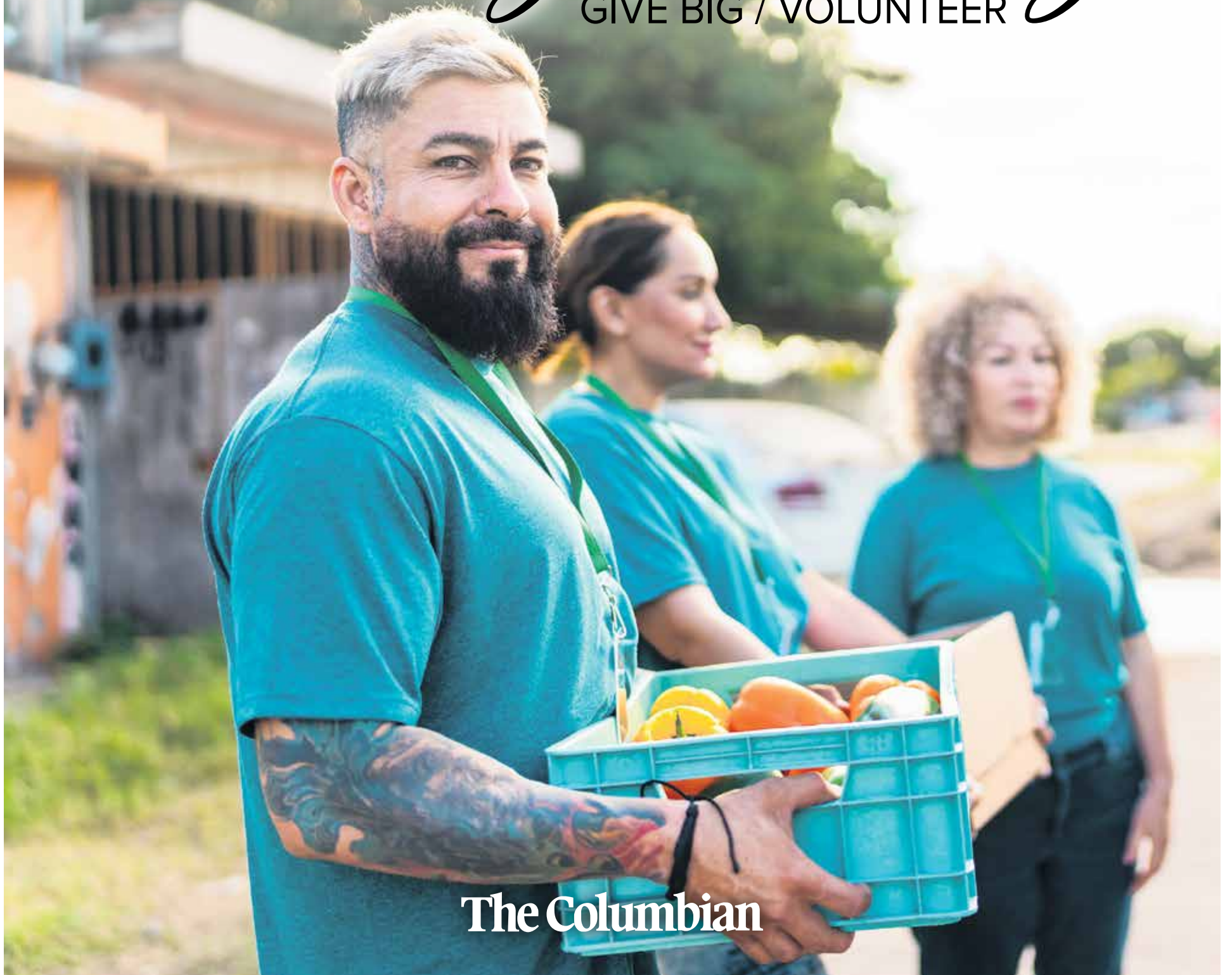


A P R O D U C T O F T H E C O L U M B I A N ' S A D V E R T I S I N G D E P A R T M E N T

Connecting Community

GIVE BIG / VOLUNTEER



The Columbian

Get that **giving** feeling

When you give, good things happen.

