

A P R O D U C T O F T H E C O L U M B I A N ' S A D V E R T I S I N G D E P A R T M E N T

Connecting Community

YEAR END GIVING



The Columbian

GIVING TUESDAY

How to Participate

The excitement of the holiday season is palpable. Many people look forward to this time of year so they can deck their homes in lights and find gifts that will delight friends and family.

The spirit of giving that pervades the holiday season extends to Giving Tuesday, which comes on the heels of the busiest shopping days of the year. According to the Giving Tuesday website, Giving Tuesday is a movement that “reimagines a world built upon shared humanity and generosity.” Organizers feel that generosity is the avenue through which humanity can collectively strengthen its social fabric. Those who would like to harness the spirit of charitable giving can explore these ways to give back.

GET INVOLVED WHERE IT STARTED

Giving Tuesday started with a team from the Belfer Center for Innovative & Social Impact in New York City. In November 2012, these individuals implored nonprofits, influencers and businesses to

inspire others to get involved with acts of giving. The organization has many initiatives that people can support in addition to the original Giving Tuesday. Learn more at www.92ny.org/belfer-center.

PLANT A COMMUNITY GARDEN

Food insecurity is a problem in many neighborhoods across the country. Petition local city councils for a portion of green spaces to devote to a community garden to grow produce for those who may need it. Doing so can foster a sense of camaraderie in communities.

START A CAREMONGERING MOVEMENT

Caremongering began as a community-led social movement to address health and social needs during the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada. Caremongering is designed to help vulnerable people and can include anything from grocery shopping for those with mobility issues to virtually or physically socializing with others to combat social isolation. Those who want to caremonger can do many other things, like run emergency errands or help with childcare.

DONATE GOODS AND SUPPLIES

Areas of the southern United States experienced extreme devastation with the one-two punch of hurricanes Helene and Milton in early October. Natural disasters can displace families and push individuals to the brink as supplies become scarce. It is likely recovery efforts in areas wiped out by these storms will take months, underscoring the importance of continued support via donations and volunteer efforts.

Getting involved on Giving Tuesday is easier than one may imagine. Let this day sow the seeds of generosity for the entire year.

Connecting Community

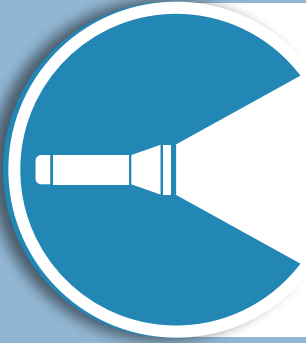


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Contact CommunityPartnerships@columbian.com
for additional information.

Read past sections you
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Special Section Coordinators
Teresa Davis
Laurie Stover



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



treehouse™

Little Things Make Big Things Happen

Your support creates opportunities for youth
in foster care in Southwest Washington



Donate now



HELPING YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE REDEFINE SUCCESS

The road to educational success starts before a student even enters the classroom. Youth in foster care face significant disruptions to their education, often causing them to fall behind on their learning journey. With the right support every step of the way, they can stay on track and meet their goals.

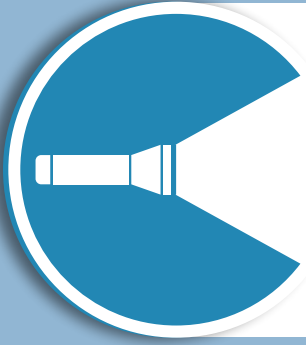
That's where Treehouse comes in—we are a nonprofit that supports youth in foster care by providing resources and direct services aimed at breaking down educational barriers. Every year, we support more than 6,000 children and young adults across Washington state to thrive in the classroom and beyond.

In Clark County, approximately 180 youth and young people needed Treehouse's support to remove educational barriers. Solutions to those barriers can range from preventing unnecessary school transfers with Best Interest Determination meetings to creating special education accommodations. Approximately 40% of Treehouse participants have special education accommodations of varying degrees, making it the most requested area of support.

For example, a 5th grader was referred to an Educational Advocate for support with developing an Individualized Education Program (IEP). They qualified for special education services in five areas but had no previous support due to their home placement changing 16 times without the required meetings being completed on time. The student was moving to a new school district without completing an IEP evaluation again. The Educational Advocate was able to attend two Best Interest Determination meetings that took place during enrollment, ensuring that the IEP evaluation was completed within the mandatory timeframe and an appropriate IEP was developed.

Another student, a kindergartener who had never attended any type of school environment, was having trouble managing their behavior while riding the bus. The Educational Advocate coached the caregiver on how to ask the school to create a 504 plan, an education plan for students with disabilities. The 504 plan supported his behavioral needs and gave him access to specialized transportation. As a result, the student's behavioral needs were met both on the bus and in the classroom. When the Educational Advocate followed up two weeks later, the caregiver said there had been no additional behavioral issues.

Treehouse meets each youth in foster care where they are, providing tailored support to help them achieve their education goals and redefine what success means to them. **For more information about Treehouse and how you can get involved, visit Treehouseforkids.org.**



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



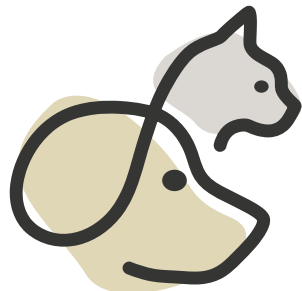
For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

Founded in 1897, the Humane Society for Southwest Washington is the oldest and largest animal welfare organization in Southwest Washington. Each year, thousands of pets in our community receive care at HSSW. We provide shelter for lost and stray pets, refuge from abuse and neglect, essential medical care, and a second chance for a happy home.

