2025 GRANTS ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025



HELPING LOCAL CHARITIES THRIVE





Camas | Washougal Camas Lions Foundation

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Giving to the Camas Washougal Community Chest is an easy and efficient way to help people in need in our hometown. We are a longstanding all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to helping our community. We ensure your donation stays local and maximizes its impact. In 2021, we entered a partnership with the Camas-Washougal Rotary Foundation to fund additional grants. In 2023, we entered a partnership with the Camas Lions Foundation to fund even more grants. In 2025, the CWCC, CWRF and CLF collectively awarded 39 grants totaling \$154,550 to non-profit organizations helping people in Camas and Washougal.

Their stories of service are briefly described in the following pages. Some grants fund essential services such as the local food bank, help homeless families find permanent housing and help run-away youth with temporary shelter and counselling. Some grants enrich lives by funding a variety of reading programs, funding a variety of outdoor camping programs, and performing arts programs. Other grants fund natural resource education and conservation programs, water quality monitoring, and Columbia River beach cleanup.

The Community Chest relies on donations from individuals and businesses. In recent years, over 97% of donations have gone directly back into our community. The remaining 2-3% covered typical service and supply costs. Please donate to the CWCC and give yourself the satisfaction of knowing you are helping local people and families in need. All donations are tax deductible as the CWCC is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. If you would like to be involved, or have any questions or comments about the CWCC, visit our website at <u>www.CamasWashougalCommunityChest.org</u> or contact us at <u>info@CamasWashougalCommunityChest.org</u>.

~ Dave Pinkernell

AKIN (AKA EAST COUNTY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER) ~ formerly Children's Home Society of Washington



The grant funds general operations at the ECFRC. The Center allows clients to access parent education groups, youth support groups, emergency basic assistance, behavioral health services and healthcare services directly by Akin or supported by Akin as the

Center's lead agency. Rather than just providing families with access to services, the Center focuses on building skills in families leaving them better prepared to function independently.

MEALS ON WHEELS PEOPLE

Help fund senior nutrition program. MOWP's goal is to ensure that every older adult has adequate access to nutrition in their

neighborhood. In addition, offer social support through friendly conversation during meal delivery and congregate. Enrichment activities are also available at MOWP's dining centers to help



alleviate social isolation among older adults in the area. MOWP's participants include older adults who live in low-income households, those who live alone, many who experience disabilities, maybe socially or geographically isolated, and veterans.

JANUS YOUTH PROGRAM

Janus Youth Program operates SW Washington's only crisis shelter for homeless, runaway and at-risk youth ages 9 to 17. *The Oaks* shelter has become the primary safety net for youth with



severe mental health and/or addiction issues, youth who have been victims of sex trafficking and youth requiring protective custody due to open Child Protective Services' investigations. The grant is used to provide crisis and emergency services, youth activities, education and health and welfare programs for at-risk youth from Camas and Washougal. The grant also supports case management services which are vital to achieve family reunification, service entry and referral, needs assessment and coordinated exit planning.

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – PRINCIPAL'S CHECKBOOK

The grant provides all elementary, middle, and high school principals in the WSD with funds to help any student in financial need to have access to activities, services, or materials necessary for a quality education. The grant will also support the *Washougal Adult Transition Program (WATP)*, a program to provide on-the-job training to students with disabilities, and provides food, clothes, shoes, and personal hygiene products to low-income students. *WATP* is ready to open a coffee cart business at the high school. Students will gain business skills; inventory management, shopping, counting, balancing money and customer service.

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ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH – SAFE STAY PROGRAM

St. Anne's has developed a *Safe Stay* program that allows seven homeless families to sleep overnight in their vehicle in the church's parking lot. The grant funds will be used to rent a port-a-potty, including twice weekly servicing. The funds will also be used to



pay for utilities and supplies associated with a laundry facility (washer and dryer) and an ADA bathroom and shower facility. The church arranges for volunteers to open the church for two hours in the early evening to let the campers use the bathroom and

shower, the washer and dryer and the kitchen. The church also makes available a WIFI hot spot so clients can access the internet.

