



# Educational Opportunities *for* Children and Families



## 2009 Annual Report

*~ Working together for generational change*



# Educational Opportunities *for* Children and Families

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### Contributors:

Auxiliary Services Manager	James Keller
Community Partnership/Resource Development Manager	Phoebe Krueger
Deputy Executive Director	Wendee Shuell
Director of Financial Operations	Cris Phelan
Director of Child and Family Services	Vern Nickelson
Director of Program Resources	Meg Byrtek
ENHANCE Project Coordinator	Christina Reyes
Executive Assistant	Roni Stephens
Executive Director	Doug Lehrman
Family Involvement Manager	Debra Samuel
HotShots Youth Sports Program Director	Richard Camp
Human Resources Administrator	Cheryl Hamilton
ITEIP Supervisor	Maria Pilcher
Special Resources Manager	Holly King

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[www.eocfwa.org](http://www.eocfwa.org)

The photos in this report are of children who have participated in programs provided by Educational Opportunities for Children and Families (EOCF).

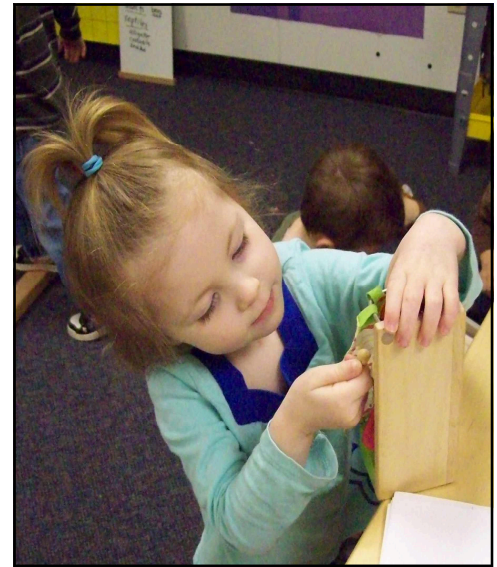
#### **STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

*EOCF shall not discriminate in its staff, hiring practices, board, volunteers, volunteer committees, or recipients of any service on the basis of a person's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, marital status, veteran status, mental, physical or sensory disability, or any other status not listed, as protected by state and/or federal law.*

## Mission Statement

Strengthening children and families through early learning, child development education, and community partnerships.

~ Working together for generational change



## A Rich History

Educational Opportunities for Children and Families (EOCF) has grown to become the leading provider of comprehensive early childhood education and family support programs in Southwest Washington. EOCF is one of the largest social service organizations in Southwest Washington and is the second largest nonprofit organization in Clark County with an annual operating budget of \$11.5 million and 265 employees. EOCF serves more than 2,000 children and families in its early learning programs, most of whom are low-income. Another 2,000 children are served in the HotShots Youth Sports program. Areas served include Clark County, Pacific County, and the Woodland portion of Cowlitz County.

Originally called Economic Opportunity Committee (EOC) of Clark County, the agency was incorporated in 1967 as a Community Action Program agency to administer War on Poverty programs. In the early 1970s, EOC's Board of Directors decided to focus exclusively on serving low-income children and families through Head Start, the federal government's preschool education program. In the 1980s, EOC added the Washington State-funded Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program

(ECEAP). During the 1990s, EOC expanded Head Start services to Pacific County, opened seven new Head Start centers in Clark County, moved a center from Wahkiakum County to Woodland, became the administrator of the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP), and launched Early Head Start and full-day Head Start services. In 2003, the agency's name was changed to Educational Opportunities for Children and Families to better reflect the services provided to the community. EOCF also assumed sponsorship of the Hot-Shots Youth Sports program in 2003. EOCF faced several challenges in the first decade of the new millennium related to significant funding decreases and service expansion slowdowns.

Looking ahead to the future, EOCF is focused on expansion opportunities for comprehensive early child care and early learning services in Southwest Washington. Despite the current challenging financial times, EOCF is optimistic that its dedication to excellence will lead to improved and expanded services so that all children will have the opportunity to get the best possible start on their educational journeys.