Our commitment to the pets and people of Southwest Washington extends beyond the shelter walls, reaching families throughout our community. Our Mobile Veterinary Clinic provides critical wellness care and spay/neuter for hundreds of pets every year. Through our Community Solutions Program, we deliver pet food support, emergency boarding, financial aid for medical services, and other programs designed to keep pets and people together. In 2025, we will open our new Community Veterinary Clinic and will also expand our work to include communities in Cowlitz County.

Thanks to our hardworking staff, dedicated volunteers, and generous donors, we are reaching more pets than ever. Together, we can achieve our vision of a community where everyone loves and cares for animals.

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

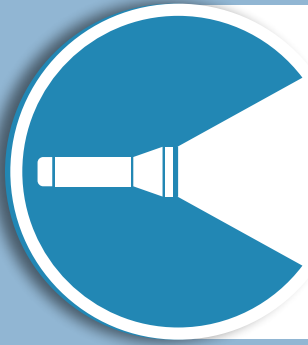


Humane Society
FOR SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON



**Help us make the
season bright for
the animals.**

hssw.org/donate



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



Holiday Store

**ReTails Holiday Store
is now open.**

**Deck your halls and support
the animals!**



Every purchase and donation supports the animals at the Humane Society for Southwest Washington.

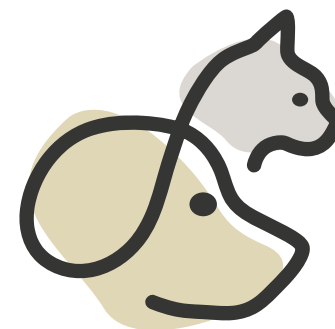
Celebrating its tenth year on Fourth Plain, ReTails has roots that stretch all the way back to a garage sale in 1995. Today, ReTails is Clark County's premier thrift experience, and we're proud to be named Best Thrift Store in Best of Clark County eight years running!

More than just a thrift store, ReTails features 30,000 square feet of thrift staples like clothing, home goods, and electronics in addition to more unique finds like vintage and collector's items, furniture, and much more. And each year, ReTails opens its popular Holiday Thrift Store, featuring an array of items including décor, ornaments, and even fully lit Christmas trees!

ReTails is also a resource for people and pets in our community. We partner with local service organizations, donating Welcome Home Kits consisting of kitchen items, linens, cookware, cleaning supplies, and more to families entering transitional housing.

Best of all, every purchase and donation supports the work of the Humane Society for Southwest Washington. Each year, ReTails generates critical funds to fuel the work of HSSW and support pets in need.

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



How to maximize the tax benefits of donating to charity

People generally make charitable donations out of a selfless desire to help those in need. Indeed, Investopedia notes that charitable organizations survive primarily on donations. Without the financial contributions of donors, many charitable organizations and nonprofits would be incapable of meeting their missions.

Donors may make charitable contributions to help others, but there's no shame in taking advantage of the tax benefits associated with donating. Laws governing the tax benefits associated with charitable donations can vary from year to year, so it's best that donors stay on

top of the rules, particularly if they plan to prepare their own returns in April. Charitable individuals can keep these strategies on maximizing the tax benefits of donations in mind as they prepare to support their favorite charities.

- **Work with a financial planner.** As noted, the tax laws governing charitable donations can change from year to year, and some of those changes may be subtle. That's why it can benefit donors to hire a seasoned financial planner, ideally before making donations. Financial professionals can advise prospective donors about donation strategies that will earn them the most significant tax deductions.



Some donations help donors avoid capital gains taxes, while others may not even qualify for deductions. Making sense of the rules is easier when donors work with licensed, experienced financial professionals.

- **Do the math before donating.** No donation is too small to help a worthy cause, but donors who want the best of both worlds should do a little math prior to deciding how much to donate. Charitable donations beneath a certain dollar threshold may not make a difference in terms of deductions when it comes time to file a return. Donors who know the deduction thresholds may be able to reduce their tax liability by donating a little more than they initially intended, a scenario that benefits both charitable organizations and taxpayers alike.

- **Confirm donations qualify for deductions prior to donating.** Fidelity Charitable® advises donors seeking to maximize the tax benefits of charitable donations to make sure a nonprofit organization is an IRS-qualified 501(c)(3) public charity or private foundation prior to making a donation. Donations to organizations that do not fit that criteria may not be eligible for deductions, so it's imperative that donors confirm details about an organization prior to donating.

- **Keep digital records and receipts.** Even if a donation qualifies for a deduction, taxpayers can only claim it if they keep records of their contributions. Organizations on the receiving end of donors' generosity may provide proof to donors who lost their original receipts, but that process can take time, particularly if taxpayers wait until April to prepare their returns. When donating to charity, request digital receipts of all contributions, as these are harder to lose and easily accessible come tax prep season.

Donors may not give to charity with tax deductions in mind. But there's no shame in maximizing the tax benefits associated with supporting a worthy cause.

Give the Gift of a Safe and Stable Home



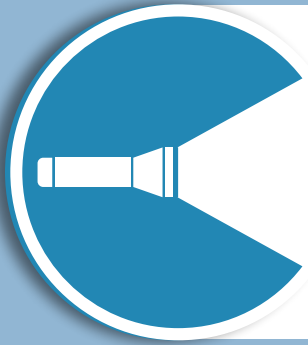
Your gift will be doubled by a generous \$10,000 match!



Scan the QR code to donate today.



councilforthehomeless.org



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

Imagine THE POSSIBILITIES



*
Your donation puts
books into the hands
of local children.

DONATE TODAY:
selfwa.org/givebooks

DONATE HERE:



Visit us at: selfwa.org

 Support For Early
Learning & Families

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES AN IMPACT!

