

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.



THE HEART OF A VOLUNTEER

IS NOT MEASURED IN SIZE,
BUT BY DEPTH OF THE
COMMITMENT TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE
IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

- DeAnn Hollis

We ♥ our VOLUNTEERS!

Community Businesses Inspire Volunteerism

Are you one of the local businesses encouraging your employees to give back to their communities?

Communities thrive when volunteers unite. That's why thousands of KeyBank employees across the country contribute their time and talents to local nonprofit organizations for Key's annual Neighbors Make the Difference Day®, taking responsibility to contribute to the well-being of their local communities. When individuals come together to serve others, lives are brightened, and communities are transformed for the better in meaningful ways.

Neighbors Make the Difference Day began in 1991 and is now the hallmark of Key's commitment to its communities and a leading corporate volunteerism effort in America. This year, local Key volunteers selected Bloomin' Boutique as their benefactor and assembled back-to-school supply kits to add to our care packages.

OnPoint Community Bank and other groups have also volunteered their services running our Gala, Car Show and other events. Please consider ways your company can instill and inspire helping those less fortunate within their communities.

Patti Serres

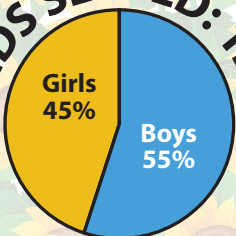
Patti Serres
 Bloomin' Boutique, Founder and Executive Director
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BY THE NUMBERS

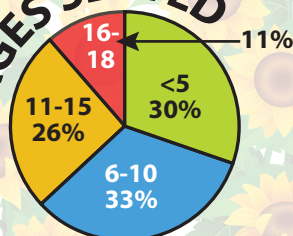
Jan-Feb-Mar 2022

IN-KIND DONATIONS \$2,603.98
 CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED \$46,200
 VOLUNTEER HOURS 1456.5

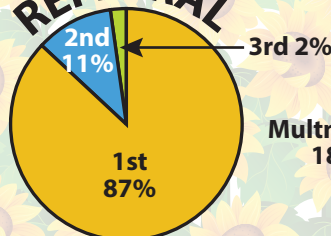
KIDS SERVED: 125



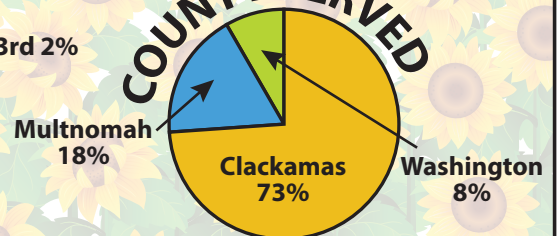
AGES SERVED



REFERRAL



COUNTY SERVED





Organizing an affair such as an annual fundraiser takes the commitment and teamwork of many people... and in general, they do not receive the recognition they deserve! Often working behind-the-scenes organizing every little detail, their efforts ensure that every guest has the most enjoyable time.

Today, rather than focusing on the donation levels met this year (and we exceeded expectations again!), let's talk about the people that give their heart and soul to making this event so very successful.

Jennifer and Bryce, owners of Gray Gables Estate, and Dylan, Event Planner, are three people who epitomize what it means to be committed to a cause. Year after year, they have championed to make each event even more delightful than the last. From setting a theme to planning the menu to obtaining sponsorships and auction packages, we thank them for giving so much of themselves for the benefit of the local children in need.

Master of Ceremonies Nora Hart/Fox 12 and auctioneer Chris Shiek and his team kept the evening's program on track and at a lively pace. Their personalities and skills provided an invaluable experience for our guests.

Videographer Derich/Fortem Films and photographer Tamara provided Bloomin' Boutique with professional footage and photographs utilized in our marketing and donation request efforts.

Chris and Laurie/Graziano Foodservice donated the entire menu including Painted Hills steaks so that our guests could enjoy the most delicious meal.

