk for a cause that matters and I hope you will join us – **let's make strides in mental health together at NAMIWalk!**

Saturday, May 18 | 11am | Marine Park
4501 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver

Please join us for our 2nd annual NAMIWalk, the largest, most vibrant mental health event in the area. It is about people who give their time, their stories, their heartfelt dedication to the cause: **Mental Health for All**. Combined with our Annual Donnelly Walk for double the impact!



Register Today!
NAMISWWA.org/walk

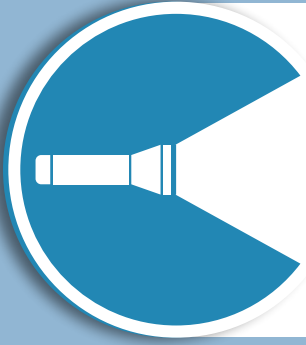
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



EVENT SPONSORS



Please join NAMI Southwest Washington on
May 18th for our 2nd annual NAMIWalk!



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



BE ENTHRALLED

by the

**VANCOUVER
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**

MUSIC IS FOR EVERYONE

When it comes to helping families struggling with homelessness, the high cost of housing is only part of the challenge. There are many obstacles keeping families from succeeding. Broken relationships, dealing with addiction, a lack of education, or basic job skills can all play a role. At Open House Ministries, we walk alongside families with love and compassion, helping them overcome obstacles for stable futures.

Performs approximately 40 times per year through its symphonic concerts at Skyview, chamber ensembles at First Presbyterian Church and other venues, at its popular silent film series at Kiggins Theatre, and more.

Inspires area students by hosting educational concerts, performing at school assemblies, working with school orchestras and bands, and holding master classes.

Unites the community through its free headlining performances at the **August 2-4 Vancouver USA Arts & Music Festival**.

VSO performances are **affordable for all**, with discounted student and need-based vouchers available.

Please join the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra as we uplift the community through music. Buy your tickets or make a gift online at vancouversymphony.org and join our family of supporters.

All donors by June 30, 2024, will be listed in the VSO's fiscal year 2024 Honor Roll.

Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
360.735.7278
vancouversymphony.org

Friends of Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge Seek Support From Donors and Volunteers



Friends of Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge find funding and offer support for the Ridgefield Refuge, the Ridgefield Community, and schools around the Refuge to provide access and education. Funding is used for tree plantings with classes; in-classroom

visit activity supplies; bus funds to transport students to the Refuge; event planning for private and public events like Dia de los Ninos and BirdFest & Bluegrass Festival. Funding is also used to bring groups in for BirdFest, such as Spanish-language groups

coordinated through Daycation and Hike it Baby. For these groups, the Friends pay for bussing and lunch for these families.

Going forward, the main focus of the Friends will be to raise funds for the new Community Nature Center Building that is being built on the Carty Unit as the second phase of the entire new building project. The Friends are looking for new board members who want to help raise awareness of the work the Friends do, so that they can support the organization and have time to raise all the funds needed for this building.

The Friends work to serve the Ridgefield community, Clark County, Portland Metro area, and “Anyone who loves wildlife and needs nature, which is everyone,” says Samantha Zeiner, Director of Operations Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

Zeiner says that during last year’s fundraising efforts, the Friends received under \$50,000, and just \$4,000 of that came in during last year’s GiveBig. “Last year’s funds have gone to planning how the Friends can help support the new building and supporting our mission to sustain everything the Refuge does. This

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

**WE ARE BUILDING A
COMMUNITY NATURE
CENTER**

The new Community Nature Center is part of the refuge’s vision to enhance access and serve our community well into the future. We appreciate your patience during construction and the temporary disturbances it may cause.

For more information check out:
WWW.FWS.GOV/REFUGE/RIDGEFIELD

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

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can include food for volunteer trainings, educational outreach materials, and outreach targeted towards education about the new building like bookmarks, social media efforts, and participation in outreach events,” she said.

