

A Time to be Grateful

DECEMBER 2020



For everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under the sun...a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance...a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing.

The Donila Family

A Letter From Our Executive Director

When Times Are Tough, What Keeps the Tough Together?

When people walk through the doors at Birch Community Services, they often comment that it *feels* different here. Even in the midst of a year when an alien invasion would be a bottom-of-page-28 news article, BCS has seen more kindness and generosity spread amongst our families than ever before. Not only have product and financial donations exceeded all expectations, but the participants themselves have stepped up in their masks and gloves and served each other well. What is the link between each individual, besides experiencing a difficult time in life?

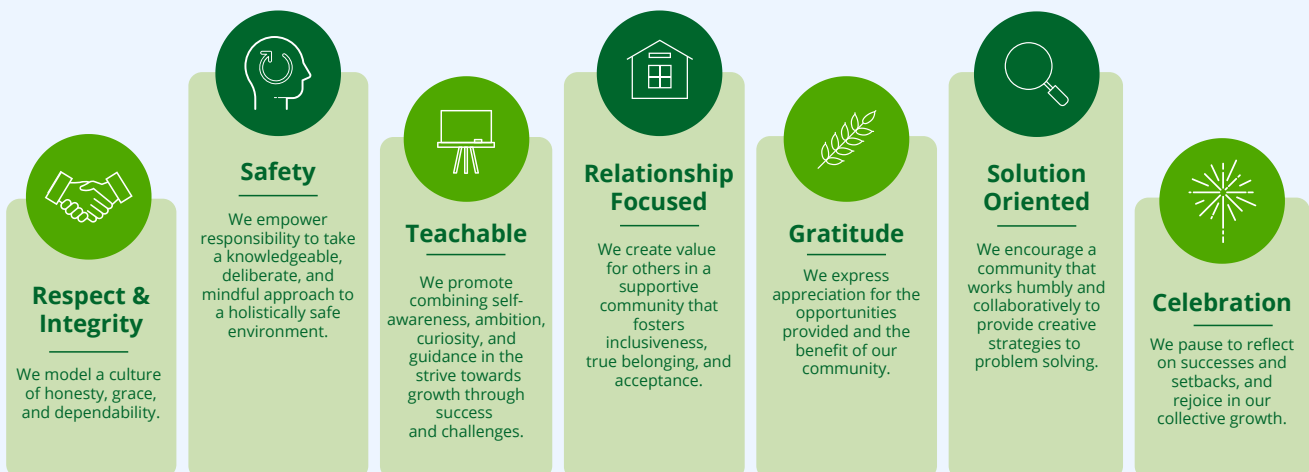
Establishing a culture of caring is crucial, and our Cultural Values are discussed with each new person as they enter the Sustainable Families Program. These values are what drives our community, encouraging humility and compassion for each other. Even when we feel broken and sad, we can affect others in a positive way. It's not always easy to be humble when we feel vulnerable, but we see it at BCS every single day as a focus on gratitude has motivated us to keep a good perspective. We have been blessed.

Our 28th year has been truly phenomenal, and we are deeply grateful for the time each person has invested to create that unique feeling as they walk in the door. I can't wait to see what our 29th year brings!



Suzanne Birch
Executive Director

Birch Cultural Values





The Califf Family



Birch Teaching Gardens



BCS Staff Meeting Feb 2020



The Lechelt Family

Table of Contents

- 2 Letter from the Executive Director**
Check out BCS' cultural values
- 4-5 Annual Report**
Read our stats for 2020
- 6 Letter from the Financial Literacy Manager**
Learn how to create a Family Vision
- 7 Meet the Harmons**
Current participants making HUGE progress
- 8-9 From a Squished Loaf of Bread to Major Distribution Hub**
BCS' reach continues to expand
- 10 Volunteering and Employment at BCS**
Participants keep us running!
- 11 Alumni Report**
Hear from two past BCS families
- 12 Imperfect Foods & La Porte Insurance**
New corporate partners during the pandemic
- 13 A Year in Review**
Our 2020 Timeline
- 14 Our Supporters**
The backbone of Birch
- 15 Looking Forward**
How to help in 2021

