Cascadia Weekly is pleased to bring you Cascadia Gives Back, our first nonprofit guide. Just in time for Giving Tuesday (Dec. 3) Cascadia Gives Back was created to give a brief overview of some of the organizations serving our area and encourage community action. Nonprofits were selected by voters in this year’s Best of Bellingham, and the space provided for free thanks to participating business sponsors. We hope you consider giving to nonprofits closest to your heart this holiday season. Information on how to donate or volunteer can be found on the following pages.

**SUPPORTERS**

**WE CU**

**WAYCROSS INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COMPANY**

**VILLAGE BOOKS PAPER DREAMS**

**ASLAN BREWING CO.**

**Western Solar**

**SCHOOLS-BASED PROGRAMMING:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$100</td>
<td>provides 12 outings for a low-income student in second or third grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250</td>
<td>provides an outing for a classroom of students with disabilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500</td>
<td>subsidizes after-school programming for 12 students at a low-income school.</td>
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Donations can be made at www.wildwhatcom.org/donate

**COMPASS Health**

**MISSION:** To foster lifelong connections to nature.

**VISION:** We do this in order to promote the health and well-being of young people in our community and to support our community in raising a generation of environmental stewards who care about each other and the planet.

**COMPASS Health**, Northwest Washington’s behavioral health-care leader, integrates behavioral health and medical care services to support clients and communities when and where they need us. We address complex health-care needs in partnership with first responders and other community organizations to form a key section of the community safety net to serve our clients and others who need our care and support. From comprehensive mental health treatment to crisis intervention, children’s services, housing and community education, our nonprofit organization serves people of all ages throughout Snohomish, Skagit, Island, San Juan, and Whatcom counties.

Donations can be made at www.compasshealth.org/donate

**GIVING INDEX**

$410

Billions donated to charities by U.S. citizens in 2017, the last complete year on record. The amount is up 5 percent from the previous year. Charitable giving accounted for 2.1 percent of gross domestic product in 2017.

17.9

Portion of charitable giving worldwide that comes from the United States. America’s oldest population accounts for one quarter (26 percent of the above number) of all charitable giving in the United States. Canada contributes 23.5 percent of charitable giving worldwide.

40 49

Percent of Millennials who are enrolled in a monthly giving program. Percent of Baby Boomers and Gen Xers who are enrolled in a monthly giving program.

64 71

Percent of Millennials who volunteer locally. More than 55 percent attend fundraising events. Percent of Baby Boomers who volunteer locally, while 64 percent of Gen Xers volunteer locally.

64.7 34.8

Percent of identifiable charitable givers who are women. Percent of identifiable charitable givers who are men.

52.7

Percent of charitable givers who identify as liberal (29.5 percent) or very liberal (23.2 percent) in political outlook. More than 32.8 percent of charitable givers identify as moderate in their political outlook. Only 4 percent of charitable giving arrives from people who identify as conservative.

**SOURCES:** 2018 Global Trends in Giving
**DVSAS**

**OUR** mission is to support individuals affected by domestic violence, sexual assault and sexual exploitation, and to lead the community toward ending these abuses of power. We envision a safe, equitable community, free from the oppression that leads to gender-based violence, where all individuals feel valued and respected.

Every year more than 85 volunteers donate more than 12,000 hours of their time to direct and indirect services. DVSAS could not operate without these dedicated volunteers. Please visit www.dvsas.org/volunteer to learn more about upcoming opportunities in 2020.

Donations can be made at www.dvsas.org/donate

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**Lydia Place**

**LYDIA** Place is a nonprofit, community-based agency serving homeless individuals and families since 1989. Our mission is to disrupt the cycle of homelessness and support sustained independence for current and future generations. Our vision is a compassionate community where everyone has a home and the opportunity to thrive.

With more than 200 volunteers, resulting in more than 10,000 hours of service, we wouldn’t be the organization we are today with their support. Volunteers help with program services, event and fundraising support, administration and office tasks, retail jobs at Wise Buys, or campus and gardens maintenance. If you are interested in learning more, visit our website at: https://lydiaplace.org/volunteer/

We accept donations of volunteerism, dollars or goods to support our work in the community.

