



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.

TOO OFTEN
WE UNDERESTIMATE
THE POWER OF A TOUCH,
A SMILE,
A KIND WORD,
A LISTENING EAR,
AN HONEST COMPLIMENT
OR THE SMALLEST ACT OF CARING,
ALL OF WHICH
HAVE THE POTENTIAL
TO TURN A LIFE AROUND.
- Leo Buscaglia



I would like to personally thank you and your wonderful team for playing a huge part this year in making a difference with the families we serve. Looking forward to your continuous support! Wishing you all a very happy New Year. - JL, Todos Juntos

Saying THANK YOU is a team effort!

Bloomin' Boutique is eternally grateful for its dedicated sponsors and donors... and we want to be sure to express our THANKS to ensure that you feel what is in our hearts. Without your generosity, Bloomin' Boutique would never be able to lift the spirits and contribute to making a difference in the lives of so many children and their families.

Saying THANKS is taken seriously. In fact, Bloomin' Boutique has a team of THANK YOU volunteers! Led by Mindy B, Lynn S, Barb J, Brenda S and Tamara P all devote hours of their time each month to manually writing thank you notes, addressing envelopes, applying stamps and mailing! Yes! We do it the old fashioned way because it best demonstrates our sincere gratitude. And for those dedicated donors who give time after time, we try to keep our message to you fresh and relevant by sharing a recent story showing how your continued support is making a huge impact in the life of a child.

Throughout the organization, each and every one of us THANKS YOU for believing in our mission and enabling all of the volunteers to curate and present such beautiful care packages to the most vulnerable children in our communities.

The newsletter stories published from our partner agencies are ultimately another THANK YOU to our donors as they share the delight, the tears, and the sense of relief that our care packages bring to families in need.

THANK YOU. We could not do this without YOU.

Patti Serres

Patti Serres
Bloomin' Boutique, Founder and Executive Director
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Oct - Nov - Dec 2023 BY THE NUMBERS **IN-KIND DONATIONS** VOLUNTEER HOURS 13.4% 3rd 2.8% <5 Boys 26.0% **Girls** 48.6% 51.4% 11-15 2nd Multnomah **34.0**% 1st 6-10 13.8% Clackamas Washington 12.3% 83.4% 26.6% 84.6% 3.1%

COMMUNITY WIDE FUNDRAISERS HELPED STOCK OUR SHELVES!

CLOTHING - TOYS - COATS - PJs - TOILETRIES - BOTTLES/CANS



SHOUT OUT!





DONATION DROP-OFF

boys • girls • infants • K-12 **NEW** clothes • shoes • bedding personal care items



non-profit 501(c)(3)

BloominBoutique.org

THIS DRIVE'S FOCUS IS ON

collecting donations for teens in need

BOTTLE & CAN

Don't throw it away!

Recycle and support your local children in need!

BloominBoutique.org



(Where futures blossom a

non-profit 501(c)(3)



NEW toys • games • puzzles

boys • girls • infants • K-12

dedicated to giving a hand up to underprivileged children (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 • 503.320.07



Did you know? By donating just two of your bottle drop bags, you are providing a child with a pair of quality shoes! Ask us how!





A heartfelt THANK YOU to our local businesses for organizing drives and filling our donation barrels during this holiday season!





Throughout this year, we have consistently reached out for care packages containing essential items such as clothing, bedding, school supplies, and toys to assist our clients. As the year comes to a close, just before the winter break, eight families specifically requested assistance from Bloomin' Boutique. The joy and gratitude displayed by these families upon receiving their bags were truly heartening. Witnessing the excitement of a child over toys and a jacket, hearing a young person express genuine need for a pillow and blanket, and having a family come together to collect their items were all moments that underscored the positive impact of our efforts.

It's worth noting that many of the families we serve face economic challenges and reside in East County. The logistical hurdles of making the trip to Oregon City and coordinating the delivery of these packages are real, but the satisfaction derived from overcoming these challenges is immeasurable. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Patti Serres for her unwavering support of these families. Your assistance is making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. - ANR, East County Bridges

My December family referral was very thankful for the care packages Bloomin' Boutique provided. Mom was utterly amazed by everything and was grateful to receive this big help - especially during this holiday season. The children were very excited to see toys in their care packages. Thank you Bloomin' Boutique for making these children's holiday season memorable! - JL, Todos Juntos

You are a true champion for youth! It is such an important service you provide and one that we hear the kids talk about long afterwards. I hope you know how grateful we are for you and we certainly don't say it enough. - RF, NWFS

"I am very grateful for the clothes and items that I received for my twins, everything is very nice.