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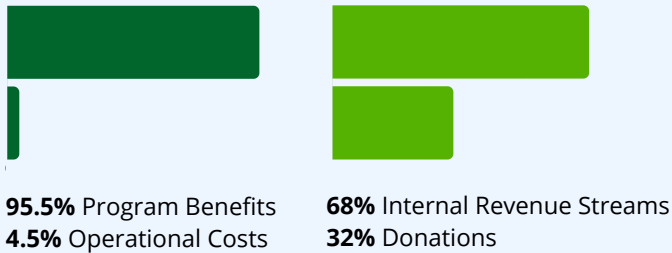
*In this unprecedented time in which we are living, I am even more grateful for Birch. **It is like this rock that has continued to allow me, as one of the providers in my family, to maintain this sense of joy and normalcy for my kids.** I was just sitting at home thinking about what an absolute relief Birch is to our family, so thank you.*

— Rosalyn C

2020 Summary: A Time to be Grateful

November 2019 – October 2020

Fiscal Responsibility



Volunteering

Value of \$735,000 of labor from:

1,350 Volunteers
25,000 Volunteer hours



Food Distributed



13.8 million lbs (50,000 grocery carts)

Education

2 In-person courses
7 Zoom courses
197 Class participants
758 One-on-one meetings

People Served

857
families served with
food and financial
literacy

70
other nonprofit
agencies

20,000
individuals served
through nonprofit
agencies

Participant Top Accomplishments

- **Communicating** better about money
- Creating an emergency **savings fund**
- Paying down **debt**
- **Paying off medical bills**
- Living by a financial plan
- Saving more each month
- Relieving stress at home
- Consistently budgeting and tracking spending

Financial Progress of Participant Families

\$4.1 million of debt paid off **\$600,000** increase in savings

**After one year
on the program,
an average family**



increases savings by
\$1,000



decreases debt by
\$7,000

“

*I joined BCS in 2019 while I was filing for bankruptcy. Because of the money that I have saved, I was finally able to fix my car, go to the doctor, and **put money into savings for the first time in a very long time.***

— BCS Participant

2020 Summary: Who We Are



November 2019 – October 2020

The Four Pillars of the Sustainable Families Program



FOOD

Immediate relief of financial burden creates margin in budget to pay down debt.



EDUCATION

Provided by our Financial Literacy Manager through one-on-one meetings and financial courses.



FREEDOM

Experienced as goals are accomplished and families become debt-free.



LEGACY

Families are able to demonstrate financial stability, influencing their community and children's futures.

Board of Directors 2020

Alex Krider (President)

Avier Wealth Advisors

Egbert Kunrath (Vice President)

Kunrath & Willard Insurance Services (Retired)

Aaron Aigner (Treasurer)

Aigner & Co., Accountant

Leann Rowlett (Secretary)

Maryhill Farmer's Market (Retired)

Mark Childs (Past President)

Capacity Commercial Group

Greg Cervetto

Grayrose Marketing Group, Inc

Dave Riewald

Bullard Law

Angela Small

Past BCS Participant

Alexander Spalding

Daniel House

Rick Teeny

Teeny Foods

BCS Financials

REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT:

Contributions:	\$485,547
In-Kind Donations:	\$20,781,194
Membership Service Fees:	\$653,651
Recycling Income:	\$14,536
Other Income:	\$12,947
Total Revenue:	\$21,947,875

EXPENSES:

Program Expenses:	\$21,597,559
Operational Expenses:	\$187,720
Total Expenses:	\$21,785,279

ASSETS:

Ending Net Assets:	\$1,532,878
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A Letter From the Financial Literacy Manager

Dino Biaggi

The **Family Vision** is the heart of Birch's financial literacy program. It **is a value system that anchors all life's decisions, especially how to spend time and money.** There is no greater purpose and joy behind building a financial plan that's rooted in one's value system.

When I meet with families, I will often wait to address the Family Vision until later in the conversation. I want to hear as many elements about their life before I start snooping around to determine what their big idea is. Those elements are subtle tells on priorities, goals, challenges, pain points, and dynamics.

Once I understand those, then I can introduce the Family Vision question/conversation. Simply put, the Vision explains, "Where are we headed?" and, "Why are we headed there?". It is the reason why one gets up in the morning, and then gets up again the next day.

The Five Stages of the Sustainable Families Program (shown below) are the foundation of the Family Vision, and give meaning and purpose to the budget. It also prioritizes identifying goals, then allowing the vision to come to fruition.

