

SPRING 2022

290 kids
served this quarter!

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.

In addition to fulfilling requests for new clothing,

WE PROVIDE

added assistance through special programs



Life can change in an instant

You may notice that this newsletter is half the size it normally is... this is NOT because the need for assistance or the generosity of our donors has waned... it is simply because our newsletter editor and writer experienced a huge change in her life and time is difficult to find right now. But we can be assured that as she adjusts to her new normal, she will eek out the time required to produce, once again, a full-fledged quarterly newsletter... not only because she is committed, but because she understands and believes in our mission.

Everyday, families are experiencing changes in their lives that upset the balance of what was once "normal". Death, loss of jobs, abuse, domestic violence, fire... the list goes on and on. Life can be good today and filled with unexpected difficulties tomorrow.

Bloomin' Boutique is proud to be a stable resource for kids that often get swept under the rug... and for no other reason than unfortunate circumstances in their lives. We are so very lucky to associate with people that understand this and are willing to give of their time, energy and resources to make the difference in a child's life – to give every child hope for a better tomorrow.

Patti Serres

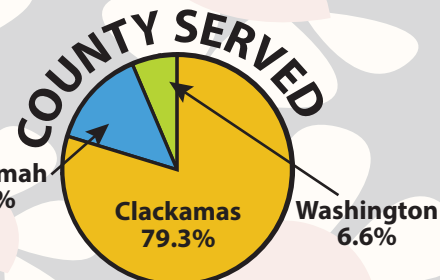
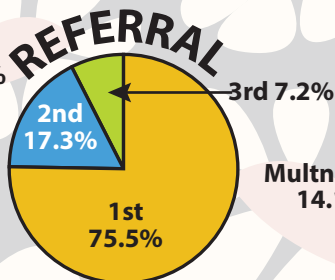
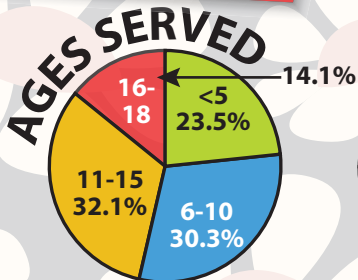
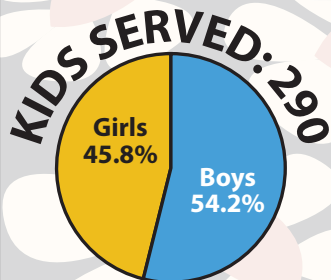
Patti Serres

Bloomin' Boutique, Founder and Executive Director
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BY THE NUMBERS

October - November - December 2021

IN-KIND DONATIONS	\$10,552
CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED	\$101,500
VOLUNTEER HOURS	5631





NORTHWEST MARKET ASSOCIATION

For the past twelve years, exhibitors participating in the **Northwest Market** shows have provided quality fashion at the close of the shows through **NMA** donation bins and surprise shipments throughout the year!

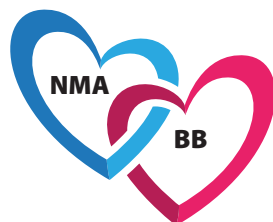
The **Northwest Market Association** and Bloomin' Boutique have enjoyed a partnership that grows stronger each year. With a mutual respect for each other and their positions as Executive Directors, Linda Browne (NMA) and Patti Serres (BB) are determined to help one another accomplish the goals of their organizations.

As the chosen non-profit for the shows, Bloomin' Boutique is afforded the opportunity to connect with reps and owners of businesses as their volunteers provide water, produce and treats from rolling snack carts during the shows. In addition, fresh flowers are supplied by Bloomin' Boutique enhancing the beauty and ambiance of the event.

In return, NMA makes an annual donation which is earmarked to help pay a months rent at the Bloomin' Boutique facility, provides support at the Bloomin' Boutique auction and encourages NMA participants to learn about and support the Bloomin' Boutique both on the exhibitor application and through at-the-show donation bins. From shoes to jeans to plus-size undergarments, many show exhibitors and buyers offer the ability for Bloomin' Boutique to purchase items at wholesale – or better – prices. Many make new clothing donations at the close of each show.

Between shows, Linda and Patti enjoy getting together to discover new ways to help one another. They are both very excited to organize a sock drive at the upcoming September 2022 show. For *every pair* of new socks an exhibitor donates at the show, they will receive *one chance to win* two nights at the Embassy Suites for the March 2023 show! That's gonna be a lot of socks for some very lucky children!!!

As Directors of NMA and BB, Linda and Patti fully appreciate the mutually beneficial relationship they have built together over the years... and will continue to collaborate to ensure a WIN-WIN outcome for both organizations.



The **Northwest Market** is the largest regional show on the West Coast with over 270 exhibitors representing over 1,200 women's, men's and children's apparel, footwear, lingerie and undergarments, handbags, accessories and gift lines.

Two markets (a Spring Market and a Fall Market) are hosted by the **Northwest Market Association** (NMA) every year at the Embassy Suites in Tigard, Oregon, which is in the greater Portland area.

The market attracts exhibitors and buyers from California and all over the Pacific Northwest, including Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana and southwest British Columbia.





