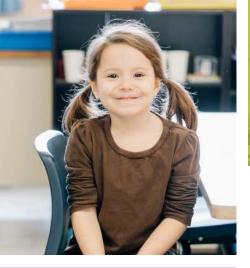


Children of the Valley IMPACT REPORT 2021-2022





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View this Impact Report online at www.covmv.org

Together We Rise!





Children of the Valley

A referral-based after-school program for under-resourced children in Skagit Valley

Founded in 2006, Children of the Valley provides safe, compassionate, and enriching after-school support for under-resourced children in Skagit Valley. In partnership with the Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, and Burlington school districts, we serve students K-5/6 who are referred by a school teacher, counselor, or administrator for exhibiting substantial personal or academic need.* Free to the families and students we serve, our program provides daily instructor-led academic assistance, enrichment activities, and social emotional learning opportunities, in addition to assisting families with meeting basic needs.

*6th grade is available depending on the district

Cornerstones of Care



Through regular correspondence with each child's school teacher, we are able to tailor our efforts specific to each student's individual academic needs. Each day, we help COV students with 45 minutes of intentional homework and 1-on-1 tutoring in reading and math.

"They always felt confident in the mornings because they knew they had finished their homework."

2nd grade teacher, Centennial Elementary School







COV strives to provide its children with a holistic, whole-circle approach to education which means opening the door to enrichment opportunities that may not be offered to them otherwise. Some of the enrichment activities our students participated in this year were La Liga Tlaxtli soccer league and baile folklórico (folkloric dance.)

Field Trips were limited due to COVID but this spring, we were able to go to Padilla Bay, Skagit Skate, Skagit Valley YMCA, and tour Skagit Valley College. Sites also visited and played at various parks throughout our community.



This year we partnered with the MV Hope Coalition and implemented a social emotional curricum called Postive Action which was part of the daily afternoon instruction.

"They were able to talk openly about things bothering them and look for constructive ways to solve situations."

4th arade teacher. Little Mountain Elementary

Family Support

Our goal is to establish meaningful relationships with families to better understand how we can be of assistance. Whether it's through direct support or connecting COV families to community resources, we help families through any challenges that may arise in their lives.

COV provides support to families with utility and housing assistance; gifts from holiday wish lists; food baskets and gift cards; and school-related expenses.



A Letter from Our Executive Director

Flora Lucatero

Dear COV Partners,

Welcome to our second annual Impact Report! Looking back on the past two years, I see a silver lining to the COVID-19 pandemic. It exposed the depth of need in our community and galvanized us to take action at record speed, illuminating what we're capable of when we are focused and working together.

In the past 12 months, Children of the Valley has experienced its most significant year of growth. We added four new sites and brought our program to two new partner school districts, enabling us to DOUBLE the number of children we serve. With this expansion comes an increased need for staff, volunteers, and funding so we can continue providing academic support in a safe, loving environment for our community's most vulnerable children.

Reading through this report, it's clear that Children of the Valley is merely a vessel fueled by our community's desire to make a positive impact. I humbly offer my gratitude to our board members, staff, partner school districts, volunteers, corporate donors, community partners, and ALL advocates of our program. Thanks to you, Children of the Valley is becoming more widely known, resulting in new opportunities to strengthen support.

We have much work to do but I want to take a moment to celebrate that we have achieved two of our three priorities from our five-year strategic plan ahead of schedule! We are excited to share a revised plan and I invite you to join us in capitalizing on this momentum. Together we rise!

Sincerely,

Flora Lucatero | Executive Director



"COV is fueled by our community's desire to make a positive impact."





A Letter from Our Board Chair

Beth Ashley

Dear COV Partners,

Three years ago, the Board of Directors met with 20 community leaders to create a vision for COV and set a goal to add three to five more sites in Mount Vernon within the next five years. That morning in early September, we took the COV challenge to dream big, and the results are stunning!

