

FALL 2022

**It's all about
COMMUNITY!**

Bloomin' Boutique

is a non-profit organization dedicated to giving a *hand up* by providing *new* clothing, shoes, bedding and personal care items to underprivileged children, empowering them to become confident, constructive members of their communities.

Welcome to our newsletter. We value this opportunity to share stories with our community of supporters.

It's YOUR CHOICE... we get that!

With so many non-profits deserving of your time, money and efforts, how do you choose who to support?

Finding the right fit can be challenging, but if your passions and interests align with a cause, it will be more meaningful, fulfilling and sustainably engaging.

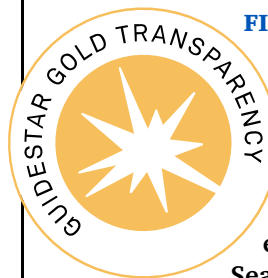
WOULD HELPING CHILDREN BE MEANINGFUL TO YOU?

Were you a child that was fortunate enough to receive services when your family needed it most and now want to give back to your community? Or were you the child that only received ill-fitting hand-me-downs and understand the profound impact that something new, something of your own can have on a child? Or have you worked with children and seen their confidence soar upon receiving even the simplest gift of kindness... a pillow, a toy, a book? ***Bloomin' Boutique transforms the lives of over 60 children a month by providing new clothing, shoes, bedding and toiletry kits.***

DOES OUR MISSION RESONATE WITH YOU?

While communities often have clothes closets of donated used clothing available for families in need, Bloomin' Boutique chose to handle things differently: By giving a *hand up* by providing *new* clothing, a child's demeanor changes completely. They feel good about themselves, put a smile on their face and proudly raise their hand in the classroom. By no longer focusing on how they *don't* fit in with their peers, they focus on learning. ***This is how we build future confident, constructive leaders in our communities.***


LOCAL vs GLOBAL: By donating to a local charity, you are impacting the families next door, your kids' peers and playmates, and families displaced by wildfires, domestic violence and adversity. ***You can make a difference in your own backyard!***



FINANCIALS: GuideStar.org is an organization that researches charities' financial health and their commitment to transparency and accountability. Bloomin' Boutique financials are reviewed regularly and earned us the GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency.

WHO WILL USE YOUR DONATION WISELY?

Bloomin' Boutique is an all volunteer organization with no paid staff. Overhead expenses are kept at a low 6%, so **94% of donations go directly to help the kids!** Our shoppers stretch those dollars by seeking out fashionable clothing sales, developing relationships with clothing manufacturers and spending *your* money like it was their last dollar!

Whether you choose to be a donor, sponsor or volunteer, we appreciate your decision to support Bloomin' Boutique! 

Patti Serres

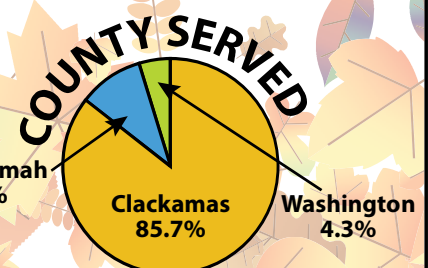
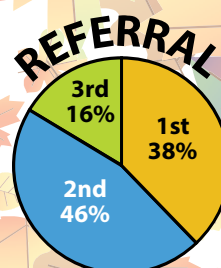
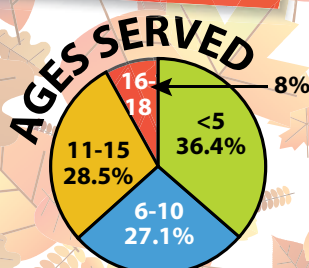
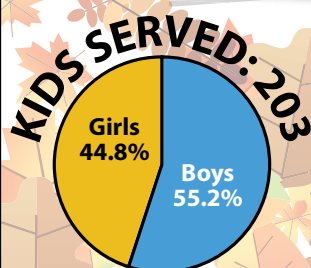
Patti Serres

Bloomin' Boutique, Founder and Executive Director
503.320.0789 • Patti.Serres@BloominBoutique.org

BY THE NUMBERS

April - May - June 2022

IN-KIND DONATIONS \$14,498
CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED \$71,050
VOLUNTEER HOURS 1112



BloominBoutique.org



Rotary



Clackamas Rotary Foundation

Over the years, the Clackamas Rotary Foundation has distributed more than a million dollars that has helped fulfill their mission to assist youth and families at risk. This year, Bloomin' Boutique was one of five non-profits selected to benefit from their 30th Annual Golf Classic fundraising event.