CAMAS FAMILY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER (Aka camas school district – principal's checkbook)

Help buy materials or services to assist directly in the furthering of a student's education or their physical/emotional well-being that might also affect their ability to do well in school. All the items purchased with these funds ensure the stability of the student so they can receive the best education possible.



REFUEL WASHOUGAL

A portion of the funds will be used to provide lunch to kids from low-income families during the summer break when the school lunch program is not operating. Another potion of the funds will pay for a 10th anniversary lunch for ReFuel volunteers. ReFuel



services are complely delivered by our valued volunteers. Lastly ReFuel plans to buy a branded tent for use in attending community events where they will tell its story and hope to recruit volunteers.

FAMILY PROMISE OF CLARK COUNTY

Grant funds will be used to operate Family Promise's *Cares Prevention Program* that proactively assists families with services that will prevent them from losing their home and entering the shelter system. Services may include rental assistance, payment for rent in arrears, security deposits, landlord mediation, locating housing, Rent-Well, budget and financial literacy courses, connection to community resources and professional case management services. A portion of the grant will be used to pay for the CPP case manager's position. The other portion of the grant will be used to pay up to \$1,000 per family for CPP services described above. Family Promise will continue to leverage these funds by partnering with other organizations in the community such as Partners in Careers, Salvation Army, Camas Lions Club, Council for the Homeless and other human services agencies.

PINK LEMONADE PROJECT

The Pink Lemonade Project offers three financial aid and assistance programs to women who are facing breast cancer diagnosis and treatment. The project offers financial assistance for essential items not covered by health insurance, but that may be needed for important quality of life issues like groceries, transportation assistance, lymphedema sleeves, lost wages due to treatment and/or surgeries, rent/mortgage payments etc. The three programs are: *Treatment Access Program* for rural clients, *Holiday Glow* which helps families during the holiday season and *Pink Practicalities*, the basic financial assistance program

IMPACT CW – ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

The grant funds will be used to purchase food and grocery gift cards for low-income families in the Camas and Washougal School



Districts. Each food box will provide \$40 of food per box and \$50 worth of grocery gift cards per family. The grocery gift cards will be purchased

from Camas and Washougal grocery stores, who have partgnered with St. Matthews Lutheran Church in the past, and as a way to support local businesses who've helped in the past.

UNITE! WASHOUGAL COMMUNITY COALITION

A portion of the grant will be used to fund Club Unite! a partnership between Unite! Washougal School District, and adult community volunteers. Middle school is an excellent time to help our students grow their skills, learn about healthy choices, get opportunities to socialize with other peers in a healthy, safe, and supportive environment while developing interests and resilient skills that will last a lifetime, A portion will fund Our Positive Community Norms Campaign, "Love Your Life! Washougal". The Love Your Life campaign seeks to inform youth that they don't have to use alcohol, tobacco or other drugs to fit in. Rather it seeks to recognize the positives in our community and seeks to grow those positive behaviors by reinforcing and rewarding them in our youth and community. A portion of the grant will fund Breathe Easy, a youth leaders project to make and distribute Vaping Quit Aid Kits for those students who want to quit the use of vaping devises but need information and support to complete their goal.

KOMAK

Help fund emergency financial assistance to individuals and families who are normally self-supporting but are unable to meet basic needs during cancer treatment either because the patient is unable to work or because the caregiver must miss work to help the patient. Many clients would face bankruptcy, eviction, homelessness, repossessions, or food insecurity without our emergency financial assistance. Komak's goal is to make a huge permanent impact on the lives of a few people by timely assistance to avoid food and shelter instability and the long-term aftereffects.

COLUMBIA PLAY PROJECT

Columbia Play Project believes that every child deserves the freedom to play – inside or outside, with materials or just their imagination, in agroup or quietly on their own. To achieve this environment, CPP is committed to creating a thoughtfully designed, flexible, attractive space the allows the young and young - at - heart to have fun while learning. The grant will help fund 10 free events in the Camas and Washougal area targeted at children aged 0 to 12, fostering access to high quality, educational play experiences for all families in the community. CPP aims to bring equitable play opportunities to underserved communities like Camas and Washougal, ensuring all children have a chance to thrive through the power of play. Specifically the grant will help fund six *Tots to Teens Tuesday* events in Camas plus CamTown, two additional free exploratory play events in Washougal and providing play at the *Anuual Pumpkin Festival*.