It is impossible for me to buy clothes as nice as the ones Bloomin' Boutique sent me because I don't work and even if I did, I couldn't buy something this beautiful. Thank you for what you gave my children." - MR, Healthy Families Oregon

"Everything is very pretty, and they fit my baby very well. In addition to the fact that he feels very comfortable with the clothes, he loved the toys and books which help him learn and develop, and they are also very helpful to me now. I do not have the money to buy all those things.

Thank you very much for everything you donated to me, it is very nice." - MR, Healthy Families Oregon

"My name is Cheyanne and I am the mother of Hayley and Sophie who you helped recently with clothes and other items. I just want to give my thanks and appreciation with all my heart. I am so grateful for all your help for my girls. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season."

He LOVED the clothes! His face LIT up and he really liked the shoes, too. Tell your crew that was a BIG hit! We are so blessed! - SA, Canby K12

I wanted to share with you the positive impact that the care packages I delivered yesterday had on the family who received them. The mother was smiling from ear to ear and could not believe her eyes when I handed her the packages. The mother said that she was very thankful for Bloomin' Boutique. The generosity to help provide the much needed clothing items for her sons was very much appreciated and she wanted to let you and your team know how grateful she was. Thank you for all that you - KE, Oregon City School District

We are so grateful to have the Bloomin' Boutique as one of our school's community partners. This holiday season we put in a request for 15 students and to our great surprise they were able to fulfill all of them! The bags were filled with pure joy for our kids. The clothing, bedding and toiletries were so appreciated by children and their families also. Thank you for the amazing work that you do to support the needs of our most vulnerable students and their families! - KW, Carus School

"My children loved all of the items they received. They were overwhelmed with happiness. I would love to let you know how much you helped my family, from starting over with nothing to building our confidence back up. Seeing the smiles light up on their faces relieved so much stress. I couldn't help but think of all the families you guys have helped as well. You are truly amazing. I am so thankful for you all helping keep us warm this winter and also the cuddly stuffies. My children lay with them at night. I just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate you and how we have been making use of everything you gave us. Thank you very much." - RM, DHS

"I wanted to say thank you for the wonderful care packages that I received for my kids. They have enjoyed the toys and of the clothes were high quality!" - MB, Clackamas Women's Services

"My family consists of 5 people, two adults and three children. In the pandemic era, we left the apartment because we could not pay the rent, and on our backs, we had a large debt. With the few things we could carry, we went to the house of some friends, but after that, we also left because we could not contribute to paying the rent. We went to look for a place to sleep; the first night, we slept in a park and found a place to put the tent that would be our home until we could get a job again. My husband got sick with COVID-19 and died; I was left in the street with my three children. Through an organization, I was contacted by the person who supports me, and she referred me to Washington County for the waiting list for a shelter. We were moved to a motel where we had a bed and food, but still, the fear of getting COVID-19 and the sadness of losing a loved one were in my family's mind. The person supporting our needs referred us to the Bloomin' Boutique organization to request clothing for my three children. We appreciate the donation of clothes, toys, and blankets. My family's situation is improving, and my children have re-entered the school system and are attending online classes again. The social worker is looking for an apartment for us to move into. We appreciate the support with the clothes and other gifts and are starting to regain hope for better days. I had a job interview, and maybe in a short time, I will be able to stabilize my family; thank you very much for your great support." - LU, OFSN

A specially curated care package from Bloomin' Boutique transforms the lives of children and their families

I wanted to extend gratitude to Bloomin' Boutique for the positive impact you have on the Oregonians we serve. I honestly wish I could "bottle up" the emotion, joy and delight, really, that comes across the faces of those who receive your care packages. If your intent is to make a difference – it's working!!! Typically, our participants are coming to our storefront offices to pick up their items from their Family Coaches. When we walk out with the bags of new, thoughtful, tailored-to-them items they are overjoyed. We hear, "Really, this is for us?", or "Are you kidding me?", or "Oh, my gosh!", sometimes they don't have words and shed a tear. Not surprisingly this experience gives back to us Family Coaches as well, as delivering this "good news" feels so good, that collectively we are all making a difference. It really is such a highlight of our work.

