

**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 VOICE

There is a voice inside of you  
 That whispers all day long,  
 "I feel that this is right for me,  
 I know that *this* is wrong."  
 No teacher,  
 preacher, parent, friend  
 Or wise man can decide  
 What's right for you --  
 just listen to  
 The voice that speaks inside.

- Shel Silverstein



## EVERY CHILD is Unique

At Bloomin' Boutique, there is no "normal". Every referral is reviewed and filled with that particular child in mind. Do they struggle with a disability? Are they especially troubled? Do they need encouragement to get active? Do they have a favorite color or activity? Are they celebrating a birthday?

Advocates inform Bloomin' Boutique of the circumstances that each child may be facing: ADHD, autism, sensory issues, domestic violence, loss of everything in a house fire, incarcerated parents, poverty. The children we serve are often burdened with challenges and struggles totally out of their control.

By assembling carefully curated care packages, Bloomin' Boutique shows each child that people care about them, even people they do not know.

From new clothing and shoes to handmade quilts, pillowcases, tote bags, knitted hats and Christmas stockings, a lot of love is sprinkled into every care package.

No two packages are alike, just like no two children are alike. Do they need special hair products based on their race? Do they struggle with sensory issues like noise, light and irritating clothes? Do they require shoes with no laces? Do they prefer reading books printed in Spanish? Are they a budding artist? Do they have a favorite sport?

By giving these children a *hand up*, they gain the confidence needed to stand on even ground with their peers. Their worries are squashed, their self-esteem rises and they feel empowered to make positive choices.

We sincerely thank our dedicated donors, sponsors, volunteers – and our Board – for making this all possible.

*Patti Serres*

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

## BY THE NUMBERS

Jul - Aug - Sept 2024

IN-KIND DONATIONS ..... \$19,353  
 CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED ..... \$135,000  
 VOLUNTEER HOURS ..... 2,687

**KIDS SERVED: 270**

Girls 51.1%  
 Boys 48.9%

**AGES SERVED**

16-18 9.6%  
 <5 27.8%  
 11-15 30.0%  
 6-10 32.6%

**REFERRAL**

3rd 15.2%  
 1st 27%  
 2nd 57.8%

**COUNTY SERVED**

Multnomah 11.1%  
 Clackamas 78.1%  
 Washington 10.8%

# OUR KIDS ARE SPECIAL

## and we want to be sure they know they are loved

*Our child advocates say it best..*

*I LOVE having the opportunity to partner with Bloomin' Boutique. It brings me such joy to see the children and young people receive the thoughtful care packages prepared for them by this organization. It makes such a difference in a young person's life to have new clothes to wear to school, along with personal items selected specifically to meet their unique needs. I immensely enjoy being able to deliver these packages to clients and see the smiles or sense of relief they bring. It's one of my favorite parts of my day when I can be the person who gets to bring these gifts and help children. Thank you Bloomin' Boutique for the huge impact you make every day! We appreciate you! - JG, Clackamas County Public Health | Health, Housing & Human Services*



Sensory/fidget toys

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*Bloomin' Boutique makes a huge impact for the families I work with at ODHS. With school starting soon, Bloomin' Boutique referrals increased, but the AMAZING team worked so hard to get the packages out, which made families feel ready for the school year! The families I have worked with are so thankful for the items they received; these calmed many families fears of not having school clothes for the year. Another highlight of the packages are the Worry Monsters, one family I work with said it has completely changed their nighttime routine, the child sleeps much better at night now. Thank you to the Bloomin' Boutique team for all their hard work and making sure that families felt cared for and prepared before going into the school year! - TS, ODHS*



Worry Monsters

...

*I would like to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible work you do to support students throughout Clackamas County.*

*As a school social worker and currently the only one in my district, which encompasses four schools with approximately 60% of our student population living in poverty, your resources have been invaluable. Your program not only serves as a reliable source of support, but also goes above and beyond to make a meaningful impact on our students' lives. It is truly a relief to collaborate with an organization that cares for my students as much as I do, while maintaining such organization and consistency.*

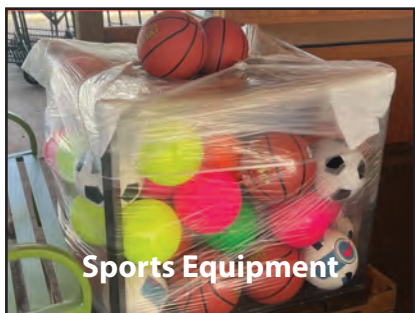
*Although you may not always hear the individual stories of the students you help, I want to share a few that highlight the significance of your contributions. Many of our students face tremendous challenges, including losing their homes to wildfires, experiencing domestic violence, entering foster care, or arriving in our country with little more than the clothes on their backs. Additionally, many families struggle to provide basic necessities as their children grow.*



Birthday package  
to recognize their special day!