*Thank you, Clackamas Rotary Foundation!
Our community is a better place because of YOU!*

The Clackamas Rotary Foundation (CRF) was founded in 1986 for the purpose of creating and managing funds to support the charitable work of the Rotary Club of Clackamas. CRF places special emphasis on tangible, local projects, particularly those that involve youth. Examples are the All Abilities Park, annual educational scholarships and Rotary Youth Exchange. CRF also helps fund other local projects such as the Food Program and smoke alarms in mobile home parks.

CRF is an independent 501c3 charitable organization and maintains a close relationship with the Rotary Club of Clackamas. The current president, the two immediate past presidents and president elect of the Rotary Club of Clackamas sit on CRF's board of directors. The relationship between the foundation and the Rotary Club of Clackamas can be described as symbiotic, with CRF providing much or all of the funding needed for club projects and the club providing volunteers and labor needed to execute those projects. Club members are also regular contributors to the fund.

In 2009 the CRF board established the Platinum Fund, from which a minimum of 5% (based on the fund end balance averaged over three years) is spent every year on charitable projects. The annual Clackamas Rotary Foundation Golf Classic is the primary fund raising event. With careful stewardship the Platinum Fund has grown to more than \$500,000, enabling CRF and the Rotary Club of Clackamas to take on large, local projects with total budgets in excess of \$100,000. In 2020 CRF demonstrated responsiveness to the needs of the community by contributing more than \$37,000 to local COVID relief projects.



Thank you Bloomin' Boutique volunteers
Gary, Patty, Becky and Loren

The **Four-Way Test** was created by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor in 1932 and officially adopted by Rotary in 1943. It remains one of the most printed and quoted statements of business ethics.

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



THANK YOU

we greatly appreciate you

**Reser Family
Foundation**
\$12,000

**Charities Aid
Foundation
America**
\$500

**Clackamas Rotary
Foundation**
\$4,800

**Oregon Community
Foundation**
\$8,000



Alliance Charter Academy • Oregon City

*Thank you for inviting us to participate in your community carnival event!
Not only do we get the opportunity to let people know what we do,
but we connect with the best volunteers!*

Does your company or organization encourage your group to support non-profits?

"Team building" opportunities for groups of 3 to 10 volunteers are available!

Come help us assemble newborn kits, school supplies, art and activity kits and toiletry bags!!!

Or assist with our annual inventory count...

contact Patti Serres at 503.320.0789 to see what opportunities await!

EVERY STORY IS BEAUTIFUL

Ethan absolutely loved his clothing. He asked me to tell you thank you for the donation multiple times. He loves to skateboard and the new converse shoes fit perfectly and help him with performance when skating. Ethan is excited to attend school with his new clothes. At 15 years old, appearance is everything in high school. Your program helps youth feel confident, special, and happy. When they receive their donations they light up with smiles and joy. Thank you for everything you do to support our youth and community.
- CF, Oregon Family Support Network

About 30 minutes after I dropped the order off for this family, I got this happy message from the mom:

"My children were ecstatic. Both digging through their bags almost like Christmas. One immediately puts the hat and glasses on all while trying on shoes, lol. The other is digging through hair accessories and art supplies gleefully squealing. I could never have afforded new clothes let alone all the extras that are making them so happy. Thank you so much."

I saw two of the three children (the twins) who were both excited and confused because they didn't know why a stranger was delivering goodies to their home. Due to Covid, all of my presence has been virtual and probably forgettable not being in person. I've had a hard few weeks being a Service Coordinator and this referral, and honestly all of the ones you have fulfilled in the past, fill my heart with joy and true gratitude for you and your team. Our community is so lucky to have this organization to help us and our families! - RA, CC

I delivered the clothes I picked up on Tuesday for a family last evening. The children and mom could not believe what they received. The mother said she was so grateful that she had tears in her eyes. I just wanted to say thank you for the wonderful work that you guys do. - GV, ODHS

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Thank you Patti, to you and your wonderful volunteers. I was lucky to be at Gardiner when the clothes were delivered for our student. She was so happy, I wish you could've watched her as she saw everything. Her genuine excitement was awesome.