#GiveBIG #ThatGivingFeeling

GIVE 
BIG
MAY 6-7

POWERED BY 501 COMMONS



Give now through May 6-7 at WAGives.org

Get That **GIVING** Feeling During *GiveBIG*

At a time when our communities are facing so much uncertainty, there's one simple way we can all make a real difference: **Giving.**

GiveBIG is Washington State's annual online giving campaign that raises millions of dollars for nonprofits across the state—including right here in Southwest Washington.

When you visit WaGives.org between now and May 6–7, you'll find nonprofits doing incredible work—providing food and shelter, access to education and healthcare, environmental protection, artistic expression, cultural preservation, and advocacy for equity and justice.

When you give, good things will happen in SW Washington!

In this issue of Connecting Community, you'll meet nonprofits that are the bedrock of thriving communities. They are our safety nets, our innovators, and our champions for lasting change.



Furry Friends

But many of them are facing a critical moment. Rising costs, growing demand, reduced public funding, and shifting donor priorities are stretching organizations to their limits. Some are being forced to reduce services, pause programs, or close entirely.

That's why **GiveBIG** matters now more than ever.

Last year, donors like you raised **\$11.5 million** for more than 1,500 nonprofits across Washington State. Every dollar raised has a real and lasting impact. Your donation ensures:

- **Free Clinic of Southwest Washington** continues offering compassionate healthcare at no cost to patients.
- **Furry Friends** helps abandoned and abused cats find loving, permanent homes.
- **FISH of Cowlitz County** provides emergency support to families in crisis.
- **Agape Christian Academy** equips students to lead with compassion and serve their communities.

The beauty of GiveBIG is that it's for **EVERYONE!** Whether you give \$10, \$50, or \$10,000, every contribution uplifts nonprofits and amplifies their impact. Anyone can give. And



Free Clinic of Southwest Washington. Photography by Austin James.



Agape Christian Academy

anyone can inspire others to give. Whether it's a little or a lot, when we come together, we create lasting change. Here's how you can help:

- **Find a cause that moves you** at WaGives.org.
- **Donate** - a one-time gift or recurring support makes a difference.
- **Spread the word** to friends, family, and colleagues.

Your generosity helps nonprofits stay strong and keep serving the people and causes we all care about. So go ahead—**get that GIVING feeling.** Give generously, give often, and give with purpose.

Because giving is supposed to feel good—and who couldn't use more of that right now?



FISH of Cowlitz County



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



Since 1990, the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington has been providing free, compassionate, quality health care for uninsured community members living in Clark County, Washington. Our work focuses on offering basic medical care, urgent dental care, medication assistance, immunizations, diabetes care and self-management, insurance navigation, and coordination of specialty care in the community. Our 150+ volunteer health care professionals provide virtually all services for over 4,000 patient visits each year.

In 2020 we changed our model of care from a walk-in urgent care to an appointment-based primary care home. Now that we have settled into this new model, we have started a renovation of our space. Our goal is to keep our clinic within our existing space for decades to come, while creating a modern primary care clinic that is efficient, comfortable, and functional for our patients, staff, and volunteers. We will continue to see patients during construction, but the full renovation will be completed this fall; we are extremely excited to welcome patients to our new space!

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. 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 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



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*

For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



Treehouse

Foster Seeds of Success This Spring

Your support creates
opportunities for youth
in foster care.



**SCAN THE
QR CODE
TO DONATE**



BIG DREAMS NEED STRONG ROOTS

Youth in foster care navigate disrupted education, financial roadblocks, and instability that can make achieving their goals even harder. While 82.87% of their classmates finish high school in four years, only 51.2% of youth in foster care do. And that number is up from 36.1% in 2013, thanks to a decade of work.