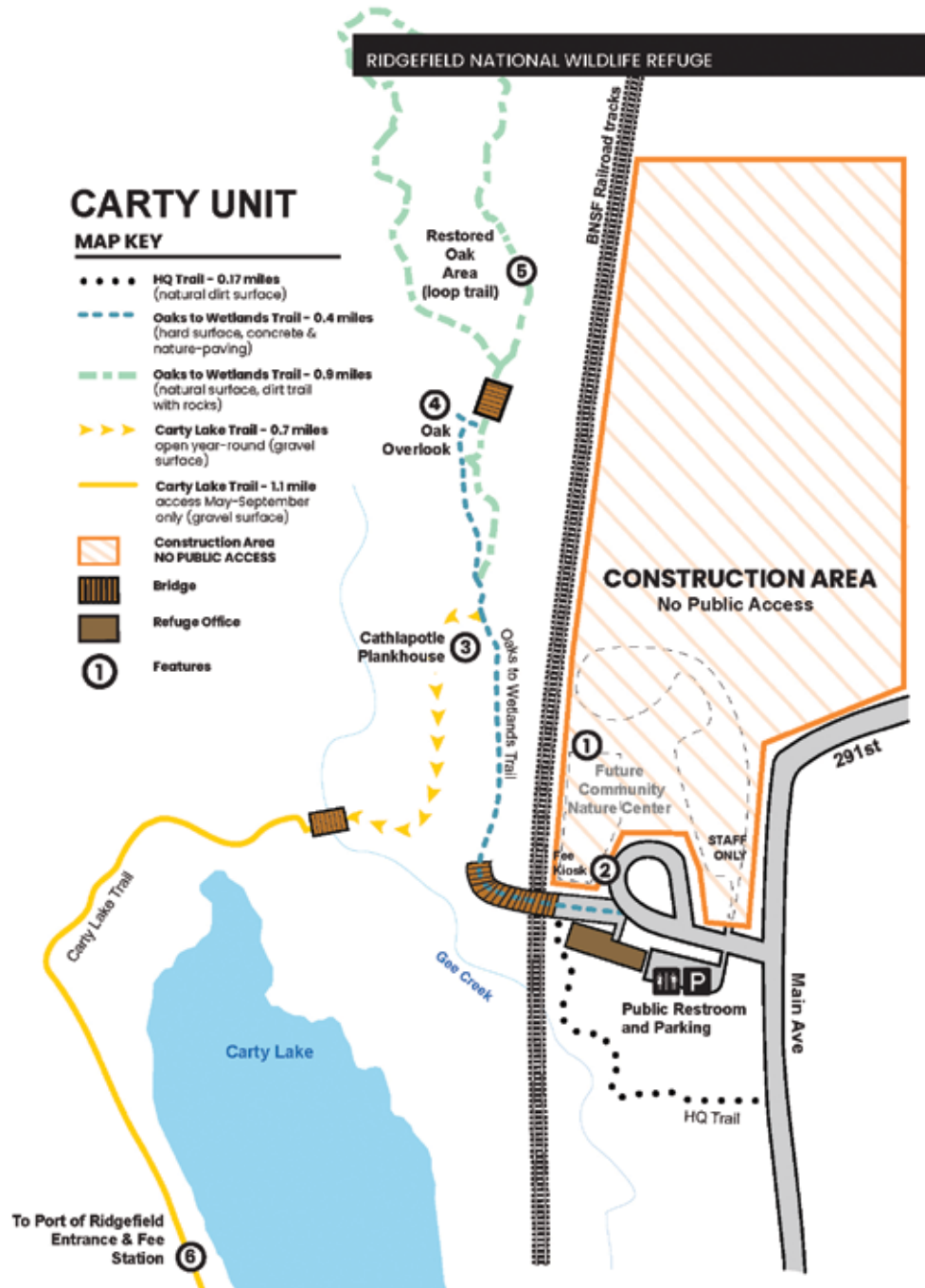
The Friends fundraising goal is to raise one million dollars for educational and interpretive materials inside the facility in the coming two years. Zeiner says, “We were thinking we would start with a campaign to raise \$50,000 for next year. We would like to find someone to donate

\$25,000 as a matching gift, to help us raise the other \$25,000 ideally, but otherwise, we will need \$50,000 to even begin our work on this project.”

She says these efforts would help the Friends hire an Executive Director to spend their time fundraising exclusively for the nature center’s interpretation and facility needs which is what has been identified as the first logical step in being able to start a campaign for the total that will need to be raised.