I truly cannot believe how much you give to students - you include every possible item kids like her need. This community is so lucky to have you and your amazing generosity! - KG, Gardiner Middle School

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Kaylei's family lives on a limited income and receiving the donation melted her heart. She loves owls and Bloomin' Boutique provided her with a pair of rain boots with owls on them and now she doesn't want to take them off. She can jump and splash in puddles without getting her feet soaked. She has clothes and shoes that fit. She put on a fashion show for her mom trying on all her new clothes with a smile from ear to ear. Her family expressed an abundance of gratitude for Bloomin' Boutique's support. Thank you to everyone who supports Bloomin' Boutique and helps our community.

Thank you for all the amazing work you do. - CF, OFSN

I just wanted to follow up and let you know how excited the kids were when I pulled up with their amazing bags of brand new clothes and backpacks. You fulfilled a VERY large family of seven, and my truck was packed full! When I arrived, they all ran outside and helped me bring everything in the living room with such excitement and eagerness to see "what they got". The youngest one (only 3) was so excited to see all her amazing Pony gifts.

They were all so thankful and happy to have been blessed with such an amazing gift right before the school year. The mom followed up with a text that said, "thank you so much for everything, all the kids are so happy and love everything!"

So thank you all so much for all of the volunteers and everyone who helps make this a amazing experience for the families that we get to help. We are so grateful for such an amazing resource in our community. You are all amazing!
- RL, NWFS

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Note from a grateful family...

"Thank you very much everyone at DHS and the Boutique. The clothes are an absolute blessing to the boys and they are very thankful. The process was so easy and the kids are overjoyed with the new clothes and bedding. You really took some stress off of us. Thank you again."



NWFS wants to graciously thank Bloomin' Boutique for the incredible support they give to the many families we serve.

In 2021, Bloomin' Boutique served 129 of the children we serve experiencing various barriers in their lives. Bloomin' Boutique provides amazing care packages with multiple outfits, hygiene supplies, new shoes, warm coats, new bedding, lovely stuffed animals and enriching toys to children. The cost of clothing 129 children amounts to \$49,000!

We would not be able to connect the children we serve with these very much needed clothes and items without their partnership.

When we bring students to Bloomin' Boutique they are matched with a 'shopper' that is in touch with youth fashion and trends. They are treated with dignity and are able to shop for the clothes they are most comfortable wearing. Our students leave the Boutique with big smiles and will often share that they have never had the opportunity to pick out their own clothes before.

Bloomin' Boutique knows that when kids have clothes that fit and make them feel comfortable, they can focus on important kid stuff, like learning, playing sports, and dreaming their big dreams!

Thank you Bloomin' Boutique for providing this essential resource to our students. The impact you have on our communities most vulnerable youth creates ripples that we will never be able to measure. - RA, CC

There have been countless stories where Bloomin' Boutique was key to helping families move on from their trauma and start healing, and I'll focus on just this year – a year like no other where two families have a fresh start thanks to Patti.

My first family came to us from Honduras, where mom and children were separated for at least a year. Mom was allowed to come to the US first, where she works in the local agricultural fields. Her two children came later, and they were detained at the Mexican border for several months. When they were finally reunited in January 2022, the children came with nothing. I reached out to Patti immediately, as she is the absolute best at what she does – shows our love for all people by providing essentials to give them hope. Within hours, Patti supplied new, stylish clothes, shoes, bedding (including hand-made pillow cases), backpack with supplies, full-size toiletries and, of course, toys. I delivered to their home immediately, and Mom was moved to tears. The next day at school, the students stood a little taller as they wore their new clothes. They made sure to communicate with me how happy they were with their new items.

The next family I want to share is a mom and son with severe disabilities that came from Oklahoma City, OK with literally nothing but their car. After securing funds for a long-term stay at a local hotel while applying for long-term housing, I turned to Patti for essentials: I had a special request in that it was the student's birthday the next day. Patti of course had beautiful new clothes, shoes, bedding, backpack with supplies full-size toiletries and birthday presents! I took them to the hotel room, and mom was grateful. Again, the student seemed way more confident the next day at school, and he too made sure to reach out in appreciation. This student can't communicate verbally, and he made it clear how thrilled he was to have a birthday full of gifts.

