



Every Child

Annual Report
Calendar Year: 2023

OUR MISSION

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

www.everychildoregon.org/centraloregon
541.610.9455
m.williams@everychildcentraloregon.org

Friends, Partners and Donors,

In 2023, the momentum of mobilization around Every Child Central Oregon's mission took on an extraordinary force, multiplying in ways unimaginable. Since our launch in 2019, this past year has been defined by its *abundance*.

Of note, we met our annual campaign appeal, thanks to the generosity of community donors, numerous successful fundraisers, and incredible grantors. Adding to that excitement, we moved—thanks to our crew of amazing volunteers and staff, into a new, large warehouse centrally located in Redmond. It has amplified our ability to receive, organize, store, and distribute a much greater number and variety of tangible goods under one roof versus multiple, smaller locations throughout the tri-county region. (Read more about the warehouse on the next page!) But more importantly, it's easing so many stressors around the foster care experience as articulated by one parent who, already a foster parent, took on more "bonus" children recently. She sums up the impact of this holistic resource so beautifully:

"I went there to just pick up diapers and wipes and was met with the invitation to select a toy for each child (this was the first time I felt like my bonus kiddos were treated as individuals, and it was such a joy picking out something meant just for them and their specific interests). I wasn't expecting that, and it was such a positive experience and breath of fresh air to not feel like these innocent children are just a name on a paper but an actual whole child with their own personalities, unique styles, and interests. I was also given a couple of outfits and sippy cups, which were both such a nice surprise and yet again helped me meet a physical need, so I can focus more of my energy meeting their emotional needs and supporting them in such a difficult time."

We're so grateful for this heartfelt feedback. And for our staff, volunteers, and friends at Oregon Department of Human Services, the warehouse is also such a gift...it's not just making their jobs easier but giving them a place to experience connection and amplify the mission that we collectively serve. On many levels, in many ways, abundance abounds—and for that, we give thanks and feel poised for more growth in 2024 and beyond.

Melissa Williams
Executive Director, Every Child Central Oregon

Melissa Williams



EXPANSIVE WAREHOUSE ENHANCES EFFICIENCY AND SERVICE EXPERIENCES



300

Tangible Needs Met, 90%
Fulfillment Rate, 2023



50K

Diapers Distributed to Central
Oregon Tri-County Region, 2023



\$125K

In-Kind Donation
Support, 2023

Three Fun Facts:

1. Top Requested Items: clothing, car seats & diapers
2. Over 200 new coats collected during annual coat drive
3. Four MacBooks and 74 iPhones distributed thanks to St. Charles Foundation
4. Not surprising, but appreciated: needs of biological families served, too
5. At Fall Trunk-or-Treat: 150 pairs of shoes donated

The unveiling of the new, expansive Every Child Central Oregon (ECCO) warehouse marks a monumental stride in bolstering support for families and youth navigating the complexities of foster care. This upgraded facility stands as a beacon of hope, eclipsing previous options with its capacity to provide a comprehensive offering of tangible goods swiftly and efficiently. Now, those we serve walk out the door not just one or two items, but a whole range of goods that ensure holistic care and support, enabling them to thrive.

"The old storage unit was unorganized, smaller, and darker," says Debbie, a permanency case worker with Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). "Now when you walk through the doors, the new warehouse is like a shopping experience! The coats are now on racks, and the clothes, labeled by size, are easy to find. The toys are labeled by gender and age, and on easy, reachable shelves. It is also nice to have someone there to greet, help, and talk with you so if you need other items that caseworkers need, the volunteers and staff can help pick and find those items for you."