Thank you again for all you do, it really is a transformative approach to giving and our Oregonians are better for it.

Many, many, thanks. - CW, ODHS

. . .

First and foremost, I wanted to let you know that the most recent family you and your organization helped with a few clothing bags gave many thanks! The boys were pretty excited to have received a football:). Thank you so much Bloomin' Boutique!! - JL, Todos Juntos

Patti and all the volunteers are such angels for the families in need that I serve as a TANF Family Coach at ODHS. I work with families experiencing deep trauma, poverty and domestic violence on a daily basis that

cannot afford basic need items for their children. I've been referring to Bloomin' Boutique for about 4 years. They always do such amazing work and go above and beyond to ensure these families are getting needs met for the children. Recently, they had put together an order for a family with 3 children who were fleeing a domestic violence situation and had to leave with nothing. They went out of their way to ensure the kids had ample clothing and toys within 24 hours. It was such a joy to see the looks on the kids' faces, watching them hug their plushies and get excited about the clothes, shoes and rain boots. The mom was in tears of gratitude and it really helped her feel like there are people who do care, made her feel less lost and prevented her from reaching out to the abuser for help. Another family who recently received an order had the same awe struck reaction and the 4 year old daughter immediately took out the hair bow and clipped it into her hair and put on the sunglasses with the tags still on walking around the house like she was a super model. Too cute and truly amazing work for these families in need. Thank you for shining the light and giving hope and joy for the families I serve, you are more appreciated than you know!! -RM, DHS

. . .

I want to let you know how happy my student was to receive the clothing items from your organization. He is a quiet and serious student, so it was such a delight to see him smiling wide when I told him his clothing items had arrived. I asked him if he wanted me to hold them until the end of the day, and he was so excited he carried his shopping bag with him throughout the day. I know clothing resources were a major barrier for him with school. It is great to remove those barriers! Please thank the donors for me! - LW, OCSLA



Schwab Charitable

Robert W Baird & Co

Thompson Foundation

OCF Joseph E Weston Public Foundation

THANK

Bloomin' Boutique appreciates your ongoing support of our mission to provide basic necessities to our local underserved children!







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!

391 kids served last quarter!

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

Thank you one and all for believing in your communities

HELP YOUR LOCAL KIDS IN NEED!

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



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



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!

We can give suggestions of most needed items and provide delivery and pickup of collection bins

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.

Founder and Executive Director

Polka dots, black patent leather shoes, pink pants... whose story will <u>you</u> be a part of?







Q: What if you get more donated items than you need? Or what if you don't get enough?

A: Although it rarely happens, if there appears to be an excess of a specific item and size, the excess is distributed. For example, if the normal care package includes seven small size t-shirts and there is an excess of that item and size, eight small t-shirts would be placed in the subsequent care packages until "normal" levels are reached.

On the other hand, if we are short on any needed items, our "shoppers" spring into action and purchase the needed items with either donated gift cards or funds received by our donors.

It should be noted that our shoppers are always on the lookout to save money for the Boutique. For example, if bed pillows are on a close-out sale at 70-80% off, we will stock up with 100. We pride ourselves on nurturing relationships with industry contacts who offer special pricing for non-profits.

Q: Why do you only accept NEW clothing?

A: Many of the underprivileged children we serve have never experienced the joy and satisfaction of receiving their very own new clothes. By providing new clothes, we are giving these children a hand up... helping them feel special, confident and capable of becoming contributing members of their local communities.

Everyday we see and hear how the Bloomin' Boutique care packages transform children... they hold their heads high, throw their shoulders back, put smiles on their faces. NEW clothing brings a welcome sense of pride and determination to tackle whatever challenges they may have.

We welcome donations of *new* shirts, pants, coats, hoodies, socks, underwear, pajamas and more. Take your pick: Boys and girls, infant through K-12, the front page of this newsletter shows the statistics of the referral requests that have been fulfilled this quarter. The need is real. We remove all tags, so it is not necessary that they are attached to any donation.

We also gladly accept cash donations of any amount. Our volunteer shoppers will extend your donations as far as possible while shopping for sales and purchasing items needed to "fill the gaps" in the inventory... larger sizes and special requests are always needed.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we can provide a tax receipt for your donations.

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

SUPPORT a local child!

volunteer • donate • give

CURRENT NEEDS include **BOYS** and **GIRLS** clothing infant through 12 months

as always, we only accept NEW clothes

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!