What happens when you dream big to meet a profound need in a community? Amazing things happen that far exceed your expectations because the people of Skagit Valley are passionate about the success of children. Burlington, Sedro-Woolley, and Mount Vernon created opportunities for COV to be expanded in those communities. The 15-year proven track record of COV and the dynamic leadership of Executive Director, Flora Lucatero, motivated individuals and businesses to embrace the vision and mission. They took steps to build alliances and make the dream a reality for the under-resourced kids in those school districts.

As you read through this report, you will see how our dream and plan unfolded this year. We extend sincere gratitude to our new partners as well as our long-time supporters who have helped make this dream a reality, and we look forward to locking arms with folks who are new to this vision and the incredible impact COV has on individual lives and the communities we serve.

Beth Ashley | Board Chair



Strategic Plan

In September of 2019, the COV Board of Directors invited 20 leaders from local school districts, higher education, and businesses as well as COV volunteers, alumni, and donors to participate in a visioning process that would help determine future priorities and goals for COV.

The result of that process led to the creation of a five-year strategic plan to expand programming to include kindergarten classrooms and open additional sites in Mount Vernon and across Skagit County. The group determined that in order to achieve these goals, COV must diversify funding and achieve fiscal sustainability. While fiscal sustainability remains our top priority, we are thrilled to share revisions in our strategic plan due to achieving our second and third priorities ahead of schedule.

PRIORITY 1: Fiscal Sustainability

Now that COV is operating five sites, our annual operating budget doubled to \$680,000 per year.

Additionally, around 20% of our budget comes from COVID relief funds which expire June 2024. This is why we're focused on achieving fiscal sustainability.

PRIORITY 2: Implement Kindergarten Programming

COV currently serves 36 kindergartners and now accepts referrals for kindergartners at all five sites across our three partner school districts.

> NEW PRIORITY: Middle School Implementation

Activities

- Expand our partnerships throughout the greater community.
- Continue our relationships with our sustaining partners.
- Continue to build awareness of COV's impact and need throughout Skagit County.

Activities

- Create a volunteer program for middle school students who have exited COV.
- Expand vertically by developing a middle school component to COV.
- Maintain relationships with COV students through their entire education.

PRIORITY 3: Program Expansion

Three years into our 5-year plan, we have expanded to five sites across our three partner school districts. Our Sedro-Woolley site serves students up through 6th grade.

> **NEW PRIORITY:** Program Fidelity & Effectiveness

Activities

- Ensure that COV mission and program integrity are maintained at each site and in each classroom.
- Create systems to gather data and monitor student progression on cornerstones of care.
- Increase infrastructure support.

Our Largest Year of Growth

Introducing Our 5 Sites

COV # By The NUMBERS How many children do we serve?





BETHANY SITE Bethany Covenant Church

Opened September 2006 Site Coordinator - Cassandra Diaz Students served this year - **89**

CENTENNIAL SITE Centennial Elementary

Opened November 2021 Site Coordinator - Maria Guerrero Students served this year - **32**

WASHINGTON SITE Washington Elementary

Opened November 2021 Site Coordinator - Rosa Juarez Mondragon Students served this year - **53**

SEDRO-WOOLLEY SITE

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Opened February 2022 Site Coordinator - Kathy Batista Students served this year - **36**

BURLINGTON SITE Christ the King Skagit Church

Opened April 2022 Site Coordinator - Carmen Najera Students served this year - **24**

An anonymous donor contributed **\$100k+** to the Burlington and Sedro-Woolley site openings!





Active-duty Army Soldier and Paratrooper



Graduate of Mount Vernon High School. Attended Skagit Valley College and Western Washington University.

COV Alumni Spotlight

Lucia Garcia

Lucia was part of COV's first group of students at Bethany Covenant Church when the program opened in 2006.

Q: What was your life like when you joined COV?