Donations can be made at www.lydiaplace.org/support
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

BOOK GROUP

at Village Books in Fairhaven
A limited run book group focusing on topics concerning homelessness.

Breakfast at Sally’s
Jan. 21, 5pm

No House to Call My Home
Feb. 18, 5pm

BOOKS
Gifts They’ll Open Again and Again

VB Giving Tree
Select an Angel from our Fairhaven or Lynden Giving Trees and receive 20% off your book purchases for local kids in need this holiday season.

All Welcome
Attendees receive 15% off selected books.

Join Us!

The Volunteer Center of Whatcom County

OUR mission is to mobilize volunteers to meet community needs, build the capacity of organizations to effectively engage volunteers, and inspire support for community service.

Our vision is that everyone in Whatcom County can contribute to and gain from volunteering to meet community needs and build community vibrancy.

YOU CAN MAKE A BIG IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY BY SUPPORTING VOLUNTEER SERVICES:

$35 subsidizes a day of volunteer connections providing critical services in our community.

$250 supports a week of volunteer connections to more than 100 agencies.

$350 provides a year of volunteer services for a senior or person with disabilities to remain independent in their home.

Donations can be made at www.whatcomvolunteer.org/donate

Growing Veterans

OUR mission is to empower veterans to cultivate purpose and belonging by growing food, community and each other.

Our vision is to end the isolation that leads to veteran suicide.

We have standing volunteer days, currently from 10am-2pm Wednesdays through Fridays. We can also schedule volunteer groups. Volunteers can register at growingveterans.org/how-to-help/volunteer.html

Donations can be made at growingveterans.org/how-to-help/donate.html. Additionally, checks can be mailed to 6458 Martin Place, Lynden, WA 98264

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Allied Arts

OUR vision is a vibrant community connected through the arts.

Our mission is to cultivate our creative region by empowering local artists, fostering arts education, and engaging enthusiasts of the arts.

Find out more about volunteering at www.alliedarts.org/internship-and-volunteer-opportunities/

THIS SEASON WE ARE RAISING FUNDS FOR OUR VARIOUS COMMUNITY PROGRAMS.

$25 provides the art supplies for an arts class in the schools.

$50 provides an hour of high-quality arts education in the schools.

$100 helps with an Art as Business session for emerging artists.

$200 funds a street performance during Downtown Art Walk.

$500 funds an entire classroom 12 hours of intensive arts education.

Donations can be made at www.alliedarts.org/support-2

Whatcom Literacy Council

THE mission of the Whatcom Literacy Council is to empower adults to achieve their goals and improve their lives through literacy. Our vision is of Whatcom County being a place where every adult has attained the literacy skills they need to thrive. Our mission and vision provide a framework that keeps us focused on a learner-centered program, serving our students as effectively and efficiently as possible.

We offer free one-on-one tutoring and small group classes throughout Whatcom County. We work with more than 100 volunteers each year to provide services. We also have our volunteers serve in classrooms at BTC and WCC at the instructors’ request so their students can be more successful.

People interested in volunteering can check our website. Gifts stay here in Whatcom County, helping our neighbors become more stable and self-sufficient.

Donations can be made at www.whatclliteracy.org

October swipes earned members $14,325.94!

WECU matched these pennies and donated them to four great local organizations. Check out wecu.com/PennyJar.

This month’s community Penny Jar goes to causes supporting veterans.
Shifting Gears

MISSION: Shifting Gears is a nonprofit creating welcoming recreation experiences that encourage confidence, wellness, growth and joy.
VISION: Our inclusive cycling and hiking programs focus on breaking down barriers that stand in the way of a person and their aspirations. By participating in Shifting Gears programs, community members walk away with the tools they need to attain their recreational goals and build their confidence so they can spend more time outside by themselves, with new friends or with their families.

Donations can be made at www.letsshiftgears.com/contribute, or mail a check to 1009 Larrabee Ave, Bellingham, WA 98225

HomesNOW! Not Later

MISSION: Ending homelessness one person at a time. HomesNOW! helps people transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency.
VISION: A home is extremely important. Without a safe place to stay and the ability to have a decent standard of living, it is extremely difficult to stabilize. A place to sleep is not enough. A homeless person has often lost confidence and needs help to reestablish their self-esteem and contribute to the community. HomesNOW! focuses on housing for homeless individuals who are willing to work hard to get off the streets and become self-sufficient. Without community support, none of this would be possible. Your donation empowers us to build tiny homes and provide basic needs to the homeless population.

