



Annual Report  
Calendar Year: 2022

# OUR MISSION

Every Child Mobilizes Community to Uplift Children  
and Families Impacted by Foster Care in Oregon.

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## Friends, Partners and Donors,

Right there on the cover of this Annual Report is our mission statement. It's front and center, clear for all to see and read, and a powerful purpose that we truly feel resonates with you.

But take a closer look. At the heart of our mission statement is one word around which everything happens in this organization. The word is "mobilization." It guides us every day—sort of like the North Star for Every Child Central Oregon (ECCO). And it's a powerful word when you think about it. It's a word that's commanding in nature. Collective. Compassionate. And very, very action-oriented in the most courageous sense of the word.

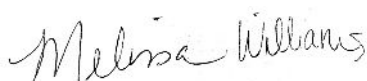
If there's anything to say about 2022 and three years of going strong, it's that we're not only mobilizing to effect change but improving how we mobilize. And that has been intentional. Examples include:

- Recruiting **record numbers of volunteers**—870 in 2022!
- Improving systems (e.g., **"Time Counts"** technology) around how we plug in and activate those volunteers to do truly meaningful work
- Boosting efficiencies of strategic programs, like our new **Liaison Program**, so these offerings are effective and truly helpful for those who roll them out and those who benefit from them
- Building more cherished partnerships, while equally focusing on **partnership retention**
- Inspiring our friends, fans and those we serve with **powerful impact stories**
- Developing hospitality and education solutions for Oregon Department of Human Service staff, including **"welcome kits"** informing new employees about ECCO services, contacts and resources
- Kicking off our **Homes for Homes** real estate partnership program, with a goal to double partnerships in 2023

That said, don't just take my word for it. Please read on and discover why the wellbeing of ECCO only gets better, year after year. And more importantly, notice how we're living out ECCO's mission through the very real mobilization of our community, which is wrapping around those we serve—the children and families experiencing foster care, Oregon Department of Human Services, and our three core counties of focus, Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson, plus the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

May 2023 be our best year yet. And may *you* feel that power of being *mobilized*, continuing to join us and be part of it! We are so grateful for you!

Melissa Williams  
Executive Director, Every Child Central Oregon



## BUNDLES OF GOOD NEWS WITH PARTNERSHIPS, THEIR COMMITMENT & THEIR COMPASSION



One of Every Child Central Oregon's mission-driven services is providing clothing bundles and Welcome Boxes to the youth we serve, as needed. When entering a foster care home, having clean, new clothes, plus a gift box of both personal essentials and uplifting items, is proven to help ease the transition and provide confidence, comfort and reassurance in an unfamiliar home and environment.

In 2022, we turned to our community partners to help improve our clothing bundles service so that we're getting a steady stream of clothes, they are properly bundled by age/size/gender, and the inventory at Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) is managed by a seamless, timely system. Part of this has included the integration of new "liaisons" who make sure the bundles and other tangibles are stocked at ODHS and that the system for getting them to the youth in need is easy and functional. Our sincere thanks goes out to these liaisons and the following community partners who, together, have significantly improved our clothing bundles and Welcome Box outreach:

**Morning Star Christian School: 100+ bundles • New Hope Church: 150+ clothing bundles • Pregnancy Resource Center: 30+ clothing bundles donated & ongoing monthly bundle commitment • Assistance League of Bend: 200+ bundles donated & ongoing monthly bundle commitment • United Way of Central Oregon: grant for clothing bundles & car seats for Jefferson County • Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation: car seats for Jefferson County youth • First Interstate Bank: 150+ clothing bundles + 80 Welcome Boxes • Hayden Homes: \$10,000 to support Deschutes County car seats and clothing bundles • Baby 2 Baby: Over 30,000 diapers donated for all of Central Oregon • Thermo Fisher: 240 Welcome Boxes in both English and Spanish • Redmond Proficiency Academy: 30 Welcome Boxes • Journey Church-Redmond: Volunteered, donating time to assemble 80 clothing bundles.**



## A COORDINATED COMMUNITY RALLIES TO MAKE HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING MIRACLES HAPPEN

Every Child Central Oregon (ECCO) is thrilled to announce its most successful holiday gift-giving campaign to date! This year, dozens of businesses and organizations rallied to help, placing collection bins in their locations and thereby facilitating holiday miracles for Central Oregon youth experiencing foster care. In addition, four organizations stepped in as "Wish List Partners," collectively taking on nearly 200 unique wish lists, meeting each and every wish—and need.

"The commitment of those who participated either by hosting a donation bin or serving as a Wish List Partner was just remarkable," says Brianna Rogers, ECCO's community investment coordinator. "And of course, all those who donated made a huge impact, lifting the spirits of youth this past holiday season and helping them feel valued. We know times are tight for so many, yet it was truly an extraordinary effort in giving all-around!"

Below is a list of both our Wishlist Partners as well as the organizations that hosted bins.



