Connecting Community
WHAT’S YOUR WHY?

The Columbian
Just months after being recognized as the “Event Of The Year” for the SW Washington chapter by the Washington Festivals & Events Association, Ke Kukui Foundation’s 21st Annual 4 Days Of Aloha will share the prized aloha spirit once again in Vancouver WA on July 20-23.

If you have love for Hawaiian arts and culture, mark your calendars! The highly touted event of the summer will be featuring a concert by the legendary award winning Hawaiian artists, The Makaha Sons, and a 2nd concert featuring the island reggae sensation, Ekolu, along with special guests!

4 Days Of Aloha’s cultural workshops is proud to bring back the diverse offerings of classes open to the community. This year’s workshops include hula, Tahitian dance, imu (underground oven cooking), mea kaua (Hawaiian weaponry), kalo (taro) pounding, natural dying, ukulele, lei making, specialized kids workshops for ages 6-12 and now offering classes for ages 3-5 along with classes for parents and much more. All participants will get the opportunity to display and share with the community their experiences and new found knowledge. All kumu (teachers) that participate in the cultural workshops are the best of the best in their given fields - a fantastic opportunity for the PNW community to share space.

One of the highlights of the festival is the esteemed lineup of vendors! Our vendors come from Washington, Oregon, California, Vegas, Utah, Arizona, and Hawai’i! With over 50 vendors lining Esther Short Park, you will be delighted to find all your favorite Hawaiian items/products from apparel, snacks, shave ice, hot plate lunches and much much more... The Keiki (kids) Zone will once again be available and for our attendees over 21, the highly popular beer garden will be presented by Kona Brewing.

Some of the featured giveaways at this year’s 4 Days Of Aloha will come from our valued sponsors; Grand Prize - Ululani’s Hawaiian Shave Ice will be raffling off an all expense paid trip to MAUI, Hawaiian Airlines will be giving away 2 roundtrip tickets, Hawaii’s Heritage Jewelers will hand out a Hawaiian jewelry set to a lucky attendee and KoAloha Ukulele will be giving out a new ukulele each day of the event... just to name a few!

Allow Ke Kukui Foundation to bring the spirit of the islands to you with fun and aloha for the entire family! Mahalo nui loa from 4 Days Of Aloha!
Hello-

This publication of ‘Connecting Community’ focuses specifically on telling the stories of volunteers, employees, and donors who support the efforts of nonprofit organizations in Clark County. We hope that by reading these stories answering the question “What’s Your Why?”, you will be able to picture yourself getting involved, volunteer, donating, or contributing. Clark County would not be the vibrant community it is without the work of our local nonprofits who strive to positively impact the lives of so many people and families in our community.

-Teresa Davis, communitypartnerships@columbian.com

HEATHER COCHRUN
Community Outreach Manager, Habitat for Humanity

Heather Cochrun is the Community Outreach Manager at Evergreen Habitat for Humanity. She says she decided to work for Habitat for Humanity because she has always been passionate about housing and people having a safe and affordable place to live. “Shortly after college I began working at a homeless shelter for families and saw the important role housing had on children and youth,” Heather says. “A house is not just a place to live. It’s a place to do homework, to have friends over, to develop hobbies and passions, to find who you are. I strongly believe in Habitat’s mission of building affordable homeownership opportunities for families in our community. Everyone deserves to know the strength and stability a permanent place to live to provides.”

Heather says the most rewarding part about working for Evergreen Habitat for Humanity is getting to know the families and getting to watch families grow as they celebrate birthdays and graduations in their forever home.

For those considering volunteering for Evergreen Habitat for Humanity, Heather says, “You will not be disappointed! Habitat for Humanity is an incredible place to work. We get to build community every day and connect with new people.”

Heather was born and raised in Vancouver, WA and says she is happy to call it home. Outside of work Heather enjoys reading, baking, and spending time with friends and family. “I have a dog and a cat and they both bring me much needed joy and snuggles!”

The Store That Builds Homes
10811 SE 2nd St.
Vancouver, WA 98664
360-213-1313
www.ehfh.org/store

Shop. Donate. Volunteer

The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves.

-Helen Keller

Read past sections you may have missed at columbian.com/special-sections/
Special Section Coordinators
Teresa Davis, Kristin Dorsett, Laurie Stover
JOHN P. KIVLEN
Interim Executive Director, The Magenta Theater

John P. Kivlen is the Interim Executive Director of The Magenta Theater. He has been working in professional theater for most of his adult life. He says he continues to enjoy it. “When we moved to Washougal in June 2020, I wanted to get engaged with a local theater company,” he said. John says what he finds most rewarding about working for The Magenta Theater is working with creative teams, directors, designers, performers, and other creators.

“While sometimes filled with drama, working in live theater is highly engaging, rewarding, and (most of all) really fun!” John said. “The Magenta Theater is made up of 97% volunteers. They are here because they love working in live theater. I would encourage everyone to try it.”

Besides theater, John’s other hobbies and interests include traveling, fine wines, downhill skiing, SCUBA diving, swimming, and non-fiction books.

LOCAL THEATER IS A REWARDING JOB AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Amélie
THE MUSICAL

AUGUST 4 TO 20, 2023

° Produced by Special Arrangement with TOUCHE
° SCENE
° The Novel by Guillaume Musso
° Based on the motion picture Amélie, written by Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Guillaume Musso

VOLUNTEER TODAY

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
An Impact Panel

AUGUST 2 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
at The Ripple Space

Our brains grow fastest in the earliest stages of life. This process is shaped by the resources available to kids, families, and communities. Come learn how local groups are laying a foundation for children’s futures.