But this isn't about potential, it's about support.

For many of our young people experiencing foster care, success isn't a straight path. It's a road paved with obstacles, perseverance, and hard-won opportunities. And like seeds, success needs the right conditions to take root: access to resources, consistent support, and a community that believes in young people's ability to shape their own future.

Whether it's completing high school, earning a certification, securing an apprenticeship, or gaining financial independence, Treehouse supports youth as they reach key milestones. We walk alongside young people, ensuring they have what they need to finish high school with a plan in place for what's next.

Why focus on high school completion?

When young people finish high school, they are far more likely to achieve long-term stability and independence. That's why Treehouse starts early—so they can show up with confidence, stay engaged in their education, and see a future full of possibilities.

In 2018, the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) estimated that the per-student monetary benefit associated with graduating from high school was \$581,156. Factoring in inflation and rising costs of social services, incarceration, and lost economic potential, that amount is undoubtedly significantly higher today.

Every year, however, Treehouse serves more than 6,000 children, youth, and young people in foster care across all 39 Washington counties. Our integrated approach allows us to provide timely, tailored interventions that align with students' academic and developmental needs.

Big dreams need strong roots. Support from each community in Washington state helps Treehouse provide the educational resources, career mentorship, and stability youth in foster care need to need to grow, flourish, and reach for new heights. When we show up for youth in foster care, we help them thrive!



Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers with a heart for people living with dementia and their care partners

We Need Help With

- Leading support groups
- Clerical duties
- Event and activity planning and staffing
- IT/web page support


HOPE
A PROGRAM OF CDM CAREGIVING SERVICES

Contact HOPE for more information
360 513 5754
alwaysHOPEinfo@gmail.com
www.HOPEdementiasupport.org

2300 NE Andresen Rd
Vancouver, WA 98662

Share your expertise.

SCORE
SBA



Retired executive?
Volunteer with SCORE to mentor local small business owners.

Get in touch today.

score.org/page/volunteer-score

THE WETLAND AWAKENS:

GIVE ♥ BIG

POWERED BY 501 COMMONS MAY 6-7

WITH OSPREY SKY WALKER

GiveBig and unleash your galactic generosity!
Embrace your inner Jedi and join the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge for a special event.

YOU are the FRIENDS we are searching for!

www.RidgefieldFriends.org





Lifting Lives, Building Community: How Volunteers Power Clark County

In Clark County, volunteers aren't just lending a hand — they're lifting lives. Across the region, they help kids thrive, support families facing dementia, deliver meals to seniors, preserve natural spaces, and ensure equitable access to care and education. Their contributions are shaping a more connected, compassionate community.

At **Educational Opportunities for Children and Families (EOCF)**, volunteers help build strong starts for young children. EOCF's mission is to connect, empower, and transform the lives of children and families. For more than 57 years, the organization has provided premier early learning and family support programs across Clark County, Pacific County, and Woodland in Cowlitz County—

serving over 30,000 children in Southwest Washington.

To reach those who need it most, EOCF actively recruits families experiencing homelessness, receiving public assistance, involved in foster care, or those with developmental plans like IFSPs or IEPs. Volunteers are vital to this mission. They read to children, assemble playgrounds, paint, sort supplies, and help advocate for the importance of early learning.

Each hour matters, as EOCF is required to match 25% of its Head Start and Early Head Start grants through community contributions known as "Non-Federal Match." That means every volunteer effort not only supports children directly but also helps secure federal funding.

"Our parent Policy Council and Board of Directors are some of our most committed volunteers," says Christina Monks, Chief Innovation Officer. CEO Rekah Strong shared, "For five years now, the PeaceHealth Black Allies Network Group has partnered with EOCF on the MLK Jr. holiday, providing various services and support. We are very grateful for their partnership and commitment to our children and families!" For MLK Day of Service, they helped clean and restore our temporary classroom space behind Evergreen High School.

