

CHILDREN OF THE VALLEY
1318 SOUTH 18TH STREET
MOUNT VERNON, WA 98274



FEBRUARY 2021
4TH QUARTER 2020

Quarterly Newsletter

Q4 Highlights

The fourth quarter is always a busy time of year for us at COV. From October through December, we work diligently to spread the word about COV and bolster community support. We couldn't have been happier or more proud of our community than we were over the past few months. Community support flooded in and we were able to extend services to children who have been waiting for months for the much-needed support COV is now honored to provide for them.

Finalized a partnership with the Skagit Valley YMCA enabling us to expand services in 2021

Spread awareness about the Big Dreams of COV kids and raised \$10,400 during our Giving Tuesday video and campaign

Connected with 60 community members and raised \$2,650 through the COV Run for the Kids

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Letter from Our Executive Director

“I love coming to COV because there is someone here to help me with my school work.”

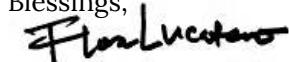
Happy 2021!

Gratitude is the word that comes to mind when I think of where we are today. We are where we are today because of YOU! Since March 2020 we have been challenged to shift and pivot our services in order to meet the basic needs of our community - which as you know, involved us expanding from an afterschool program at Bethany Covenant Church into two full-day learning centers. In December, with over 40 kids on our waiting list, our community truly stepped up. Through generous donations and a new partnership with the Skagit Valley YMCA, we were able to expand our Bethany site last month. We added three classrooms, hired five new team members, and welcomed 37 new children to COV for a total of 88 students getting daily academic and personal support each day.

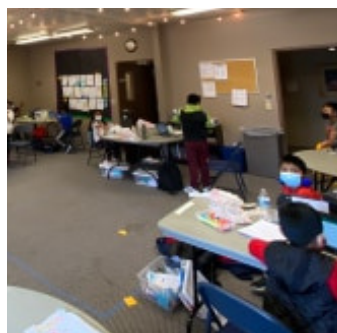
It was a busy but rewarding day when we welcomed our new students into their new classrooms in January. The sentiment of the day was perfectly summed up by one of our new students when she said, "I love coming to COV because there is someone here to help me with my school work." This student hadn't even finished a full day at COV and had already felt the love, care, and support we provide for every child who walks through our doors.

Prior to starting at COV, the majority of our new students were at home, unsupervised, and left to navigate online learning alone. Many also faced additional barriers to academic success. Thank you for partnering with us and helping us provide a safe, caring space for each child to feel loved and get the support they need to thrive!

Blessings,



Flora Lucatero | Executive Director | flora@covmv.org



COV Site Updates



COV Bethany Site

In partnership with the Skagit Valley YMCA in January 2021, we were able to expand our services and open three additional classrooms for a total of six classrooms. **We are currently serving 69 students at this site.** All classrooms are following safety protocols which include daily health screenings, mask-wearing, and sanitization of equipment, technology, furniture, and restrooms. Sanitization is done multiple times throughout the day.



COV MVHS Site

In the fall of 2020, we partnered with the Mount Vernon School District to provide full-time learning support on the Mount Vernon High School campus. **We currently serve 16 students at the high school.** Our goal is to create a similar program environment between our two sites by following our COV Cornerstones of Care which include providing academic assistance, enrichment activities, and social-emotional learning. Currently, our enrichment activities include STEM projects, girls' coding club, arts and crafts, and activities focused on social-emotional learning.

We are grateful for our partnership with the Mount Vernon School District and Mount Vernon High School because it has allowed us to care for 16 children-in-need with extended hours of 7am-6pm.



YMCA Partnership

We are beyond grateful for our community partnerships during this time. The Skagit Valley YMCA partnered with COV this new year in order to provide more childcare options for our community's most vulnerable children. We could not have opened three additional classrooms without this partnership. Thank you!

