



# CAMAS-WASHOUGAL COMMUNITY CHEST

HELPING LOCAL CHARITIES THRIVE

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## PRESS RELEASE

### 2025 GRANT AWARDS • MARCH 9, 2025

**Camas-Washougal Community Chest — CWCC**

**PARTNER: Camas-Washougal Rotary Foundation — CWRP**

**PARTNER: Camas Lions Foundation — CLF**

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#### 2025 Grant Program Summary

- **39** - Total number of grants awarded
- **\$154,550** - Total value of grants awarded
- **Over 75,000** - Estimated number of individual services funded by grants

**PARTNERSHIP:** The Camas-Washougal Community Chest and its partners, the Camas-Washougal Rotary Foundation and the Camas Lions Foundation, are pleased to announce the award of **39 grants totaling \$154,550** to non-profit organizations delivering services, exclusively, to children and families in Camas and Washougal. The Rotary commitment to *Service Above Self* also adds volunteers to the mix as they work to make a difference in our community.

The **Inter-Faith Treasure House** received a **\$14,000** grant from **CWCC Emergency Fund**, to help replace their cargo van which was deemed non-repairable. As of January 27, 2025 the replacement cargo van was in service picking up food from the Clark County Food Bank. Says Nancy Wilson with IFTH ***“Yes, the grant from the emergency fund really helped us!”***

The grants will fund such diverse services as emergency food assistance, aid to families in crisis or needing emergency services, safe temporary shelter for at-risk youth, a *Safe Stay* overnight car park program at St. Anne's Episcopal Church and water quality monitoring in the Lacamas Creek watershed.

**NEW ORGANIZATIONS FUNDED:** New organizations receiving grants for the first time will offer services such as free books for young children and teens from a mobile library or from neighborhood little libraries, removal of invasive species from Washougal parks and other public spaces, and help financially strapped families with transportation needs, housing or rental needs and help with registration fees, musical instruments and travel expenses for after school extracurricular programs

**Some of the non-profit's being funded in 2025 include:** Akin (formerly the Children's Home Society) at the East County Family Resource Center, Janus Youth Programs, Pink Lemonade Project, Family Promise of Clark County, and Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership.

**First-time grantees include:**

Bookish, The Little Wings Library, Washougal Ivy League, and Washougal Society for Advancement and Family Fairness.

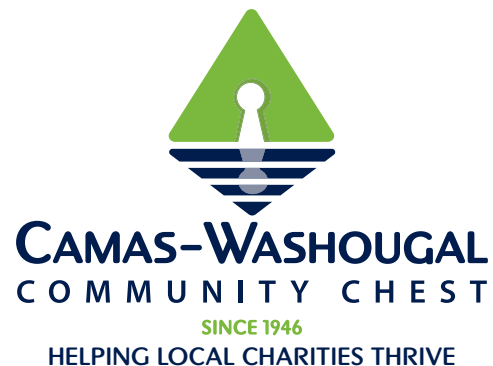
*For a complete listing of the 2025 grant awards see the grant summary below.*

**MAJOR DONORS TO CWCC – Thank you!**

- Camas-Washougal Rotary Foundation — CWRP
- Camas Lions Foundation — CLF
- Georgia Pacific Foundation — GPF
- Georgia Pacific employees
- Camas School District employees
- City of Camas and City of Washougal employees
- Port of Camas-Washougal employees
- The Standard Foundation
- Watercare Industrial Services



*CWCC Fundraiser with Mariners's pitcher Jamie Moyer at the Washougal Times Restaurant & Lounge*



CWCC is well on the way to funding these grants. To reach its 2025 fundraising goal, however, the CWCC needs additional donations from individuals and businesses in Camas and Washougal.

***More information and donation forms*** [www.CamasWashougalCommunityChest.org](http://www.CamasWashougalCommunityChest.org).

The CWCC, CWRP and CLF are registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations for federal charitable tax deduction purposes.

# Community Programs/Projects Funded in 2025

- **39** - Total number of grants awarded
- **\$154,550** - Total value of grants awarded
- **Over 75,000** - Estimated number of individual services funded by grants



## 1. Akin (formerly Children's Home Society) – East County Family Resource Center

Help fund operations at Resource Center; parent education groups, youth support groups, emergency basic assistance, behavioral health services and health care services provided by ECFRC or by a partner agency. Provides emergency food, diapers, and hygiene items, including a weekend food backpack program.

## 2. Bookish

Grant funds will help purchase and retrofit a vehicle to become a traveling library that will contain a broad range of books, including, picture books, young adult books, graphic novels, parenting books and more. The vehicle will be driven to parks, schools, markets, clinics and housing developments to provide joyful access to literature.