## Making a difference...

The services EOCF provides give children the best possible start on their educational careers and help parents to be their children's first and best teachers. Research on programs like Head Start and ECEAP shows that the gains made in these programs help children to succeed in school at a rate exceeding that of their peers from similar demographic groups. All of EOCF's preschool programs and services promote high-quality and developmentally-appropriate best practices. EOCF focuses on the whole child, including his or her cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. EOCF also stresses parent involvement and offers many opportunities for parents to build on their strengths, improve their parenting skills, participate in program governance, connect with their community, and advocate for themselves and their families.

In response to the needs of children and families in EOCF's service areas, EOCF offers a wide range of services, including:

- Part-day Head Start and ECEAP programs for children ages 3-5
- Full-day Head Start programs for children ages 3-5
- Home-based Head Start services for children ages 3-5
- Full-day Early Head Start programs for children ages birth-3
- Home-based Early Head Start services for children ages birth-3 and pregnant women
- ITEIP for children with developmental disabilities, ages birth-3, and their families
- HotShots Youth Sports basketball program for children grades 1-6

## 2009 Highlights

- Opened Prairie View Head Start Center in partnership with a private developer in a low-income housing apartment complex in the Orchards/Sifton area
- Served more than 400 families of children with developmental disabilities by providing early intervention screening and referral services and more than 1,600 children in Head Start, Early Head Start, and ECEAP comprehensive early learning/family support services
- Hired a new Community Partnership and Resource Development Manager and strengthened relationships with the business community and other nonprofit organizations
- Increased agency reserves (net assets undesignated) by 46%
- Created a comprehensive development plan, which is being implemented by the Board Development Committee
- Successfully applied for ARRA federal funding to augment program offerings in Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Intervention Services
- Strengthened family involvement by more actively training and engaging the Policy Council in the governance of the agency
- Conducted our 4<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser/friendraiser event in November, which raised 80% more money than the 2008 event
- Increased EOCF staff involvement throughout the community on numerous boards, task forces, and working committees with various missions in social services and early learning services in Clark County

## Our Mission Realized...

Ronnette's life was full of fear because of past experiences. That all began to change when her daughter, Leilani, attended Head Start at EOCF's Link Center and Sandra J. Odren Family Center where Ronnette volunteered in the classroom. Ronnette won the Volunteer of the Year Award for over 95 hours of assistance while Leilani was enrolled! She shared with other parents that their involvement is a necessary contribution to the success of the Head Start program. Ronnette says staff listened to her and valued her perspective, and they encouraged her to work toward her goals.

Ronnette strongly encouraged the teachers to challenge her daughter beyond the typical curriculum and they gave extra effort to do this. Leilani excelled and moved on to finish her kindergarten curriculum halfway through the year since she was so well-prepared!

Staff recognized Ronnette's leadership potential and invited her to run for the Policy Council (PC). Being a member of PC provided an opportunity for Ronnette to grow personally and receive great professional training. She attributes the encouragement she received from EOCF Executive Director Doug Lehrman, Deputy Executive Director Wendee



***“My experience with EOCF has shown me that I am capable of reaching my goals...”***

Shuell, PC Chair Debbie Jennerjohn, and others to helping her become more independent and self-assured. Ronnette shared, “PC is like a family. They care about you, and you know that your work is making a positive difference. Being around more highly educated people made me want to grow and learn more.”

Ronnette's journey didn't end when she joined PC. Ronnette knew she needed a job that could sustain her family. So she went to college full-time, while working full-time, and recently earned her Associates Degree in Business. “I want to model the importance of education to my daughter and show her that learning is something we continue to do throughout our lives,” said Ronnette. Ronnette also stated, “My experience with EOCF has shown me that I am capable of reaching my goals and, as I achieve those, I will continue to set new ones. As a result, I see myself in the future as a great mom, educator, worker, and friend.”

Ronnette was awarded first runner-up for the Rutha Weatherl Memorial Parent of the Year Award for 2007-08. This prestigious annual award is given by the National Head Start Association and it includes a \$300 stipend. EOCF also presented her with an engraved Crystal Spectrum Award. Ronnette won these awards based on her powerful story, which sets a strong example for parents in all of EOCF's programs.