We all know new clothes can't make everything instantly better, but it definitely can help families feel a sense of belonging in our community knowing someone cares about them. That's Patti's super power – helping families feel loved. I can't express in words what it means for these students to have new, beautiful clothes and other items.. Bloomin' Boutique is always my "go-to" for my families who have experienced extreme trauma, as no other resource I have access to compares. - CR, Lowrie School Counselor

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Bloomin' Boutique partners with all school districts located in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties, Clackamas County Health, Housing and Human Services departments, Friends of the Children and many more.

If you need assistance, please contact an organization near you.



BloominBoutique.org



KINDNESS is a gift
everyone can afford to give.

August 19th, 2022

Dear Bloomin' Boutique,

I want to thank your team for the incredible work you do. Words cannot express the incredible impact you have on the lives of our communities most vulnerable youth; however, I will do my best to express our gratitude.

This week your team has filled more than a dozen orders for children connected to various Northwest Family Services Programs. Three of those orders are students new to our Children of Incarcerated Parents Mentoring Program. We were blessed to be able to schedule three back to back appointments where each student was provided with two individual shoppers and the entire Boutique all to themselves.

Bloomin' volunteers are patient, kind, and familiar with teenage fashion. Their compassion and energy are undeniable as they help each of our students shop for the clothes that fit their tastes and styles *just right*. I imagine that it's hard to stay engaged with each student, one right after the other. Yet, the volunteers at Bloomin' never seem to break a sweat.

I also want to recognize the importance of our students having these opportunities to engage with positive adult role models. Every opportunity our students get to receive services in a respectful way that demonstrates appropriate boundaries and prosocial behaviors is an opportunity to build important protective factors and strengthen roots in their community. I hope the many volunteers that make up the Bloomin' team know that they are doing the important work of helping youth succeed by getting the things they need AND helping youth succeed by demonstrating what it looks like to be an involved and respectful member of our community.

Our students live difficult lives with significant barriers and they carry their stressors and anxieties with them, even during their visits to Bloomin' Boutique. One of the students I had brought in this week had a difficult time choosing some of their items and they ran over their allotted time (I can only imagine this had a significant impact on the remainder of your schedule for the day). That very morning this student's family car had been stolen from their apartment parking lot and they had been woken up to this devastating news. Not only was the student concerned about what this means for their daily lives but it also will have a likely impact on their school plans this coming fall and the student will probably have to transfer schools due to this theft.

I'm grateful that your amazing team of volunteers always show love and kind-heartedness to our students, no matter their struggle during these much-anticipated visits to Bloomin' Boutique. While we aren't able to solve the problem of the stolen car and the possible change in school plans, with your help we are able to solve the problem of having the perfect first day outfit.

Something that I wish I could show the team at Bloomin' Boutique is the joy that our students have as they walk into their homes with their new bag of clothes, shoes, pillows, and hygiene supplies. It's so common for our students to be in their shyest state being in a new place and sometimes shopping for the very first time. On this particular day, our students told us right after we left how "adorable", "funny", and "sweet" their personal shoppers were. I had wished to myself that they would have voiced these very kind compliments to their shoppers themselves; but I'm still glad that I'm able to share them with your team today.

Northwest Family Services is extremely thankful to have a community partner like Bloomin' Boutique to take our students to experience these amazing shopping opportunities that they remember and talk about for years after. When our students are able to show up to school in new, clean, fashionable clothes that allow them to feel like every other student, they are able to focus on the things kids are supposed to focus on. Overcoming these barriers are absolutely essential to our student's ability to be ready to engage in their education, participate in sports, and learn social skills, all of which will serve them for the rest of their lives.

Thank you for devoting your time, energy, and love to the many children in need that are all very important members of our community. While the impact you have is absolutely immeasurable, I do know that every act of service done by Bloomin' Boutique create ripples of positivity that continue to touch every part of our community today and in the future.

With All of My Gratitude,

Samantha Furlow

Samantha Furlow
FABI Program Manager
Northwest Family Services





LOOKING for a way to help?

