

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

MAJOR MY NEIGHBOR UPGRADE: NEW, MASSIVE WAREHOUSE TO CENTRALIZE STORAGE, MEETING GROWING NEEDS OF DONATIONS AND TANGIBLE GOODS



Every Child Central Oregon (ECCO) is bursting with excitement as the crew has just unveiled a fantastic upgrade to the My Neighbor program. ECCO is ditching seven tiny storage units and moving into a massive 1,932-square-foot warehouse, centrally located in Redmond. This warehouse, now catering to both growing and unique needs without the hassle of juggling multiple storage spaces, will enhance the success and impact the program, which systematizes the donation of tangible goods and financial gifts to youth and families in foster care.

As Melissa Williams, ECCO's executive director, says, "With this dedicated space, we can house and organize everything, even those giant donations, like thousands of diapers at once! It's a phenomenal boost for this program, and a testimony to its proven and future ability to meet community needs."

Brianna Rogers, ECCO's programs manager, recalls the program's humble beginnings in 2019 when donations trickled in via random texts, emails, and phone calls, primarily from faith partners. Fast forward to today, it's successful in big part thanks to high-tech tools, plus a dedicated team of four who manage requests, stock and organize the warehouse, and ensure that the needs are met.

(Story continues, Page 2)



The warehouse isn't just a storage upgrade, it's a game-changer. It enables ECCO to serve tri-county clients more efficiently, stock a greater variety of items, and explore new partnerships, all leading to more reliable support for My NeighbOR requests.

"We dream of fulfilling the needs of new community partners and clients we've had to turn down because of space and capacity constraints," Rogers says. "Plus, the warehouse is our new playground for volunteers. It's where magic happens, where large volunteer groups unite, and where you can make a real difference."

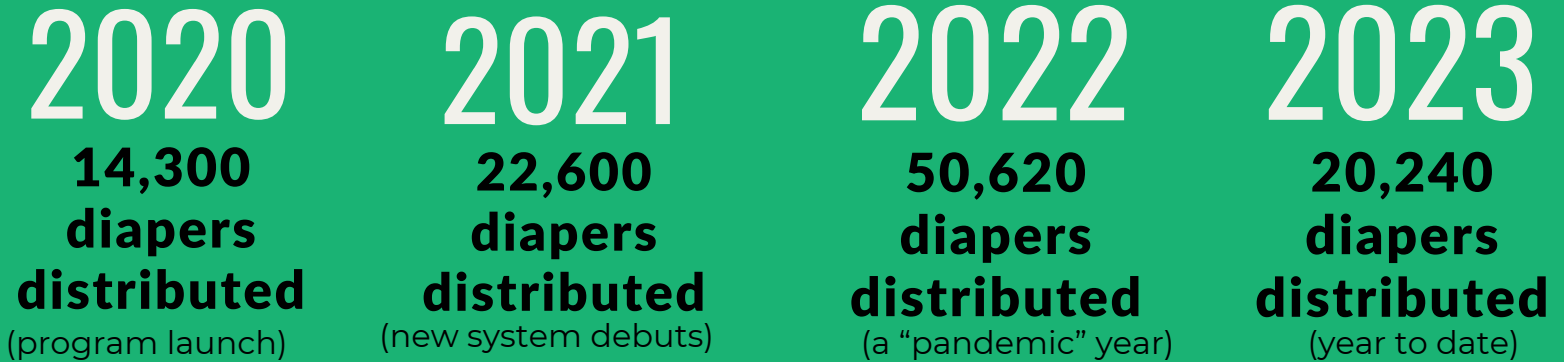


Ready to Pitch in and Support My NeighbOR?

1. Become a sustaining donor, giving just \$20 monthly over three years = BIG impact!. [Start today!](#)
2. Volunteer at our warehouse—either on your own or bring a crew in tow! [Contact us to lend a hand!](#)

Between 2020 and Fall 2023: In-Kind Donations: \$203K; Requests Met: 2,513 But the Details Are in the Diapers...