Friends of the Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge

are seeking people who are passionate about nature, the refuge, and creating a place of accessibility for everyone who visits the Refuge to join the Friends as board members or volunteers who are willing to go out into the community, and beyond, to make connections with funders and donors who can make the Refuge and Ridgefield’s 25+ year old dream a reality. “They do not have to be board members. Volunteers can help in so many ways! People with financial experience, nonprofit experience, fundraising knowledge, connections, or ideas are all welcome. We are ready to roll our sleeves up and work to raise some funds in the coming years!”



IT'S A MATCH MADE IN NATURE

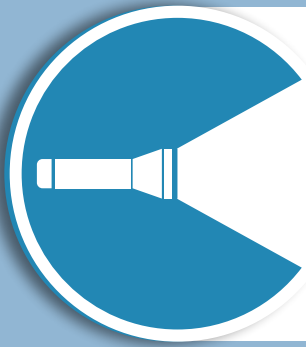
GET THAT GIVING FEELING

MAY 7-8 2024

GIVEBIG FOR WILDLIFE

WWW.RIDGEFIELDFRIENDS.ORG

GET READY TO MAKE A 'WILD' CONNECTION WITH THE ANIMALS THAT NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



The means to stay mobile ●

Reliable transportation is a barrier to independence and well-being for many people in our community. It is our passion and mission to break that barrier for Clark County's most vulnerable populations.

Our services include:

- **Providing approved rides to seniors and those with disabilities**
- **Training our team of volunteer drivers**
- **Sharing our community access vehicles with other local nonprofits**



CommunityInMotion.org



The means to stay mobile ●

Community in Motion has connected people in need with vital services and support for more than 60 years. Today, the organization's sole focus is linking individuals who live in Southwest Washington with reliable transportation services and resources so they can live rich, healthy, and independent lives. To that end, our programs assist people with trips to Medicaid-covered appointments, life-sustaining medical appointments, employment, other critical transportation needs, and social activities. Our services are especially useful to seniors, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and other underserved communities.

Community in Motion works closely with various community agencies, businesses, and other non-profit organizations to coordinate their clients' transportation needs. The organization takes a collaborative, open, and solutions-based approach that focuses on the individual and the need - not who gets the credit.

Anyone may use our Trip Resource Center (TripResourceCenter.org) to identify their transportation options. The service offers the ability to use filters to find specific transportation options for seniors, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and other underserved communities. Information given could include public transportation, private transportation companies, travel trainers, or non-profits.

We offer an Employment Transportation program for low-income individuals working with local employment partners who need transportation assistance to employment sites, job training, job interviews and other work-related activities.

Our North County Shuttle Service, offers residents of north Clark County the ability to go into Battle Ground for shopping, medical, social activities, and other needs. The shuttle divides the rural area into different routes depending on the day.

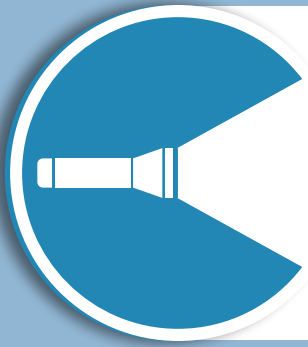
Volunteers in Motion is a program where trained volunteer drivers are matched with Clark County residents that require transportation assistance. Come join us: We are always looking for volunteers to help drive our community members. Volunteer drivers may use their own vehicle and be reimbursed for mileage, or they can use one of our vans to provide trips.

For information on requirements to be a volunteer driver please view our website <https://communityinmotion.org/services/volunteers-in-motion>.

We encourage you to consider volunteering with us, applying to join our board of directors, and/or making a financial contribution to support our work. To learn more, please visit our website: www.communityinmotion.org.

This organization is currently registered with the secretary's office under the charitable solicitation act - call 1-800-322-4483 to verify.





NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



CHANGING LIVES ONE JOB AT A TIME

**EMPOWER.
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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).

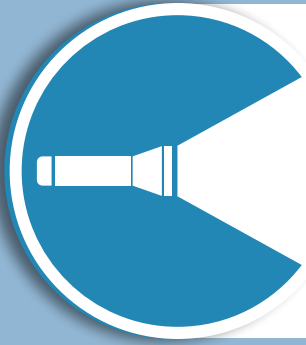
The PIC program gave me the opportunity to work at Restored and Revived; a small non-profit who is part of the recovery community. This was an amazing opportunity for me to brush up on my admin skills as well as learn new skills which lead to permanent employment.