HOPE LEARNING CENTER

The Hope Learning Center supports parents who need alternate forms of educaton for their children. We offer hope to these parents by providing all the support they need, from in-person classes, oneon-one tutoring, consulting, and parent training. We believe in the power of education and go beyond traditional textbooks since we foster a supportive environment where students can thrive academically, socially and spiritually. Specifically the grant will help fund scholarships for families that are financially unable to send their children to a school offering alternate forms of education. Some of the funds will be used to compensate tutors who help students with one-on-one instruction.

WASHOUGAL SOCIETY FOR ADVANCEMENT AND FAMILY ENRICHMENT (WSAFE)

WSAFE is partnering with the Washougal School District's Family Community Resource Center coordinators to identify students and families that need additional financial support to meet their needs, FCRC coordinators are limited in the type of financial support they can offer. This grant will help fund transportation costs such as gas cards, bus passes, tire repair, and small engine repair. Help fund emergency assistance for rent, first and last month rent deposits, housing application fees, utilities, and motel vouchers. Help fund extracurricular activities such as musical instruments, purchase or rent uniforms, and pay participation and travel fees.

CASCADIA TECHNICAL ACADEMY FOUNDATION

Financial challenges hsve increasingly become a distraction for our students and for our instructors trying to advance their academic opportunities. This grant centers on one key objective: supporting students and families within the Camas – Washougal School Districts by eliminating financial barriors that hinder their enrollment or success in Cascadia Tech Programs. The grant will help fund purchase of required student uniforms for studentd from families with finantial constraints. Help fund basic family needs such as food and transportation when the fanily is facing a financial emergency such as loss of a job or a medical emergency. Lastly funds will be used to provide transportation services during summer school, when the school buses are not running.

JD CURRIE YOUTH CAMP

The grant will help fund repairs to two picnic shelters and replace footbridge # 4 in the middle of the camp's trail system. There are engineering, material, and labor costs that need to be paid for in this next phase of upgrading. When functioning properly, the property supports school field trips, nonprofit youth organizations, church youth groups, and several school clubs.

FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY FOUNDATION – WASHOUGAL BRANCH

Grant funds help cover the cost of the Summer Reading programs and incentive prizes awarded by Washougal Community Library. For many parents with limited household budgets, Washougal

Community Library's Summer Reading Program offers an opportunity for the entire family to attend entertaining and educational programs at no cost, earn prizes for hours spent reading, and strengthen their reading skills. The incentive prizes for 2025include books, Barnes and Noble gift cards, gift certificates to area businesses that cater to school-age children and teens, and certificates of achievement for various levels of hours spent reading.



GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS – CAMAS-WASHOUGAL

Books inspire young readers and lay an important foundation for

their success in education. The grant will be used to purchase books for all children in both Washougal and Camas School District Pre-K programs. Extended Learning Coordinators from both districts will be ordering and distributing books throughout the year.



THE LITTLE WINGS LIBRARY

Help fund the construction of one little library in an underserved area of Camas or Washougal. Purchase or receive through donations, enough young people and teen books to stock each library with a minimum of 150 to 200 books. The motto of The Little Wings Library is **read it – love it – return it**. The hope is to keep the books in circulation in underserved neighborhoods, whose



young people and teens may not have easy access to the main public library. In addition to providing convenient access to books, the Little Wings Library founder also plans to engage students from Discovery's CTE classes to design, build and install the libraries. The founder also plans to have student volunteers involved with the acquisition, proessing, and distribution of books, as well as, to collect data on the usage of the libraries.