## Involving the Entire Family...

The involvement of families can have a powerful impact on a child. Research has shown that parental involvement in their children's education can result in a variety of positive outcomes including greater interest in school, better attendance, enhanced teacher-child relationships, and increased self-esteem. Staff at EOCF partner with parents/guardians to set family goals, develop connections to community resources, and create opportunities for family involvement through volunteering in the classroom, assisting with planning center events, and participating in parent training opportunities and on Center Committees and Policy Council.



EOCF held over 100 family involvement events in 2009. Some of the most popular events included:

- “Pajama Party” family literacy event featuring storytelling, games, and free books
- “Healthy Food, Healthy Families” trainings (in partnership with ENHANCE/WSU Extension)
- “Dr. Seuss’ Birthday: A Reading Celebration”
- “Center Carnival” featuring local produce for children’s prizes
- “How to Raise Emotionally Healthy Children” book distribution and discussion sessions
- “Discovery Day” science events
- “Oregon Zoo Day” family event

**Policy Council** provides an opportunity for parents to develop advocacy skills and to make a difference in the education that EOCF provides for children and families. The Policy Council shares program governance with the Board of Directors and management staff.

### 2008-2009 Policy Council Members

Debbie Jennerjohn, Chair

Amy Smith, Vice–Chair

Maria Gaitan, Treasurer

Victoria Wood, Secretary/Head Start Delegate

Charlene Manire– EOCF Board Delegate

Holly Burnside

Sara Contreras-Avila

Jovita Cruz

Mary Ervin

Elaine Hull

Cecilia Lee

Melinda Malik

Sandra Milliman

Ronnette Sapp

Shellie Stokes

Marcela Venegas

Jo-Ellen Wesley-Barber, PC Mentor

## Head Start *and* Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program

2007-2008 Program Year Enrollment	Funded	Actual	Monthly Average
Head Start Part-Day	400	464	394
Head Start Full-Day	85	129	87
Head Start Home-Based	48	54	48
ECEAP	378	440	374
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>1246</b>	<b>991</b>



EOCF operates two programs serving children ages 3-5, the federally-funded Head Start program and the Washington State-funded Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). The goal of these programs is to prepare children for entry into public

schools. These programs actively recruit low-income families and children with disabilities and/or special needs. Head Start offers part-day part-year, full-day full-year, and home-based options, while ECEAP offers a part-day part-year option. Programs provide education for children and families, ongoing assessments, comprehensive healthcare, family involvement activities, access and referrals to social services, and 1/3-2/3 of children's daily nutritional needs. Of the children enrolled in Head Start, 89% received physical exams and dental screenings.

### Kindergarten Readiness

Each spring, several activities occur to help families transition their children to kindergarten. "Parent Nights" are held, where kindergarten teachers and school personnel talk about kindergarten and are available to answer parents' questions. Teacher-parent meetings and progress report reviews also help in the transition process. With parent permission, progress reports are sent to children's kindergarten teachers. In fall 2009, EOCF Head Start and ECEAP programs sent 527 children to eleven different local school districts.

The Creative Development Curriculum (below) shows the developmental steps toward mastering curriculum objectives for children ages 3-5. Each step describes a particular point in skill development. The chart represents the growth of kindergarten-bound children in fall of 2008 and in spring of 2009.

Developmental Objective	Fall 2008				Spring 2009			
	Fore-runner	I	II	III	Fore-runner	I	II	III
Social-Emotional	2%	51%	44%	3%	0%	7%	63%	30%
Physical	0%	22%	60%	17%	0%	1%	33%	65%
Cognitive	4%	55%	39%	2%	0%	10%	63%	27%
Language	4%	52%	41%	3%	0%	15%	58%	27%
<b>OVERALL PROGRESS</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>29%</b>



## Early Head Start

Early Head Start is a federally-funded, community-based program offering home- and center-based models for pregnant women and low-income families with infants and toddlers (ages birth-3). Enrolled families and pregnant women/couples work with staff to develop a plan that is driven by family-identified strengths, needs, resources, and goals. The program’s mission is simple: to promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhance the development of very young children, and promote healthy family functioning. Of the children enrolled in Early Head Start, 75% received physical exams and 95% received dental screenings.



