

DECEMBER 2017

# Birch COMMUNITY SERVICES

*The Sustainable Families Program*



Suzanne Birch, BCS staff, board members and the Gresham Chamber of Commerce celebrate BCS' 25 year anniversary with a ribbon cutting on Sept. 29th, 2017.

## Moving in the Right Direction

*"Be on the right way and go in the right direction. Once you are never going back, you will progress day after day, little by little." — Israelmore Ayivor*

In 2017 we celebrated the first 25 years of Birch Community Services (BCS): the process, the people, the successes and disappointments. Albeit challenging, each step on the path has resulted in growth. Now, we zealously look forward as 2018 embarks on the next twenty-five! Our new logo is a fresh reminder of our continued mission, and our passion to fearlessly guard the integrity of the Sustainable Families Program, focusing on financial literacy. Creatively guiding people on what often seems an impossible course is daunting, but so beneficial. There is change, sometimes radical change, but change most often through the baby steps that get families moving in the right direction – and even a baby step taken in the right direction is progress.

**Keeping goals at the forefront and providing tools to accomplish self-sustainability remains the priority.** We provide the encouragement, environment and education, but they make the changes themselves. Author J.R. Rim commented, *"One thing God has been showing me is that I'm not called to save the world, just to point those He places in my life towards the right way."*

What a joy to be a small part of these transitions. Thankfulness is foremost in my heart these days. This community feeds me with more than food, but with inspiration and support. I'm blessed and humbled to serve in the years to come.

Always grateful,

# Our Program: What We Do

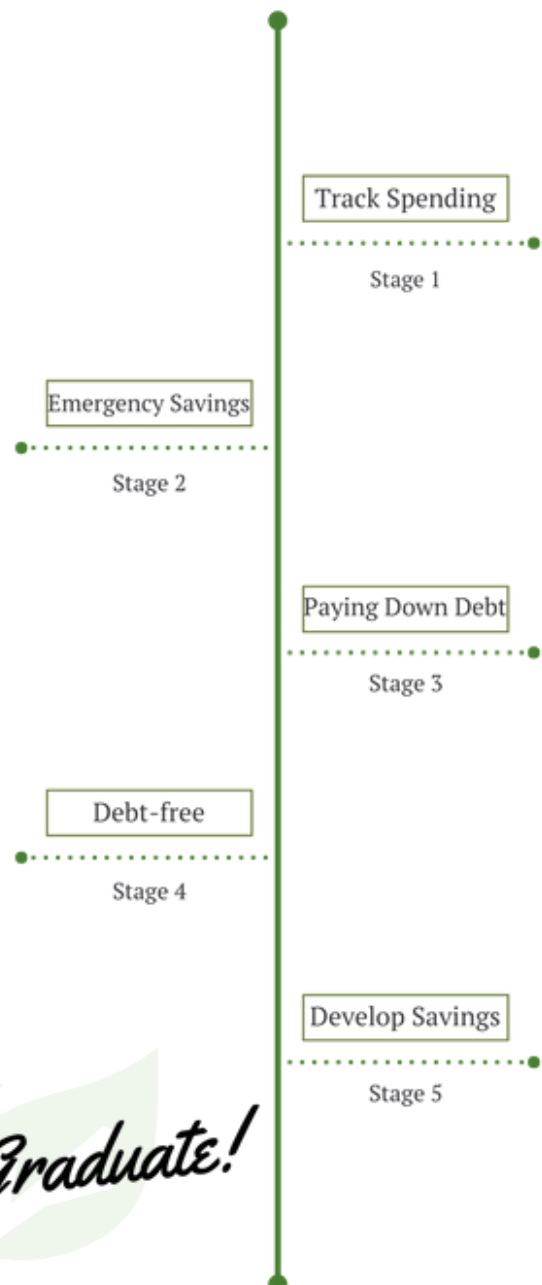
## THE SUSTAINABLE FAMILIES PROGRAM

Our mission is to provide a community where people can be responsible and accountable for meeting their basic needs and to equip them with tools to overcome financial difficulty.



*Dino Biaggi, Sustainable Families Program Manager, teaches parents how to involve their children when discussing money.*

BCS is a financial literacy program that empowers working, struggling families to become self-sustainable. We do this by providing weekly access to donated food, clothing, and household items, but more importantly, by providing families with the tools they need to move forward.



"This class gave us hope for a future that will be full of giving. It helped us strengthen and fortify the legacy we are leaving for our son."