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BOOKISH

Grant funds will be used to purchase and retrofit a vehicle to become a traveling library. The mobile library will contain a broad range of books, including but not limited to, picture books, young adult books, graphic novels, and parenting books. The vehicle will be driven to parks, schools, markets, clinics, and housing developments to provide joyful access to literature. Bookish believes all children should have access to ownership of diverse, quality books and aims to target areas where familly income may not allow for that important experience. We hope to draw families in with free activities, crafts, storytimes and muicians to create a community around the importance of books. Bookish was formed on the foundation that books act as windows and mirrors for children so they can build empathy through meeting characters different from themselves and build confidence by meeting charactors and storylines that reflect themselves.

HATHAWAY BOOSTERS CLUB

Hathaway Boosters Club is committed to supporting students and classrooms in ways that go beyond what the Washougal School District can povide. The Boosters Club's mision is to foster a strong sense of community by offering family engagment events that are free and accessible to all. We promote physucal well-being by providing recess equipment, encoueagingkids to run, play, and stay active. The school disict has a policy that they will only fund playground equipment for new buildings. The goal for the grant is to obtain and install new, upgraded, and engaging quipment to revitalize the current playground.

FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION OF CAMAS LIBRARY

Help fund expansion of the Camas Public Library's Circulating Kits program *Storytime To-Go* kits would help caregivers create meaningful literacy experiences for young children, whether at home, in a daycare setting or, on the go. *Hands-on Hobbies* kits help teens express themselves through arts and music. *Memory* kits provide help to people experiencing memory loss.



CAMAS WASHOUGAL PARENT CO-OP PRESCHOOL

The grant helps pay for the annual costs to operate the preschool. The curriculum is theme-based and developmentally appropriate, providing students with a solid foundation in letter/sound recognition, numbers/patterns/math games, beginning science concepts and fine motor skills such as cutting, gluing and name writing. The operating budget includes purchasing classroom supplies so the preschoolers can learn valuable skills that will prepare them for kindergarten and beyond. Operating costs also include playground maintenance, teacher's salaries, and technology such as security, internet, and copiers.

REACH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Gateway Gardens, a 32 unit of low-income housing. has an average of 100 residents. Town Square Apartments has 40 units of low-income housing and some 70 residents. Funds will be used to

advance essential services for food and other housing stability needs. Funds may be used for bulk purchasing of groceries, baby essentials, cleaning supplies, hygiene products and similar basic household items. Funds may also be used for rent/utility assistance.



Lastly, funds may be used for school supplies, holiday food baskets and other socially distant engagement activities for youth.

HUMAN DIGNITY FOUNDATION DBA GOOD SHEPHERD MANOR

Human Dignity Foundation is dedicated to responding to the dignity of the human person, with a focus on the needs of the elderly, disabled, and terminally ill. The grant will help fund the construction of a pavillion for the use by residents receiving end-of-life care. Residents receiving end-of-life care currently have limited opportunities to enjoy the oitdoors without being transported offsite. Having an on-site pavillion will open the joys of nature (birds, small animals, trees, flowers and the sun and fresh air that surrounds the facility) to the residents.

CAMAS ROBOTICS BOOSTER CLUB

The mission of the Robotics Team is to inspire students to become engaged in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills, that inspire innovation and foster well-rounded life capabilities including selfconfidence, communicaion and leadership. A portion of the grant will be used to waive registration fees for students in financial need to be able to participate in Robotics Team activities. A portion of the funds will be used to cover transportation, housing and food costs so that student with financial need can participate in regional and worldwide robotics championship competitions.

CAMAS FARMERS MARKET

The grant is used by Camas Farmers Market to implement a token program called "Produce Pals." Produce Pals offers a weekly activity to educate and inspire children to grow, prepare and eat

healthy foods. The weekly activity also educates children about where and how their food is produced. After each child has completed the week's activity, they receive a \$2 token redeemable at any CFM booth for fresh fruits or vegetables. Some of the



funds may also be used to meet safety guidelines and provide the safest shopping experience for customers and vendors, including increased sanitation and a portable restroom.

ENSPIRE ARTS

Help fund insurance, office expenses and part-time administrative assistant. More specifically help fund bi-monthly *Community Arts Night* program, a free opportunity to experience the benefits of creativity and artistic expression. *Community Arts Night* are suitable for all ages, novice or professional, to come together and explore the world of creativity and the arts. Enspire Arts uses music, poetry, visual art, theater games, writing and more as a catalyst for conversation, community building, emotional expression, relaxation, and fun.