Volunteers don't just support the day-to-day operations — they make the difference in growth,

Volunteers Continued on page 8 ▶

advocacy, and expansion. Their presence enhances the lives of children and families directly, while also fueling the resources needed to sustain and expand EOCF programs.

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is a non-profit membership organization that champions the protection of wildlife and their habitats by broadening public understanding of and engagement in the natural and cultural resources of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Outreach online is targeted at/in support of LGBTQ+, Hispanic, Black, and youth communities to engage them with nature and what it can offer, and work as a gateway to bringing those groups outdoors.

Volunteers lead education programs, design exhibits, and serve on the board — all driven by a love for the environment. “Our board is entirely volunteer-run,” said Samantha Zeiner, Director of Operations. “They’re deeply passionate people who advocate for wildlife that can’t speak for themselves.”

She highlighted one volunteer, Abby Braithwaite, whose creativity and leadership helped launch an Environmental Education Classroom Committee that will support the new classroom in the Community Nature Center Building. “Abby brings out the best in everyone,” Zeiner said. “



At the **Free Clinic of Southwest Washington**, volunteers provide healthcare to uninsured residents. Doctors, dentists, nurses, interpreters, and support staff treat chronic conditions and offer urgent care. “Our volunteers change lives every day,” said Pam Knepper, Director of Communications. “They may identify a previously undiagnosed illness or simply be a calm presence for someone in crisis.”

The clinic’s mission is to provide and facilitate access to free, compassionate, quality healthcare for community members who are otherwise unable to obtain such services. It’s a crucial safety net for those who fall through the cracks of the healthcare system. Volunteers are the hands and hearts that bring that mission to life.

Meals on Wheels People delivers food — and friendship — to older adults. Over 240 Clark County volunteers delivered 172,000 meals last year. Some also offer Friendly Chat calls or serve meals at community dining centers.

One standout volunteer is Evelyn, age 99, who serves lunch twice a week at the Luepke Center in Vancouver. “It’s not just the nutritious food,” she said. “It’s about being seen, human connection, and enjoying life. That’s why I do it.”

“We often hear that Meals on Wheels People feels like a family,” said Communications Specialist Kelsey Allen. “There’s a shared purpose and genuine care. 96% of our volunteers say they feel valued — and 95% are satisfied with their experience.”

Yet the need keeps growing. “As the population ages, we rely on over 200 volunteers each day,” Allen added. “And we’re always looking for more.”

Yet the need keeps growing. “As the population ages, we rely on over 200 volunteers each day,” Allen added. “And we’re always looking for more.”

Support for Early Learning & Families (SELF) convenes partners across Southwest Washington to promote community awareness and advocacy for early learning, kindergarten readiness and school success for all children. Volunteers help extend SELF’s reach — saving resources and expanding impact.

One volunteer played a pivotal role in securing funding for a program that benefited over 11,000 children. “His passion and initiative made a lasting difference,” said Executive Director Debbie Ham. “We welcome volunteers from all backgrounds — whether you’re great with kids, skilled in administration, or simply passionate about early learning.”

Volunteers help with events, fundraising,

outreach, and more. This support strengthens SELF’s ability to serve the community more effectively and sustainably. When volunteers share their time and talents, they help create a foundation for brighter futures.

At HOPE Dementia Support, volunteers walk alongside individuals facing memory loss and their families. With only three part-time staff, HOPE depends on volunteers to run weekly support groups across Clark and Cowlitz Counties, as well as virtual groups that stretch across the country.

“There’s a genuine sense of family among the team,” said Program Manager Lynn Crawford. “Our volunteers bring empathy, compassion, and presence to every meeting. Many are motivated by personal experience and a deep desire to support others.”

One attendee once told a facilitator, “You saved my life.” Another said, “I used to feel like I was alone.” These moments of connection are what keep volunteers coming back. All HOPE volunteers receive dementia education and facilitator training, plus ongoing monthly support.