At about 2,000 square feet, the warehouse's sheer size accommodates a diverse array of essentials and comfort items, everything from diapers to car seats, strollers, clothes, toys, games, sports equipment, and more. Meanwhile, the processes and systems developed to support the warehouse ensure timely access to these items, revolutionizing this aspect of the foster experience for the better. (Story continues, next page)

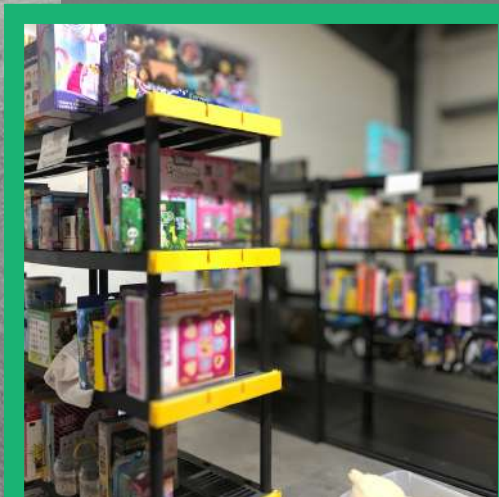
(story continued from the prior page)

The warehouse is a tremendous upgrade from the past services that ECCO provided," says Teri, a social service assistant with ODHS. "We are now able to promptly help families fulfill their urgent needs for clothing, diapers, bedding and so much more. Not only is the new service fast, but items are clean and organized."

With this major upgrade, Every Child Central Oregon is mobilizing around needs more effectively but also through in-person assistance to whomever walks through the warehouse doors. All this has had a huge impact on the families experiencing foster care and facing a whirlwind of change. Over and over, ECCO receives messages and comments of sincere thanks, reinforcing to us the value behind every aspect of the warehouse, from the facility itself to the donations it houses, the volunteers, liaisons, and staff who supervise and support it, and the people who "shop" it, smiling and grateful for all it provides.

As one parent providing foster care recently wrote: "Saying 'yes' to a placement has never been a decision that we make lightly, and knowing that we can count on Every Child Central Oregon to help us provide some of the basics such as diapers, car seats, strollers, and highchairs is heaven-sent."

"With Every Child's help, we know our kids will get what they need, especially at a time when they have very little," she says. "We recently received placement of twins, making us a family of eight, with four kids under the age of four. We reached out to Every Child for help with our needs, and I seriously cried in being overwhelmed with gratitude and in awe of their generosity. We are forever grateful...the work that they do to help kids in need is outstanding!"



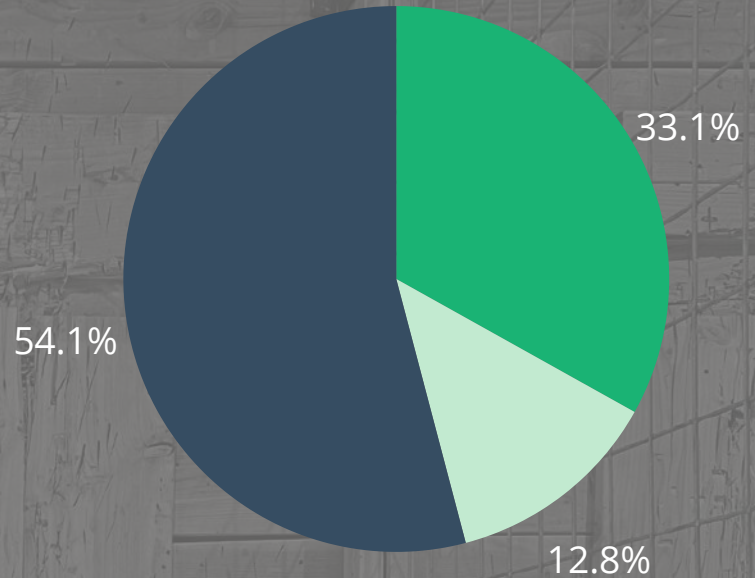
OUR NOTES ON THE NUMBERS: FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

Businesses
\$79,331

Individuals
\$205,913

Grants Awarded
\$335,500

Some grants awarded in 2023, but restricted to use in 2024-2026.