*I wish you could witness the joy and sense of care these students feel when I deliver the wonderful items from Bloomin' Boutique. One young kindergarten student, upon receiving her a pair of shoes, couldn't contain her excitement, running around her classroom exclaiming, "Look how beautiful my feet are!" Her parents shared that this was a monumental moment for their family, as it was the first pair of shoes she'd ever had that were worn by her first.*

*Thank you for your unwavering commitment and generosity. Your efforts are truly transforming lives in our community, and I am immensely grateful for your support. - BB, Estacada School District*



Sports Equipment

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*Recently, I had put in a request for clothing for a family who was newly housed after years of housing instability. At the time of the delivery, the mom and children were so excited to receive the new clothing from your Boutique. The mom followed up later with a message saying, "Thank you, we are beyond grateful for everything. This was truly a blessing." Your boutique makes a difference in the lives of the families that I work with. The students are able to get ready for school with confidence thanks to the generosity of those who donate and volunteer with Bloomin' Boutique. - KE, OC School District*



# Thank you **so** much

**Clackamas  
County**

**Schwab  
Charitable**

**Hillman  
Family  
Foundation**

**Clackamas  
Women's  
Services**

**Walters  
Foundation**

**Christopher  
Living Trust**

**Grateful to have  
strong supporters  
in our corner!**

**Windermere  
Realty  
Foundation**

## *Looking for Community Service Opportunities?*

**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!***



# Joyful Happy Children

Give a little love



OMG! She is going to love this package that is exactly her style. I thank God for all of your volunteers; you guys are so on point, it's amazing!

*I want to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the director and the volunteers of Bloomin' Boutique for their extraordinary support of communities living in extreme poverty. This organization has been unwavering in its commitment, providing us with clothing, toys, and school supplies for every child and youth we serve in the wraparound program across the various counties in Portland, Oregon.*

*Your generosity has made a profound difference in the lives of these children and their families. However, the need continues to grow, and with your continued support, we can reach even more needy children. I encourage everyone who can contribute through donations of goods, time, or funds to join us in this vital cause. Together, we can make an even more significant impact and bring hope and happiness to those who need it most. Thank you for your continued kindness and generosity. - LU, OFSN*

...

*I delivered the four clothing care packages for all of my families today and they were so excited to receive new clothing for their children! I was very impressed by the quality of the clothing and how nice each item was. The anxiety/worry monster is wonderful.*

*Thank you so much for this wonderful gift – many of my families are struggling to pay bills and they are thrilled to have new clothes for back to school! - KT, Clackamas County Developmental Disability Program*

...

*Wanted to send you a big thank you on behalf of the most recent high schooler you and your team assisted with providing a care package. This high schooler was amazed to see how many items you all provided to her. She loved everything that was given to her and is super thankful for it all. She is excited to have all these new clothing for back to school. Thank you and your wonderful team! You all are exceptional. - JL, Todos-Juntos*

*I wanted to thank you and your volunteers for the thoughtfulness and care you take in putting together each individual kiddos care package. I wish you were there to see the joy and appreciation on the faces of the kiddos and families they are provided for. The joy I see just fills my heart up, you are touching lives and making them better and those kiddos feels seen, heard, and loved by your care packages. It's an absolute honor to deliver the care packages; you all put so much thought into each one.*

*I received a care package for a 2-year-old that had a birthday and you provided everything from the cake to the plates and everything else needed for momma to put together a wonderful birthday party for him.*

*I really can't thank you all enough for all you do, you do great things in big ways in these kiddos lives. The blankets and pillows are greatly appreciated; they get to lay their heads down at night and feel supported and loved. Keep on doing great things. We appreciate you, your volunteers and donors so much! With Sincere Gratitude. - CC, ODHS*

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*Her baby boy David was born today at 3am. She is healthy and her baby is, too. She is very thankful for the support she has here in the USA that she would not have in Ukraine. - EH, Early Learning Hub of Clackamas County*

...

*It was like a child on Christmas morning, "It really does feel like Christmas," exclaimed my client with the biggest smile I have seen on her face. With four kids, this client has faced financial hardship time and time again. From living on the streets to living in a 1-bedroom apartment with 6 people and finally getting back on their feet and into permanent housing, my client was hit with yet another financial burden - her partner unexpectedly lost his job. She would say, "I feel like I can't give my kids the life they deserve". The least this client wanted to do was put a smile on each of her kids and by utilizing Bloomin' Boutique she was able to do just that. - AP, NWFS*





*The clothing is amazing and the shoes are wonderful, too! Evan goes to kindergarten and his mom was so thankful to receive the two huge bags of clothing today. They are new, fun and Evan will love them. His mom was so happy to see the clothes.*

*The volunteers at Bloomin' Boutique are always friendly, kind and so nice to work with. Appreciate you all! Thank you!!!*  
- KT, Clackamas County Developmental Disability Program



