

Dear Family,
Thank you for stepping up to provide a safe place for kiddos in care. Our family knows first hand the sacrifices you are making to fill in the gaps and serving these sweet kids in our community. Thank you for caring, providing, loving, seeing and advocating! We need more people like you! We are cheering for you! Your small token of our thanks



FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

This quarter, my note to you is short-n-sweet but nonetheless meaningful. Every Child Central Oregon (ECCO) remains committed to and galvanized around its mission to mobilize community in efforts that uplift children and families impacted by foster care in Central Oregon.

We're humbled and so grateful to say that in spite of pandemic-related challenges, our nonprofit has continued to evolve and feels increasingly empowered to help those we serve. However, we're not naïve in the critical importance of our strength and sustainability, which is why we've been investing in proactive planning strategies—both for the short and long term. It feels good to be taking the time and getting the professional guidance that will help ensure we're not just here today but for the long haul, able to provide real solutions to those we serve and remain a source of joy and hope for them all.

Look for specific news in our upcoming annual report about some of the goals and strategies the ECCO team has been developing. And never forget that we are only as strong as the love and support you give us, so please—if you haven't already done so—reach out and let us know how you'd like to become involved or more invested in seeing our mission succeed.

Finally, keep an eye out for our 2022 end-of-year giving campaign, launching Nov. 10 and providing lots of incentives to inspire giving this season! *Every penny counts.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Williams".

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'THE NEIGHBORHOOD' GROWTH IS GOOD...

YET FAMILIES ARE STILL WAITING FOR MORE GROUPS TO WRAP AROUND AND SUPPORT THEIR FOSTER NEEDS

400+

of children experiencing foster care annually in Central Oregon

82

of foster homes approved and in use today

It's always super telling when Every Child Central Oregon (ECCO) programs gain fast traction, and that's exactly what's been happening with The Neighborhood this past year. Launched in January 2021, The Neighborhood supports foster families by engaging volunteers who, for a six-month period, provide assistance—specifically, two meals a month plus one act of kindness—through a small-group, high-impact model of community.

Last year, we had two families enrolled in The Neighborhood program yet in 2022, ran 11 Neighborhoods, including eight new ones, and mobilized nearly 80 volunteers in groups ranging in size from four to 12 people.

"Central Oregonians are stepping up to help," says Shiann Schmidt, ECCO's volunteer coordinator.

"Even still, we have a significant waitlist for fosters families who have signed up and are waiting for those helping hands. While individuals can always indicate to us their desire to be part of a Neighborhood group, what works best is for pre-formed groups to come to us with the desire to help. So, for example, that might be a book club, church, business, sports team, a homeowners or business association, or any other kind of organized group that wants to give back in this way."

Anyone interested in helping start or participating in such a group is encouraged to contact ECCO immediately. We have families throughout Central Oregon who have requested assistance, wishing to be "wrapped" by love and care through this program—right now!



(Pictured left and on newsletter title page: One of our Neighborhood groups put together plentiful baskets of fun snacks, gifts and inspiration for the family they chose to serve.

REAL ESTATE ORGANIZATIONS JOIN NEW 'HOMES FOR HOMES' RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

FORMALIZED AND FRESHLY LAUNCHED, NEW COLLABORATION STRIVES TO BOOST FOSTER CARE RECRUITMENT NUMBERS

The need for more foster homes ready to welcome children experiencing foster care has hit crisis level, which has left child welfare workers scrambling to find appropriate, approved homes where children can land. In its ongoing effort to reverse this trend and help raise foster-care recruitment numbers, Every Child Central Oregon (ECCO) is turning for help from what it believes is a natural partner: the real estate industry.

Through the new "Homes for Homes" program, organizations affiliated with real estate (e.g., brokers, lenders, escrow agents, etc.) are given marketing tools to communicate with clients the need for more foster families and to advertise their advocacy position. Meanwhile, partners also commit to donate a small portion of sales (e.g., \$50 per transaction) to ECCO. Are you in the real estate/housing industry and looking for a powerful way to make a difference in your back yard—one that ties directly to your line of work? Visit our webpage today: <https://everychildcentraloregon.org/homes-for-homes/>. Or, for more information or to book a short, complimentary Homes for Homes presentation at your place of work, contact us: m.williams@everychildcentraloregon.org.



Let's Get Social!

Three Great Reasons to Connect With ECCO Online:

- 1. Our mission rocks**—get real-time news and stories about how we're serving it (and how you can help).
- 2. ECCO and our community partners host tons of great events**, everything from Family Respite Nights to fundraisers, education/awareness opportunities, free activities for youth in foster care, and so much more—get in on the action!
- 3. Engagement matters.** Respond to our posts, share your thoughts and perspectives with us, and we will listen to you.