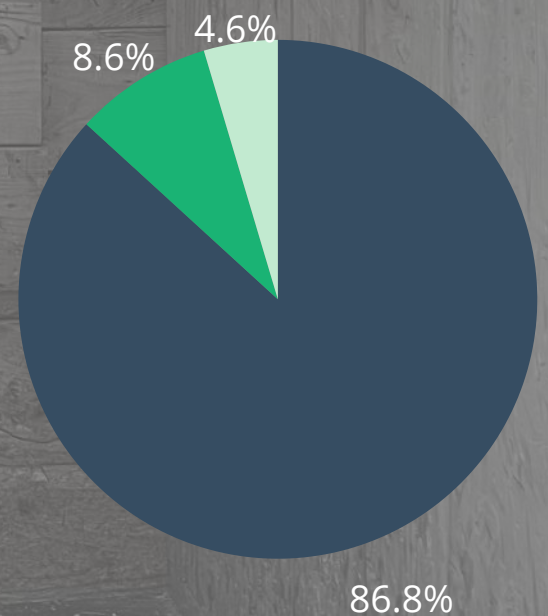


Fundraising
\$20,532

Admin. & Management
\$38,387

Program Services
\$386,992

Above financials pending final audit.



HOLIDAY GIVING: AN ABUNDANT AFFAIR

The 2023 holiday season marked our biggest, most successful gift drive yet! With the commitment and support of major gift-giving partners and 18 organizations throughout Central Oregon that served as gift-drop sites, the experience of giving was more extensive, customized, and accessible than ever!

Of note, people wishing to donate also capitalized on the ease of our Amazon holiday wish list, which captured the very real and specific wishes and needs of youth experiencing foster care. Here are a few fun facts that accelerated the impact, making this year's drive a super generous and jolly one!

- **Four businesses** fulfilled **150 wish lists** submitted by Central Oregon children in foster care: **Costco** (3rd-year partner), **Bend Police Department** (2nd-year partner), **Prineville Data Center/Meta** (2nd-year partner), and **Big Foot Beverages** (new partner).
- We were a second-year-in-a-row recipient of gifts from the **Les Schwab Tire Centers Toy Drive** hosted by **News Channel 21 KTVZ**.
- Community donations fulfilled **80 wish lists** for children at the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.
- Thanks to our **huge warehouse space**, we served all wish list wants and needs received, right up to Christmas Eve, ensuring every child had gifts to open and that joy was brought to their holidays.



18 Fabulous Local Organizations Serve as Community Holiday Gift Drive Donation Spots

Mariposa Real Estate • Premier Property Group • Latino Community Association Redmond • Summit High School • Bend Nazarene Church • First Interstate Bank - Redmond • Hixon Mortgage • First Interstate Bank - Sisters • State Farm - Jessica Anderson • Guild Mortgage - Cheri Smith • Sunriver Police Department • Mountain View Fellowship Church • Feast Food Company • Total Real Estate Group • R&H Construction • Sisters Movie House • Remax Key Properties • Tumble Inn Tavern

EMBRACING FAMILIES IN NEED: VOLUNTEERS AND PROGRAMS WRAP THEM WITH LOVE

Perhaps one of the most powerful aspects of Every Child Central Oregon (ECCO) is the synergy created when volunteers come aboard, learn how to support our families experiencing foster care, and work in tandem with case workers and ECCO staff to ensure the best outcomes possible for those families.

Lane Weiss, who, as part of Redmond Collective Action Neighborhood, is one such volunteer. A lifelong educator who has an intrinsic drive to help

youth and families with unique needs, he jumped in as a new member of the Neighborhood. Along with other volunteers in the small group, he wraps around a Redmond foster family to provide meals, dole out acts of kindness, facilitate access to resources, and simply be a consistent, caring connection.