As families move through the stages, they gain momentum, traction, and satisfaction. Ultimately, they experience fulfillment in their vision. This is the goal of the Sustainable Families Program and Birch Community Services.



Dino teaching Re\$tart before classes became virtual

Family Vision 101

The family vision isn't just for finances, but all aspects of life!

- 1 Brainstorm** your values
- 2 Determine** your goals
- 3 Prioritize** those goals
- 4 Make a plan** with your time and money
- 5 Revisit** monthly

1

Budgeting & Becoming Current on Bills

2

Saving One Month's Expenses

3

Paying Off Debt

4

Saving Three Month's Expenses

5

Saving for Larger (Planned) Expenses

“

*Birch has relieved the stress of our food bill, which overflows into all areas of life. It has been such a blessing. **And the financial wisdom and direction from Dino** has been an incredible resource that will benefit us for decades.*

— Brittany



Anna, Holly, Coleman, and Tristan Harmon



Current Participants: Meet the Harmons

Tristan, Anna, and their two young children started at Birch Community Services in October 2019 hoping to save \$1,000 in an emergency account, pay off debt, and buy a house. A few months after joining the program, Tristan, a home remodeler, broke his ankle and was out of work for three weeks. Right after he returned to work, his pay was cut by 10% because of the pandemic. The Harmons moved into Anna's brother's house during this time period to save on living expenses, and along with skills and resources from Birch, they did not turn to credit cards AT ALL during this season. By July, Tristan's pay had returned to 100%.

“*The best thing Birch did for us was give us the opportunity to give to others when we ourselves were in a place of need... I was able to help many other needy families through my church not only through food, but helping them find the resources they need.*”

On top of all that, Anna told us, “The best thing Birch did for us was give us the opportunity to give to others when we ourselves were in a place of need. During the first few weeks of the pandemic, Birch encouraged us to take extra to give to people we might know who found themselves in sudden need. Because of this, I was able to help many other needy families through my church not only with food, but helping them find the resources they need. There is a fundamental dignity in giving and helping others that we in the just-trying-to-get-by income category can sometimes misplace. Birch helped us find it, and we are so grateful.”

In their time at Birch, the Harmons:

- Paid off one credit card entirely (\$3,800)
- Paid off \$7,000 on another card (and expect to pay it off entirely by the end of 2020)
- **Built an emergency fund of \$3,000**
- Experienced a car failure, and were able to pay \$6,000 cash for a used 2006 Prius with low mileage and in great condition
- Discovered their credit scores are in the mid-high 700s and were pre-approved for a home purchase. They are waiting to find a home with all their must-haves, including being under \$300K
- **Created a family vision** (see Dino's How-To on page 6)
- Began using “You Need a Budget” app religiously after they completed the Re\$tart course, and keeping a very close account of all purchases
- **Paid all medical bills** from the ankle injury
- Experienced unexpected dental work that exceeded insurance coverage and were able to pay off the remaining balance within two months
- Tristan accepted a new position as a Project Manager with more vacation time, a company vehicle, and performance bonuses

From a Squished Loaf of Bread to Major Distribution Hub



A Time to Reduce Waste and Impact Greater Portland

As many know, Birch Community Services started in 1991 with a few loaves of squished bread that were about to be thrown in the trash. Instead, a friend informed Suzanne and Barry Birch, who picked up the bread to share with a few neighbors. Little did they know, **this would be the first donation of thousands.**

Grocery stores, restaurants, and other suppliers often need to dispose of surplus product due to stock rotation, changing sales patterns, and close expiration dates. For many businesses, product turnover must happen quickly, efficiently, and reliably. The Birches saw this as an opportunity, and Barry quickly became the go-to guy to call when these suppliers needed a product gone – and fast. When a donor called Barry, his answer was always, **“Yes. We will make that happen on your schedule, on your terms.”**

[Continued on page 9]

Birch is an easy one-stop-shop for agencies to serve up to 20,000 people every week, including victims of domestic violence, sex-trafficking, recovering addicts, veterans, the elderly, and at-risk youth.



[Continued from page 8]

Birch Community Services' reputation for reliable, efficient, and friendly pick-ups of donations has grown to receiving almost 13.8 million pounds of products this year. **BCS has become the link for easy logistics between product donors and smaller nonprofits that don't have the capacity to accept or pick up necessary quantities directly from product donors.**

Agencies participating at BCS are nonprofits that receive food, Danner Boots, and other supplies to further their mission. Each of the 70+ agencies Birch serves has a unique area of focus, helping different cross-sections of the population. Many of the agencies serve warm meals to those in need, and were forced to change to making food boxes when the pandemic hit.