## 3. Boy Scouts of America – Cascade Pacific Council - Girl Scouts Troop 45703

Help fund Campership Awards so families in need can send their Boy and Girl Scouts to summer camp.

## 4. Camas School District – Principal's Checkbook, (aka Camas Family Community Resource Center)

Funds assist students and their families in situational instability with their essential needs, to further a student's education and physical/emotional well-being. Requests often come from school counselors, which also relieves their anxiety when students need additional support for their best learning.

## 5. Camas Farmers Market

Help fund "Produce Pals", a weekly activities program to educate children about where and how food is produced. Kids completing the weekly program receive a \$2 token to spend at Camas Farmers Market for locally grown fruits and vegetables.

## 6. Camas Robotics Booster Club

Help fund registration and transportation costs for students in financial need to participate in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) classes and activities. Will also help fund STEM education and outreach activities in the Camas and Washougal area.

## 7. Camas Washougal Parent Co-op Preschool

Help fund operating budget, buying classroom supplies and help with maintaining and upkeeping the preschool to provide a safe place for the preschoolers to learn and play.

## 8. Camp Currie

Help fund repairs to two picnic shelters and replace footbridge #4 in the middle of the Camp's trail system. Permitting, materials and labor costs for this next phase of completing improvements to this rustic camp.

## 9. Cascadia Technical Academy Foundation

Help fund purchase of required uniforms for students with financial constraints. Help fund basic needs such as food and transportation when the family is facing a financial emergency, job loss or medical emergency. Provide transportation services during summer school, when the school buses are not running.

## 10. Columbia Play Project

Help fund 10 free events in the Camas and Washougal for children aged 0 to 12, fostering access to high quality, educational, equitable play experiences, ensuring all children have a chance to thrive through the power of play.



*Camas School Supply Recipients*



*Camas Farmers Market*

**11. East County Citizen's Alliance (fiscal sponsor) - Washougal Ivy League (501 (c) (3) status pending)**

Help fund purchase of tools to clear Washougal Parks and other public spaces of invasive species such as English Ivy, Himalayan blackberries, and English Holly. Also covered by the grant would be liability insurance for project managers and volunteers and domain hosting and website support services.

**12. East County Student Travel**

Help fund one student's travel expenses for underprivileged students to take pride in their citizenship, to connect with our shared history, and to develop involved, responsible citizens necessary for a functioning democracy. The trip includes stops in Jamestown and Arlington VA, Washington DC, Gettysburg, New York City, and more.

**13. Enspire Arts**

Enspire Arts creates vibrant, interactive arts experiences that promote well-being, learning and connectors. The grant will help fund the insurance to cover students, teachers, volunteers, or alternately, funds could be applied to operating expenses such as venue rental, supplies, teaching artists fees, scholarships, and administrative staff.

**14. Family Promise of Clark County**

Help fund the FP Cares program that proactively assists families with services that will prevent them from losing their homes and entering the shelter system. Services may include rental assistance, payments for rent in arrears, security deposits, landlord mediation, locating housing and filling out applications.

**15. Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation – Washougal Branch**

Supports the Washougal Community Library's summer reading program for kids and adults. Providing free literacy related programs and incentive prizes to reward time spent reading. The Library hopes to elevate the reading comprehension, vocabulary and writing skills of Washougal area youth before school in the fall.

**16. Friends and Foundation of the Camas Library**

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

**17. Friends of the Columbia Gorge**

Help fund the *Explore the Gorge* classroom lessons and outdoor environmental education program for sixth graders in Jemtegaard and Canyon Creek Middle schools in Washougal School District.

**18. General Federation of Women's Clubs Camas - Washougal**

Help fund age-appropriate books and other educational materials for children in Pre-K and elementary classrooms in the Camas/Washougal School Districts to improve their reading skills.

**19. Hathaway Boosters Club**

Help fund the repair or replacement of existing playground equipment and the purchase and installation of new playground equipment at Hathaway Elementary School.

**20. Hope Learning Center**

Help fund scholarships for families that are financially unable to send their children to a school offering alternate forms of education. Funds will also be used to compensate tutors who help with one-on-one instruction.

**21. Human Dignity Foundation dba Good Shepherd Manor**

Help fund the construction of a pavilion for the use by residents receiving end-of-life care. Having an onsite, outdoor facility will open the joys of nature (birds, animals, trees, flowers, sun and fresh air) to the residents.



*General Federation of  
Women's Clubs*

**22. Impact CW – St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

Helps buy food and grocery gift cards for families in need living in the Camas and Washougal School Districts.

**23. Janus Youth Programs**

Provides funding for outreach efforts and overnight facility stays for Camas/Washougal runaway youth at risk for abuse and neglect; re-introduces kids to safe housing. Case managers help access services to achieve stability.