WEST COLUMBIA GORGE HUMANE SOCIETY

WCGHS is a socially conscious animal shelter working to create the best and most appropriate outcomes for pets and people in our community. WCGHS believes pets are family and no one should ever have to give up a pet because of temporary constraining circumstances. It is proven that time spent with an animal reduces

anxiety and depression, which reduces hopelessness and despair. The grant funds will be used to sustain the following programs and services during times of hardship, crisis or emergency: pet food pantry, temporary pet boarding, impound/owner surrender fee and veterinary assistance.



EAST COUNTY STUDENT TRAVEL

Help fund eighth grade underpriviledged students from Washougal .School District pay for travel expenses on an East Coast Tour of Discovery trip. The trip itself is based on the eighth grade US history curriculum which covers Columbus to Reconstruction (1492 to 1876). The trip starts in Jamestown, VA and works its way up through Washington D. C., Philadelphia and ends up in New York City. Highlights include visiting the tomb of the Unknown Soldier and seeing a Broadway play. The trip inspires students to tke pride in their citizenship, to connect with our shared history, and to develop responsible citizens who are neessary for a functoning democracy.

JOURNEY THEATER ARTS GROUP

Journey Theater Arts Group puts on Broadway-style live theater

performances involving casts and production crews of as many as 65 students between the ages of eight and 18. A portion of the funds will provide scholarships for theater classes and camps to six students in financial need. The rest



of the funds will be used to hire high-quality ASL interpretation services at five show runs this upcoming year.

SCOUTS MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

The fund helps provide scholarships to boys and girls from low-income households so they can pay the scout's membership fee and/or so they can attend summer camp. Five scout troops from the Camas and Washougal area can benefit from the grant program.



KIWANIS CAMP WA-RI-KI

The purpose of Camp Wa-Ri-Ki is to engage 9- to 15-year-olds in outdoor education and recreational experiences. The grant funds will be used to offer educational and outdoor activities that are physically challenging, involve problem-solving and encourage

human interactions in a fun and exciting camp community. A variety of programs such as NASA GLOBE Goes to Camp, Earth and Sky Nature School, Camas Days, Art in the Garden, Artist in Residence, Leave No Trace and Nature Days Community Festival enable campers to have meaningful outdoor experiences. Activities are selected that fuel personal growth such as better physical and mental health,



increased self-esteem, respect and kindness toward others, ability to lead and participation in community to become passionate stewards of our natural resources.

Natural Resource Conservation and Education

LACAMAS WATERSHED COUNCIL

The grant funds will be used to provide initial and refresher water



quality monitoring training to Lacamas Watershed Council volunteers and to purchase water quality monitoring equipment and supplies. In recent years toxic algae blooms have occurred in Lacamas, Round and Fallen Leaf Lakes. LWC advocates for improved water quality based on best available science. Currently LWC collects water quality data at three monitoring sites in Lacamas

Lake and one monitoring site in Round Lake. Additional monitoring sites in the Lacamas watershed creeks and lakes are being evaluated.

EAST COUNTY CITIZEN'S ALLIANCE (fiscal sponsor) **WASHOUGAL IVY LEAGUE** (501(c)(3) status pending) Grant funds will be used to purchase tools, insurance, and website domain hosting for the Washougal Ivy League. The Washougal Ivy League anticipates purchasing 15 sets of loppers and hand pruners, 24 sets of gloves, and 3 Mcleod tools. These items are needed to conduct volunteer events in the city of Washougal. Removal of invasive English ivy, Himalayan blackberries, and English holly are crucial to keep Washougal parks healthy. Liability insurance to cover any incidents during volunteer events is critical to protect and cover both the volunteers and the Washougal Ivy League organization and members.