"I migrated to the U.S. when I was a little girl and was in the ESL program as a low-income student in need of academic support. I wouldn't socialize or even talk to my classmates."

Q: What were the immediate impacts of COV on your life?

"Being selected to attend the program was a blessing. I remember when I would be reading or sitting on my own and a volunteer would sit next to me and ask how school or my day was. One of the things that impacted me the most was when volunteers and staff would come with different enrichment activities and how that made us develop different skills."

Q: What were the lasting impacts of COV on your life?

"Because COV made a big impact in my life, I decided to volunteer there in high school. I just wanted to be there for someone like they were there for me. COV gave me the tools for a successful life path. I wanted to show kids at COV while I was volunteering that they can dream big in life and accomplish anything."

Family Impact The Gaona Family

The Gaona family has been part of COV for five years. We recently asked them about their experience with COV.

Q: How has COV helped you and your family?

"COV has helped my family become closer."

Q: What is the difference you have seen in your children since attending COV?

"Since my son started in COV I have noticed growth



in his learning. I also have noticed that he is less shy. He has made lots of friends and he met lots of people that are making a positive influence."

Q: How did COV help you during the pandemic?

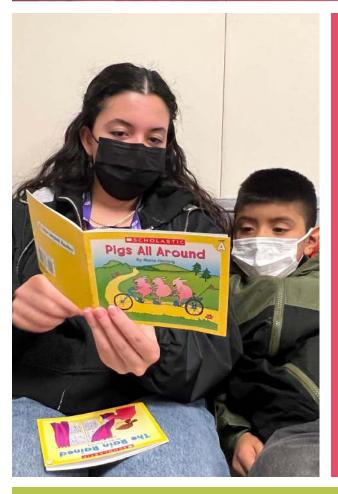
"My kids were lost when they were told they had to do school online. Since schools were closed, many kids had to do school work from home and many did not have internet service. COV stepped up and opened the doors to students so they could attend classes online and also had support from ancillary staff. Thank you COV for all that you do for our community."

Volunteers Make a Difference

With five sites in operation now, our need for volunteers is greater than ever. Thank you to our community members for their invaluable support!



Scan to learn more about volunteering at COV! www.covmv.org/volunteer



Volunteer Spotlight

Isa Wolfson - 145 Hours

A Senior at Mount Vernon High School, Isa has been volunteering at COV for the past four years. This year alone, she has invested a total of 145 volunteer hours!

Q: What do you love most about volunteering?

"Being able to help the students with their homework and helping them progress academically."

Q: What are your career plans?

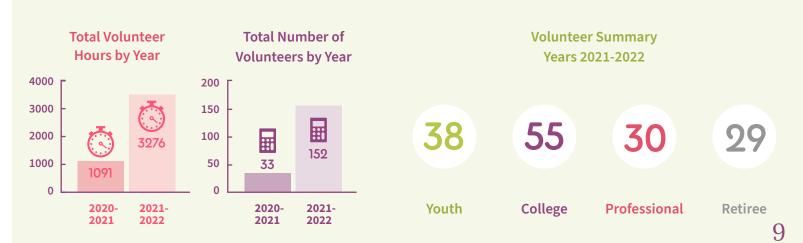
"I plan to study elementary education in college."

Q: What's your most memorable COV moment?

"When they made my birthday cards, that was really sweet."

Thank you, Isa, for helping us inspire our kids to dream big!

Volunteer Report



Event Recaps



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Together We Rise Apparel Fundraiser

Apparel fundraiser aimed at spreading awareness of COV and increasing monthly donors.

Money used for Operating Expenses

Run for the Kids

Fun community walk/run to raise awareness and funds for COV. • 10 sponsors • 138 participants

11 / 2021



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Money used for Site Expansion

Giving Tuesday

Social media fundraising campaign focused on helping COV kids dream big!

Money used for Site Expansion

Giving Tree

56 families of COV students were given basic everyday items and toys from the students' wish lists.