Panelists from:
- Educational Opportunities for Children & Families
- Innovative Services NW
- Volunteer Lawyers Program
- Family Solutions

Registration of $35. This is not a fundraiser.

AUGUST 23: Join our 1-meeting Giving Circle to hear from more people working in the field, donate funds and decide together how we make a difference.

Ripple Impact NW inspires generosity, informs giving, connects people. We do not manage financial investments, nor provide financial or legal advice. A tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.
Kate Meeks is retired yet keeps herself busy in many ways. She is the Director of Battle Ground Adventist Community Services and also drives for Uber.

“I felt I needed to “give back” and the foodbank is attached to my church,” Kate said.

Kate says she finds her work with the local foodbank very rewarding. Especially working with fantastic volunteers. She also enjoys seeing the faces of women leaving with bags of food. “Children are always my concern. No child should be hungry,” she said.

Other activities Kate finds rewarding include gardening, walking, reading, and knitting. About knitting she says, “I’m not good at it, but I like it!”

For company Kate enjoys the companionship of her two cats Louie and Mooie, and spending time with her two grown kids and granddaughter.

Mission Statement:
to provide an important outreach as a food pantry and clothing closet, serving North Clark County.

Organization Overview:
We are located in the Center Point building, which is home to a number of non-profit organizations in Battle Ground. The Meadow Glade Seventh-Day Adventist Church board oversees our operations, which are run entirely by volunteers. Clients shop on their own in the pantry, guided by a list of food categories available for each family size. Before exiting, clients bring their selections to a checkout station where volunteers check, weigh, and box the items. We also offer free clothing, linens, quilts, and household goods to clients.

Service Area:

Size:

Medium

Services & Partnerships:
- Shopping-Style
- Free Clothing
- Nutrition Education
- EFAP
- NW Harvest Member

Changing Local Lives for the Better

Ways you can help:
Volunteer: Tuesday & Thursday
Donate: Food, Clothing, Household Items

Watch for our Open House in September!
Eddie Allen is the Owner/Lead Guide of Pacific Northwest Fundraising. He’s involved with fundraising and cause marketing efforts with numerous nonprofits in the area, including ESDF, Humane Society of SW Washington, Clark County Historical Museum, Columbia River Mental Health Foundation, Educational Opportunities for Children and Families, St. Joseph Catholic School & Parish, Leadership Clark County, Community Roots Collaborative, Adventure Without Limits and The Mullen-Polk Foundation.

“I have donated to many worthy causes in our community and region for the past 20 years,” Eddie said. “Folks should donate to organizations that they are passionate about. There are many in our community to give to! We are all here to make a difference.”  

Eddie is a graduate of Clark College and Western Washington University, a 2014 Leadership Clark County class member, a National Academy of Sports Medicine certified personal trainer, and a two-time winner of the Washington State Umpire of the Year.

For fun, Eddie spends his free time hiking or backpacking in the Pacific Northwest mountains. Eddie is a fur parent to his nearly 16-year-old dog, Nick The Wonder Dog, a former (retired) world-class disc dog!
JOE CHAPARRAL | JULY 15, 2023 | 7

INTERNATIONAL PARKING | JULY 15, 2023 | 7

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Connect Community | What's Your Why?

"To be in service to others"
Because it matters!

"Be a part of something bigger than myself"
"To be in service to others"

Lifeline Connections is a community-based behavioral health organization that inspires hope and supports life-saving changes for all people affected by substance use and mental health conditions.

Can you give?

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another. Volunteer locally today.

Lineline Connections
hope. help. Healing.
lifelineconnections.org

Can you give?
Give Today and Support Local Journalism

The Columbian has been committed to providing high quality journalism for four generations. We created a new program to fund journalists focused on the issues impacting our local community including housing and homelessness, transportation and the environment. Your gift today supports investigative reporting that benefits our whole community.

Join supporters like these:

“Community newspapers are vital to democracy by keeping citizens informed as to what is happening in their community. I strongly appreciate the job The Columbia does for SW Washington.”
− Cynthia Gardner, CFJ Supporter

“Our household LOVES the Columbian. We are thrilled that it has remain independently owned and has always provided good local, national and international coverage. With Community Funded Journalism, fresh and well-researched information about issues that are important regionally and meaningful to us personally just keep getting better and information more in-depth. Not being journalists or newsmakers ourselves, CFJ allows us to help assure the viability of quality journalism in SW Washington.”
− Anonymous, CFJ Supporter

For more information about our program: www.columbian.com/cfj

The Columbian

In partnership with LocalMedia Foundation

What’s our Why? For the Campbell family, giving to the community is a value we have held for decades. The Columbian has long believed in providing our local community with news and information for our neighbors and supporting the nonprofits that help our community thrive.

Columbian Community Partnerships has worked with hundreds of local nonprofits to help them meet their goals. With our matching funds program, Nonprofit Spotlight promotions, Local Public Service Announcements, and special rates for nonprofit advertising, in print and online, We strive to support our local nonprofit organizations as they reach out to The Columbian audience to seek volunteers, recruit members, or fundraise for programs and services they sponsor. Let us lend a helping hand.

If you’d like more information on how Columbian Community Partnerships can help your nonprofit organization, contact Teresa Davis at CommunityPartnerships@columbian.com or 360-735-4572 cOLUMBIAN.COM/COMMUNITY-PARTNERSHIP/