— BCS PARTICIPANT  
FALL 2017

# 2017 Snapshot: A Closer Look

Families Served: 622

Classes Taught: 15

Financial Meetings: 446

Families Graduated: 61

Volunteer Hours: 45,000+



*BCS volunteers are crucial to our success. Shown here are volunteers from AXA Advisors breaking down bulk items to be utilized by individual families.*

Upon joining the program,  
and on an annual basis, each  
family meets with our  
Program Manager

*"[The class] was very thought provoking and informative. It made us realize we have a lot of work to do as a couple and family. We didn't discuss these things prior to marriage and now 8 years in, we need to, and that's a little scary. I feel we have the tools now to start the process and be successful navigating this new path."*

— BCS PARTICIPANT  
FEBRUARY 2017

Children's  
**FAIRY**  
**STORIES**

Children's  
**FAIRY**  
**STORIES**



# Highlights: 2017



## Program

"This past year we launched BCS' own personal finance class, re\$tart. This course focuses on helping families revamp their financial plan. It is very exciting to witness the transformation in the first cohort of families."

-Dino Biaggi, SFP Manager



## Gardens

BCS has two teaching gardens which serve as an avenue for families to become further sustainable by learning how to garden, eat healthier and save. Participants have the opportunity to learn hands-on how to tend the vegetable gardening cycles and processes, and are encouraged to begin their own family gardens as a practice.



## Events

Annually, BCS holds a Breakfast with Birch, an Open House and a Replication Seminar. This year BCS participated in a true FUNdraiser with **Daniel House**, a local home design studio, which helped raise almost \$10,000 through a delightful croquet event. We enjoyed this so much that we will be hosting our own version in 2018; stay tuned!



## Staff

BCS hired a new office person and two new warehouse people. Each week, families are personally greeted by BCS staff, creating a community that embodies dignity, accountability and growth. Relationships are the backbone of BCS' success.

# Donor Spotlight: 2017

*This year, BCS received over 9.5 million pounds of food, clothing and household items from over 250 donors. We are deeply grateful for all of our partnerships and would not be able to serve our families well without their generosity. Below we highlight 3 very special donors for their long-term commitment to the empowerment of working, struggling families.*

## DANNER BOOTS

Donor Since 1998

*Danner's remarkable craftsmanship and immense generosity has been outfitting working-struggling families for nearly twenty years as they take their first steps towards financial sustainability.*



## CLASSIC FOODS

Donor Since 1993

*Since the very beginning, 25 years ago, Classic Foods has been treating BCS families with the freshest pastas and delectable spices from around the world, inspiring hope and culinary excellence with every meal.*



## MCTAVISH SHORTBREAD

Donor Since 1997

*McTavish's high quality baked goods have been bringing smiles and full bellies to BCS for decades.*



*This year, BCS received a donation of over 40 pallets from Chef's Cut Real Jerky.*

## How to Donate Product:

- Contact us 24/7 at 503 251 8860 or [donate@bcsi.org](mailto:donate@bcsi.org)
- We will schedule a pickup at your convenience
- We will show up at the scheduled time

# Thankful for a Wonderful Year



*Kristi from **Odwalla** and Anne, a BCS participant, serve delicious juice samplings to attendees.*

## Open House: 25 years

### Celebrating 25 Years of Growing in Gratitude

In September, we held our anniversary event which included over 600 guests and 25 booths representing our top product donors. The day was filled with alumni stories from the beginning days of BCS up until 2016. Attendees enjoyed samplers from our donors while also learning the beautiful history of BCS.

## Recognition

- Oregon Recycler of the Year 2017
- **Rotary** Ethics in Business Award 2017
- 100 Best Green Workplaces in Oregon 2017
- 100 Best Nonprofits to Work for in Oregon 2017



*Andrew Rowlett, BCS Operations Manager, and Madeline Allen, BCS Development and Communications Manager at the Rotary Ethics in Business Awards.*

## 2018: Goals and Challenges

### Project List

- Replacement of fluorescent warehouse bulbs with **LEDs**

### Equipment Needs

- Our warehouse water heater is aging quickly and needs to be replaced. It would be wonderful to save money and decrease our electricity consumption by upgrading to a **tankless water heater**.
- An **in-ground warehouse floor pallet scale** would help make operations more efficient but more importantly, much safer.