\$→

\$->

Money used for Children & Family Needs

End of Year Giving

Donations given to expand capacity and serve all children on our waiting list.

Money used for Operating Expenses

Art Auction & Dinner

Community art auction and dinner to raise awareness and funds for COV. \$10k donation match by Jerry H. Walton Foundation.

Money used for Operating Expenses

\$ **Total Raised** \$2,650

Total Raised \$9,174

Total Raised \$38,150 (Including \$10k donation match.)

Wish Lists Fulfilled 56

Total Raised \$46,915





Leadership Circle

The Children of the Valley Leadership Circle comprises businesses and organizations that are committed to providing access to education, enrichment, and social-emotional support for our communities' most under-resourced children. Those in our Leadership Circle have made a commitment to support Children of the Valley and our efforts for a minimum of three years.



SaviBank

Mission: Be a source of financial strength, support for and involvement in our communities.

Joined October 2021



Mount Vernon School District

Mission: To expect, encourage, and facilitate the pursuit of excellence and lifelong learning in our students, equipping them for future success and happiness.

Joined August 2020



Sedro-Woolley PeaceHealth

The *spirit* of healing **Mission**: We carry on the healing mission of Jesus Christ by promoting personal and community health, relieving pain and suffering, and treating each person in a loving and caring way.

Joined September 2021



Marathon Petroleum

Mission: We are committed to making our communities stronger, safer and thriving places to live, work and play.

Joined November 2021



Sedro-Woolley School District

Mission: Every student graduates with the knowledge and skills for future success.

Joined October 2021

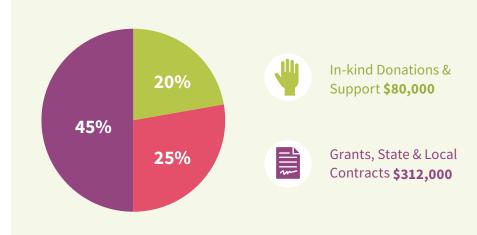


Burlington-Edison School District

Mission: Educate each student for lifelong success.

Joined April 2022

Financial Overview





Individual Donations & Fundraisers \$244,000



Total Expenses 2020 - 2021 \$350,000 2021 - 2022 \$650,000

A Hearty Thank You to Our Staff

We want to give a shout-out to our COV team because their passion, dedication, and unwavering support make our program a success. Thanks to them, the children we serve have a safe, compassionfilled environment in which to DREAM BIG. We see and appreciate the work they do. They embody the COV mission and make a difference in each child's life. Together we rise!



Donor Recognition

Children of the Valley is sustained through the generous donations received from individual community members, churches, businesses, grants, and foundations. Your contribution allows us to continue providing vital services and support to the children most in need from our community at no cost to their families. We do receive monthly donations from many of our COV families who are able to give what they can.



Partnerships

We'd like to thank our community partners for their invaluable support. Each of our partners has given us their space, supplies, or expertise just when we needed it most!

Baylii Branding Bethany Covenant Church Burlington-Edison School District Christ the King Skagit Church

Foundation for Academic Endeavors Helping Hands Food Bank Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Leadership Skagit

Lithtex Northwest Mount Vernon City Library Mount Vernon Conway Youth Baseball Mount Vernon School District

MV Hope Coalition Sedro-Woolley School District Skagit Community Foundation

Skagit Law Group, Laura Minton-Breckenridge Skagit Valley College Skagit Valley College Baseball Team Skagit Valley YMCA



Rainmakers

We are indebted to the donors who provide recurring financial support to COV. This includes monthly, bi-monthly, and quarterly donations, as well as individuals who have given consistently throughout the year.