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.



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



**abused Deaf women's
advocacy services**



Children at ADWAS Summer Camp gleefully enjoying the park!



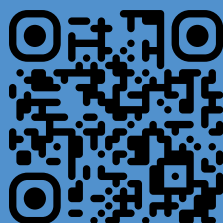
MAKE AN IMPACT TODAY!

www.adwas.org/donate

EIN: 91- 1339173

QUESTIONS?

Contact us @
adwas@adwas.org
206.922.7088
www.adwas.org



DONATE NOW

Use QR Code on the leftside
using your phone camera.

Empowering Deaf Abused Survivors

Deaf survivors in the United States confront a stark reality: they experience domestic and sexual violence at rates 1.5 times higher than their hearing counterparts, a troubling statistic revealed by the Vera Institute of Justice. When these survivors seek assistance, they often encounter a system ill-prepared to meet their unique needs, exacerbating their vulnerability.

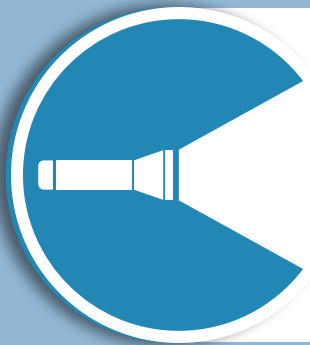
One of the central challenges faced by Deaf survivors is the scarcity of services specifically designed to accommodate their communication preferences and cultural background. Many service providers lack the necessary training to handle calls from Deaf individuals or to secure qualified interpreters promptly. This communication gap can leave survivors feeling isolated, misunderstood, and reluctant to seek help, particularly if they fear encountering providers unfamiliar with the complexities of Deaf culture.

Emmett Hassen, speaking from his role as the development director at Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS), highlights a distressing consequence of this disconnect: survivors' narratives often go unheard, unvalidated, or disbelieved, perpetuating their trauma and diminishing their prospects for recovery. The failure of service providers to bridge these communication barriers inadvertently mirrors the systemic oppression Deaf and DeafBlind individuals encounter daily.

Moreover, Deaf survivors face unique forms of abuse intricately tied to their communication methods and cultural identity. Perpetrators may resort to deliberately injuring their hands to impede effective communication or manipulate and control communication devices, such as smartphones or hearing aids. This manipulation extends to social tactics, including threats to isolate survivors from their Deaf community or spreading falsehoods to discredit them within their trusted circles.

Addressing these challenges requires a deep understanding of Deaf culture and linguistic nuances. ADWAS stands out as a beacon of support, offering services in American Sign Language (ASL) and Protactile, a language designed by and for DeafBlind individuals. This linguistic inclusivity sends a powerful message of affirmation and understanding to Deaf survivors, reassuring them that their experiences will be acknowledged and respected.

Crucially, ADWAS employs a trauma-informed approach that emphasizes visual communication cues and respects survivors' agency in decision-making. Staff members are either Deaf themselves or fluent in ASL, ensuring effective communication and empowering survivors to access legal, medical, and mental health resources on their terms. By embracing Deaf culture's values of collaboration and empowerment, ADWAS exemplifies a transformative model of support for Deaf survivors of domestic and sexual violence.



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



The Free Clinic of Southwest Washington provides free health care for uninsured community members in Clark County, Washington. For over 30 years, people entering our clinic have been receiving access to free, compassionate, quality health care and given the opportunity to live a healthy life. Obstacles keeping them from moving forward are addressed, helping them to rebuild and thrive. But it takes time. And no one can do this work alone.

Our work focuses on offering basic medical care, urgent dental care, medication assistance, immunizations, diabetes care and self-management, insurance and Medicaid navigation, and coordination of specialty care in the community. Our 300+ volunteer health care professionals provide virtually all services for over 3,000 patients each year. Funding for the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington is met through donations from bequests, businesses, foundations, individuals, and special events (like GiveBIG). We never charge our patients, and do not receive insurance or government reimbursement for our services. We are truly a locally funded organization whose dollars stay in the community.