Dave and Joanne/Fujii Produce sponsored meals for the industrious volunteer staff.

OnPoint Community Credit Union/Oregon City staff efficiently handled check-in / check-out tasks.

Under the guidance of Volunteer Coordinator Lisa, *many hands make light work*. It took a group of nearly fifty hardworking individuals to handle the multitude of tasks that needed to be done... and done beautifully.

Creating a memorable evening for our guests along with sharing our mission, the impact of their generous donations, and our hopes and plans for the future, makes for a successful event... *thank you to all who made this possible!*

BLOOMIN' BOUTIQUE PRESENTS
ONE NIGHT ON
BROADWAY
ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION

THANK YOU
TO OUR SPONSORS


CHURCHILL
MORTGAGE®


CENTERLINE CONCEPTS
LAND SURVEYING, INC.


OnPoint
COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

loren carleigh
allie jessica cassie
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nick kevin tim joelle
shannon olga julie brooke becky
gala dani payton steve paul kaylee
volunteers jim bre patti
gordon brian bizenda stephanie dayton
jeff stephen wende morgan
amy lisa stacey rachael jay emma
patty





Led by Master of Ceremonies Nora Hart/Fox 12 and auctioneer Chris Shiek, our guests experienced a fun evening filled with great food, live music, fabulous auction packages, laughter and stories. And the venue, Gray Gable Estates, is beyond compare.

Thanks to all who made this evening possible!



so *Appreciative*
of your support!

**Juan Young
Trust
\$15,000**

**Healy
Foundation
\$10,000**

**Marquis
Foundation
\$20,000**

**Richard B. Siegel
Foundation
\$15,000**

**Clackamas
County
Cultural
Coalition
\$2500**

**Holzman
Foundation
\$3000**



Looking for ways to support local kids in need?
Organize a clothing drive to compound your efforts!

Sock Drive - PJ Drive - Underwear Drive...

***Please remember,
we only accept NEW clothing!!!***



Orange Theory Fitness Center Sock Drive

Thanks to the Orange Theory Fitness
Centers in Oregon City and Salem,
Bloomin' Boutique was able to gift
434 pairs of socks into 62 kiddo care
packages! Thank you!!!



open by appointment only • 19376 Molalla Ave, Suite 160, Oregon City, OR 97045



BloominBoutique.org

Non-Profit 501(c)(3) • Tax ID #83-2157929 • serving underprivileged Oregon youths residing in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties

In addition to fulfilling requests for new clothing,

WE PROVIDE

added assistance through special programs



CAP & GOWN
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Summer Get Away Package

CAMP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Swimsuit - Sleeping Bag - Pillow - Flashlight

Listen to what people are saying about us!

Testimonial from one of my TANF customers for the clothing they recently received...

"My family was shocked when we came to meet you to pick up the donation. I was so grateful to hear that there was an opportunity to receive some clothing for my three children. I had no idea it was going to be such a generous offering.

Excitement washed over my 13-year-old and she was smiling so big as she went through her lot. It was very thoughtful to provide an abundance of feminine hygiene products. Those products are surprisingly expensive, and she likes to be well prepared for things like that! She also loved the ombre Converse that match perfectly to a shirt she got for Christmas.

My 5-year-old was thrilled to see Paw Patrol rain boots and a backpack full of supplies we can use for homeschooling.

The baby's bag was great too! He loved his little sneakers and now has plenty of tops and bottoms to get us through for a long time!

Please let the donor know how much this means to me and my kiddos. Raising them on my own during a pandemic has proved to be a challenge. I wish they had another parent to bear the load of providing but sadly addiction has taken that opportunity from us for now. Things like this remind me that I am not alone. Thank you so much. I cannot wait until I can pour back into my community in ways like this. It means so much and took a weight off my shoulders. With gratitude."

- R. / DHSOHA



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?