Donations can be made at homesnow.org/donate/, or checks can be mailed to: 1441 St. Paul St., Bellingham WA 98225

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**Lighthouse Mission**

**MISSION:** Healing homelessness with Christ’s power and love.
**VISION:** To be a consistent friend to those in homelessness that they become God-dependent healthy members of society, with such impact that our community points to Jesus Christ.
**VALUES:**
- We are boldly Jesus-centered.
- We are passionately committed to the poor.
- We are a healing community, grace-based and radically hospitable.
- We are innovative, collaborative and scrappy.
- We are listeners, truthful and accountable.
- We are thankful!

One day of shelter, food, and care for one person costs $17. Find out more about volunteering and needed items on our website.

Donations can be made at [www.thelighthousemission.org/how-to-help/financial-donation](http://www.thelighthousemission.org/how-to-help/financial-donation)

**Northwest Youth Services**

**MISSION:** Northwest Youth Services collaborates with at-risk, runaway and homeless youth to foster self-reliance.
Our vision is that all young people have a place to belong, to be safe, heard and valued. Northwest Youth Services offers housing, street outreach, help finding a job or enrolling in school, connection to mental health services, support for LGBTQ youth, restorative justice for juvenile offenders and referrals to other services in the community.

To volunteer, email Hello@NWYS.org or check our website.

Donations can be made at [www.nwys.org/donate](http://www.nwys.org/donate)

**Brigid Collins**

**OUR** mission is to end child abuse. Serving more than 2,000 families each year, we envision a world in which all children are safe, healthy and nurtured.

Donations can be made at [www.brigidcollins.org/donate-now](http://www.brigidcollins.org/donate-now)

**Skookum Kids**

**MISSION:** To repair the foster care system by eliminating the pain points that make life unnecessarily difficult for foster parents and social workers. We do that by involving the whole community in the important work of child welfare.

**VISION:** To involve more hands in caring for Whatcom County’s most vulnerable children.

Volunteer opportunities range from one-time events ideal for large groups to yearlong commitments that enable a sustained relationship with a particular child. We take great pride in finding the right way for every person to participate in this revolution.

$100 provides a safe night’s sleep at Skookum House during a child’s first 72 hours of foster care.

Donations can be made at [www.skookumkids.org/give](http://www.skookumkids.org/give)
SYLVIA Center for the Arts’ mission is to provide a place for the community to connect and to experience inspiring and engaging performing arts. We offer educational programs for youth and adults, a diverse and vibrant calendar of locally produced performances and concerts, and accessible and affordable venues for the community to hold events.

Our vision is to establish a thriving Arts District in Bellingham and, in collaboration with our resident companies and other community partners, to make Whatcom County a regional destination for world-class performing arts.

We have many volunteer opportunities, ranging from hanging posters, working at the box office and bar, and helping to build/strip stage sets, to fundraising, grant writing, and public relations work. Find information about our show calendar, tickets and memberships/season passes on our website.

Donations can be made at www.SylviaCenterfortheArts.org

Bellingham Food Bank

OUR mission is to reduce hunger in Bellingham by providing wholesome foods to those in need and to educate the community about local hunger issues.

Nearly 20 percent of residents in Bellingham visit our food bank on a regular basis. More than 50 percent of the people who walk through our doors are youth or senior citizens. We are one of the busiest food banks in Western Washington, and are visited by more than 1,350 Bellingham families every week.

Donations can be made at www.bellinghamfoodbank.org

Help us treat the whole person.

70 percent of behavioral health patients also have chronic medical conditions that often go unmet.

Compass Health is bringing behavioral health specialists together with traditional medical providers to collaborate, innovate, and treat the whole person.

Your support makes this all possible.

Donate today: compasshealth.org/donate

Compass Health, Northwest Washington’s behavioral healthcare leader, integrates behavioral health and medical care services to support clients and communities when and where they need us.

compasshealth.org | /compasshealthwa

Thank you Waycross Investment Management Company for your continued support of Compass Health and the communities we serve.