

**Improving the lives
of 720 kids each year!**

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.

Each year brings opportunities to do more good in our communities

To look back and think about how many lives Bloomin' Boutique has touched in a positive way since its inception is absolutely mind boggling!

While our volunteers and donors give us the chance to show communities who we are and what we value, there is a whole lot more healing, caring and giving going on behind the scenes.

Our mission to help children in need solicits the help of many donors and volunteers who have seen or experienced hardship themselves. Some of them were fortunate enough to have help available; others were not.

Whether it be domestic violence, incarceration of a parent, house fire or wildfires, children are often placed in a situation they cannot control or escape. Bloomin' Boutique is a highly regarded resource known to give each and every child a *hand up* so they can see good in their surrounding communities and in themselves.

Children are resilient, however an extra hand is sometimes needed to help them become triumphant. Bloomin' Boutique is at the ready.

Patti Serres

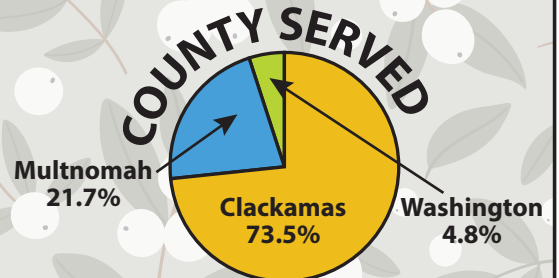
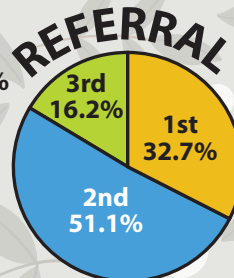
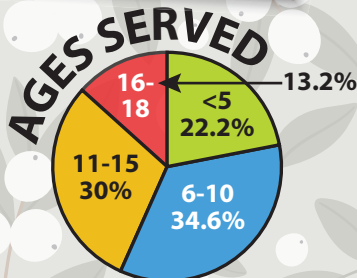
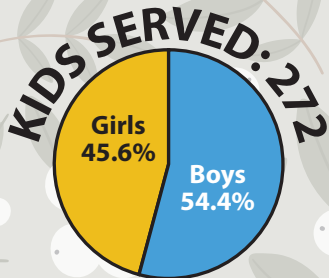
Patti Serres

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

BY THE NUMBERS

July - Aug - Sept 2022

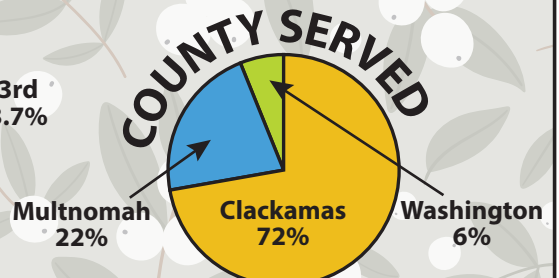
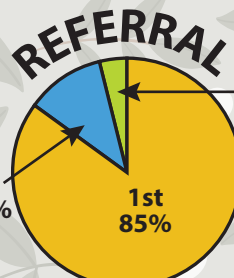
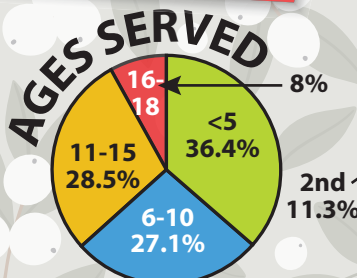
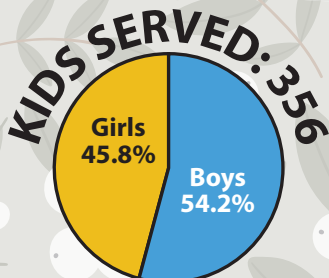
IN-KIND DONATIONS	\$4,013
CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED	\$136,000
VOLUNTEER HOURS	1664



BY THE NUMBERS

Oct - Nov - Dec 2022

IN-KIND DONATIONS	\$25,761
CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED	\$178,000
VOLUNTEER HOURS	1653.5





Thank you for making the "Tween Station" facility a reality!

**Faced with the ongoing need to serve more and more children,
and with the help of community, friends and family,
Bloomin' Boutique added a third facility to prepare care packages**

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 original 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 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 "Tween Station" space processes 8 to 12 year olds.

A sincere shout out to everyone for opening their generous hearts to see this project come to life!!!

RSG Forest Products: Lumber

Milwaukie Floors & More: Flooring

Oregon City Garage Doors: Doors

Parkin Electric: Light Fxtures

Coffman Excavation: Parking Lot

**Georgia Bolden & Stephen Bywater:
Reset team**

**Right Angle Construction:
Washer/Dryer & Refrigerator**

Alissa Herrle: Coffee Maker

B&B Leasing: Clean Up





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!!!

contact Patti Serres at 503.320.0789 to see what opportunities await!

