

SPRING 2023

**185 children 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.**

#### **YOU can help us meet the growing need for services!**

Clothing drives, along with clothing donations in general, keep our shelves stocked with ninety percent of what is needed to fulfill requests. However, there is always something we must shop for and clothing drives enable Bloomin' Boutique to use donated funds to "fill in the gaps" with larger sizes, shoes and special need items.

If you would like to organize a clothing drive at your church, school, workplace or business, please contact Patti (503.320.0789, Patti.Serres@BloominBoutique.org). You can find a calendar on the Bloomin' Boutique website to help decide which items are most needed throughout the year or give us a call and we will be happy to let you know our current needs. Socks, pajamas, underwear, hygiene products... the basics are often the most overlooked and the most appreciated.

...

To serve the growing needs of our community, Bloomin' Boutique has three facilities all located in Oregon City:

- The Bloomin' Boutique headquarters and "Boutique" storefront on Molalla Avenue serves as the fulfillment center and "store" for high school/adult sized kids
- The "Annex" serves as the fulfillment center for sizes birth through 7/8
- The "Tween Station" serves as the fulfillment center for sizes 10/12 through 14/16

Each facility has a team of volunteers who build care packages for children throughout the tri-county area.

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

It is clear that our dedicated sponsors, donors and volunteers work together – from their hearts – to make a difference in the lives of others. Bloomin' Boutique cannot possibly address all of the challenges these children and their families face, but through collaborative relationships with school counselors, child advocates and family partners, we hope to lighten the load and bring some happiness – and normalcy – into the lives of underserved children. Children of incarcerated parents, children suffering from mental illness or homelessness, children whose parents are struggling to maintain any semblance of a home... there is much to be done – locally – and we rely on the support of individuals and businesses to carry out our mission.

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!

*Patti Serres*

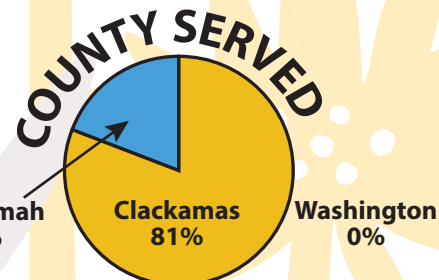
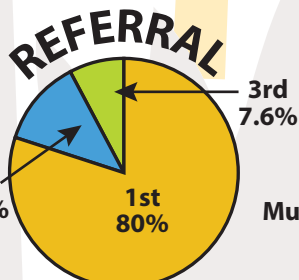
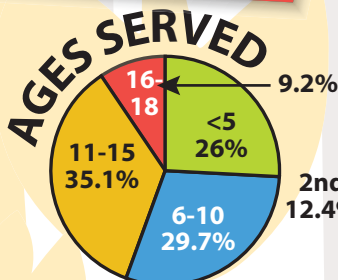
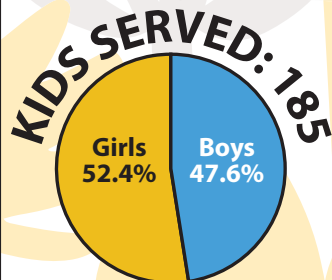
Patti Serres

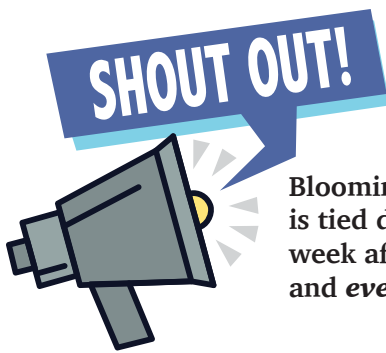
Bloomin' Boutique, Founder and Executive Director  
503.320.0789 • Patti.Serres@BloominBoutique.org

## BY THE NUMBERS

Jan - Feb - Mar 2023

IN-KIND DONATIONS .....	\$14,061
CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED .....	\$92,500
VOLUNTEER HOURS .....	3723





## *Our Volunteers are AWESOME!*



Bloomin' Boutique recognizes that their strength, their very core, is tied directly to the people that come together day after day, week after week and month after month sharing their passion to help kids in need... and *every one of them* plays a key role to ensure we follow through with our mission.

Whether working behind-the-scenes or preparing care packages and helping children select new clothing from the Boutique... or using your talents to create blankets, pillowcases, hats and clothing... or making a monthly donation to cover the rent for the boutique or giving a dedicated amount of money each month... or being a committed and hands-on Board member or a dedicated business with reps and buyers who we can count on year after year – Bloomin' Boutique is indebted to the volunteers and donors who have come together; many of you have been with us since the beginning of our journey. *We are forever grateful to you all.*

### *In their own words...*

**I may not get a paycheck for volunteering at the Boutique,  
but what I get in my heart and soul is PRICELESS!**

**It fills me with so much HAPPINESS to volunteer at the Boutique.  
More than rewarding... you just can't compare to anything else.**

**I started volunteering to help my wife.  
I now volunteer for the kids. It feels so GOOD!**

**It is an absolute JOY to volunteer at Bloomin' Boutique!**

**It makes my heart HAPPY to volunteer at Bloomin' Boutique!**

**I love helping out people and kids who need it.**

**I volunteer to help kids feel that people they don't even know care about them.  
It feeds my soul more than I can express.**