Imagine every child having the opportunity to receive a book each month. Imagine the joy that would bring. Imagine the thrill of exploring new adventures by reading a new book. **By donating to Support for Early Learning & Families this holiday season, you can make this wish come true for local children.**

It's been just over three years since we became the Southwest Washington Dolly Parton's Imagination Library affiliate, and we are overjoyed with the overwhelming response to this special program. The way this program has grown is truly amazing. We have **over 11,000 children enrolled in the Imagination Library.**

A love of books and reading offers literacy skills that set children up for future success. Our partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library levels the playing field for all children by helping them build a home library of their very own and encouraging increased interaction with caregivers around books and reading.

By donating you will provide age-appropriate, high-quality books that are mailed each month to enrolled children, birth to age five, at no cost to families in our community.

Dolly, along with local businesses, philanthropists, parents, grandparents, and educators are investing in young children; we hope you will too.

DONATE TODAY: selfwa.org/givebooks



Avoid These 4 Charity Scams

Our Advocacy Starts with You! Nuestro Apoyo empieza con usted!

Empowering Young People & Strengthening Families
Empoderando a los jóvenes y fortaleciendo a las familias



Volunteer
ser
voluntario

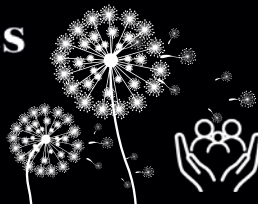


Donate
Donar



Cowlitz & Clark County Child Advocates

Headquarter Office
1024 Broadway St. Longview, WA 98632
www.childadvocatessc.org



Charitable giving grew in 2021. According to Blackbaud Institute, a social good innovator, giving not only increased after COVID-19, but actually rebounded more than it had in a decade - increasing in the United States by 9 percent overall.

Annual private philanthropy as a percentage of GDP is about 1.44 percent in the United States. Philanthropy Roundtable reports that rate in Canada is 0.77 percent.

People tend to give the most to charity at the end of the year. While legitimate organizations may step up their solicitation of donations at this time, scammers also realize the months of November and December is prime giving season. So many scammers increase their deceptive tactics to cheat unsuspecting individuals at this time of year. Here are four common charity scams that every prospective donor should be aware of.

1. IMPERSONATING ANOTHER CHARITY

Most philanthropic groups have an online presence in some shape or form. Scammers will replicate the look of the charitable group's website or social media account, or may contact you through email or text to

Continued on next page ▶

solicit funds. Thinking it is a legitimate charity, you may follow a link to enter donation information.

To avoid this scam, do not click on any links. Rather, enter the exact email address of a charity, if you know it, or use a trusted resource like Charity Navigator for contact information. If you're still leery about online transactions, call the charity and ask to be sent a donation statement in the mail, which you should be able to mail back postage-paid.

2. THE HARD SELL

A legitimate charity is happy to welcome a donation any time you're able to give it. A scam operation may employ a hard sell or a deadline by which the donation must be made. In addition, a fraudulent "charity" might ask for payment only by cash, gift card or wire transfer (because it is difficult to trace), and this should raise a red flag that something is amiss.

3. A THANK-YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

AARP warns that some scammers will send you a thank-you for a donation that you supposedly already made to entice you to give again. This is designed to lower your inhibitions about a soliciting charity. It's always a good idea to keep records of charitable giving, especially for tax-related reporting, so you can easily verify if you gave to a group in the past.

4. CRYPTOCURRENCY WALLET

As methods of making payments change, scam groups often ride the wave. The Federal Trade Commission learned that when the government of Ukraine announced it would be accepting donations to support their efforts via a cryptocurrency wallet, scammers started getting in on the action. But instead of the funds getting sent to the government's wallet, the donations headed to a private wallet.

Always conduct an online search of the wallet address to confirm that money is being sent to the right place. Typically you can't reverse cryptocurrency payments, so due diligence is required.

Individuals need to be extra cautious with charitable giving to avoid common scams.



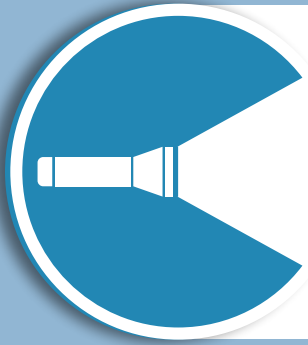
FRIENDS of the
CHILDREN
SW Washington

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

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

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Make a gift today that has generational impact – [friendswwa.org](https://www.friendswwa.org).



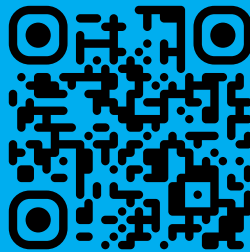
NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



www.adwas.org



Use phone camera
for QR code

SUPPORT
Deaf and DeafBlind survivors
of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Your donation helps provide lifesaving
advocacy, shelter, and resources
through ADWAS.

Donate today at adwas.org/donate/

Deaf survivors of domestic violence face unique challenges that abusers exploit due to societal gaps in accessibility. Tash Hansen-Day, project coordinator at Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS), highlights the importance of trauma-informed, culturally specific services tailored for Deaf and DeafBlind survivors of all genders. Trauma-informed care at ADWAS centers on restoring survivors' agency and helping them rebuild trust.

One survivor story illustrates ADWAS's impact: after fleeing abuse from her home country, a Deaf woman found critical support through ADWAS, including a domestic violence protection order and safe housing for her family. Surrounded by a supportive community, she began to regain her resilience and rebuild her life.

Unfortunately, Deaf women in the U.S. face domestic and sexual violence at rates 1.5 times higher than hearing women, yet resources remain scarce. Many hearing agencies lack the knowledge or resources to provide American Sign Language (ASL) or DeafBlind interpreters, which are essential for survivors navigating courts, police, or medical services. Washington's current interpreter shortage adds to the struggle, leaving Deaf survivors without timely assistance.