2007-2008 Program Year Enrollment	Funded	Actual	Monthly Average
Early Head Start Home-Based	30	58	33
Early Head Start Center-Based	56	101	55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>88</b>

### Prenatal Education includes:

- Nutrition
- Typical fetal development, including the risks of smoking and drinking alcohol
- Labor and delivery expectation
- Postpartum recovery, including maternal depression

### Early Head Start offers:

- Nutritional assessments
- Developmental screening and assessments
- Social and emotional screening and observations
- Parenting support and education
- Support in completing well-child exams and dental screenings
- Support to families with special needs children

## Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program

Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) is a Washington State-funded information and referral program that assists families in accessing early intervention services for children ages birth -3 with possible developmental delays. ITEIP serves as the single point of entry for families into Clark County's Early Intervention Services and coordinates activities, services, and developmental screenings with other community service providers. If a child is screened and determined to be eligible for ITEIP, his or her family will be assigned a family resource coordinator. ITEIP's family resource coordinators are critical to families as they assist them in understanding their rights, coordinating services between multiple providers, and advocating on behalf of their children.

Clark County ITEIP providers include Clark College Child & Family Services, Innovative Services Northwest Pediatric Therapy, Educational Service District 112, and PRIDE for Kids- Family Therapy Center.

### 2008-2009 Summary of ITEIP Services

Number of children served <i>with Individualized Family Service Plans</i>	306
Number of children screened	349
Number of children referred for further evaluation	334



## HotShots Youth Sports



HotShots Youth Sports provides basketball programs for Clark County youth grades 1-6, under the direction of Richard Camp. HotShots philosophy promotes children having fun while playing sports. Children also learn the importance of teamwork, instruction, fair play, and sportsmanship. Approximately 210 teams involving 2,000 children competed during the fall and winter basketball seasons, primarily from the Vancouver and Evergreen School District areas. Scholarships and fee waivers may be granted upon request to ensure that income is not a barrier to participation. Registration information is available at [www.hotshotsyouthsports.org](http://www.hotshotsyouthsports.org).

## Other Programs

EOCF works in conjunction with several other local agencies to provide additional programs, such as Welcome Baby @ Home and ENHANCE.

The **Welcome Baby @ Home** project (funded through Gates Foundation grants) is a collaboration with the Children's Home Society of Washington, serving parents of infants ages birth-12 months. This is a Universal Home Visiting Program available to all Clark County residents. The program provides up to three home visits and connects families with community resources based on identified needs.

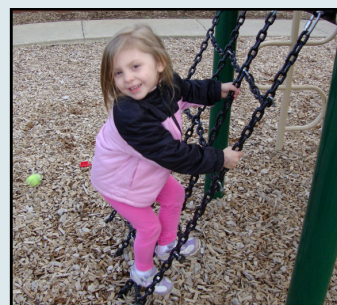
Between October 2008 and September 2009, the project:

- Served 136 families, with an additional 77 referrals for services
- Screened 74 new mothers for maternal depression
- Completed 79 ASQ screenings on infants
- Helped 95 families complete home safety checklists

### **ENcouraging Healthy Activity and Nutrition in Childcare Environments (ENHANCE)**

is a three-year pilot program (funded by a Kaiser Permanente Community Fund grant) aimed at improving healthy nutrition and physical activity in children 15 months–5 years old in childcare settings. Program goals include identifying barriers to physical activity and healthy nutrition, integrating wellness best practices, and providing support and resources to children and childcare providers.

A community collaboration, the ENHANCE Project currently provides support and resources to over 600 children and 115 childcare providers in 43 classrooms in 15 different childcare/early learning sites in Clark County. In its final year, ENHANCE continues to raise awareness, conduct site visits to teach nutrition education and demonstrate age-appropriate physical activities, and present findings and best practices at local, regional, and national conferences.