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Natural Resource Conservation & Education

LOWER COLUMBIA ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

The LCEP education program includes three 60-minute classroom lessons that utilize an array of materials such as plant and animal specimens and watershed models. The lessons introduce students to the components of healthy watersheds, plant and animal populations and the interconnectedness of all living things. The outdoor component takes place at Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge and involves planting native trees or removing invasive plants along Gibbons Creek. Planting trees helps reduce water temperature, thereby enhancing native fish survival. The grant funds a portion of educators' salaries, transportation expenses and materials and supplies for the outdoor component.

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

The Friend's "Explore the Gorge" program exposes 250 sixth graders from the Washougal School District to the wonders of the Columbia Gorge, its significance as a national treasure and the unique story of its preservation through the Columbia River National Scenic Area Act. This two-day outdoor education program strives to build the student's sense of place and to develop a land stewardship ethic. The outdoor educational experience includes lessons in geology, ecology and habitat restoration, as well as an interpretive hike and scavenger hunt. The program also covers some history of the Columbia Gorge including the Lewis and Clark expedition and the ice age floods. The grant specifically funds a portion of the educators' stipend, bus transportation expenses and teaching supplies and materials.

Emergency Fund Grant

INTER-FAITH TREASURE HOUSE

The Inter-Faith Treasure House submitted a 2025 grant application requesting \$14.000 to help fund the purchase of a replacement cargo van. IFTH's auto repair shop informed them that their current cargo van was not repairable. A cargo van is indispensable to the efficient operation of the food bank, because it allows for moving food in pallet-size quantities rather than small boxes. Pallet-size movement of food saves time and saves wear and tear on volunteers who otherwise would have to handle the multitude of small boxes. Upon initial review of IFTH's application, it was clear that the need was immediate and compelling.

On December 20, 2024, the CWCC Board approved a \$14,000 emergency fund grant to help purchase a replacement cargo van. According to Manager Nancy Wilson, the van made its initial pickup of food from the Clark County Food Bank on January 27, 2025.



Organizational Boards

CAMAS WASHOUGAL COMMUNITY CHEST 2024-2025 CWCC Board

Dave Pinkernell, President Andrew Gustely, President-Elect Marianne Reiter, Co-Treasurer Susan Bennett, Co-Treasurer Joelle Scheldorf, Executive Committee & Campaign Chair Stuart Bennett Aaron Hansen Doug Hood Crystal Jennings Doug Quinn Trang Lam Richard Reiter David Scott Ann Stevens

CAMAS WASHOUGAL ROTARY FOUNDATION 2024 -2025 CWRF BOARD

Ron Carlson, Rotary Foundation President George Capacci, Board Vice-President/Secretary Max Hall, Board Treasurer Tom Crozier, Club Exec. Secretary Blaine Peterson Diana Rutherford Molly Coston Kathy Bussman Larry Keister Sid Boles

CWRF is part of the Rotary International global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change. The CWRF has joined forces with the CWCC to provide additional financial support to local nonprofits that will improve lives in our communities. The Rotary Club also brings a dedicated group of volunteers who live the Rotary motto of "Service above Self".

Organizational Boards

2023 - 2024 CAMAS LIONS FOUNDATION BOARD

Stephanie O'Dell, President Dr. Brian M. Scott, Immediate Past President Neil Day, Vice-President Patty Wolf, Treasurer Casey O'Dell, Secretary

Tim Eubank, Marketing and Communications The Camas Lions Foundation (CLF) is the charity arm of the Camas Lions Club and a subset of Lions Clubs International, the largest service organization in the world. We are a local group of service-minded volunteers dedicated to helping others since 1938. We champion kindness in the community and actively work to improve the lives of all people, especially those in the most need. Lions respond to many challenges, locally and globally, including:

- Vision Hearing
- Hunger
- Diabetes
 Childhood Cancer
- Environment
- Disaster and Humanitarian Relief

Organizational Contact Information

CAMAS WASHOUGAL COMMUNITY CHEST

<u>CamasWashougalCommunityChest.org</u> info@camaswashougalcommunitychest.org

CAMAS WASHOUGAL ROTARY FOUNDATION

<u>cwrotary.com</u> PO Box 716 Camas, WA 98607

CAMAS LIONS FOUNDATION

<u>Camas Lions Website</u> <u>lionsofcamas@gmail.com</u>