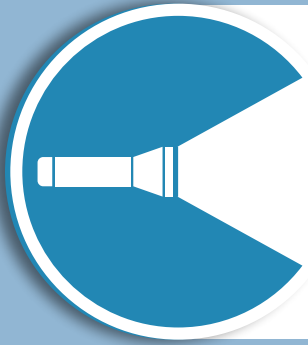
Many Deaf survivors also avoid community spaces out of fear their abuser could track them there. This isolation—particularly for marginalized Deaf communities like BIPOC and LGBTQ+—worsens the effects of trauma, contributing to post-traumatic stress, trust issues, and more.

ADWAS's specialized services cater directly to Deaf, DeafBlind, and DeafDisabled survivors. Their offerings include medical and legal advocacy, an emergency shelter in a confidential location, a crisis hotline, and the nation's only supportive housing for Deaf survivors. This housing facility, "A Place of Our Own," provides survivors with a safe environment and culturally affirmative support. Stephanie Mathis, ADWAS's program director, notes the facility serves as a beacon of hope for survivors, enabling them to access necessary resources and begin to heal.

ADWAS's impact goes beyond accessibility; survivors gain a sense of security from working with Deaf advocates who share their language and understand their community. This culturally attuned support is especially crucial during legal processes and crises, where misunderstandings can lead to harmful outcomes. ADWAS advocates also help Deaf immigrants get culturally relevant and accessible services when working with immigration lawyers for asylum or visas.

"When Deaf survivors come to our office, they don't have to worry about being dehumanized," Hansen-Day says. "They face impossible challenges, yet they keep going."





NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

**BECAUSE
EVERYONE
DESERVES A PLACE
TO CALL HOME.**



**GIVING
TUESDAY**

Donate **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3** to support Share's shelter and housing programs.

YOUR GIFT MATCHED UP TO \$38,500!



Ronald Jones



Debbie & Paul Speer



**DONATE ONLINE:
sharevancouver.org**

HELP SHARE SHELTER AND HOUSE MORE PEOPLE AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

During the 2024 Point in Time count, conducted by Council for the Homeless, 1,366 people were experiencing homelessness in Clark County - 146 families, 87 young adults, six unaccompanied minors, 110 seniors and 39 veterans.

And affordable housing remains out of reach for thousands more - just 25 affordable homes are available per 100 low-income residents in Clark County, who would need to earn \$38 an hour in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment.*

"We believe that everyone deserves a safe place to call home. Everyone is someone's somebody - son, daughter, sister, brother, uncle, aunt, mother, father. Our compassionate and dedicated staff work each day to help our clients, from senior citizens who are priced out of their family home due to rising rent, to families with children who, despite full-time employment, do not have enough monthly income to make ends meet," said Amy Reynolds, Share's Executive Director.

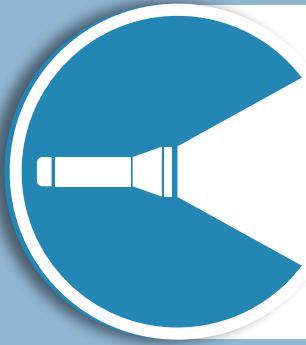
This year, Share's shelter and housing programs have helped 1,157 people through more than 11 programs:

- Share's four shelters - Share House, Share Homestead, Share Orchards Inn and Women's Housing and Transition
- Respite beds, in partnership with PeaceHealth, to provide short-term housing and medical care for people who are too ill or frail to recover from an illness or injury on the streets but not ill enough to be in the hospital
- The Winter Hospitality Overflow program, a partnership with Council for the Homeless and St. Andrew Lutheran Church, which operates Nov. 1 to March 31
- Permanent Supportive Housing, which provides rental assistance and resource education for employment training, family counseling, debt reduction, budgeting, drug/alcohol abuse, domestic violence, counseling, mental health, education, parenting, life skills, childcare referral, transportation
- Housing and Essential Needs program, which provides rental assistance to people who are temporarily unable to work due to a mental or physical health issue
- Lincoln Place, a 30-unit permanent supportive housing apartment complex
- Eviction Prevention and Rent Assistance Program, and Rapid Rehousing Program, which both provide rental assistance and case management so that households don't fall into homelessness

There is an urgent need for funding for Share's shelters and housing programs. **Help us reach our \$100,000 goal with a donation at sharevancouver.org on Tuesday, December 3** in honor of #GivingTuesday.

Donations will be matched up to \$38,500 thanks to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, ConMet, Ronald Jones, Kiewit, Rulli Law, Debbie and Paul Speer, and US Bank.

*Source: The Columbian



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



LOVE. SERVE.
Volunteer.



**Learn more &
get involved!**

f @rivercityvancouver

rivercityvancouver.com/givingtuesday



A Holiday Party and free Toy Shop for immigrant families. Welcome Home Basket assembly for foster youth aging out of the system and getting their first apartments. A Community Baby Shower where 75+ 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 invested over 48,000 hours into our city.

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+ houseless 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.

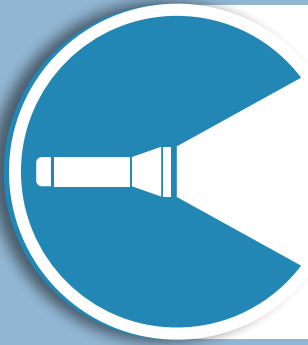
We have very few resources, but we will always say "yes" to needs whenever possible - thanks to countless volunteers who jump in with both feet to serve! As one River City volunteer put it, serving others is "putting legs on your faith." And we are so grateful for volunteers who walk with us to meet 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/givingtuesday> 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! impact!