## Financial Information— For the fiscal year ending October 31, 2008

<b>Revenues and Support</b>	<b>10/31/2008</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Head Start Program	5,149,347	45%
Early Head Start Program	1,174,458	10%
USDA (Child Care Food Program)	248,142	2%
Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP)	418,556	4%
Federal— Other	6,983	0%
Nonfederal— Other	396,551	3%
Fundraising	39,271	0%
Washington State ECEAP Grant	2,429,842	21%
Washington State Child Care Subsidy	512,666	4%
Grantee In-Kind and Cash Match	1,152,899	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,528,715</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>10/31/2008</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Program-related	10,277,782	90%
Fundraising-related	23,395	0%
Management and General	1,128,993	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,430,170</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Assets</b>	<b>10/31/2008</b>
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$2,046,597
Net Assets at End of Year	\$2,145,142
<b>Change in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$98,545</b>

For further information regarding financial information or a copy of the proposed budget or audit results, please contact EOCF's fiscal department at (360) 896-9912.

## Board of Directors

The EOCF Board of Directors shares program governance functions with the Policy Council. The board is a continuing body, made up of community citizens who have an interest in and a commitment to overseeing the management of EOCF. The board's membership represents the business, legal, educational, and social services communities of EOCF's service area and also has representatives who are parents of children formerly and currently served by EOCF.

### 2008-2009 Board Members

Jill Homme, Chair	Tammi Olund
Wayne Clemetson, Vice-Chair	Yvonne Payne
Lynn Valenter, Secretary-Treasurer	Harry Russell
Charlene Manire, Parent Policy Council Rep	Kathryn Smith
Judy Custy	Karen Stephenson
Jan Jewett	Ed Turk
Bob Mandelson	Jo-Ellen Wesley-Barber
Sandra Odren	Steve Leatham, Ex-Officio

## Audit Results

EOCF is required to report the results of its annual financial audit. For the fiscal year that ended October 31, 2008, **EOCF was determined by the auditor to be in compliance with all requirements applicable to each of its programs.** The audit firm used was:

Michael J. Plymale, Inc., P.S. (Certified Public Accountant)

PO Box 268

Vancouver, WA 98666

(360) 693-0068

EOCF is also required to report annually on the results of the last triennial monitoring review by the Office of the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Head Start. The most recent monitoring review was completed in March 2009. All corrective actions have been performed satisfactorily and **EOCF is now in full compliance with all of the approximately 2,000 Head Start and Early Head Start performance standards.**

The areas of noncompliance and subsequent corrective actions were:

- EOCF needed to update its valuation of donated space based on fair rental value of comparable space as established by an independent appraisal of comparable space. Corrective Action: The revaluation was accomplished satisfactorily.
- EOCF was not in compliance with requirements for age/weight appropriate safety restraints for children being transported by South Bend School District in one of our Pacific County sites. Corrective Action: Appropriate restraints were purchased and installed.
- EOCF needed to correct a limited number of inventory listings to assure that HHS's share of ownership (federal interest) was documented properly. Corrective Action: Inventory listings were corrected to properly reflect federal ownership of facility property.

## EOCF serves children and families in Clark, Cowlitz and Pacific Counties.

Head Start, Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, and Early Head Start serve children in full-day full-year and part-day part-year programs. EOCF also works with several partner sites within the communities it serves.

### Administration

Physical: 10621 NE Coxley Drive, Suite 207, Vancouver, WA 98662-6122

Mailing: PO Box 821110, Vancouver, WA 98682-0025

Phone: (360) 896-9912 Fax: (360) 892-3209

### Head Start Sites

#### Battle Ground

Battle Ground Center  
Manor Center

#### Pacific County

Long Beach Center  
South Bend Center

#### Vancouver

Clark College Center\*  
Ellsworth Center  
Evergreen ECE Center (Blended)  
Fruit Valley Center  
Hazel Dell Center  
Kids Care- Innovative Services NW\*

Learning Avenues Child Care Center\*

Orchards Center (Blended)