**As three friends and retired teachers, we love working at Bloomin' Boutique once a week.  
It feels like a natural fit to continue our work with children and a chance for us to give back  
to the community we live in. The opportunity to fill care packages for young children is  
rewarding and fills our hearts with joy. We know and are grateful for all the generous donations  
that bring a smile to many families' faces.**



**I have a passion to help bring positive changes into children's lives. My heart goes out to children in need.  
I am blessed to be a small part of Bloomin' Boutique who blesses children and their families in a mighty way!**

**I volunteer to give back to my community and love the mission of Bloomin' Boutique.**

**Since we are car people, it is a good fit to volunteer at the Cruzin' for the Kids car show...  
a great way to help kids and volunteer at the same time.**

**... makes me feel needed and appreciated every time.**

**I enjoy helping the children. Patti so appreciates the blankets the "Flower Fairies" create!**

**IT FEEDS MY SOUL!**

*from our youngest volunteer  
who is only 7 years old!*



**I like to help because I have a BIG HEART and I almost cry  
when I see kids and adults and tweens in need  
because it breaks my heart to see it.**





**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!***

***Board of Directors: Patti Serres, Executive Director • Joanne Hazel, President • Brian Allen, Treasurer • Julie Bullock, Secretary  
James Charriere • Jeff Brown • Mary Heins***



# CENTERLINE CONCEPTS

## LAND SURVEYING, INC.

*As a tenant in the same business complex as Bloomin' Boutique, we have seen from a far the change they can have on a child.*

Patti Serres and her family have been a pillar in this community for years.

Her drive and perseverance is seemingly endless. She is truly a beacon of hope for many in an often dark world.

To that end, the entire Centerline Team gladly assists with anything they request of us:

an extra hand loading a vehicle, receiving packages when they are not available

or moving something awkward or heavy inside the Boutique.

Support comes in many shapes and forms: monetary, donations and sharing the load.

We value the unique relationship we have nurtured with Patti and the Boutique over the past several years.



*"Wow, thank you Bloomin' Boutique! I did not expect to receive more than just clothes. I really enjoy coloring, so when I saw that there were coloring utensils and a coloring book in my clothing bag, I got very excited. Thank you for the soccer ball, too! Now, I can practice for the upcoming soccer season for school. Thank you again."*

...

*"Thank you again. Jacob loved everything and was so happy. Whoever shopped for him did great. Everything fit."*

...

*"Thank you for the articles of clothing and toys for my children Everything was absolutely adorable for both kids. My daughter loved the overalls. Thank you again!"*

...

*"Everything is a good fit and they like it all. They all received things they can feel good about wearing: no tie shoes for E, soft pants for them both, nail polish for A. All very thoughtful. When I was a kid and my mom was disabled, if we received things they were so ugly and outdated that I hated wearing them. The thoughtfulness feels nice."*

...

*Thank you and your volunteers for everything you do. There were some gorgeous handmade blankets in the last orders. My heart was so touched to see these beautiful handmade gifts your volunteers make for the babies in our community.*  
- SM, NWFS

*The last student you provided clothing and bedding for absolutely loved it! She really appreciated having a good pair of shoes to wear, and loved all the extra goodies you threw in. Thank you for blessing this student with the items they were in need of! - LE, OCSD*

...

*When the mom was looking at what was in the bag, her face expressed happiness and astonishment at seeing the clothes and toys. She said thank you very much because the toys are educational and when she and her children play, it is family time because they spend a good time learning. Mom said that the clothes are beautiful and fit her children well. The clothes will help a lot for the children who go to school and the baby as well.*

- MR, Healthy Families Oregon

...

*I took a 13 year old student whose mom was evicted and entered into detox to Bloomin' Boutique because she only had 3 outfits to wear. They outfitted her with an amazing new wardrobe that the student truly loved. She felt so cared for while shopping privately. And, amazingly, she loves to sew and they had a sewing machine to gift her! She showed up for school the next day ON TIME, the first time all year. She was all smiles, feeling great and looking great with new clothes from head to toe. And even new makeup! It cannot be underestimated the power and confidence that nice, new clothes provides kids. I'm all teared up now. Thank you -- you made a real impact. - HA, Rowe Middle School*







# Thank You Bloomin'

I am a mom living in Clackamas County and am in my first year of recovery. In August my baby girl named Violet\* was born. I have worked really hard to put my life back together after her birth. I have graduated from multiple programs and am on my way to starting my career and finding stable housing. My little girl has grown out of her clothes so quickly and it's hard to buy so many new clothes and supplies in the first year of life. I was so grateful for my housing navigator to tell me that she could ask your organization for help. I couldn't believe the three bags of beautiful brand new clothes she brought to me. My little girl sleeps with the beautiful handmade quilt every night and her big brother loves picking out her outfit. When I get back on my feet I want to come volunteer for your organization.

Thank you for everything you do!