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



Funding the Future



*Learn more about how we
support student success and
program excellence!
bit.ly/ccfundingthefuture*

FUNDING THE FUTURE

At Clark College Foundation, we believe in the power of education to transform lives and build a brighter future. But achieving success isn't just about opening doors—it's about removing barriers, nurturing innovation, and providing the critical equitable resources that our students need to thrive. That's why we're funding the future through four key initiatives, each designed to support the diverse needs of our students and the community.

Clark College Student Success Fund

The Clark College Student Success Fund is a mission-driven program that inspires Clark faculty and staff to think big about how to support student success at Clark College. The fund aims to enhance equitable access to wraparound resources and support impactful programs, particularly those that benefit students facing multiple barriers to success. A few ways this fund could be used include: Emergency grant assistance for at-risk students, founding a basic needs hub, and creating internship program opportunities.

Clark College Innovation Fund

The Clark College Innovation Fund aims to support initiatives that enable students and faculty to explore new frontiers in education. Established to foster a culture of creativity and advancement, the Innovation Fund provides essential resources for pioneering projects and academic endeavors. The fund supports the development of cutting-edge curricula in high-demand fields such as advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, health sciences, and information technology. By leveraging the Innovation Fund, Clark College can dream big and develop programs beyond what traditional state funded education can support, offering unique experiential learning opportunities.

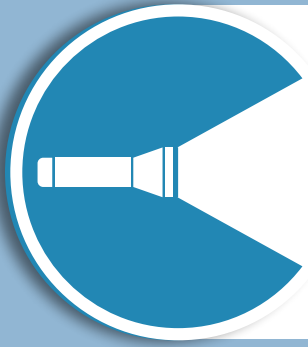
The Clark Fund

The Clark Fund is our cornerstone fund, providing essential financial support to key areas of the college, including faculty and staff development, refurbishing classrooms, and presidential initiatives. The Clark Fund offers the flexibility to address immediate needs and underfunded programs that state funds can't cover. This adaptability not only supports the college's infrastructure but also empowers us to seize new opportunities that enhance the educational experience for our students and community.

Clark College General Scholarships Fund

General Scholarships often make the difference between dropping out and achieving a degree, particularly by helping students cover unexpected costs and complete their education. They provide essential support for part-time students who may not qualify for other, more restrictive scholarships, assist students in completing their final quarter, and can even pay for an entire student's education!

**Learn more about Clark College Foundation and give on our website,
www.clarkcollegefoundation.org/**



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



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STEPHEN'S
PLACE 

Stephen's Place offers
independent, semi-
independent, and supported
living apartments for adults
who are neurodivergent.



- 24-7 Certified Care
- Modern Apartments
- Fun Activities and Trips
- Life Skills Training
- Employment Support
- Programming Tailored to Individual Needs
- Day Program for Residents and Non-Residents!



CONTACT US TODAY!

 (360) 984-3600

 info@stephensplace.org

 www.stephensplace.org

HELP US CREATE A LIFETIME OF COMMUNITY AT STEPHEN'S PLACE

At Stephen's Place, we believe in the right for neurodivergent individuals to live with dignity, purpose, and a sense of belonging. For adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, these basic human rights can feel totally out of reach.

Our programs are designed to create meaningful moments, foster friendships, and keep life exciting. Each resident is encouraged to explore their interests, build new skills, and stay active in a safe, welcoming environment.

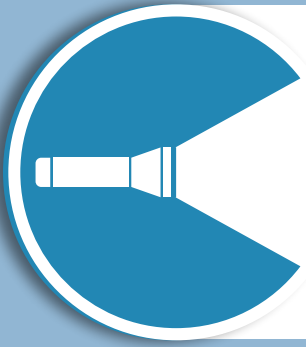
This Giving Tuesday, we're asking you to join us in making a real difference in the lives of those who call Stephen's Place home and neurodivergent adults who live in the greater Vancouver community.

Our goal is to support people to build lifelong friendships, contribute to the community, and live with purpose. We're proud to partner with local organizations to create work placements, helping residents build real-world skills and gain the confidence to contribute to the broader Vancouver area.

With dedicated Certified Nursing Assistants and a full-time Registered Nurse, we provide the highest level of care, ensuring our residents feel safe and supported as they pursue their dreams.

Supporting Stephen's Place means investing in these invaluable experiences. This Giving Tuesday, you can make a difference by donating to help us expand our programs, provide more activities, and continue to create new opportunities for our residents and our community. Every contribution directly impacts the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and will help us to expand and build a community that all can be a part of.

Join us in creating a future where individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the chance to lead a fulfilling life. With your support, Stephen's Place can continue to grow and create real and lasting impacts on so many people's lives—including families and caregivers. Please consider making a gift today at stephensplace.org/donate or by emailing info@stephensplace.org to find out more about legacy gifts or to contribute via check. Donations can be designated to one of the following areas: Operational Support, Endowment Fund, Future Planning, or the area of most need.



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



Open House Ministries

Providing shelter is only the beginning.

When it comes to helping families struggling with homelessness, the high cost of housing is only part of the challenge. There are often many obstacles keeping families from succeeding.

At Open House Ministries, we equip families with the tools they need, not only to live, but to thrive.

More than a shelter.

Open House Ministries was founded in 1986. Today, our shelter houses 34 families who receive life-skills training and guidance from case managers.

Our full-time chaplain counsels families while they attend classes and work to rebuild their lives. We provide vocational training in our thrift stores, Secondhand Solutions, and Wheel Deals Bicycle Shop, allowing residents to gain new job skills.

We help residents locate stable housing when they graduate from our program so they can move forward and build successful futures for their families.

Stronger through partnering.

Residents at Open House Ministries advance through

program coordination 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.