Sandra J. Odren Family Center

Sarah J. Anderson Center

St. Johns Center

Vancouver Early Childhood Center

YWCA - Y's Care Children's Program\*

#### Washougal

East County Center

#### Woodland

Woodland Center

#### Yacolt

Yacolt Center

### Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program Sites

#### Ridgefield

South Ridge Center (SWCCC)\*

#### Vancouver

Burton Early Learning Center (SWCCC)\*  
Learning Avenues Child Care Center\*

Minnehaha

Pleasant Valley Center (SWCCC)\*

St. Johns Center

Vancouver Early Childhood Center

YWCA- Y's Care Children's Program\*

### Early Head Start Sites

#### Vancouver

Ellsworth Center

Learning Avenues Child Care Center-

McCoy\*

Sandra J. Odren Family Center

\* Partner Site

## Values and Beliefs

The EOCF community is committed to living and practicing the following **values** and **beliefs**:

We **value** initiative in community leadership. We **believe** EOCF should take a leading role among early learning agencies in our community.

We **value** sustainability. We **believe** in the power of recreating and renewing ourselves, while standing on the strong foundation of our heritage.

We **value** community activism. We **believe** we must take risks to make a difference— promoting awareness of community needs and making change happen.

We **value** personal empowerment. We **believe** in fostering a strength-based environment where individuals can reach their full potential.

We **value** respectful collaboration. We **believe** that to develop positive relationships we must act with respect, honesty, intention, and focus on our common goals.

We **value** a healthy approach to life. We **believe** that to create a balanced whole being we must be proactive in our support of each other and create a fun and friendly atmosphere.

We **value** treating all with dignity. We **believe** that all people are deserving of the highest level of respect and honor and will be engaged with utmost professionalism and confidentiality.

We **value** the uniqueness of each individual. We **believe** in celebrating the differences in each person, recognizing that those differences present themselves in a variety of surprising ways.

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### EOCF presents Pinot, Piano, and Panache

Friday, November 5, 2010

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Hilton Vancouver

**Join us for an exciting evening featuring:** live music by Grammy-nominated musician Patrick Lamb, a silent auction, a 100+ bottle wine wall, several raffles, food, and wine!



# THANK YOU TO ALL OF EOCF'S FUNDERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

EOCF could not change lives without your support.

## PRIMARY FUNDING SOURCES

Clark County Early Learning Fund (through SELF)

Gates Foundation (through SELF)

HotShots Youth Sports Program

NW Health Foundation

State of Washington Departments of:

Early Learning

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

DSHS Division of Developmental Disabilities, Infant  
& Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP)

US Departments of:

Health and Human Services, Administration of  
Children and Families

Agriculture

## PARTNERS

ARC of Clark County

Battle Ground Community United Methodist Church

Battle Ground Public Schools

BIA Remodelers

Biggs Insurance Services

Burgerville

Camas School District

Catholic Community Services

Children's Center

Children's Home Society of Washington SW Branch

CIGNA

Clark College

Clark County Department of Community Services

Clark County Department of Public Works

Clark County Foster Grandparent Program

Clark County Health Department

Clark County Community Network

Coastal Community Action

Columbia River Mental Health Services

Community Church of God

Cupcake Jones

Department of Social and Health Services

Division of Children and Family Services

Ebony Notes

Educational Service District #112

Employment Security

Evergreen School District #114

First Independent Bank

Hilton Vancouver

Hockinson School District

Humane Society for Southwest Washington

Ice Cream Renaissance

Innovative Services NW

iQ Credit Union

Jan Stockton Accounting

Jo Foody's Catering

La Center School District

Learning Avenues Child Care

Manor Evangelical Church

Miller Nash LLP

Naselle-Grays River School District

Nonprofit Network Southwest Washington

Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory

Ocean Beach School District

Oregon Pacific Capital Management Corp.

Oregon Zoo

Pacific County Health Department

Portland Children's Museum

Printing Expressly for You

Rahzo

Raymond School District

Reading is Fundamental (RIF)

Ridgefield School District

Salvation Army of Clark County

South Bend School District

Southwest Washington Child Care Consortium

Support for Early Learning and Families (SELF)

Umpqua Bank

Vancouver Business Journal

Vancouver Community Services Office

Vancouver Housing Authority

Vancouver Public School District #37

Vesta Hospitality

Vancouver Rotary Foundation

Washington State University– Vancouver

Washougal School District

Willapa Valley School District

Woodland School District

YWCA

Youth Employment Program