**Wishlist Partners:** Facebook (12 Crook County youth wishlists fulfilled); City of Bend Police Department (48 Bend youth wishlists fulfilled); Hayden Homes (58 Central Oregon youth wishlists fulfilled); and Costco (79 Central Oregon youth wishlists fulfilled).

**Gift Bin Hosts/Drive Locations:** Amity Creek Magnet School • Bend Nazarene Church • Dollar General in Culver • Elite Medi Spa • First Interstate Bank in Sisters, Redmond and in Bend at 3rd & Revere and Century Dr. • General Duffy's • Hixon Mortgage • Jessica Anderson State Farm Insurance • Journey Church in Bend • Latino Community Assoc. in Redmond • Mariposa Real Estate • Mountain View Fellowship Church • Open Space Studios • Otto's Landing • Premier Property Group • Prineville Facebook Data Center • ReMax Key Properties • SAIF • Signet Realty • Southside Pub • Strategic Realty • Summit High School, Social Justice Club • Total Real Estate Group • West Coast Provisions Market

## WHEN WISHES COME TRUE: A MOTHER'S STORY...

It felt like a blessing enough for Ann (name changed to protect privacy) to have her children out of foster care and back home. She was reunified with those four bright, loving faces and just in time for Christmas. But some of the merriment instantly faded when Ann realized the stark, tough truth: Times were very tight for her. Ann's financial situation would make it impossible for her to buy gifts, particularly the ones her kids really wanted and deserved.

But that all changed when she learned about Every Child Central Oregon's (ECCO) Annual Holiday Gift Drive.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of toy and gift-card donations received through this initiative, ECCO met all her kids' wish lists, fulfilling every single item. For them, Christmas this past year was merry and bright, not just because of what they found under their tree but because this mother felt both blessed and rewarded, having worked so hard to bring her children safely home after their experience in foster care.



## ECCO GRANTORS, MAKING GOODNESS POSSIBLE

**In 2022, we were so blessed by the financial support of a number of sustaining donors as well as new grantors who joined us in our mission, whether supporting Every Child Central Oregon (ECCO) financially or through in-kind, donated items. Here are the gifts—and the givers...**

- **Bend Foundation:** \$5,000 to support ECCO's mission
- **Central Oregon Health Council:** \$40,000+ for recruitment and retention efforts, plus volunteer coordination/community engagement
- **Chambers Family Foundation:** \$2,500 for Deschutes County volunteer recruitment/retention
- **Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation:** \$5,000 toward car seats for Deschutes County
- **Les Schwab (pictured right):** \$7,500 to support My NeighbOR and fulfill emergent, tangible needs in Crook County; also donated 150 new toys during Annual Holiday Gift Drive (recurring donor!)
- **First Interstate Bank:** \$10K to support ECCO's mission
- **Oregon Community Foundation:** \$18,929 of donor-advised funds for our executive director staff position and ECCO's mission
- **Redmond Spirit Foundation:** \$2,000 for Flash Boxes given to Redmond providers for foster care appreciation
- **Roundhouse Foundation:** \$5,000 for emergency tangibles and community investment coordinator position
- **Sunriver Women's Club:** \$3,000 for South Deschutes County recruitment and retention
- **United Way of Central Oregon:** \$7,000 for recruitment and retention efforts (recurring donor!)
- **WHH Foundation:** \$10,000 to support ECCO's Mission





## OUR LIAISONS, A VITAL LINK AMPLIFYING IMPACT



New in 2022, Every Child Central Oregon's kicked off its Liaison Program (learn more, page 3), which recruits and trains volunteers to act as liaisons on behalf of Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). These volunteers work behind the scenes, collecting clothing bundles and tangible goods donated on behalf of community partners, organizing and stocking bundles, and keeping track of the inventory system, addressing needs as they arise. In 2023, we plan to expand and reinforce this program and are seeking more liaisons to serve in Bend, Madras, Prineville and Redmond. Interested in stepping into the role? Contact Shiann Schmidt, ECCO's volunteer coordinator at 541.760.2576; [s.schmidt@everychildcentraloregon.org](mailto:s.schmidt@everychildcentraloregon.org).



### A LIAISON IN THE LIMELIGHT: AMANDA MEISSEL, MANDRAS LIAISON

“

I discovered Every Child Central Oregon (ECCO) as I was searching for local volunteer opportunities that would impact kids in foster care. Other than becoming a foster (resource) parent, I wasn't sure what that help could look like. Learning about Every Child Central Oregon, I was instantly inspired and excited by their mission and unique programs. I knew I had to get involved!

The services that are offered and the connections that ECOO is able to make are unlike any other organization I know of. The needs that Every Child fills, from tangible goods to raising awareness and building relationships between resource families and individuals within the community, are things that are often overlooked but so integral to the success and positive experience of kids in care and the families that open their home to them. Small yet thoughtful acts of kindness extend not only to foster families but to caseworkers and those at ODHS offices who are putting in hard work for kids in care. The impact of these services are immediately felt by those receiving them, and that is part of what I feel is so special about what Every Child does.