How you can help.

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

Volunteering at Open House Ministries is easy, with flexible hours and opportunities.

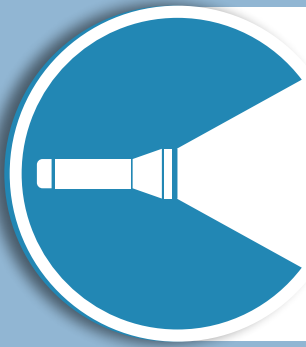
Donating gently used items to our shelter helps support our residents through job-skills training. The revenue from sales helps fund our organization.

Hundreds of families have been restored through our ministry, finding hope and a fresh start because of people who care. You can help. Together, we can help families in Clark County thrive.

www.sheltered.org
360-737-0300

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





NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



Compassionate Care at the Free Clinic of SW Washington

For over 30 years, the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington has been providing free, compassionate, quality health care for uninsured community members in Clark County, Washington. Our services include basic medical care, urgent dental care, medication assistance, immunizations, diabetes care and self-management, insurance navigation, and coordination of specialty care in the community. Today, we have over 300 dedicated volunteers, who with the support of our staff, provide over 3,000 patient visits every year.

While our mission has remained the same, our model of care has changed. In 2020 we switched from a walk-in urgent care clinic to a primary care home for our patients. Now that we are settled into this new model, we are seeking to renovate our space so we can continue offering high-quality care. Our goal is to keep our clinic within our existing location for decades to come, while creating a modern primary care clinic that is an efficient, comfortable, and functional space for our patients, staff, and volunteers.

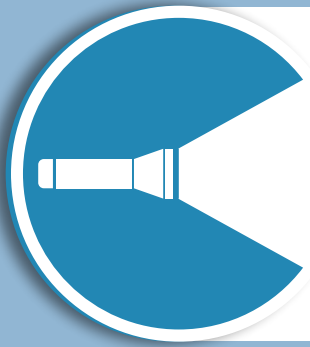
The renovated Free Clinic will include new paint and floors, an additional exam room, an updated dental suite, a break space for staff and volunteers, a conference room, increased private workspace for our providers, and a redesigned reception/lobby area. These changes will allow us to care for more patients, attract more health care volunteer providers, and modernize the clinic.

We want the clinic to be a welcoming, safe, and comfortable space for our patients. Our care is free, but we do not want the Free Clinic to suggest the quality of care we provide is less than. The renovation will reflect the kindness, compassion, and dedication we show to our patients every day, while also meeting the functional needs of a modern primary care home.

We are excited to finally share the news of this exciting renovation project with you. Now, we need your help to get us across the finish line and reach our \$1.5 million goal.

You can learn more about the project details and how to support the Free Clinic renovation by visiting <https://freeclinics.org/your-support/capital-campaign/>. For additional information, please contact Pam Knepper, Director of Communications, Development and Outreach at pam@freeclinics.org or Rebecca O'Brien, Executive Director at rebecca@freeclinics.org.

We look forward to keeping you updated on our progress as we move closer to renovating the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington - a place of compassionate care-always.



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

PUT THE FOSTER COMMUNITY ON YOUR SHOPPING LIST!

Give A Lasting Gift!

Scan or Visit fosterful.org
to make a tax deductible donation!



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Foster children enter the system due to circumstances beyond their control, facing instability and uncertainty. Fosterful provides a lifeline for these children and their caregivers, offering trauma-informed care, essential resources, and unwavering support.

- ✓ Backpacks
- ✓ Birthday Gifts
- ✓ New Clothing
- ✓ Go Bags + Necessities
- ✓ Sensory Furniture
- ✓ Therapeutic Toys



Fosterful: Expanding to Serve More Children in Need

The holidays are a time for joy, family, and togetherness. But for many children in foster care, the season can be a painful reminder of what they've lost. With your help, Fosterful, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting foster children and their caregivers, will expand its services to support nearly 500 children experiencing foster care in southwest Washington.

The new Caregiver Support Program, launching in December 2024, provides trauma-informed, one-to-one support to foster families through case management and resource "concierge" services. Behavioral Case Aides will offer in-home support, including behavioral strategies and crisis intervention, assistance with transportation, in-home babysitting and after-school care, and consistent companionship for children.

Fulfill Urgent Needs

Since its founding in 2013, Fosterful has filled little bellies that may not have eaten in some time, brought tissues to dry tears, and put stuffies in the arms of children who have lost everything. Their community of staff and volunteers rocks babies, changes diapers, plays games, and listens to children during a time of deep grief and uncertainty.

Your end-of-year donation supports our mission and a wide range of services, including:

- Trauma-informed, one-to-one support
- Necessities, backpacks, and gifts
- Skill development for both caregivers and youth
- Assistance with healthcare access and transportation
- Protective supervision tailored to each child's unique needs
- Community meetings for caregivers led by a trauma-informed professionals

What You Can Do

Donate: With the year coming to a close and Fosterful's expansion on the horizon, your support is needed now more than ever. No matter the amount, your tax-deductible contribution will significantly affect Fosterful's ability to continue providing essential services to foster children and their caregivers.

Volunteer: Become a caring presence to children experiencing foster care, both in the home and the child welfare office, or provide support during events, giveaways, and workshops.

Spread the Word: Bring the community to the front door of foster care by sharing the mission and work Fosterful is doing with friends and family.

Get Support: If you provide out-of-home care to a relative or youth in foster care and would like more information about how Fosterful can help, visit our website or email info@fosterful.org.