COV At a Glance



2 SITES



**7AM - 6PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY**



**88 K-8
CHILDREN**



**16 STAFF
MEMBERS**



**80 VOLUNTEER
HOURS /MONTH**

Volunteers Make a Difference

This year our volunteer program looks quite different from previous years as we have limited positions to ensure the safety of our kids, staff, and volunteers. Our biggest demand is in transportation and food resources. We have a small volunteer team of 20 people as snack prep, van drivers, and meal delivery helpers. Even though the jobs may seem small it makes the biggest impact on our students. It takes a village to serve the children of this community and we are so grateful for each and every one who has made this year's program possible.



Dwight & Kathy Nelson | Retired Pastor

We have enjoyed our experience. We get to safely prepare and serve the daily snacks and along the way we get to observe the students busy with schoolwork and activities. COV is a great program, with a team of dedicated people working together to support a great group of students/friends. We have been glad to have a small part in its success."



Kim Lee | Customer Service Manager Safeway

What I've loved most about volunteering is talking to kids and finding out the best part of their day. They're so happy and loving, which brightens up my day! I can't wait to be able to volunteer in person and the possibility of working with them more. They are a gift to me and I look forward to seeing them each week!



Current Volunteer Openings

Mid-Day Shuttle Driver 11:30am-1pm Evening Shuttle Driver 4:15pm-5:30pm

Complete our online volunteer application on our website at covmv.org/volunteer



S.T.E.M. Enrichment & Coding Club

Each week we offer S.T.E.M. activities that include science, technology, engineering, and math. Skills in these areas offer our students opportunities and future job stability in a tech-focused marketplace. In addition, we partnered with Girls Who Code, a nonprofit organization aimed at supporting and increasing the number of women in computer science by equipping young women with the necessary computing skills to pursue 21st-century opportunities.

The Heart of COV

The COV kids truly are the beating heart of COV. They're the reason we do what we do. Read below to meet three special COV kids and see how your support is making a difference in their lives and futures! **Students names have been changed to protect their privacy.*

Meet Jesse

As the weather started getting cooler we noticed Jesse coming to COV cold and tired. He informed us that his family didn't have heat at home. COV was able to provide electrical blankets, along with warm clothing for them. The next day when Jesse arrived he mentioned that he slept so much better and the blankets that we gave him kept him really warm all night. At COV we not only support our students academically, but we also provide basic needs and personal support for each child and their family.



Meet Martha

The very first day Martha attended COV, she cried and didn't want to be there. When Martha opened up her Chromebook and entered her first Zoom session for the day, the COV teacher noticed that Martha had over 86 incomplete assignments. Martha had not been doing any assignments while at home. Our COV teacher knew what needed to be done. She met with Martha and explained why she was attending COV. She also helped Martha work through all of her missing assignments. Martha is now caught up at school and is able to finish her work each day at COV. She hasn't missed a day of COV since then and can't wait to come to COV every day!

Meet Sylvia

After weeks of attending our COV MVHS site we were told that transportation was becoming increasingly difficult for Sylvia's parents to provide since they both worked early in the morning. Removing Sylvia from the program was their only option. We realized that if Sylvia was not part of our program she would be unsupervised at home and would not have the support she needed to complete her school work. We were able to admit her at our Bethany site and arrange for transportation by our amazing group of volunteer van drivers to ensure she would be able to continue accessing her daily education.



COV Alumni Spotlight



Yaritza Martinez-Sanacruz attended COV for two and a half years, between 2007 to 2010. During the years that she attended COV, she said that the program provided a safe place for her to go after school to finish her homework and do some fun activities. Yaritza also stated that the program helped her meet some of her lifelong friends. One of Yaritza's fondest memories while attending the program was when she was taught how to knit by one of the volunteers that came in weekly. She said that it was one of the most fun activities that she did.

Since completing the program, Yaritza has gone on to graduate Mount Vernon High School in 2016 and she received her Associates Degree in Education from Skagit Valley College in the spring of 2020. She is currently attending Western Washington University pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish and minors in Education in Social Justice and English Language Learners (ELL). After graduating WWU, Yaritza plans to be a high school Spanish or ELL teacher.