Connect With Us!

Instagram handle: [everychildco](#)
Facebook: [Every Child Central Oregon](#)



FIRST INTERSTATE BANK PUTS A FOCUS ON FOSTER CARE

ACTS OF KINDNESS, GRATITUDE AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT
DRIVE AND SUSTAIN ECCO'S MISSION.

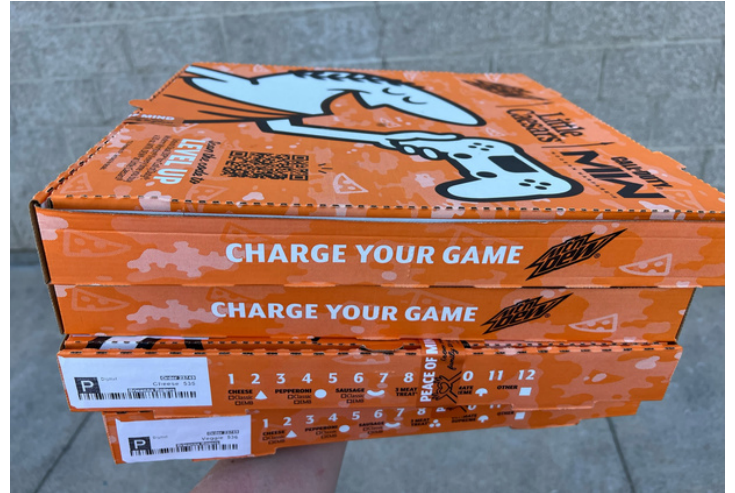


This quarter, Every Child Central Oregon (ECCO) is giving a major shoutout to First Interstate Bank (FIB) and its fearless volunteer coordinator Tiffany Carter. Tiffany's personal experience in foster care and her passion for supporting kids and families experiencing foster care led her to ignite a spark among employees at FIB. Her commitment and perseverance has had more than a positive impact... it's spurred the FIB staff to choose ECCO to be on the receiving end of a number of volunteer programs and service projects.

For FIB Serve Day, staff at various branches shopped for clothing and created 122 clothing bundles for kids entering care and wrote 200 encouraging notes to kids in care as well as 150+ thank-you notes for Child Welfare Staff. They also helped paint the house of a foster family. In addition to all these acts of kindness and tangible contributions, FIB recently awarded ECCO with a \$10,000 grant, which will go directly to support ECCO's mission and goals. We are beyond grateful for this incredible focus on behalf of FIB, which is making a big impact in the lives of people who serve families and youth in foster care as well as those amazing guardians and the kids and teens themselves!



NOTES AND NICETIES FROM NATIONAL HOSPITALITY WEEK



October 9-16 was National Hospitality Week, an opportunity to demonstrate radical love-in-action for child welfare staff throughout our country. Every Child Central Oregon teamed up with volunteers and spent the week celebrating our regional DHS staff, showering them with festive meals and fun treats, plus handwritten thank-you notes, courtesy of First Interstate Bank who volunteered their time, artistic flair and kind words.

Pint Night Fundraiser And Holiday Gift Drive Kickoff—Join Us!

AVID
CIDER CO


When: Thurs., Nov. 10, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Who: Open to the public

Where: Avid Cider Co., 550 SW Industrial Way, Bend

What: Fundraiser for Every Child Central Oregon: portion of pint proceeds benefit our nonprofit. AND we're launching our regional holiday gift/toy drive!

THIS YEAR, ECCO HAS MET MORE REQUESTS FOR NEEDS IN NINE MONTH'S TIME THAN IN ALL OF 2021



My NeighbOR is an emergency response system, serving Oregon's most vulnerable children and youth. We are connecting goods and services from community members to families and youth impacted by foster care in our area.

You can provide supplies, create a Flash Box, purchase a gift card for a family, or give funds to help us meet the needs of vulnerable families. [Sign up here!](#)



257

#MY NEIGHBOR REQUESTS MET IN CENTRAL OREGON, YEAR TO DATE 2022

\$8K

AMOUNT GIFTED IN BACK-TO-SCHOOL GIFT CARDS, PROVIDING NEW CLOTHES FOR EVERY CHILD IN FOSTER CARE WHO REQUESTED HELP

1,100

#INDIVIDUAL NEEDS & TANGIBLE GOODS PROVIDED BY MY NEIGHBOR IN CENTRAL OREGON, YEAR TO DATE 2022

LOVE THIS NEWSLETTER?

Share If You Care!

Online Version Available at:

<https://everychildcentraloregon.org/press/newsletter-fall-2022>

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