Arliss Abbott Carl & Carmen Bruner Sylvia & Wilbur Anderson Mike Moe & Beth Ashley Bianca Badillo Luke & Beth Baeslack Maria Banuelos Ariana Barragan Liborio Barrera Carol & John Beima Jenny & Kenny Bergsma Anne & Dan Booker Brooke & Brian Boon Louise & Don Bottles Marie & Alex Carlson Sally & Daniel Carlson Karolyn & Bill Cheney Ana Chesterfield Gabrielle Conatore Rosa Coneio-Suano Cindy & Ted Cummings Trudi Davis Maria De La Rosa

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Dreamcatchers

Thank you to donors who inspire our kids to dream big! Your donations and participation in COV fundraising efforts are deeply appreciated!

Sarah Aguero Araceli Alaniz Stephanie Alaniz Jason Aldrich Nadine Alvarado-Hensley Shelley Amarillas Kathy & Don Andersen Erica Anderson Jessie & Jeffrey Anderson Wendy Ann Claudia Avendano-Ibarra Stephanie Bachmeier Jennifer & Cristian Baisch Kelli Baker Taylor Bannister Adele & Zach Barborinas Morgan Barragan Shervl & Dave Bashaw Colleen Beatty Katelin Benoit Dan Berard Elizabeth Bermani

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Dreamcatchers Continued

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Foundation, Grants, and Corporate Giving

Financial support made by foundations, grants and corporate giving programs.

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Development Relief Fund Wells Nursery Westcrest Wild Waves Theme Park Woods Coffee

Artists

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In Honor and in Memory of

Gifts made in memory of those that have passed and gifts made in honor of others.

In Honor Of Beth Ashley

Wendy Ragusa

In Honor Of Dr. Carl Bruner

Wendy Ragusa

In Honor Of Cam & John Payne, Dee & Richard Lawrence, Laurie & Larry Dodson, Victoria & David Winey, Monica Marius, Maya Busan, Iris & Fritz Anthony, Karen Metzden, Ted Ohlswader, Greg & Cindi Johnson

Robyn & Steven Johnson

In Honor Of David & Linda Dennis Mark & Kathy Larson In Honor Of Debbie Willer

Kirsten Willer

In Honor Of Dwight Nelson Preaching

Bethany Covenant Church In Honor Of

Erwin Stroosma

All Star Club-Centennial Elementary Terri & John Lee

In Honor Of Flora Lucatero For The Liberty Bell Award

Skagit Law Group

In Honor Of Karen Eckardt's Birthday

Helen & Robert Dellimagine

In Honor Of Kathy & Dwight Nelson

Karen Eckardt In Honor Of Molly & Don

Mowat Kristin & Steve Mowat

In Honor Of The Saxon Sisterhood

Molly McNulty

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In Memory Of Marion Julia Harmon

Sharon & Robert Gilbert

In Memory Of Viola Casas

Maria & Pedro Perez

In Memory Of Juana Perez Maria & Pedro Perez

In Memory Of Satoru Sakuma

Anita & Michael Roozen In Memory Of Levi Allen

Koetje Anita & Michael Roozen





Children of the Valley 1318 South 18th Street Mount Vernon, WA 98274

How to Get Involved!



Coming Soon!

"Together We Rise" Apparel Fundraiser

Help us build awareness and show off your support by sporting our ultra-comfy and stylish COV apparel. This October, we're offering limited-edition t-shirts to onetime donors and hoodies to monthly donors.

Visit www.covmv.org/fundraisers for details.





Volunteer

Whether you enjoy preparing daily snacks or prefer handson reading with the children, there is a job for everyone, regardless of availability and ability.



Leadership Circle

The Leadership Circle includes businesses and organizations that make a three-year financial commitment to support our program.



Donate

Children of the Valley is a federally-recognized 501C3 and all donations are tax deductible.



Planned Gift

Include COV in your estate planning so that future generations of children will have the opportunity to receive essential academic support.

a

Amazon Smile

By choosing COV as your preferred non-profit, we'll receive a percentage of every purchase you make online!

To Learn More

Visit www.covmv.org/giving