Recruiting and retaining volunteers isn’t always easy. HOPE may not yet be on the radar of people who would be a great fit. From emotional readiness to time constraints, each organization faces unique challenges. Yet they all agree: the rewards are immense. As Crawford puts it, “We don’t expect expertise in dementia. Our team is built on mutual respect, heartfelt service, and a belief in the power of human connection.”

Want to make a difference in Clark County? Start here:

- **EOCF:** Email humanresourcesteam@eocfwa.org
- **Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge:** Visit ridgefieldfriends.org
- **Free Clinic of Southwest Washington:** Apply at freeclinics.org
- **Meals on Wheels People:** Sign up at mowp.org/volunteer
- **HOPE Dementia Support:** Call 360-513-5754 or email alwaysHOPEinfo@gmail.com
- **SELF:** Visit selfwa.org

In every story, a thread runs through: volunteers aren’t just filling roles — they’re creating relationships, uplifting others, and showing up with heart. In Clark County, there’s always room for one more.



ROOTED IN COMMUNITY, GROWING TOWARD TOMORROW

Just like the Southwest Washington community we're proud to serve, Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center has grown and changed over the past twenty years. Becoming a preeminent health care provider required the vision and support of numerous dedicated people, organizations and businesses. As we reflect on our past and look to our future, we are proud to recognize these incredible individuals for helping make Legacy Salmon Creek a special place.

J. Michael Albrich, MD

Bruce Andison, MD

Neal and Joyce* Artnson

Jonathan Avery

Tim & Courtney Barker

Al Bauer*

Susanne Baumann

Michael and Denise Burgoyne

Bradley and Mary* Carlson

Dr. Sunlin* and Priscilla Chou

Deborah Fraser

Douglas and Heather Greene

Gregory J. Hallas, MD

Marta and Mark Halvorsen

Bryce Helgersen

Jon Hersen

William Herzig, MD

Hinton Development Corporation

Jeannie M. Hix

The Holzman Foundation

Therese and Dennis Malin

Mary Martin*

William McBride, MD

Mark and Bonnie McCampbell

John S. McKibbin*

Michael Moore, MD

Dane L. Moseson, MD

Betty Sue Morris

Marg Nelson

Ron and Jan Pensel

Kate Jones and Marty Rifkin

Dennis E. Rugg

Karen Sahlstrom

Alfred Schauer

Jeffrey Z. Smith

Jill Speaker, MD

Christopher S. Thoming, M.D.

Verdella J. Whareham

* indicates that an honoree is deceased.

20TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
LEGACY SALMON CREEK



EMPOWER TRUTH

Support Journalism That Matters in Your Community!

The Columbian has provided high quality journalism in Clark County for over 134 years of local ownership. We created a new program called Community Funded Journalism to add reporter positions focused on homelessness, the environment, community health and nonprofit work. Your gift today supports investigative reporting and storytelling that benefits our whole community by bringing awareness to issues and solutions, and also holding those in power accountable. Our community deserves a strong, independent newsroom.

COMMUNITY FUNDED JOURNALISM

The Columbian

In partnership with **LocalMedia Foundation**



Please consider investing in the truth:
givebutter.com/columbian

Donations to Local Media Foundation 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.

For more information visit www.columbian.com/cfj



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 21th year! With 325 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 6-7!



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

NONPROFIT *Spotlight*

For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

*"I just didn't
have food."*



Thousands of seniors right here in Clark County are struggling to eat. Meals on Wheels People is stepping up — but we need **YOU**.

Help us reach our **\$10,000** goal!

Plus,  **TIDEWATER** will match up to \$2,500 in GiveBIG donations!

**Donate today and
DOUBLE your impact!**

Visit: wagives.org
Search: Meals on Wheels People



THE HEART OF THE WORK: MEALS ON WHEELS PEOPLE VOLUNTEERS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

At Meals on Wheels People, volunteers aren't just part of the operation — they are the operation.