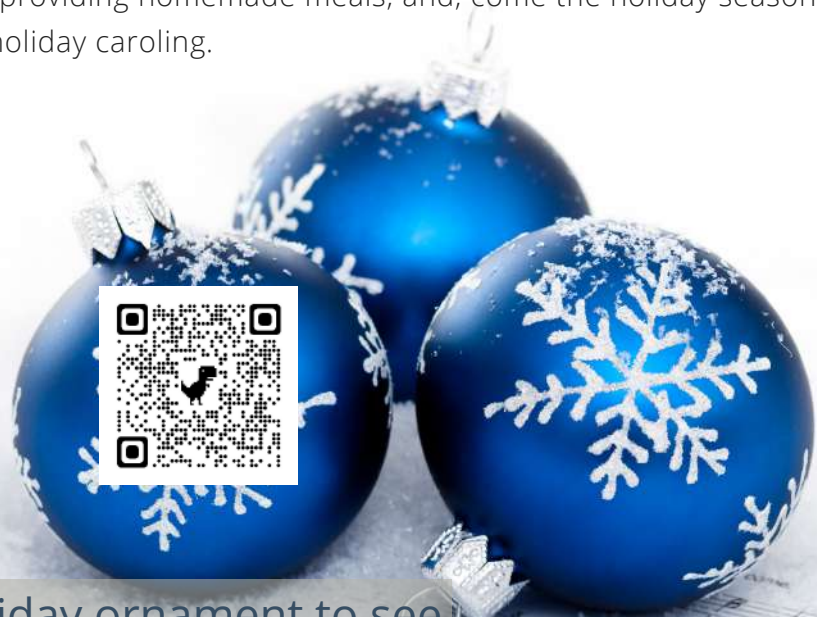
"I had butterflies in my stomach the first time I went to their house," says Lane, recalling his introduction to the foster family that he and several other volunteers have committed to support. "Seeing the look on the mom's face and kids' faces at breakfast is something I'll never forget. They could see I was a little kid at heart, and we made a special connection."

That particular day, Lane helped by doing a dump run. The whole Neighborhood group later lent a hand by taking the kids back-to-school shopping, providing homemade meals, and, come the holiday season, joining the other volunteers and friends in holiday caroling.

"The caroling was about the kids, but the look on the mom's face was priceless," Lane says. "She told me, 'I've never had anyone sing to me before. And this is what music is about—elevating the human spirit with happiness. The kids loved the Rudolph song and sang along. It was wonderful to see the magic of Christmas.'"



Redmond Collective Neighborhood volunteer group (left to right): Deborah Furman, Liz Goodrich, Lane Weiss, Susan Maffai (center, bottom) and Kristi Gaffery (not pictured).



Scan holiday ornament to see a Neighborhood in action!

SAFE, SUPPORTIVE EXPERIENCES EMPOWER CHILDREN AND VOLUNTEERS TO THRIVE

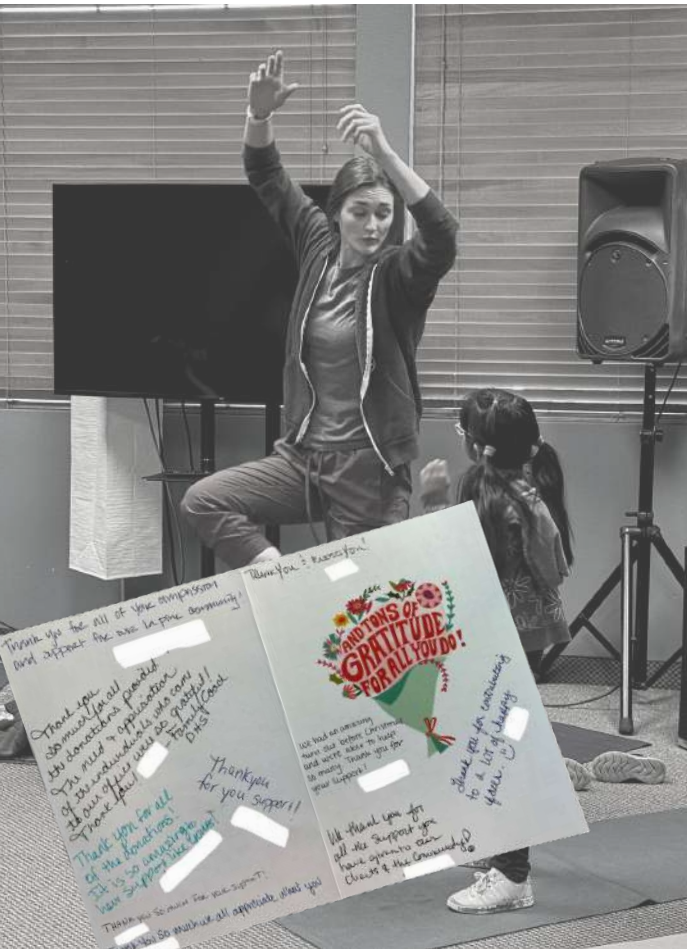
Many of our families experiencing foster care simply love our Foster Parent’s Night Out (FPNO), an ECCO program that gives parents a much-needed break and offers kids an evening of fun, activities, and good food. But the program doesn’t just bring joy to the parents and kids, but also to its volunteers, such as Amanda Goggins, Family Site Co-coordinator for FPNO.