Patients at the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington are assisted by many community partnerships with a common purpose. Forged over time, connections with area organizations have strengthened our mission to offer free, compassionate, quality health care for the uninsured in Clark County. We work with Kaiser, Legacy, PeaceHealth, Vancouver Clinic, Vancouver Public Schools and many more, strengthening the health care network within our community.

Having no health insurance and finding quality care can be a very big obstacle. The Free Clinic of Southwest Washington provides the uninsured with the care they need so they can move forward and build stable futures for themselves and their families. You can help by supporting our organization during GiveBIG. Together we can help provide health care for the uninsured in Clark County and give them the tools they need to live a healthy life.

www.wagives.org/organizations/Free-Clinic-Of-Southwest-Washington

www.freeclinics.org

360-450-3044



Agape Christian Academy is a non-denominational, private Christian school in the greater Clark County Washington region. We are the only Christian high school in Camas, WA. Our beloved school is celebrating its 20th year! With 345 students, the Lord has blessed us with a beautiful, loving community where children enter to grow and leave to impact.

Our mission is to develop unshakeable faith and God-given purpose in each student.

ACA is currently operating on three campuses (within a 1-mile radius) and it is our desire to have all our students on one campus. Fundraising is our lifeline and we cannot do what we do without wonderful supporters like you!



PLEASE
DONATE TO ACA
DURING GIVEBIG
MAY 7-8!



AGAPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY PRESCHOOL – 12TH GRADE

BIBLICAL TRUTH | CHARACTER & COMMUNITY | ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



360.833.0558 | Located in Camas, WA | Find out more! www.goacalions.org

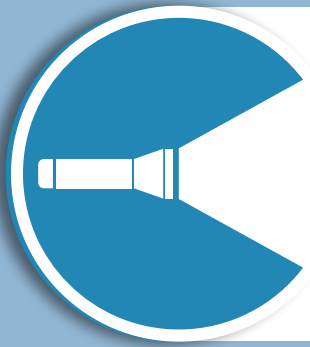


Hudson's Bay High School Foundation

Supporting all aspects of HBHS:

- Students and Staff
- Academics
- Activities
- Athletics

For more information visit
www.hudsonsbayfoundation.org



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



A Holiday Party for immigrant families, with a free toy shop and “reindeer” alpaca snuggles. Birthday Celebration Kit assembly for over 900 students experiencing homelessness or foster care in the Vancouver School District. A Community Baby Shower where 50+ pregnant moms received large baby items, diapers, clothing, and more.

That’s just a few of the Sunday “church services” River City Church has held in the past year. We “cancel” our worship gathering on the 2nd Sunday of each month to serve the community instead! Our amazing volunteers have served over 43,000 hours - that’s more hours than River City Church has even existed.

River City Church is along the Fourth Plain Corridor, in a historically under-resourced neighborhood overflowing with culture and diversity. Lots of people who aren’t “church people” volunteer at our Serve Days, and our goal is to create an environment where people from various backgrounds can find belonging and purpose while making a difference. Jesus said that people would recognize His followers by how well they love - we pray that these Serve Days would reflect the love we have for our community!

In such a diverse neighborhood, River City has had many other unique opportunities for people to serve. During January’s Ice Storm, we opened our building as a Warming Shelter - and remained open for 9 days and nights straight. 300+ homeless people found shelter here - including young children. You rallied around us to cook thousands of meals, collect blankets and clothing, and even provide medical care.

We only have 2 full time staff and few resources, but we will always say “yes” to needs whenever possible - thanks to countless volunteers who jump in with both feet to serve! As one River City volunteer put it, serving others is “putting legs on your faith.” And we are so grateful for volunteers who walk with us to meet these needs! THANK YOU for helping make Vancouver a better place and giving our neighbors more opportunities for a brighter future.

There is always a family friendly volunteer opportunity coming up at River City Church - and we are always looking for more people and organizations to partner with!

Get involved! Scan the QR code or visit <https://rivercityvancouver.com/givebig> to:

- See what’s coming up
- Give financially to support our Serve Days
- Sign up for email updates

Help us serve under-resourced families in our neighborhood. Every penny (and volunteer hour) will make a lasting impact!

LOVE. SERVE.
Volunteer.



**Learn more &
get involved!**

  @rivercityvancouver

rivercityvancouver.com/givebig



What's on the *horizon*



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 GiveBIG 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. How can we help you set your sights on the horizon?

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**.