



United Way
of Columbia County

**United Way of
Columbia County
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2022 IMPACT REPORT

Our Mission: To increase the organized capacity for people to care for one another.

Our Vision: Columbia County will have thriving communities with opportunities for a better life for all. United Way will work for the common good by focusing on the basic building blocks of health, education and financial stability for everyone.



BY THE NUMBERS...

In 2022 we brought together **522** donors from **13** workplaces throughout Columbia County and beyond to raise more than **122,890** dollars which combined with **80,500** dollars to grant and other funding made for a total of **203,390** dollars raised to give our neighbors an equal chance at a bright future!

Together, along with **8** funded partner agencies and in collaboration with more than **23** additional organizations we helped **1,852** early learners grow in key literacy and academic skills **346** people in need enjoy a hot meal and **46** individuals secure or obtain stable housing.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



It's been a tough few years. Too many people are struggling – paying the weekly grocery store bill, making up for the learning lost during pandemic school interruptions, recovering from disasters. Columbia County has been fractured by partisan politics and pandemic fueled isolation. But we know individuals can change the world. They don't need to be powerful CEOs or elected officials. They don't even need to be adults! Just think about Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg, and the change they've made in the world through their advocacy for education for girls, and for climate change. That's United Way's sweet spot. Our superpower is bringing people together to make positive, lasting change. For example, United Way of Columbia County this year stepped up to serve nearly 1 in 5 Columbia County residents access healthy food, engage in learning, or take steps toward financial self-sufficiency.

With our partners, experts, community leaders and residents, United Way looks at the toughest problems, and is thoughtful about local solutions that work best in our community. United Way of Columbia County makes it easy for you to take meaningful action that makes a difference. That can be volunteering for a program that helps struggling kids shift the odds, like the Senior Volunteer Program-Book Nook. Or speaking up for more support for single parents who struggle to make ends meet, despite being employed full-time. Or investing in solutions that are showing results, such as the summer activity program—connecting families to resources such as food, educational supports, and affordable health care in the summer months. And we **are** seeing positive results. Here in Columbia County, over the last year, United Way and the donors, volunteers and advocates who've joined us have made a difference. Consider:

- 1,350 Columbia County children received high-quality, age-appropriate, monthly books, through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program.
- 172 Columbia County Seniors (age 55+) have logged more than 4,211 volunteer hours at local social service sites including local schools, food pantries, the Columbia County Courthouse, and senior centers in 2022.
- 32 households obtained or maintained permanent, safe shelter, through Emergency Food and Shelter Program funding.

Positive change is happening. But it doesn't "just happen." Change is created together. And we're in it together. We want Columbia County to be a resilient, equitable community that offers opportunities for **everyone** to thrive. We can make it happen, together. People like you are the ones who make change happen. Start today. Join us. Donate at www.unitedwayofcolumbiacounty.com.

Claire Catt

Executive Director

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SCAN to review the many different ways you can support us!



KINDERGARTEN READINESS

In 2022, United Way of Columbia County expanded Kindergarten Readiness Initiatives, in partnership with Northwest Regional ESD, with the goal that all Columbia County 5-year olds will be prepared to enter Kindergarten with pre-academic skills. Young learners who have skills, such as social-emotional regulation, exposure to literacy, and high vocabulary, are set up to succeed in school and beyond.

To support young learners, United Way of Columbia County provides books through the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program and the Senior Volunteer: Book Nook. United Way of Columbia County developed and distributed more than 500 early learning calendars, to support families learn at home. In addition, three Preschool Navigators have been hired to help connect young families to a variety of early learning services. When families have a trusted peer that they can call for help navigating systems, they are likely to access social services. To connect with a local Preschool Navigator or partner on early education initiatives email dpil@unitedwayofcolumbiacounty.com.



**\$19,000
INVESTED**

**\$61,500
COMMITTED**



Senior volunteers like Joan B., ensure that out local food pantries are always prepared to serve Columbia County

SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The United Way of Columbia County Senior Volunteer Program was established in July 2022, to support local seniors (55+) to serve Columbia County through volunteerism at local social service agencies. When older adults stay actively involved in their communities, it increases quality of social interactions and overall health. Senior Volunteers are the heartbeat of Columbia County social services!

- Registered Volunteers: 172
- Volunteer Stations: 9
- Recorded Volunteer hours (July-December): 4,211

Special Projects: Book Nook-free youth book distribution, Holiday Gifts for Homeless Youth

Additional Volunteer Events/Meetings/Trainings: 8, including Fire Extinguisher Training, First Aid/CPR, Day of Caring, and the Christmas Party at the Columbia Theater

9 Volunteer Stations

172 Volunteers

4,211 Volunteer Hours

PARTNER AGENCIES

Partnering with local nonprofits allows United Way of Columbia County to understand the landscape of distress in our community. This means your donation supports the greatest local needs, not necessarily just one cause. Sometimes you hear about the work a nonprofit does, but you have questions about how well they are run. UWCC eliminates that concern by ensuring Partner Agencies are self-sustaining, have successful programming, a sound budget and specific reasons for which they are requesting money--every year. Thank you for your donations to support our 2022 Member Agencies:

- Turning Point
- Hope of Rainier
- Vernonia Cares
- Community Action Team
- Columbia Pacific Food Bank
- Amani Center
- SAFE of Columbia County
- Youth Era



October Volunteer of the month, Joan B, was recognized by United Way of Columbia County and Turning Point Community Center for her exceptional commitment to year-round service, feeding the community of Clatskanie.



The Amani Center team used its 2022 United Way of Columbia County Allocation to ensure that children of suspected child abuse and neglect were connected to resources to begin healing.

THANK YOU!

We are so inspired and humbled by each of our volunteers, donors, partners, supporters, and everyday heroes! You are the reason that this work continues each day. You are the reason we can ensure that Columbia County has a bright future.



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