**MVHS
GRAD**



**SVC
GRAD**



**WWU
STUDENT**

The COV Team

The staff of compassionate professionals that make up our core team are unlike any other. Each individual brings a unique skill set that, when combined together, enables COV to operate seamlessly and effectively. *Not pictured are the four Mount Vernon School District Paraprofessionals: Gabriela Perez, Maricela Ibanez, Charlene Pineda, and Shanon Glasgow.*



FLORA LUCATERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



YAZMIN RODARTE
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR



ROGELIO CONEJO
PROGRAM ASSISTANT



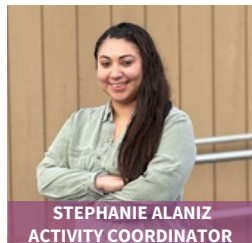
CASSANDRA DIAZ
LEAD ACTIVITY COORDINATOR



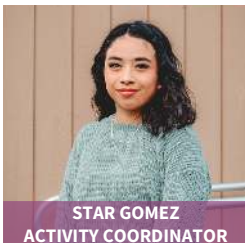
YASMEEN DAVILA
ACTIVITY COORDINATOR



JAMIE RUIZ
ACTIVITY COORDINATOR



STEPHANIE ALANIZ
ACTIVITY COORDINATOR



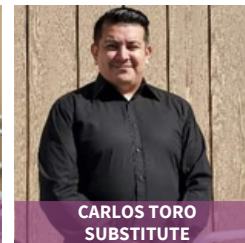
STAR GOMEZ
ACTIVITY COORDINATOR



VICTOR GONZALEZ
ACTIVITY COORDINATOR



ALEJANDRA PUERTO
SUBSTITUTE



CARLOS TORO
SUBSTITUTE



SOPHIA GARCIA
MVHS SITE COORDINATOR

Get Involved!

We love to have fun and be active in our community – which is why there's always something going on at COV! So join us as we make a difference in our community and have fun along the way!



Coming this Spring-May 2021

Join us as we auction off beautiful 6"x6" art tiles from beloved local artists as well as our very own Children of the Valley students. Local artists such as Ben Mann, Jennifer Bowman, and Maria Wickwire graciously donate original works of art for our annual auction. In addition to the beautiful donations from our local community of artists, it's always with great honor that we present the heartfelt and intentional art from our students. More details to come!



Shop Skagit Valley Food Co-op-Friday, March 26th

Shop on Friday, March 26th and 4% of the total sales for the day will be donated to COV. Something NEW THIS YEAR, Skagit Community Foundation is matching that 4% to double the amount we will be receiving. Help us spread the word!



Amazon Smile is an easy way to lend your support to COV! By choosing COV as your preferred non-profit, we'll receive a percentage of every purchase you make online! Visit smile.amazon.com to get started!

[Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)



Stay up-to-date with us by following our COV page on Facebook! We love sharing student accomplishments, inspiring messages, and organizational knowledge with our friends and supporters.

[@CHILDRENOFTHEVALLEYMV](https://www.facebook.com/CHILDRENOFTHEVALLEYMV)



A ripple effect can begin with a singular action. Just one mention of Children of the Valley to another individual has the ability to create a response that catapults change and impacts the lives of many.

COVMV.org



While our volunteer needs have changed this year in response to COVID-19, we still depend upon the generous spirit of community members to help us support these children.

COVMV.org/volunteer



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PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MOUNT VERNON WA
PERMIT #47



I pledge \$ _____
to Children of the Valley to help support their program of
education, enrichment, and encouragement of the
under-served children of our community.

☐ This is a one-time gift.

☐ I will send COV a
monthly/quarterly check.

☐ This is a monthly pledge.

☐ Please set up an electronic debit
with my bank
Please attach voided check. A fee of 1% will
apply for ACH transactions.

☐ This is a quarterly pledge.

☐ Please charge my credit card
A fee of 3.5% will apply for credit card
transactions.

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Thank you for your donation! Please mail to:
Children of the Valley
1318 S. 18th St, Mount Vernon, WA 98274

Or donate online at covmv.org/donate

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER

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