Embassy Suites Christmas Elves

*sponsored not one,
but two families this year!*

Both families enjoyed
a special evening
with dinner, gifts
and a stay at the hotel.
Toys were also donated
to give to the
younger children we serve.

Christmas Fundraiser \$8,160

Thanks to our sponsors!

Jim & Kari Puffer
CBM Fernando Rentara
Maria's Wreaths
Legends Bar & Grill
at Arrowhead Golf Course
Al's Garden Center
B&B Leasing

Oregon City Christian Church

*Women's Ministry
Sweet & Savory Dessert*

\$1,670

*Ladies,
thank you
for your
generosity!*



Kids just want to belong

I am writing to thank you for the time and energy you have put into your program, a program that truly makes a difference in our community. I have referred several students to Bloomin' Boutique this year and not only have you supplied them with basic clothing supplies, every time you and your team have gone above and beyond and supplied them with items that have helped restore dignity and love. Almost all of the students I have referred have had to either move quickly from home, or have moved from place to place and lost cherished items along the way. One of my families lost items in a fire just before Christmas, and your items, multiple bags of clothing and a doll and doll clothes, delighted my student during a difficult time. Another family that I have been working with, a grandma that has taken in 5 grandchildren, continues to express thanks every time I see them. The grandmother in particular, who is doing everything in her power to provide a safe and loving home, was moved to tears when she saw how much care and respect your program showered that family with. Shoes, socks, clothes, backpacks, school supplies and blankets were all bestowed upon the family and I wish you could have seen their gratitude.

I am eternally grateful for your program in our community.
Thank you for doing what you do for us.

- BB, Estacada School District

I am the new Family Resource Coordinator at OCSLA and I had the honor to experience the wonderful team that makes Bloomin' Boutique bloom indeed. I took in a kiddo yesterday who is new to OCSLA and to myself. Before we arrived at the Boutique, he was very shy and quiet. He would rarely make eye contact and responded with one word answers. I was concerned that he wasn't going to speak up for himself and take advantage of the space. However, when he started to find clothing he really liked, he started to open up. He came to me and asked my opinion on what he chose and if I thought it would look good on him. He was smiling and laughing; he was starting to feel comfortable with me and the team. I learned more about his hobbies and passions during his time there than I would have in any other situation. This kid brought us to tears with his respect, his excitement and with how he was proud to be there. I am so excited to continue my relationship with Bloomin' Boutique. Thank you for all you do!

- JW, Northwest Family Services

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My client had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Bloomin' Boutique and pick out some needed threads. He was a bit picky about his style, but ultimately found some great finds that he could wear to a number of occasions. The selection offered by the Boutique and the ability to "shop" around set him at ease and put him in charge of his clothing decisions. The helpful volunteers at the Boutique were enthusiastic about having him there and made sure that he got exactly what he was needing. He even came away with a few items he could use as props in pursuit of his passion for theater.

-AJ, Second Home Program, EMO



Q: Who sets the policies for Bloomin' Boutique?

A: As a non-profit 501(c)(3) Bloomin' Boutique has Articles of Incorporation and By Laws filed with the State of Oregon. According to those documents, the elected Board of Directors sets policies and procedures for the organization. The current board has seven members: four women and three men. All of the board members have prior non-profit experience. Four are current or prior business owners. All have attended college. While the Executive Director is not a voting member of the board, she attends all meetings, suggests agenda items, and is charged with keeping a copy of all items passed by the board and ensuring that all policies are enforced. The seven board members and the energetic Executive Director genuinely care about Bloomin' Boutique's mission of giving referred kids a "hand up", not a hand out.

Q: What are your future plans?

A: Bloomin' Boutique is committed to remaining focused on our primary mission of providing new clothes to referred kids from birth through high school and continuing *hand up* activities with Bloomin' Baby, Summer Camp Getaway, Cap and Gown Assistance, and the Hand Up for Higher Education scholarship fund programs.

Every square inch of the 1,000 sq ft main Boutique facility and the "annex", although neatly arranged by gender and size, is absolutely full. To handle the growing numbers of kids that are being referred to us, we are excited to announce that we have begun building out a third space. We have the volunteers, now we will have the space required to put them to work!

Q: Are your finances in good shape?

A: Despite COVID-19 impacting our ability to hold fundraisers, and increasing demand for services, thanks to thoughtful donors and timely grants, we seem to have weathered the storm with plentiful inventory and a good bank balance. Many small non-profits are never too far from financial difficulties. The Boutique concentrates on shepherding funds to their maximum benefit. It is bitter-sweet that there is such high demand, but we are grateful that we can continue to meet the need. We look forward to additional interaction with donors and volunteers as we get back to "normal".

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*

Daniela and her family were so so appreciative of the donations you all were able to provide last week! She has been wearing new items every day and wanted me to say thank you big time!!! Our community is a better place because of incredible humans like you! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. - JB / Lee Elementary School

WE NEED
YOUR HELP

CURRENT NEEDS include

Boys: size 12 - 18 - 24 months

**GIFT CARDS of any amount to Amazon,
Fred Meyer and Walmart**

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!