*I want to take the time to thank you for the support you give to the most vulnerable youth in our community. On the last day of February 2023, two perfect little twin girls were born. They came into this world a little earlier than expected and had to spend the first month of their lives in the NICU. Their parents have fallen on hard times, are trying to find stable housing and had almost nothing in preparation for their arrival. Once the babies came, the parents spent as much time as they were able with their new babies at the NICU.*

*The mom to these two lovely twins reached out to me asking if I knew where she could get some baby clothes. It was such a relief to say that I knew exactly who to call: Bloomin' Boutique.*

*The order was ready the exact same day and I filled every square inch of my vehicle with matching baby outfits, identical twin hand crocheted blankies, a baby bathtub, a baby sleeper, a package of bottles, hand print memento kits, receiving blankets, sleep sacs, lovies, stuffies, play mats, binkies, diapers, wipes and hygiene kits. I was floored with the amount of love that went into the packing of this order.*

*When I brought the order to the parents and got to hold the newborn babies, their mom was beside herself with emotion. She could not believe there was an organization that would be willing to jump into action and help out a family that they did not even know.*

*This family is working hard to get their life back on track and your support is a hand up on their journey to finding stability. It is so heartwarming to know that we have Bloomin' Boutique to go to when we find little babies in need of a healthy start.*

-SF, NWFS



# 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)**

# Cruzin' for the Kids

6th ANNUAL

**FREE  
ADMISSION**

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

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](mailto:patti.serres@bloominboutique.org)

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





# BloominBoutique.org

Non-Profit 501(c)(3)

giving a hand up to local kids in need  
Clackamas/Multnomah/Washington counties



We distribute **500+** pairs of **NEW SOCKS** each month!

If you would like to organize a clothing drive (*think socks, underwear, pajamas, coats!!!*)  
or make a donation, please contact

Patti Serres, Executive Director: [patti.serres@bloominboutique.org](mailto:patti.serres@bloominboutique.org) • 503.320.0789

serving 720 children each year! **NEW CLOTHING** only! **ALL SIZES:** boys, girls, infants, K-12

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

The family I picked up for last week came and got their bags today. Mom was very happy and could not believe everything was for the boys. She sent me this message, "Thank you so much! Tell Patti Serres her kindness and charity for kids is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support and assistance with making this possible. I'm actually so overwhelmed with joy. Thank You."  
- EB, LatinX Youth Advocate, Clackamas Women's Services

"I can't be more grateful because you all went beyond what I could ever imagine! You even put together some toys for the kiddos that I know they will be thrilled when they see them. So much stuff and I'm so thankful for everyone involved because I really did not imagine all this help. Kids have clothes for the next 6 months and it should go a long way. Everything is really nice for both the boys and girls. Thank you!"

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: You value the initial care package at \$500... what do the children receive?**

A: An initial care package includes 1 pair of shoes, 4 pants, 7 shirts, 7 underwear (don't forget the bras!), 10 socks, 1 coat/hoodie... then add on the hygiene products, backpack, educational toys, stuffies, school supplies, craft kits and maybe a ball or frisbee. Pillow, pillowcase and blanket... oh my! Each care package is carefully coordinated and curated to fit the particular child. We try our best to include something that they have indicated they wish to have... a favorite color, activity or character. Our volunteers can spend up to 5 hours assembling just one care package!

Agencies will also notify us with specific needs that are not normally in our mix, but we reach out to our resources to fulfill the need if we can. For example, we were able to provide beds for a family that had lost everything in a fire. We make every effort to provide the necessities and respond quickly with those needing immediate assistance.

**Q: How do you fund your mission to provide only NEW clothing?**

A: We are fortunate to have a number of generous individuals and businesses who believe in what we do. In addition, we organize several fundraising events throughout the year along with encouraging people to give through clothing drives. Lastly, we have a gifted grant writer who secures grants from businesses and foundations. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, any donations are tax deductible.

**Q: As an individual, how can I help?**

A: There are up to 17 ways to help and if everyone gave just a little bit, we can continue to meet the increasing demand within our local communities.

- Organize a clothing drive to fill our shelves with basic necessities... socks, underwear, pajamas... any NEW clothing items!
  - Donate gift cards to enable us to fulfill special need requests and "fill in the gaps" as needed
  - Donate funds... one time or monthly, money CAN buy (almost) anything! And our shoppers are always scouting out the deals to stretch your dollars!
  - Redirect your bottle refund and Fred Meyer Rewards to credit Bloomin' Boutique. Two bags of returned bottles will buy a pair of shoes for a child!
- If any of these options sound appealing to you, please contact [patti.serres@bloominboutique.org](mailto:patti.serres@bloominboutique.org) to discuss the details. She will be happy to find a good fit for you.

**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](https://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](mailto:patti.serres@bloominboutique.org) • 503.320.0789

*"I would like to personally thank you and your team for going above and beyond in providing more than just clothes to children. Bloomin' Boutique is truly phenomenal!"*  
- JL, Todos-Juntos

WE NEED  
YOUR HELP

**CURRENT NEEDS include**  
**Size small tops for TEEN girls**  
**and everything for BOYS size 7/8**

Ready to donate? Please reach out to  
**[Patti.Serres@BloominBoutique.org](mailto: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**