Every donation, every volunteer hour, and every shared story brings us closer to a community where every child feels safe, loved, and supported. Visit fosterful.org today to learn how you can make a difference.

fosterful
www.fosterful.org

☎ 360-828-1842

📍 101 E. 8th Street, Ste 270,
Vancouver, WA 98660



MUSIC IS FOR EVERYONE

Throughout its 46 seasons, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra has gone beyond the performance halls to bring music into our community. The VSO:

- performs in schools for local classes;
- sends Maestro Brotons to work with student bands and orchestras;
- offers master classes to student musicians;
- offers discounts and free admission to students;
- performs at assisted living facilities; and
- offers free concerts as co-presenter of the Vancouver USA Arts & Music Festival, in collaboration with the City of Vancouver.

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

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

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

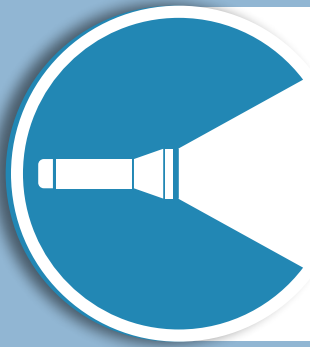
***The first \$30,000 raised by December 31 will be matched dollar-for-dollar by a generous supporter**

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



**VANCOUVER
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**





NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

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



WWW.CASCADEFOREST.ORG

DONATE HERE

Southwest Washington is home to lush forests, mighty rivers, abundant wildlife, and iconic mountain peaks. Unfortunately, the landscapes we treasure face threats from unsustainable resource management practices and a warming climate. Today, Cascade Forest Conservancy's work is more important than ever.

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

SPEAKING FOR FORESTS

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

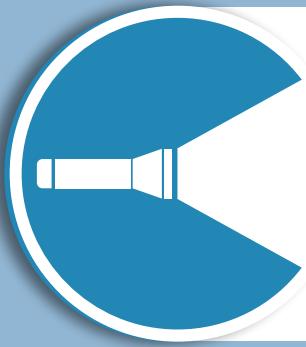
BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

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

INSPIRING COMMUNITIES

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

**All of this work is possible because of people like you.
This giving season, give a gift to future generations by supporting
Cascade Forest Conservancy.**



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



Vancouver St. Vincent de Paul
Society Conference

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024
10AM-4PM

Help us Bring Joy!

We're holding a **DRIVE THROUGH** and **DROP OFF** for donated NEW unwrapped toys at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vancouver. The toys will be distributed through the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas program.



ST. JOSEPH
Catholic Church
LOVE GOD LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR MAKE DISCIPLES

- Gift Cards -
GLADLY ACCEPTED

400 S. Andresen Road • Vancouver, WA 98661
QUESTIONS? 360-694-5388 • svdpvancouverusa.org

HELP US HELP OTHERS® DURING GIVING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024!

We need your help on **GIVING TUESDAY** with a tax-deductible donation to support our holiday food and gift program. We have a long history of providing for Vancouver families in need at Christmas time. Help us bring Joy this Christmas season by clicking on the DONATE link at: <https://www.wagives.org/organization/Vancouver-Svdp-Society-Conference>. Many families will benefit from your generosity!

We will also be holding our annual Toy Drive on Wednesday, **December 18th**, when we will collect donations of NEW UNWRAPPED toys and gifts. If you live in the Vancouver area, toys can be dropped off during a drive-through event at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 400 S. Andresen Road, Vancouver, WA, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM that day. In 2023, we served 1,370 children with gifts and toys in over 500 households! This year with inflation and new families visiting us daily in our busy food pantry, we anticipate a greater need. On Saturday, December 21, using your donations, we will distribute all the ingredients for healthy Christmas dinners for families to prepare in their own homes, in addition to the toys and gifts we collect.

Please consider a gift to the Vancouver St. Vincent DePaul Society, so we can continue this good work of serving others with kindness and compassion, feeding many households and bringing joy this Christmas Season!

Learn more at:
www.svdpvancouverusa.org

Thank you for your support.

With Gratitude, from the Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers from the Vancouver Society of St. Vincent de Paul

GI  ING TUESDAY

Giving Back to Our Heroes



You can make a difference in the lives of service members and their families — and it doesn't matter if you have a direct connection to the armed forces or not.

There are several important ways everyone can express gratitude for their service, including volunteering, charitable donations and holiday-themed outreach programs. During a time when family means so much, don't forget those who keep everyone safe.

ADOPTING A FAMILY

Families who are left to celebrate the holidays without their service member might be experiencing even more stress and loneliness. There may be new financial burdens, and that is even more painful during the gift-giving time of year. So, consider brightening the season by “adopting” these families. That might involve lending a helping hand with household chores, yard work, babysitting or caring for their pet. Help alleviate their financial burdens by purchasing prepaid gift cards for everyday necessities like groceries, gas or household essentials.

If the family has young children who will miss a parent during the holidays, consider

buying a special present just for them. You could offer to support the child's personal interests or hobbies. Their remaining parent might need assistance with tasks such as carpooling. Offer to purchase related materials or serve as an assistant coach. Helping to fill these temporary voids can also provide a sense of relief for brave members of the armed forces, while also easing the pain of separation for everyone.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Local Veterans Administration hospitals are always in need of volunteer assistance, especially during the holiday season when so many special activities are planned. Reach out to inquire about opportunities to help, even if it's just spending quality time with the patients. Other volunteering opportunities may be available through the local VFW. You can contact human resource directors at veterans' homes in your area.

Seek out non-affiliated local non-profit organizations whose work includes veterans' outreach. You can focus on the VFW, VA hospital or veterans' home when they distribute gifts or fill stockings to spread

holiday cheer. Then stick around for an extended visit. Some older veterans may not have friends or family to spend time with during the holiday season. Just being present could make a significant difference in their lives.