### Ongoing Needs

- Financial sponsorship of the Sustainable Families Program
- **Volunteer** drivers and helpers in the warehouse

## BHAG (Big Hairy Audacious Goal!)

**To own our own building**



# Generous Providers 2017

7-11

Airport Drayage  
Al's Garden Centers  
Albertsons  
Alpenrose Dairy  
Angels of God  
Associated Global Systems  
Auntie Anne's Pretzels  
Baby & Me  
Bake Mark  
Bay Valley Foods  
BCS' Baker Garden  
Bed Bath & Beyond  
Bell-Carter Packaging  
Blackwell Blue Trucking  
Bonneville Power Administration  
Bridgetown Natural Foods  
Bridgetown Trucking Inc.  
CarQuest  
Centennial Park Community  
Garden  
Charlie's Produce  
Chef George, Inc.  
Chef's Cut Real Jerky  
Children's Club, Inc.  
City Bible Church/ Hope Resources  
City Of Gresham  
Clackamas County Gleaners  
Classic Foods  
Columbia Gorge Helping Hands  
Cooks Meat  
Costco  
Crossroads Food Bank  
CU Business Group LLC  
Danner Shoe Manufacturing  
Darigold  
Dave's Killer Bread  
Deja Vu Consignment  
DeLaSalle High School  
Diamond Line  
Emanuel Hospital (Legacy)  
Everyday Deals  
Excel Brokerage  
Faithfull Disciples  
Fred Meyer Swan Island Dairy  
Freedom House Ministries  
Frito-Lay  
Fulton Meats  
Gartner's Country Meat Market, Inc.  
Georgia Pacific  
Giltner Inc.  
God's Portion  
Goodwill

Grand Central Bakery  
Grayrose Marketing Group Inc.  
Graziano Produce  
Grocery Outlet  
Gulick Trucking  
Harry's Fresh Foods  
Helen Bernhard Bakery  
Henningsen Cold Storage  
Heritage Specialty Foods  
Hi-School Pharmacy  
Hope Station Community Services  
Horizon Community Church  
Hyster  
Impact Northwest  
Inmar Supply Chain Services  
Inn His Care  
KeHe  
Kinco Gloves  
Life Christian Center  
Lowe's  
Made In Oregon  
Magno-Humphries Labs  
Marsee Foods Inc.  
Marshall Fruit Company  
McTavish  
Medical Teams International  
Melody Ballroom  
Mercantile Portland  
Microchip  
Mildren Design Group PC  
Morasch Meats  
Need 2 Feed  
New Cascadia Bakery  
New Seasons Market  
Northwest Children's Outreach  
Nossa Coffee  
NW Paper Box  
Oaks Park  
Odwalla  
Old Chicago  
Olive Garden  
Oregon Children's Outreach  
Oregon Humane Society  
Organic Valley  
Organically Grown Company  
Oroweat Baking Co.  
Pacific NW Outreach  
Pacific Seafood  
Pass It On  
Pat Fruth Trucking, Inc.  
Pepsi Beverages Company  
Pilgrim's Pride  
Pizza Hut Store

Plato's Closet  
Portland Adventist  
Portland Food Project  
Portland Fruit  
Portland Nursery  
Portland Public Schools  
Portland Rescue Mission  
Potluck in the Park  
Provvista  
QVC  
Red Lobster Restaurant  
Rescuing Leftover Cuisine  
Resers Foods  
Reynolds School  
Roma / Performance Foodservice  
Safeway Frozen  
Safeway Meat  
Salt & Straw  
Sanctuary Church Food Pantry  
Shamrock Foods  
Shepherd's Door  
Shriners Hospital  
Silk Espresso  
Skagit County Gleaners  
Snow Cap  
Starbucks  
Sunderland Garden  
Sunset Presbyterian Church  
Sunshine Division  
Sunshine Pantry  
Sysco  
Taylor Farms  
Teeney Foods  
The Barn  
The Pumpkin Patch  
Trailblazer Foods  
Tri High Trucking  
Trident Seafood  
Tuesday Morning  
TWT  
Union Gospel Mission  
Unisource  
US Bank  
Value Village Thrift Store  
Ventura Foods LLC  
Verdura Culinary Gardens  
Walgreens  
Wayne Farms  
Winco Foods  
WonGen Central  
XPO Logistics  
Zarephath's Pantry

17780 NE San Rafael  
Portland, OR 97230

*Merry  
Christmas  
from the  
BCS staff!*



Want to get involved?

[www.bcsi.org](http://www.bcsi.org)  
503.251.5431  
[info@bcsi.org](mailto:info@bcsi.org)

17780 NE San Rafael, Portland, OR 97230

Finances  Time  Resources



To learn more or donate to BCS please visit our website at [www.bcsi.org](http://www.bcsi.org)