**24. Journey Theater Arts Group**

Help fund scholarships for six students from families experiencing financial hardship. Help fund American Sign Language interpretation for five show runs.

**25. Kiwanis Camp Wa-Ri-Ki**

Help fund the *Outdoor Environmental Education Program* offering campers outdoor activities for fun, healthy living, nurturing personal growth, leadership, and nature-based skills. Provide better physical/mental health, increased self-esteem, respect/kindness for others, community participation, and stewardship of natural resources.

**26. Komak**

Help fund emergency financial assistance to those who are normally self-supporting but in need during cancer treatment either because the patient and/or caregiver is unable to work. Many clients would face bankruptcy, eviction, homelessness, repossessions or food insecurity without our emergency financial assistance.

**27. Lacamas Watershed Council**

Helps pay for volunteer training and water quality monitoring equipment and testing supplies. Samples will be collected in the Lacamas watershed, including Lacamas, Round and Fallen Leaf lakes and Lacamas Creek.

**28. Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership**

Help fund the *Students Outdoor Science* program that provides classroom lessons and outdoor applied learning programs for youth, including habitat enhancement projects adjacent to Gibbons Creek in the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Campen Creek in Mable Kerr Park and Lacamas Creek Trail and Park.

**29. Meals on Wheels People**

Help fund MOWP's *Senior Nutrition Program* to ensure every older adult has access to nutrition in their neighborhood. Offers social support through friendly conversations during meal delivery. Enrichment activities are also available at our dining centers to help alleviate social isolation among older adults in the area.

**30. Pink Lemonade Project**

Help fund *Treatment Access Program/Pink Practicalities/ and Holiday Glow*, three financial aid and assistance programs for individuals suffering from breast cancer. Covers costs that health insurance doesn't, such as groceries, transportation services, lymphedema sleeves, lost wages, rent/mortgage payments, etc.

**31. REACH Community Development**

Helps buy groceries, baby essentials, cleaning supplies, hygiene products and basic household needs. Buys school supplies and holiday food baskets. Serves Gateway Gardens and Towne Square communities in Washougal.

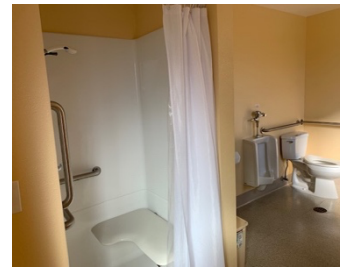
**32. ReFuel Washougal**

Help buy supplies for children's summer meal program and supplies for a 10-year volunteer appreciation lunch. Help buy a branded pop-up tent for community events, to highlight community needs and recruit volunteers.



### 33. St. Anne's (Episcopal Church) Safe Stay Program

Help pay the operating expenses of St. Anne's Safe Stay program including cleaning of the port-a-potty, use of outdoor electrical outlets, use of the Internet WiFi and use of showers, laundry and church kitchen.



St. Annes Safe Stay

### 34. The Little Wings Library

Help fund the construction of three little libraries in underserved areas. Purchase enough youth and teen books to stock each library with a minimum of 150 books. The motto is *Read It – Love It – Return It*— to keep the books in circulation in under-served neighborhoods, for youth without easy access to the main public library.

### 35. Unite! Washougal Community Coalition

Help fund *Club Unite!* at Jemtegaard and Canyon Creek Middle Schools; *Positive Community Norms* project at Washougal High School, “*Love Your Life*” campaign in the Washougal; the *Breathe Easy* youth coalition project, and the *Support our Ambassador Youth Program*.

### 36. Washougal School District – Principal's Checkbook

Helps Washougal school principals provide assistance for low income or homeless students. An *Adult Transition Program* to train students with disabilities for appropriate work placement. Shoes, clothes, hygiene products and food for *Panther Den*. A mobile laptop cart for families without access to technology and internet services.



Washougal School District  
Principal's Checkbook

### 37. Washougal Society for Advancement and Family Enrichment (Washougal SAFE)

Help fund transportation costs such as gas cards, bus passes, tire repair, and small engine repairs. Help fund emergency assistance for rent, first and last deposit, application fees, utilities, and motel vouchers. Help fund extracurricular activities such as musical instruments, purchase or rent uniforms, and participation and travel fees.

### 38. West Columbia Gorge Humane Society

Helps fund the programs and services designed to keep pets and people together during hardship, crisis or emergency: pet food pantry, temporary boarding, impound/owner surrender fee relief and veterinary assistance.

### 39. (EMERGENCY GRANT) Grant Awarded from CWCC's Emergency Fund - 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 a 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 pick-up of food from the Clark County Food Bank on January 27, 2025.



IFTH Cargo Van



[www.CamasWashougalCommunityChest.org](http://www.CamasWashougalCommunityChest.org).