My NeighbOR collects tangible goods and financial donations for youth and families experiencing foster care in the tri-county region of Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties, and The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. While donations can include unique goods or services, most items include: clothes and shoes, school supplies, toys, personal hygiene products, car seats, retail gift cards, and, of course, diapers. In fact, the diaper load sheds big light on the scope of need—specifically as the multitude of requests that roll in year round.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF STACY HORMEL, PERMANENCY SUPERVISOR, JEFFERSON COUNTY CHILD WELFARE

When Stacy Hormel was a sophomore in college, completing her prerequisites for nursing school, she lived in an apartment that shared a wall with a single mother. Because their bathrooms also used the same shower vent, Stacy could overhear everything from next door, including the mother spanking her children one night. After that, and having noticed the children being neglected at times, Stacy reported what she'd witnessed to child welfare services—an action that would change both the children's lives and her own forever.

"It's a very vivid memory, the day I got that a follow-up call from the screener," she says. "She called to say that because of my report, DHS was able to intervene and ensure the children's safety. And that's when I knew what I wanted to do with my life. I immediately changed my studies and went into sociology instead."

After graduation from Eastern Oregon University in 2016, she began working for Mosaic Medical, delving into social work and child welfare. Then in 2017, Stacy, who'd married and started a family in Prineville, embarked on a career in child protective services with Crook County, where she worked for six solid years.

"It's never been easy, but my heart was just in it...the job just clicked for me," she says, noting that she found a sense of purpose in making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children.

However, change was on the horizon, when, Stacy transitioned last year into a coaching and training specialist role, supporting new child welfare workers in Redmond, Prineville and Madras. Most recently she moved into the permanency supervisor position in Jefferson County, hiring and supporting new and seasoned case workers in Madras. While the move from protective services to being a permanency supervisor has been significant, she's found it a welcome change.

"There's been a big shift in how the state sees child welfare—the vision is all about to keep families together and upholds the belief that children are better when they are able to be maintained in the home with safety plans or living with supportive families members," Stacy says. "I now serve families in a different capacity, overseeing a team of case workers who are striving to achieve permanency for children and teens through adoption, reunification, or guardianship."

Helping support this mission is Every Child Central Oregon (ECCO). Stacy says that over the past few years, ever since ECCO started helping ODHS and the youth and families they serve, she's been blown away by the nonprofit's ability to address such a range of needs, whenever they're needed. From the resource closets packed with vital supplies to gift cards, clean clothes, car seats and more, Stacy says all the support has transformed the experience for their clients and helped build more case worker-client trust.

"When families realize that they have a partner in their child welfare worker, they are more willing to collaborate and strive for positive outcomes," she says, adding that, without a doubt, ECCO's support has undoubtedly played a direct and very remarkable role in enabling and strengthening that partnership.



RESOURCE CLOSETS: WHAT YOUR DOLLARS DO

\$20

avg. cost of box of baby
wipes

\$30

avg. cost of diapers

\$50

avg. cost of clothing bundle

\$125

avg. cost of car seat

ECCO OUT AND ABOUT: FUNDRAISERS, FUN AND FULFILLMENT



Tickets Now on Presale for Boujee Bingo—Join Us! Not Your Ordinary Bingo...It's a Dressy Affair for Ages 18+



<https://everychildcentraloregon-bloom.kindful.com/e/boujee-bingo>

You're invited to help us hit our annual fundraising goal, playing for BIG payouts that include high-dollar prizes and cash wins starting at \$500. Table purchases includes a personal charcuterie for 2, 4, 6 or 8 people. All funds raised support the My NeighBOR program! Buy tickets today...early bird ticket prices end soon!



Friday, Dec. 8, 7-9:30 p.m.



High Desert Music Hall in Redmond,
Hosted by Dustin Riley Events



\$60,000

2023 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$43,697

CURRENT FUNDS RAISED

LOVE THIS NEWSLETTER?

Share If You Care!

Online Version Available at:

<https://everychildoregon.org/centraloregon/stories/fall-2023-newsletter/>

CREATIVE DESIGN CREATED BY:

Katie Roberts

WriteOnPoint! Communications

www.katie-roberts.com