Bloomin' Boutique has been a huge blessing to our Clackamas County residents. As a case worker in ODHS SSP, they have helped cloth and provide toys to the majority of the children on my caseload. I've often heard families mention that it feels like Christmas when they pick up the clothing. Every family that has received items from their organization has expressed gratitude for their support. - G. / ODHS

A mom who recently received two clothing bags for her boys wanted me to share her feedback with you:

"The clothes and shoes we got were amazing! My boys are so happy with everything and think they are so stylish now.

I really wanted to tell you how much it helped my family, you made me feel so good as a parent to be able to feel like I am doing a good job providing for my boys. After my divorce, single parenting has been super hard, and you are so appreciated for what you do for families like mine." - S. / ODHS



[BloominBoutique.org](https://www.BloominBoutique.org)



Our children, their families and advocates express their thanks... each and everyday!

When you support Bloomin' Boutique as a donor, sponsor or volunteer, know that you are making a difference in a local child's life!

These stories say it all...



Thank you so much for all the amazing items you and the other volunteers provided!!! The family was so amazed and surprised—they were assuming it was going to be used stuff. The mom forgot I told her it was going to be new! Everything is incredible and you have worked some wonders for the mental health of this family in need. I am so grateful for all you, the volunteers, and donors do for us. Bravo. These are the texts the mom sent me today:

"OMG! I can't believe how much stuff is here. This is absolutely amazing! Lots of carhart for Aydin, four bras for Avah, coloring stuff, bath stuff. Holy cow! Avah is going to lose her mind when she gets home. I did perfect on her bra size. The kids are so happy and thankful for all this stuff. Everything fits perfect. We are all absolutely in shock still! Beyond amazing and thankful!"

Thank you thank you thank you. I don't have enough thank you right now—this made a HUGE impact on the family.

- R, DHSOHA

"Thank you very much for all the help you gave our family while my grandkids stayed with me for 2 months. Since they had to leave home at a moment's notice, it was extremely helpful for us that you took them to Bloomin' Boutique. Could you please let them know how much we appreciate the clothes, bedding, toiletries and artistic supplies? The kids especially like the pillows. I can't believe how happy they were to have fluffy pillows. Please thank whoever made the pillowcases and blankets, the kids really like the colors and designs. I have an appointment for the boy's haircuts next Tuesday. I really appreciate the haircuts. They are graduating on June 14 and will look really nice.

I would also like to thank your company Northwest Family Services for all the help you and your co-workers have done for us from delivering food, driving the kids, help arranging things, school supplies and everything else you have done.

I really appreciate your kindness, cheerfulness and help. Thank you for everything." - J, NWFS



Thank you so much for the support that you give to the children in our community. I made a request for a spunky 9 year old girl that had her world turned upside down recently when her mother was diagnosed with leukemia and life flighted five hours away from home. Kiddo and her father paused their lives, moved school to online, and temporarily moved in with grandma so that they could be close to mom during chemo. Mom shared that kiddo was growing so fast and with both parents not working they couldn't afford clothes or shoes. I was so glad that I knew that I could go to Bloomin' Boutique and offer this family a bit of relief during this very difficult time. As kiddo looked through the gift bag, it felt like Bloomin' volunteers knew exactly what she wanted – the pink and blue tennis shoes were perfect! The tie dye shoes were spectacular! The handmade polar bear pillow case was exactly right! The quilt was warm and the best shade of blue! AND a lovingly packed kit of art supplies – just what she wanted!

Thank you for the gifts you give to our community – helping in the healing of hurt kids and families. - S, NWFS



"My client had a wonderful opportunity to visit 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."

-A, Second Home Program, EMO

I am the new Family Resource Coordinator at OCSLA and 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 he was very shy and quiet. He would rarely make eye contact with me and answered in only one word answers. I was concerned that he wasn't going to speak up for himself and not take advantage of the space. However, when he started to find clothing he really liked he started to open up more. He would start to come to me and ask me 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!