The Every Child team is such a dedicated group of individuals who do an amazing job of building relationships across many different spectrums of people and groups in communities. I feel so fortunate to be a small part of such a large movement that is all working to ensure children have a safe and supportive environment to call their home. It is such a rewarding experience to witness relationships being built. It truly puts a smile on my face each time I can help in being a part of getting a tangible good to a child or family through my role as liaison. Every Child has shown me there are so many opportunities and ways to get involved to support kids in care. I always think of the saying 'it takes a village,' and Every Child is bringing that village (communities) together for kids. I can't think of a better way to invest my time, and I cannot wait to see the things that will be accomplished in the coming years! — Amanda Meissel, picture above, left

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## A VOLUNTEER'S JOURNEY: NINA VARGAS, SISTERS

When Nina Vargas moved from California to Central Oregon in 2021, she was no stranger to the world of foster care. A kind-hearted soul who'd always had a deep-seated desire to help children experiencing foster care, she'd initiated the training for it in California. But then when she moved to Sisters, she learned per state law that she'd need to start the process anew in Oregon. No problem...she dove right in, connecting with Every Child Central Oregon (ECCO).



Pictured here (left to right) at Cascade Relays fundraiser: Dania Meza with Oregon Department of Human Service, volunteer Nina Vargas, and ECCO's volunteer coordinator Shiann Schmidt.

Since then, she's been experiencing ECCO from a very all-encompassing approach, volunteering for events, such as the Cascade Relay fundraiser, My NeighbOR tangible support, and the Neighborhood program, through which she joined three other individuals to wrap around a youth in foster care with a family in Sisters.

Together, they provided two meals plus an act of kindness monthly to this youth and family, which didn't just respond by receiving the support but engaging in a relationship with the Sisters-based Neighborhood volunteers.

"One day we got together for a picnic, having wonderful food and conversation," Nina says. "We played games...and I even brought my French bulldog, which they loved. In the end, this family knew we were more than just people dropping off meals. They knew we

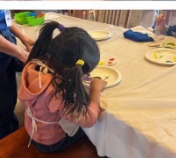
were really there for them, and it's just such a beautiful program, bringing families like this and the Neighborhood community together."

Nina says that she really wanted to invest in the organization, which in the not-too-distant future will be supporting her in her journey of providing foster care. In fact, already, she's planning to volunteer at upcoming Foster Parent Nights Out and been informed that a Sisters business has stepped forward to be a Neighborhood partner when her time as a foster parent comes.

"Now that I'm a certified foster parent, it's really exciting," she says. "And it's great to know that there's already so much support, right here, from people in Sisters. I feel very grateful, and knowing I have that support gives me a lot of confidence and reassurance going forward!"



## FOSTER PARENT NIGHT OUT: RESPIRE FOR FAMILIES + RAD FUN FOR KIDS



One of the ways Every Child Central Oregon (ECCO) continues to wrap around youth and families experiencing foster care is with its Foster Parent Night Out (FPNO) service. Sometimes it's a night out, sometimes it's a day out, but both are opportunities for guardians to drop off the kids for activities, games and entertainment while they get a break, perhaps doing something they enjoy or need to do. This service runs November thru May, offering seven respite events. Offered to a consistent group of families and orchestrated by ECCO and its volunteers, it's been a BIG hit and source of connection!

As Katie McGowan, FPNO volunteer site coordinator, said, "We had one kiddo, age 13, who didn't want to come to FPNO. She decided to come with her younger siblings but really wasn't interested at first.

She ended up connecting with her class lead, Barbara, and had a great day. She then asked Barbara if she could come back and help serve in a leadership role in her classroom. Barbara is excited to grow in her connection with this teen youth, supporting her desire to grow in leadership."

### Social Media: Engaged and Growing

647

Followers January  
2022



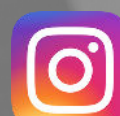
746

Followers January  
2023

15+%

272

Followers January  
2022



679

Followers January  
2023

149+%



\$41,629

Value of In-Kind  
Donations 2022

458

Tangible Requests

380

Tangible Requests Met

83%

Fulfillment Rate

1,788

Total Number of Items  
Distributed

## MYNEIGHBOR MAKING STRIDES

In just three years' time, the MyNeighbOR program has gained big strides, mobilizing community response to timely needs, expressed by foster families and youth in foster care.

Central Oregon continues to open its hearts and wallets, fulfilling needs such as: clothing, shoes, diapers, and support for extra-curricular activities, sports and enrichment.

Help Someone in YOUR Back Yard.

Join MyNeighbOR Today!

<https://everychildoregon.org/centraloregon/get-involved/myneighbor/>







## SAVE THE DATE!

We're so excited to be hosting our annual Cheers to the Year, an event honoring our amazing volunteers, donors and community partners! If you fall into that "bucket," please join us for this fun evening of appreciation and celebration. Come enjoy connection, a drink on us, and delicious appetizers! This event is graciously sponsored by Bennington Properties!

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<https://everychildoregon.org/centraloregon/stories/annual-report-2022/>

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