In 2024 alone, volunteers contributed more than 14,800 hours of their time in Clark County, delivering meals, friendly smiles, and compassionate conversations to older adults in our community. The value of that time? Nearly \$600,000. But the impact? Truly priceless.

For participants like Vicky, who receives meals from the Luepke Center in Vancouver, the connection means just as much as the food. Living with a disability, she navigates daily life in a wheelchair and lives on just \$934 a month — \$750 of which goes to rent. Without transportation, shopping for food is nearly impossible. "They deliver every Monday. It's great because I can't get to the store," Vicky says. "But it's not just the food — it's the feeling that someone still remembers you. That you matter."

That spirit of connection is what keeps volunteers like Sean and Beverly coming back. The couple started volunteering in the kitchen at the Washougal Center just before the pandemic. They've been showing up — and having fun — ever since. "We really like to cook," Beverly says. "But what I love most is the people — the camaraderie, the friendships that are formed." They keep track of their regulars. They swap stories. They laugh. And above all, they care. "Folks are lonely," Beverly says. "Plus, we give them a meal. For Sean and I, it feels good."

Whether delivering meals, helping in the kitchen, or making Friendly Chats phone calls, every volunteer helps fight the growing crisis of senior hunger and isolation in Southwest Washington. And as the cost of living rises, the need for support continues to grow.

That's why we're participating in GiveBIG, Washington's statewide giving campaign taking place May 6-7. It's a chance for our community to come together to support the services that keep older adults nourished and connected — services made possible by generous donors and the time and heart of our volunteers.

When you give to Meals on Wheels People during GiveBIG, you're helping ensure that no senior in Clark County has to face hunger or isolation alone. Your gift keeps our wheels turning — and our volunteers moving — with every meal served, every knock on the door, and every warm smile.

Join us. Give BIG to support Meals on Wheels People at wagives.org/organization/Meals-On-Wheels-People, and learn more about our current volunteer opportunities at mowp.org/volunteer.



BE ENTHRALLED

by the

**VANCOUVER
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**

Music is for Everyone

The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra is committed to bringing music into the lives of all members of our community.

Now in its 46th season, the VSO brings world-renowned musicians to perform with its 70-member professional orchestra. Led by conductor Maestro Salvador Brotons of Barcelona, the VSO:

Presents over 40 events per year through its symphonic concerts at Skyview and chamber ensemble groups at First Presbyterian Church and other venues, including its popular silent film series at the Kiggins Theater, and more.

Inspires area students by creating a youth symphony orchestra, 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 **July 31 - August 3 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.

Make a gift by June 30, 2025 to be included in the VSO's fiscal year 2025 Honor Roll.

Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
360.735.7278
vancouversymphony.org



 **Share**
summer
meals program

June 23 to August 8*

** No meals served at any location on July 4.*

FOR ALL KIDS & TEENS AGES 18 & UNDER

No paperwork is needed, we do not collect any personal information.

sharevancouver.org

HOST A MEAL SITE! Contact Miriam Moreno at mmoreno@sharevancouver.org.



Volunteer this Summer



If you enjoy outdoor activities — be it sports such as fishing or boating, hobbies such as hiking or birding, or just working with a team — consider looking for opportunities to volunteer at local parks this summer.

Local, state and national parks are publicly funded but can always use helping hands, especially during the busy summer months. It's a great time to get outdoors and contribute to your community.

BENEFITS

Volunteering offers numerous benefits, including enhanced mental and physical health, increased social skills and confidence, a sense of purpose and the opportunity to learn new skills and make a difference in your community, according to HelpGuide.org. Depending on the opportunities available in your area, you might

even be able to volunteer as a family.

Volunteering fosters a deeper connection with the local community, allowing individuals to meet like-minded people and work together towards common goals.