KXRW.FM 501c3
TUNE INTO YOUR ONLY INDEPENDENT HYPERLOCAL RADIO STATION
KXRAY.FM

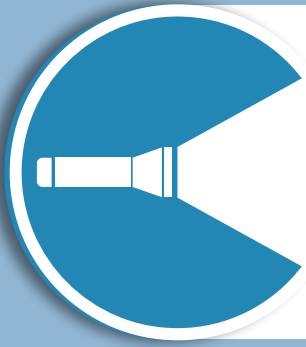
VANCOUVER 99.9FM
PORTLAND 107.1 & 91.1FM
NEHALEM 91.7FM

Support local voices on
GIVINGTUESDAY

Help us keep informative talk and local music on the air! Your donation fuels our independent programming and empowers local voices. Together, we make our community stronger.

Donate Today

Vancouver's Community Radio Station



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
SOUTHWEST
WASHINGTON

40 years of
local giving

Shine
On!

With equal parts vision and heart, the late **Ed and Dollie Lynch** gave generously to improve healthcare, preserve history and invest in future generations.

They also ensured their philanthropy would live on by channeling 99% of their estate into the Ed and Dollie Lynch Fund at the Community Foundation. Today, this fund has granted millions to local causes, including a \$3 million gift to the Administrative Endowment that sustains our mission in perpetuity.

"We've done what we've done because it's the right thing to do."

ED LYNCH



The Community Foundation helps transform purpose into impact.

See the difference we make together at cfsww.org/40stories

Ed and Dollie Lynch grew their legacy with care

When Ed and Dollie Lynch moved to Vancouver in 1957, they found a place to call home. Southwest Washington's natural beauty and rich history seemed like a glorious garden, and they soon joined in tending the grounds through various charitable endeavors.

Much like their garden at home, where Ed trained a beloved Ginkgo tree and Dollie grew her prized ornamentals, they each contributed their strengths to the community. Dollie took on the heart work, rolling up her sleeves to nurture local youth and help causes like Camp Fire blossom. After retiring from a career in engineering, Ed drew up his own master plan and began planting, growing and shaping countless organizations, including The Historic Trust and Leadership Clark County.

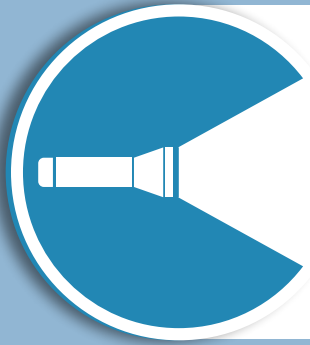
Early on, they recognized that sustained funding was essential to a thriving nonprofit sector and got behind a growing effort to establish the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington. The idea of a local philanthropic engine designed to inspire giving "from the community, for the community" resonated with their belief that many hands make light work.

In 1985, Ed and Dollie provided a \$20,000 seed gift to establish the Community Foundation's Administrative Endowment. Then, they spurred its growth with an \$80,000 challenge match that inspired others to pitch in. Within three years, the endowment became the financial backbone of the Foundation.

In their later years, Ed and Dollie continued to give selflessly, contributing millions to projects like the preservation of the Providence Academy and building a therapeutic garden at PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center—complete with rhododendrons transplanted from Dollie's personal collection.

The list of nonprofits they supported over their six decades of service is long, but Ed and Dollie ensured each would continue to find sustained support by planning one final gift. Working with the Community Foundation, they directed 99% of their estate into the Ed and Dollie Lynch Fund. Today, this fund provides millions in annual grants that nurture and strengthen local causes.

In addition, they underpinned the Community Foundation's mission by earmarking \$3 million for the Administrative Endowment. This transformative gift ensures their glorious garden will never fade away by sustaining the foundation's efforts to grow giving, nurture nonprofits and build a better southwest Washington. You can learn more and contribute to Ed and Dollie's vision for a flourishing future by visiting cfsww.org/flourishing-future.



NONPROFIT Spotlight



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



K-12 Readiness with EOCF Introducing the Next Generation

What comes to mind when you think of pre-kindergarten? Is it tailored learning plans based on behavioral assessments? Or perhaps multilingual support and home-based learning projects?

At Educational Opportunities for Children & Families (EOCF), we see pre-kindergarten as the **foundation for lifelong success.** Our programs go beyond the basics. From a **culturally inclusive curriculum to balanced nutrition** and **social-emotional development,** EOCF provides comprehensive and holistic care that sets children up for a bright future—something traditional preschool programs often miss.

A Legacy of Impact

Since 1967, EOCF has worked to break the cycle of generational poverty. We provide **equitable access** to quality childcare, early learning, and family support services for families who need it most. Each year, we serve thousands of children and families across **Clark County, Cowlitz County, and Pacific County**—in **58 classrooms** across **28 learning centers** and through **home-based learning** programs.

Our support doesn't stop with the children. From **prenatal care** to **goal-setting** for families, and opportunities for **career development** through our **Parent University,** EOCF equips families with the tools they need to thrive—both today and in the future.

Supporting a Brighter Future

As a nonprofit, we rely on the **generosity of community donors** to sustain our programs and make a lasting impact on the lives of the children and families we serve. **Champions for Children**—our incredible supporters—help us create opportunities for growth and success where they're needed most.

Your donation will directly support **early education, family empowerment,** and **community strength.** With your help, we can continue to provide a strong foundation for the next generation and help families build a better future.

Become a Champion for Children today and make a difference.

Visit EOCFA.org/Donate



EOCF has helped my children get ready and be better prepared for school.

Yvette, Program Parent



EOCFA.ORG



Our Focus:

- ✓ Pre-K & Childcare
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Family Engagement

- ✓ Nutrition
- ✓ Dental Care





What's your
PLAN?

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. Let's schedule an appointment and start your plan!

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**.