Amanda, who has a personal motivation to support families and youth experiencing foster care, believes that being there for the kids is so important, specifically providing connection and consistency. For her, there’s no greater reward than when a child who struggles to feel connected and safe suddenly opens up and feels secure enough to express love themselves. What’s more, it tells her that FPNO works and is worth every effort to create these fun, safe spaces for the kids.



Pictured left to right: Amanda Goggins, with her fellow FPNO site coordinator, Katie McGowan

“I recall a serious little girl with sadness in her body,” Amanda says. “There was one event where she was having so much fun. We were doing holiday crafts and from across the room, she ran over and hugged me from behind. It’s the only physical thing I have ever seen her do, and I could just tell how safe she felt and that she was just overcome with joy.”



IMPACT OF FAMILIES SERVED BY FPNO AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

“The Neighborhood gives so much...they give me self-care breaks...and they are extra people the kids can count on, which is huge in their worlds because so much has been uncertain for them.”

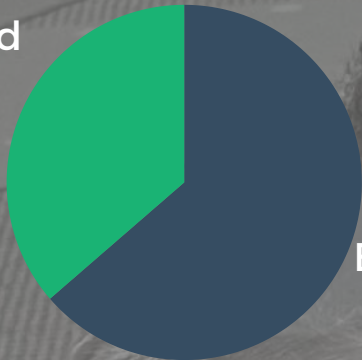
“Especially regarding the Foster Parents Night Out...the kids are incredibly attached to that program. They feel so special, and they get 1:1 undivided love and attention that they don’t get anywhere else. They get love, care, and safety.”

“For any foster parents who may be interested in engaging with these services and the people behind them, I say give it a try because I am sure there is some resource that will be beneficial for you.”

“The volunteers are so eager and loving, and I have really embraced them as a pseudo-family.”

2023 Neighborhoods

Redmond
4



Bend
7

11 Families Served, 2023

52

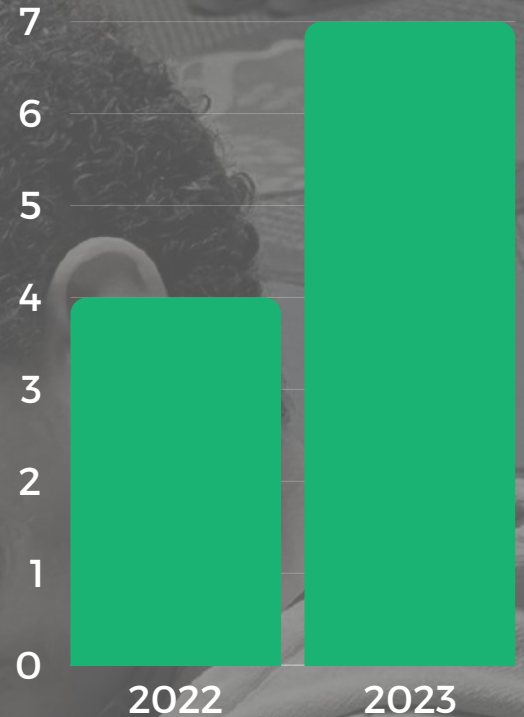
Neighborhood Volunteers, 2023

90

Meals Served, 2023

45

Acts of Kindness, 2023



New Neighborhood Families Added

Foster Parent Night Out (FPNO)