KINDNESS IS magical

MEET THE WORRY MONSTER



created by two little boys, Ben and Wyatt, who were bothered by bad dreams. Each night they would write down their worries, stuff them into the monster's mouth and poof!, they were gone by morning! Thank you Mom Michelle and boys for helping nearly 100 Bloomin' Boutique children chase their worries away!



Created 57 quilts for birth through high school kiddos... over 650 hours of time!

Evelyn and Bill, know that your kindness and generosity puts a smile in the heart of every child who is fortunate enough to receive one of your quilts... your loving spirit comes through in every stitch.



"I wanted to thank you all for so much! When my daughter was in need, you provided her with clothes that made her feel good. And now that my son has arrived a whole month early, you all have done the same. I thank God the gift of giving is placed in your hearts and that I am a recipient of it.

My son is healthy and LOVING his bouncer. Thank you for making this easier on a single mother doing the best she can. Sometimes, it feels like you are not seen or that the world has gotten so bad that no one cares anymore. Ya'll give me hope! And that is priceless!"

...

"I want to give you my thanks for all the clothes, you really hooked it up and I really appreciate it. You even gave me health stuff which I wasn't expecting and that made it even crazier! I just want to give my thanks and let you know it is all greatly appreciated. Thank you!"

...

"My three boys especially love all the new pants! Sage fell in love with the mustard yellow pair of joggers that look super slimming on him. Thank you again!"

...

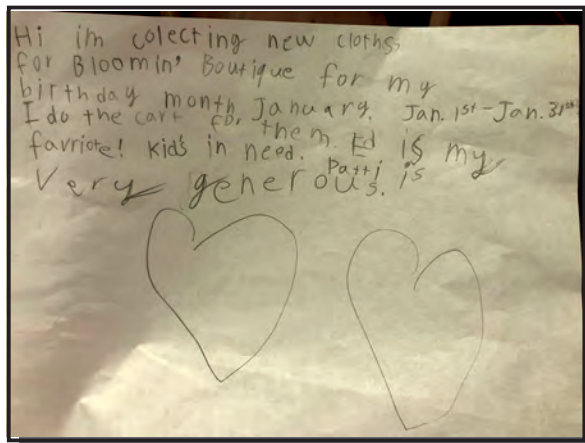
"The kids really loved their clothes and toys. They absolutely loved everything they received. They all took their umbrellas outside when they got them because they were so excited to use them that they couldn't wait until it rained to try them out. Thank you so much!"

I can't express enough gratitude for all the volunteers and all the hard work that Bloomin' Boutique does helping our families in need! Bloomin' Boutique has been providing new clothes, toys and diapers to a large portion of my TANF case load at ODHS the last few years. The parents are always beyond impressed and to see the looks on the faces of the children receiving items is just priceless! On multiple occasions, I have had children comment, "How did they know exactly what I wanted?" They are always happily surprised and sometimes in a little of disbelief. Recently, I delivered an order to a family in need, and the child, an 8 year old girl exclaimed, "Oh I've never had a toy like this ever!! This is so awesome!" A barbie style doll was included in the order and it came packaged with a bunch of different outfits and hairstyles for the doll. She was so happy—I truly feel Bloomin' Boutique is helping children's dreams come true and it gives them a lot of hope. For a child to get new clothing items and toys when they've never really had that is such an amazing gift to provide. Yesterday, I delivered an order for a young mom and her 2 girls. Big plushy dolls were included with the order. It was something the girls had been asking for and I didn't know that until I delivered. One of the girls said, "Oh wow, this is just what I wanted and it's my favorite color too! It's going right in the middle of the bed. The middle! The middle! The middle." This just melted my heart. Warm thanks to Patti and all the volunteers at Bloomin' Boutique! You are so appreciated!! - RM, ODHS



Nick is a Life Scout with Oregon City Troop 140 and a junior at Oregon City High School. He is actively working towards his Eagle Scout Award (the highest rank in scouting) which includes earning various merit badges. One of the last badges he needs to earn is the Citizenship in the Community which requires volunteering 8 hours with a non-profit organization.

After volunteering to park cars at the Bloomin' Boutique Gala, Nick was intrigued to learn more about the organization and decided to continue working with them as their mission aligned with his personal desire to give back to his community by helping local kids in need. Thanks, Nick!



Stella, at just 7 years old, asked for clothing donations for kids in need instead of gifts for her birthday! She already helps her mom distribute snacks to vendors at a fashion show event every spring and fall while promoting Bloomin' Boutique and building relationships with businesses that can potentially provide significant discounts on clothing... "Ed" is a vendor she loves to see at each show.

Most young kids would not consider giving up their birthday presents, but it's important to find ways to engage younger kids to learn how important it is to help others in need ... Stella is a star... thank you!



Portland Embassy Suites and employees made Christmas very special for one lucky family!

A mom and her three young boys were treated to a stay at the Embassy Suites during the week between Christmas and New Year's. The mother's sister and nephew joined them as well, as the sister often helps with the kids. Embassy Suites treated them to a night in their beautiful Presidential Suite, all set up with a decorated Christmas tree and presents for everyone. Each department in the hotel selected one family member to shop for. The family enjoyed dinner in the restaurant, swimming in the pool and time together.

