

2024 Grants Report

October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024



CAMAS-WASHOUGAL
COMMUNITY CHEST

SINCE 1946

HELPING LOCAL CHARITIES THRIVE

Rotary

Foundation of Camas Washougal

Service above Self



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 long-standing 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 Club to fund even more grants. In 2024, the CWCC, CWRP and CLC collectively awarded 34 grants totaling \$134,000 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 www.CamasWashougalCommunityChest.org or contact us at info@CamasWashougalCommunityChest.org.

Helping to Meet Essential Needs

Akin (formerly Children's Home Society of Washington) East County Family Resource Center



The grant will fund 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.

Inter-Faith Treasure House

Seventy percent of the funds will be used to purchase nutritional food for the school backpack program. Currently there are 80 Camas School District students, and their siblings and parents, that receive food assistance through the backpack program. Treasure House also distributes food out of its warehouse to 2,000 people per month. Thirty percent of the funds will be used to buy gas for two food delivery vans that pick-up food from local grocers and the Clark County Food Bank and delivers that food to the schools for distribution to low-income families.



Helping to Meet Essential Needs

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 kindergarten, 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 Panther Den, 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. Lastly, the grant will help fund several activities to honor the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr., including an assembly implementation guide, a keynote speech and access to James Layman throughout the process of putting the assembly together.

Helping to Meet Essential Needs

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 their clients can access the internet.

Pathways Clinic



Helps buy medical supplies to offer no-cost limited obstetric ultrasound tests; buy medical supplies to offer no-cost pregnancy tests and test controls; and buy medical supplies to offer no-cost STI/STD testing and treatment to men and women.

Camas Family Community Resource Center

(AKA Camas School District – Principal's Checkbook)

Helps 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.

Helping to Meet Essential Needs

ReFuel Washougal

The funds will buy water-proof sleeping bags to help clients stay dry when the shelter isn't open. The funds will buy sturdy clamshell containers, lidded bowls for soups and other liquids and heavy duty plastic forks and spoons for the to-go meal program. Refuel will also buy C-Tran bus passes for clients to use to get to Vancouver for access to services not available locally.



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.

Helping to Meet Essential Needs

Pink Lemonade Project

The Pink Lemonade Project's *Pink Practicalities* offers financial aid and assistance to women who are facing breast cancer diagnosis and treatment. The program 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. *Pink Practicalities* has proven to be a valued community resource, both for patients going through treatment and especially for our healthcare partners who call on Pink Lemonade when a patient truly has an unmet need(s).

Silver Star Search and Rescue (SSSAR)

The grant funds will buy a single Terra Tamer titanium frame/fork/wheel to support a Stokes litter. The current wheel is worn out from repeated use in heavy duty, difficult terrain.

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 partnered with St. Matthews Lutheran Church in the past, and as a way to support local businesses who've helped in the past.

Helping to Meet Essential Needs

Unite! Washougal Community Coalition

A portion of the grant will be used to fund a *Sources of Strength* suicide prevention program at Washougal High School. *Sources of Strength* is a suicide prevention and resiliency building youth-led and adult-supported peer-to-peer program that encourages youth to seek help and mental support, when needed, and removes barriers and stigma around healthy help-seeking behavior. *SoS* also encourages youth to grow resources in their own lives such as healthy activities, positive friends, generosity, and family support. A portion of the grant will fund an *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 *Guiding Good Choices*, a training program that gives parents the skills needed to reduce their children's risk for using alcohol and other drugs.

Enriching Lives

Camas Washougal Historical Society

The grant funds will be used to commission artist Adam McIsaac to create a fish carving display (12 ft by 4 ft) for the Gathering Place located at the Two Rivers Heritage Museum. The CWHS's mission is to preserve and make available to the public, both present and future artifacts that tell the story of the history of the Camas and Washougal area.

Enriching Lives

Friends and Foundation of Camas Library

The grant funds a portion of the costs to create a Nature-Smart Library collection. This initiative focuses on education for all ages, from pre-K to adult learners, while also bringing about a lifelong love of natural resource conservation. The *Outdoor Games* program would buy multiple copies of such games as Badminton, Bocce Ball, Cornhole, Jenga, Pickleball and six other games. The *Picnic Baskets* program would buy multiple copies of card games such as Go Fish, UNO and regular decks of cards; along with “baskets” (aka backpacks) for transporting the games and blankets to provide a clean playing surface. Lastly the grant pays a portion of a speaker’s fee to provide outdoor workshops on six subjects including astronomy, birdwatching, gardening, meditation, nature walk and outdoor photography.

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. This year’s operating budget will also pay for an automatic door locking system, part of a \$37,387 plan to improve overall school building security and safety.

Enriching Lives

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 the books throughout the year.