We distribute **7** pairs of **SOCKS** to every child... that's **500+** pairs per month!

Help us fill the need by organizing a SOCK DRIVE! All colors, sizes, styles from birth to adult.
Ask for a Bloomin' Boutique collection barrel to place at your workplace!

Instead of a Toy Drive this year, why not a PJ Drive • Underwear Drive • Coat Drive?
Our kids deserve the basic of needs!



In addition to fulfilling requests for new clothing,

WE PROVIDE
added assistance through special programs



Each of us has a story –
an unforgettable life-changing event
making such an impact that we never forget the
feelings we experienced.

See that girl in the pink pants? That was me the first time I got to go shopping for something new – something I got to pick out for myself. *In that moment*, I could see beyond all that was going wrong – the mother I had lost, the father that did not have the skills to cope with four small children, the trail of domestic violence, the fear of foster care services looming at the door. *In that moment*, I felt confident to take on the world. *In that moment*, I was seen, I was important, I was loved.

Patti Serres
Founder and Executive Director

*Polka dots, black patent leather shoes, pink pants...
whose story will you be a part of?*





Q: Why the need for adding a third facility?

A: As the requests for services continues to escalate, we have been fortunate enough that our donations have kept pace, pushing the limits on how much we can process at our two existing facilities. Rather than looking for a single larger space, Bloomin' Boutique opted to look for a third space while maintaining our primary "Boutique" space that is provided at a charitable rate by the building owner and our "Annex" space that has been totally donated for a number of years. The "new" 900 sq ft space has just been completed with the help of generous donations of time and materials and is also being provided at no cost. All three facilities are located in Oregon City and will prepare care packages for different age groups. The "Boutique" prepares requests and offers shopping experiences for middle and high school kids; the "Annex" fulfills requests for kids birth through 7 years old; the "new" space processes 8 to 12 year olds. We are looking for a name for the "new" space... *any suggestions?*

Q: How do you know who needs assistance?

A: In accordance with the Bloomin' Boutique by-laws and policies and procedures, families and individuals must work through one of our approved community organizations and agencies to obtain assistance. Agency advocates are responsible for submitting a fulfillment form which includes information on the child, parent, clothing sizes and any special requests. Bloomin' Boutique volunteers process the request as quickly as possible, and in certain circumstances, they have been known to expedite to as soon as same day completion. Once the care package is ready, it is picked up and delivered to the child by the advocate.

Bloomin' Boutique partners with all Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington county school districts, Clackamas County Health, Housing and Human Services departments and many more. If you need assistance, please contact an organization near you.

Q: How do you ensure that people don't take advantage of your assistance?

A: In order to help as many children as possible, Bloomin' Boutique's policies and procedures specify how many times, at what interval, and what items and how much we provide each child. Daily fulfillment logs are maintained identifying the date fulfilled, number of packages, child's name, agency and advocate. This information is entered into a database each month helping us identify children who may be receiving assistance from several agencies to avoid duplication. Original request forms are kept on file for reference.

GIVING
made
easy!



DONATE NOW

- Donate **gift cards or funds** to enable us to fulfill requests and "fill in the gaps" (larger sizes, special needs)
- Shop **AmazonSmile** and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases; register at smile.amazon.com
- Contribute your **Fred Meyer** Community Rewards to #HV581 (Bloomin' Boutique); sign up at fredmeyer.com/community-rewards
- Collect **bottles and cans** and have your refund credited to Bloomin' Boutique; for **BottleDrop** blue bags and tags, contact patti.serres@bloominboutique.org • 503.320.0789

I will continue to thank you for all you do to make a difference in children's lives. You help change families with your blessings to them. - PF / NAMI Multnomah County

WE NEED
YOUR HELP

CURRENT NEEDS include
SOCKS!!! SOCKS!!! SOCKS!!!
birth through high school

every care package includes 7 pairs of socks...
we give away 500+ pairs of socks a month!!

Ready to donate? Please reach out to
Patti.Serres@BloominBoutique.org
to make arrangements for contactless pick-up
and drop off of donations.

Our personal shoppers will wisely use your cash donation
to obtain the specific items a child needs.

Our website can accept cash donations via credit card.

BloominBoutique.org

Thank you for making a difference!



BloominBoutique.org