Volunteering can also help you gain skills that might help advance your career, such as leadership skills, teamwork and problem-solving, or even skills specific to your career field.

FINDING OPPORTUNITIES

Publicly funded parks and recreation facilities have myriad needs for volunteers. This is even more true during the summer months, when summer camps and recreation opportunities are in full swing, and special events such as concerts and other cultural events are typically held.

For example, the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission welcomes volunteers

to help with recreation centers, special events, sports and outdoor activities. California State Parks use volunteers as docents and campground and park hosts, and to assist with park maintenance, natural resource management such as beach and park cleanups, public safety and more.

To get started on your search for volunteer roles, visit [VolunteerMatch.org](https://www.volunteermatch.org) or [Volunteer.gov](https://www.volunteer.gov), or your local and state parks and recreation department websites.

Be sure to check into the requirements for volunteers for a specific role. For example, you might need to be over 18, pass a background check or commit to a minimum number of volunteer hours per week. You might be required to undergo training, depending on the role you're pursuing.



**CONNECT
CONSERVE
EXPLORE**



www.cascadeforest.org



Southwest Washington is the heart of the Cascades, a region known for mighty forests, life-giving rivers, abundant wildlife, and iconic mountain peaks. Cascade Forest Conservancy (CFC) works to protect and restore these landscapes and the wildlife populations threatened by climate change, habitat degradation, and new attacks against bedrock environmental regulations.

SPEAKING OUT FOR FOREST AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

Cascade Forest Conservancy is a powerful advocate working to protect mature, old-growth, and streamside forests. Since 1985, CFC has saved thousands of acres of forests and miles of rivers (as well as the wildlife that depend on them) throughout the Gifford Pinchot National Forests and surrounding region.

After the timber wars of the 1990s, CFC helped usher in an era of land management founded on science and cooperation. They were instrumental in creating two forest collaboratives, organizations that create dialogue between government agencies, Tribes, conservationists, timber companies, local businesses, and rural community leaders. Today, CFC protects our region's landscapes by raising concerns about timber sales from the earliest planning stages—ensuring that conservation concerns are addressed before projects are finalized.

BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

To ensure life in the southern Washington Cascades thrives for years to come, CFC is working to make local ecosystems resilient to the impacts of climate change.

They are leaders in aquatic habitat restoration—reintroducing beavers, building “beaverhoods,” and restoring river-wetland corridors to reduce impacts from fires, floods and droughts and create habitat for birds, insects, amphibians, and the iconic salmon of the Pacific Northwest.

CFC combats 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 on-the-ground that will benefit our region for generations to come.

INSPIRING COMMUNITIES

Cascade Forest Conservancy was founded by volunteers who took it upon themselves to fight for forests in southwest Washington. Today, grassroots action remains CFC's greatest strength in the fight to safeguard the places we love. CFC informs and empowers community members to take a stand against threats to 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.

GiveBIG today to help Cascade Forest Conservancy continue leading the fight to protect and restore the heart of the Cascades.

Learn more and get involved at www.cascadeforest.org



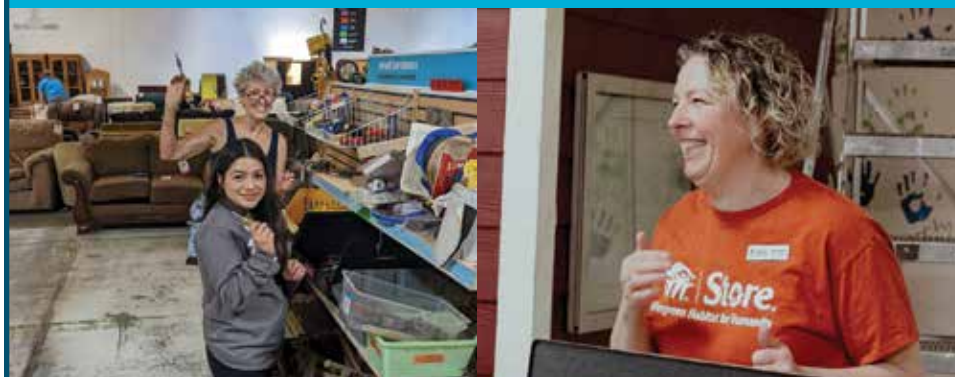
NONPROFIT *Spotlight*



For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com



building homes. building community. together.