*"We came from Ukraine on November 28, 2022 during difficult times for Ukraine and, at the same time, difficult times for us.*

*We were married in Ukraine just 8 months before leaving the border. I was 7 months pregnant. Everything happened quickly and spontaneously. We were given a week to think about it... then leave everything behind and come here.*

*We went to my relatives first. They found us a place to live, and after two weeks, we had our own place here.*

*There were great difficulties with finances, but friends helped us borrow money for the first time.*

*My husband went to work within a week after his arrival because there was a very big need for money to pay off debts and pay for the apartment.*

*We did not give up and began to pray to our God to help us with difficulties; complete strangers began to offer us help. They gave us addresses to get clothes, dishes, and so on. We went to church and they helped us with financial difficulties. After a little more time, we fell in love with you and we also began to knock on your door. And we are very, very grateful to you that you helped us and our two children.*

*We know that all of this is the Great Hand of God that has brought us together and placed your heart towards us as a family from Ukraine. Thank you very much for this once again.*

*May the Lord sincerely bless you and reward you all 100 times, the One who sows goodness and does not discourage.*

*And we are only Followers of our Lord Jesus Christ."*  
- EH, Early Learning Hub of Clackamas County



*Where do I begin! Thank you for all the love and attention you put into the care packages! The most recent family to receive theirs was amazed at all the great cool clothes along with backpacks full of school supplies. Mom was so grateful; she had been very stressed on what she was going to do to get all four kids ready for school. The look on their faces was priceless to witness.* - AB, Friends of the Children





# SIP & SHOP

*One-of-a-Kind*  
holiday gifts

*Wine by the Glass*  
available  
for purchase

*Benefit*  
to support  
local children

## LOCAL MAKER-MADE ARTS / CRAFTS / FOOD

**When:**

Saturday  
**December 7**  
9am to 5pm



Sunday  
**December 8**  
9am to 2pm

**Where:**

Bright Minds Christian Dayschool  
16282 S Bradley Rd  
Oregon City, Oregon 97045

**Admission: FREE!**

**Support a LOCAL CHILD!**  
*benefit for*

*Bloomin'  
Boutique*

*(Where futures blossom and confidence grows)*



[BloominBoutique.org](http://BloominBoutique.org)

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

*and*

**Bright Minds**  
Christian Dayschool

[brightmindschristian.com](http://brightmindschristian.com)  
classes for students 6 weeks to 12 years old  
holistic education • caring teachers  
safe learning and fun environment

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



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



**1200 kids**  
served annually!

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**

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

serving Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties

**[BloominBoutique.org](http://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

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: What is the corporate structure of Bloomin' Boutique?**

A. Bloomin' Boutique was incorporated as an Oregon 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation in 2018. The affairs of the corporation are directed by a Board of Directors and managed by an Executive Director. There are currently seven board members (4 women and 3 men), all of whom have educational credentials and business experience. Directors receive no compensation. All corporate documents including By-Laws, meeting minutes and tax filings are available for review upon request.

**Q: Does Bloomin' Boutique have employees?**

A. No. Bloomin' Boutique has no employees. The Executive Director, seven Board members and nearly one hundred volunteers are unpaid. We are truly fortunate to have amassed such a wonderful group of people who are willing to open their hearts to fulfill our mission to give a *hand up* to local underprivileged children.

**Q: What is Bloomin' Boutique truly about?**

A. Bloomin' Boutique's ultimate goal is to improve the lives of needy children; to provide a *hand-up*, to help build confidence and self-worth. With this objective in mind, Bloomin' Boutique focuses on providing new clothes to kids from birth through high school. Children are referred to us by accredited advocates who are employees of social services organizations, school counselors or representatives from other non-profit groups. We rarely interact directly with the child except for the occasional high school aged kids who can elect to visit the Boutique *with their advocate* and, with the help of one of our volunteers, "shop" our large inventory of new, quality clothes.

The process begins with an advocate completing a request form for each child. The form includes background information, clothing sizes, a non-discrimination clause and any "special" needs. From that form, Bloomin' Boutique volunteers prepare a care package specifically curated for the child. The advocate picks up the care package which can include new clothing, toiletries, bedding and a backpack along with items to encourage play and delivers it to the child.

Each quarterly newsletter, like this one, includes stories from advocates about the positive effect of a care package for both the child and their family. Smiles, joy, relief... it's about much more than clothes.

**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*

Did you know that two bottle drop bags will provide a child with a pair of quality shoes? Contact [patti.serres@bloominboutique.org](mailto:patti.serres@bloominboutique.org) to receive blue bags and labels to properly credit the Bloomin' Boutique account.



WE NEED  
YOUR HELP

**CURRENT NEEDS include**

**BOOKS**  
**ages 3 - 18**

as always, we only accept **NEW** items

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!*