2023-2024 season

23

Families Served at Both Mountain View Fellowship (Redmond) & Bend Church/Antioch (Bend)

Mountain View Fellowship (Redmond)

12

Families Served

27

Volunteers

32

Kids Served

Bend Church/Antioch (Bend)

11

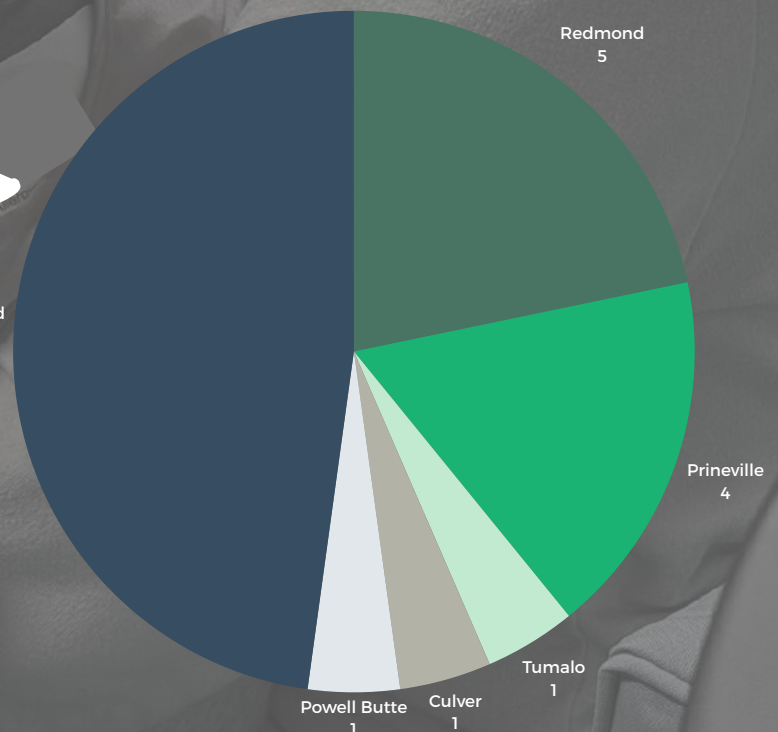
Families Served

36

Volunteers

25

Kids Served



ECCO HIRES NEW COMMUNITY COORDINATOR



A testament to its abundant growth, Every Child Central Oregon (ECCO) has added three new employees since it launched in 2019. As the organization has evolved to continue our mission, we've adjusted roles and added roles, including that of April Guffey, who is serving in a recently created Community Coordinator position. Here, April shares a bit about herself and her passion for the job! As our latest addition, she brings our staff number to four!

Q: What drew you to work at ECCO?

A: I'm a former foster youth myself, and my parents did foster care growing up. I saw some really hard things, and it gave me a passion to come alongside families and support them in their hardest moments.

Q: What's your role and what does it entail?

A: The Community Coordinator position entails running the daily operations of the My NeighbOR program and handling initial volunteer inquiries. I love getting to interact with those in the community and seeing community members step up and come alongside our organization to help those impacted by foster care.

Q: What have you found most rewarding in your work with ECCO?

A: The most rewarding thing is seeing community members step up and fulfill needs in the community of those impacted by foster care. It's one thing to fulfill needs ourselves, but that's what our job is; it's a whole different inspiring thing to see community members who have no obligation step up.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR FAMILY-FRIENDLY CELEBRATION!

Hey friends! We're hosting our annual Cheers to the Year event at our NEW warehouse, where we'll offer tours and announce our annual ECCO awards! All our amazing volunteers, donors, and community partners are invited—as well as anyone wishing to learn about what we do! If that sounds like you, join us for this fun few hours of celebration, connection, a drink on us, and tasty bites, graciously presented by **Bennington Properties** in the warehouse we call "home"!



LOVE THIS NEWSLETTER?

Share If You Care!

Online Version Available at:

<https://everychildoregon.org/centraloregon/stories/annual-report-2023/>

CREATIVE DESIGN AND CONTENT BY:

Katie Roberts
WriteOnPoint! Communications
www.katie-roberts.com