**A heartfelt THANKS
to Embassy Suites
and their employees**

including those who participated in a toy drive!



The Clackamas Community College Foundation hosted the Presidential Awards Dinner, a celebration of community, honoring individuals and their support of higher education.

Patti Serres was named an Honored Communitarian in recognition of the Bloomin' Boutique Hand Up for Higher Education Scholarship program.

"I was a lucky recipient of a laptop for my classes at Clackamas Community College for Horticulture. I want to thank you so much, it has made such a difference in my ability to study and turn in my assignments. I couldn't believe it when I was told I was given a laptop from you to use for school; I really couldn't find any words and I still can't thank you enough. But I'll say it again, Thank you so much. You really don't know how much this means to me and to my family."

See you at Serres Farm!

14620 S Forsythe Rd
Oregon City



Awards!!!

Categories include
"Just 'Cause It's Neat!"
along with...

Pre-30s / 30-39 / 40-49

50-59 / 60-69 / 70-79

80-89 / 90-99 / 2000 and newer

Muscle Car / Convertible / Import

Truck: Pre-65 / 66 and newer

Motorcycle / Under Construction

BEST IN SHOW

sponsored by Bloomin' Boutique

SUNDAY

August

27

2023

10am - 3pm

(Judging Noon - 2pm)

**FREE
ADMISSION**

Donations of
NEW CLOTHING
for a child age 5 - 18
appreciated!

Cruzin' for the Kids

6th ANNUAL

Mark Seymour and Friends

COOL CARS - LIVE MUSIC - FOOD SURPRISE APPEARANCES!

Got a cool car to show?

Join Us! Gates open at 8am for registration

Questions? Contact patti.serres@bloominboutique.org

vehicle registration
\$20 per vehicle
(cash only please)

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



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

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

Make GIVING your New Year's Resolution!

Every donation is appreciated and wisely used to support our mission to give a *hand up* to underserved kids

Bloomin' Boutique provides BASIC NEEDS to **720** children each year!

Organize a clothing drive to support Bloomin' Boutique

Non-Profit 501(c)(3)

dedicated to giving a *hand up* to underprivileged children



NEW CLOTHES - ALL SIZES
Boys, girls, infants, K-12

Bloomin' Boutique

Where futures blossom and confidence grows



If you would like to organize a clothing drive or make a donation, please contact Patti Serres, Executive Director: patti.serres@bloominboutique.org • 503.320.0789

serving Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties

BloominBoutique.org

Contact us and ask for DONATION BARRELS to place at your workplace!

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: How quickly are care packages assembled?

A: In general, care packages are ready for pick-up within a week of receiving the fulfillment request. When facing an emergency situation, volunteers focus on making a difference as quickly as humanly possible. Two recent examples include preparing a care package of clothes, diapers and blankets for a preemie baby delivered by a single mom and preparing clothes and other items for a family with seven children who lost all of their belongings in a house fire. In both cases, assembling and delivering items took place on the *same day* as the request was made!

Q: How do you identify who to serve?

A: We rely on community agencies - governmental, medical, schools - to screen for those in need and their advocates, in turn, submit fulfillment requests to us. Our Board of Directors has adopted policies regarding anti-discrimination and the number of times an individual may receive assistance, but we do not directly identify or solicit anyone.

Q: How many children do you help each month?

A: We have attempted to set a goal of providing for 720 children each year. This is the “magic” number we feel can be comfortably sustained over the long run based on current donation levels. That number also allows our *volunteer* workers the ability to give each care package the special attention it needs to fulfill a child’s requests. However, it is impossible to ignore the need which continues to grow, so the number of fulfilled requests varies each month. At times, our volunteers have stepped up to help 90 kids in a month... thirty percent more than our “set” goal! The retail value of a care package is estimated at \$500, so it is also critical to be cognizant of how many packages are being provided each month... and this is why continuing donations are so very important!

Q: How can community organizations help?

A: Groups can help by organizing clothing drives... socks, underwear, pajamas... any NEW clothing items! We feel it is very important that we only provide NEW clothing. These kids deserve to feel special. For some, these will be the first “new” clothes they have ever received. Recently, a group of sports teams held a competition to see which team could collect the most kids underwear with the winning team getting a pizza party. The result: they collected nearly 900 pair... a 3 month supply for Bloomin’ Boutique... and *all* teams got a pizza party to celebrate their community service!

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*)
- 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

“We would like to say thank you for helping our child get started with getting back to school by providing clothes and shoes. It was a big help and very much appreciated. We would also like to say thank you for the blanket, pillow and pillowcase! It was very cute and thoughtful! God bless and warm regards.”

WE NEED
YOUR HELP

CURRENT NEEDS include

BACKPACKS !!!

age 5 through high school

**kids placed in safe living facilities need
backpacks and school supplies year ‘round!**

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