Dance Evolution

A portion of the grant provides free or subsidized dance classes to individuals who may not have access to such opportunities or a scholarship to individuals or families with financial constraints. A portion of the grant will be used to upgrade studio equipment over time to create a safer and inspiring environment and to purchase adaptive equipment and resources to enhance the studio’s accessibility to individuals of all abilities.



Enriching Lives

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.



Lifeline Connections

Lifeline Connections is a nonprofit agency providing treatment for low- and very low income people with behavioral health disorders. The grant will help fund transportation costs for bringing kids who may not otherwise have the ability to attend camp, to the Camp Mariposa program (based at Kawanis Camp WA-Ri-Ki). Most of the participants come from households living below the poverty line and cannot afford the costs of getting to and from camp. Funds may also be used to take kids on field trips to stimulate their senses and build teamwork and relationships, all critical in their treatment and success of the program.

Enriching Lives

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 self-confidence, communication 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.



Enriching Lives

Enspire Arts

Helps 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.

Enriching Lives

Washougal Songcraft Festival

Helps fund artist participation in Washougal Songcraft Festival. WSF promotes arts education, celebrates the craft of songwriting and develops the performing arts creative community of Washougal, Washington and surrounding areas. The funding obtained helps WSF hire local and regional songwriters in performances that are free to the public of all ages, brings customers to local businesses, develops the cultural economy of Washougal and most importantly, enhances the quality of life for the community.

Journey Theater Arts Group

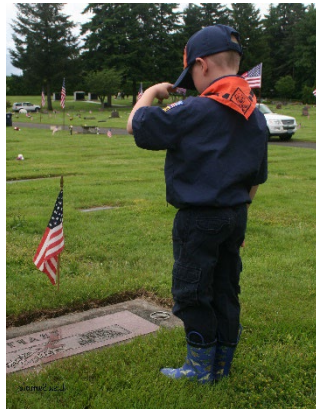
Journey Theater Arts Group puts on Broadway-style live theater performances involving casts and production crew of as many as 65 students between the ages of eight and 18. Journey is planning a production of *The Spongebob Squarepants Musical* in March of 2024. Grant funds will pay for a portion of the rental fee to use the Washburn Performing Arts Center in Washougal to locally present this musical production. A portion of the funds will provide scholarships for theater classes and camps to students in financial need.



Enriching Lives

Boy and Girl and Scout Troops

The funds help provide scholarships to boys or girls from low-income households so they can pay the scout's membership fee and/or so they can attend summer camp. Three Boy troops from the Camas and Washougal area can participate in the grant program. The funds will help one Girl Scout troop to visit the Smithsonian in Washington D. C. and the home of Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, Georgia.



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.

Enriching Lives

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 2024 include 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.

Natural Resource Conservation & Education

Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington

(formerly Vancouver Watershed Alliance)

Grant funds will be used to run three litter cleanups at Cottonwood Beach (beach and trail) in Washougal during the summer of 2024. Funds would cover staff time and event expenses to organize, run and complete the cleanups. Funds would also cover expenses to organize and train volunteers to carry out the cleanups in a timely and safe manner.

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.

Natural Resource Conservation & 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.



JD Currie Youth Camp

The funds will help upgrade Outhouse A to current health and safety standards. Two additional Outhouses (B and C) are scheduled for upgrades in the next two years. The three Outhouses are an integral part of the outdoor camp. Children and adult supervisors depend on having Outhouses for basic needs in order to occupy the property. When functioning properly, the property supports school field trips, nonprofit youth organizations, church youth groups, and several school clubs.

Organizational Boards

Camas Washougal Community Chest 2023-2024 CWCC Board

Mindy Schmidt, President
Marianne Reiter, Co-Treasurer
Susan Bennett, Co-Treasurer
Cari Corbett, Secretary
Richard Reiter, Campaign Chair
A J Bogue
Andrew Gustely
Dave Pinkernell
David Ripp
David Scott
Mary Templeton

Stuart Bennett
Doug Hood
Doug Quinn
Joelle Scheldorf
Ann Stevens

Camas Washougal Rotary Foundation 2023 -2024 CWRF Board

George Capacci, Rotary Foundation President
Ron Carlson, Board Vice-President/Secretary
Max Hall, Board Treasurer
Milt Dennison
Molly Coston
Larry Keister

Blaine Peterson
Kathy Bussman
Tom Crozier, Club Exec. Secretary

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 Relief Humanitarian

Organizational Contact Information

Camas Washougal Community Chest
Website – www.CamasWashougalCommunityChest.org
Email – info@camaswashougalcommunitychest.org

Camas Washougal Rotary Foundation
Website -[Rotary Club of Camas-Washougal \(cwrotary.com\)](http://Rotary Club of Camas-Washougal (cwrotary.com))

Camas Lions Foundation
Website – <https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/camas/>
Email – lionsofcamas@gmail.com