BUILD HOMES AND COMMUNITY WITH THE HABITAT STORE

In Vancouver, Washington, the Clark County Habitat Store is a cornerstone for affordable housing. Directly tied to the mission of Evergreen Habitat for Humanity, our organization focuses on providing affordable housing solutions to families and individuals across the county. At its core, the Clark County Habitat Store is more than just a retail store. It is a space for community, gathering, and building. We believe affordable housing is a human right, and everyone deserves a safe, affordable place to call home so that they can thrive.

At the Habitat Store, every item sold, donated, and volunteer hour served plays a significant role in gathering community members and building opportunities for future homeowners. It is a unique opportunity to engage with other individuals of all backgrounds with the shared mission of building, not only homes, but thriving communities.

The Habitat Store offers unique collections of home furniture and home goods as well as building materials for a competitive price. All proceeds directly support our affordable housing program to serve more people. Additionally, individuals and local businesses can donate their gently used furniture, home goods, and building materials to help divert waste from landfills, another pillar of the Habitat Store's mission. We're excited to celebrate the Habitat Store by bringing people together for the Anniversary Sale on August 16th, the biggest Store event of the year.

For those who resonate with our mission, there are various ways to get involved. Our wonderful volunteers help with a long list of items, from sorting donations to assisting customers on the sales floor, ensuring that the Store is a positive experience and continues to be a resource for the community. Every hour of service brings you one step closer to making a lasting impact on the lives of local individuals and families.

At Evergreen Habitat for Humanity, we believe in a world where everyone has a decent place to live, and the Habitat Store is part of this mission. We brought this vision to Clark County in 1991, and continue to serve our community in significant ways with innovative housing solutions. We strive to achieve this world by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. Whether attending one of our events, shopping at our Habitat Store, donating your goods, or volunteering your time, Evergreen Habitat and the Habitat Store is a place to build together.



Learn more about Clark County Habitat Store events, hours, and volunteer opportunities at ehfh.org.



ATTRACT TOMORROW'S TALENT—TODAY!

JUSTNORTH IS A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO ATTRACT
TOP TALENT TO SW WASHINGTON.

Grow our region's talent pool. Build the future. Donate Today.



justnorth.org | [@justnorthpnw](https://www.instagram.com/justnorthpnw)



NONPROFIT *Spotlight*

For information contact communitypartnerships@columbian.com

OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES
HOPE
FUNDRAISER



LIGHT
OF HOPE

JOIN US FOR A BENEFIT TO HELP RESTORE FAMILIES
AT OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES

FRIDAY, MAY 16th NOON - 1 PM Doors open at 11 am

Luncheon at the Waterfront AC HOTEL

Tickets are going fast!

For event information visit our website at Sheltered.org

E-mail Joanie Curtis at events@sheltered.org

Or contact Joanie Curtis at 360-737-0300



Please consider a donation to our
2025 Annual Hope Fundraiser
Together we can heal our community.
Thank you!



Thank You to our Event Sponsors!



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 36 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, and The House Coffee Shop.

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

Stronger through partnering.

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

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.

Let us lend a
**HELPING
HAND**



The Columbian
COMMUNITY
Partnerships

Columbian Community Partnerships has worked with hundreds of local area nonprofits to help them meet their goals. Through our Local Public Service Announcements, Community Partnerships matching funds program, Nonprofit Spotlights, and special nonprofit advertising rates for print and online, 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 the nonprofits that help our community thrive.

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