- J, NWFS OCSLA

*Thank you to everyone who supports our community
through Bloomin' Boutique*

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. - B, ESD K-5

The triplets were very grateful for all the awesome clothes and special made quilts they received. Dad was not expecting the clothes and was brought to tears for his boys who just recently lost their mother to COVID. A very stressful time for Dad who did not have the mental capacity to deal with all the things happening. He would like to thank you for being proactive to the family's needs in this difficult time. The boys were in need of all the things they received: shoes/underwear/socks/sweatshirts. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU! from the family. - A, Friends of the Children

I wanted to follow up with you about a student who you gifted a haircut coupon to for the salon next door. After speaking with the stylist CJ, she had offered my student a "full salon experience". I took her to her appointment where she was gifted with a shampoo, cut and color. She was then also gifted with salon quality hair products to keep her new haircut and color looking beautiful. I cannot express to you how happy and excited this student was to have this experience. She said "she had never been to a salon prior and had the most amazing time." Thank you and CJ at the Caspelli Salon.

This could have never happened if it weren't for your generosity and your Partnerships that you have built who then have also shown the same kindness and compassion to the students we serve. This was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for this young girl and I know she will always remember it. I cannot thank you and the stylist enough. Your kindness will be remembered for a lifetime! - R, NWFS

"These clothes, shoes, blanket, pillow and the new toothbrush is awesome. Thank you for placing the clothing referral. Awesome stuff for summer! She loves her new toothbrush. Big hit. Her shorts and tanks she got are perfect size for her to enjoy summer soon here when it decides to pop out." - J, DHSOHA

I just wanted to quickly loop back to let you know 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 since I was able to drop off their bags, 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. - J, Canby.K-12



Q: I have some time and would like to volunteer. How do I get involved?

A: Preparing care packages for over 60 kids a month, sorting incoming inventory and performing a myriad of other associated tasks requires the help of many! We'd be happy to speak with you about how much time you have and the skills you bring to the table.

Donors and volunteers contemplating working with our organization are more than welcome to call for an appointment to tour our main facility which is located in Oregon City.

Q: What do your advocates say?

A: Even the smallest care package can be life changing. When an advocate feels like they have nothing left to offer, Bloomin' Boutique gives them an opportunity to continue engaging with the family. Providing basic necessities creates "normalcy" and enables the family to focus on getting their lives back on track. Our advocates are beyond grateful for the resource.

Q: Why do you only accept NEW clothing?

A: Simple answer: Because *our* kids deserve to feel special! Honestly, many of these children have never shopped or selected clothing for themselves; they have only received hand-me-downs. New clothing gives them the self-confidence needed to fit in with their peers, to raise their hand in class, to excel in school rather than trying their best to fade into the background. New clothing, a blanket or a pillow -- something of their own -- is often more than they can dream of. Their excitement over receiving a care package specially created for them is uncontrollable... read the stories within this newsletter and you'll understand.

Q: What can my business do for the kids?

A: Gift certificates for haircuts? Entry wristbands for an amusement park or museum? Gift cards for a burger joint? Any of these ideas present new experiences for kids whose families just don't have the means to give their children anything but bare necessities.

Our kids and their families are so appreciative of the little things we take for granted. Just walk through your day and envision a day without a toothbrush, shampoo or deodorant... or socks... or a blanket. Whatever your business (or the company you work for) offers, there is likely a service or item of need that will make a difference in a child's life. We will be happy to brainstorm your options!

**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*

One of my families wrote, "Such a wonderful gift for us! I was impressed with the quality of the clothing and shoes. He will be proud to wear them. He especially loved the Van shoes and the pajamas. Thank you very, very much."
- I. / Oregon Family Support Network

WE NEED
YOUR HELP

CURRENT NEEDS include

**Little Girls Size 14/16;
GIFT CARDS of any amount to local
businesses: Target, Costco, Fred Meyer
so we can replenish inventory!**

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!