Birch is an easy one-stop-shop for our agencies to reach up to 20,000 people every week, including victims of domestic violence, sex-trafficking, recovering addicts, veterans, the elderly, and at-risk youth. Valid 501(c)3 nonprofits interested in receiving food can apply on the Birch website.



Mary Walters was a Birch Participant from 1997-2003. Now, she comes to Birch every week as a volunteer for the Tigard Friends FoodShare Pantry. (Pictured above, shelves stocked with products from Birch.)



Donations: All or Nothing

In October, Birch was generously offered over 250,000 rolls of excess toilet paper (506 pallets). The Catch: Our donor needed us to take it ALL...and within the week! We were very thankful for the donation...and the staff, vehicles, and capacity to meet their requirements.

Birch redistributes products to meet the basic needs of our community.



We serve **70 other nonprofit agencies** in the Portland metro area



These agencies serve up to **20,000 individuals** weekly



Over **3 million lbs of food** given to agencies each year



There are **10 organizations** that both give & receive products from Birch

Three New Positions:

Three Participants HIRED!



JASON BAKER
Warehouse Associate
Hired 5/11/20

Not only is Jason great with people, he also has the exact skill-set Birch needed to monitor and organize products available throughout the day. His favorite parts of the job are working with volunteers and getting to know other participants' stories.



NEEL O'DONNELL
Cooler Associate
Hired 9/23/20

As a participant, Neel enjoyed volunteering for the closing shift as often as possible, so this position was a perfect fit. "I just love the atmosphere here. My previous job may give me hours back, but now I want to keep my hours here."



BEKA DORR
Financial Literacy Assistant
Hired 9/1/20

Beka's experience and expertise in streamlining processes, bookkeeping, and work with other nonprofits has made her a perfect fit for this new position. Her favorite part of the job is hearing families' stories, celebrating their accomplishments, and helping people move to the next stage.



Raina Mauldin increased her volunteer hours at our check-in desk after being laid off

A Time for Serving

A Heart for Volunteering

Raina was one of the many Birch participants whose employment was affected by coronavirus. She worked as a floral designer, but lost her job in March. Raina saw her extra time as an opportunity to volunteer above and beyond the standard two-hour monthly requirement.

As Birch's need for volunteers had increased, Raina felt that her low-risk demographic and sudden open schedule made her a perfect fit to volunteer as often as possible to help keep Birch open, safe, and running smoothly.

"I love the interactions I can have with people at the check-in desk. You get people who are having different days from different situations, and it's nice to greet people, smile, and have a conversation. Since I was here every week, I was doing my best to try to memorize people's names! Despite the pandemic having an effect on food supply chains, we have been building a pantry from Birch since we started last year. We have food on our shelves and Birch has been able to continue to have fresh produce and a constant supply of dairy and eggs. We feel grateful and abundantly blessed."



Alumni Report: The Wagners

Kit and Emily Wagner were part of Birch Community Services from 2011-2017 with their two young daughters. Now, they live in Idaho and are debt-free (except for their mortgage!). Emily reflects on her time at Birch:

Being a part of Birch Community Services enabled us to always have food on our table, even when finances were tight. Thanks to Birch, we were also able to continue paying down our debt (that we paid off entirely when we moved from Portland to Boise) and I was able to continue being a stay-at-home mama. We took many classes, including cake decorating, cheesemaking, and couponing, and even had our own backyard chickens that we purchased through a class at Birch. We also received a financial coaching session to aid in our budgeting efforts. And volunteering at one of the Birch gardens taught us many new gardening skills.

In addition to all the food we received, we regularly received much-needed clothes, household items and even toys for our girls. When we discovered mold throughout our house, including on our mattress, we were given a brand new mattress when we couldn't afford a new one on our own. We still have many of these items today, including a snow cone machine we use on a regular basis in the summer.

I feel like these things are just the tip of the iceberg of help Birch provided. The blessings we received through Birch are honestly innumerable and our family will forever be thankful to BCS for helping us get where we are today.

Chase Me Again
A unique thrift store for you.
Restoring value to the discarded.



Suzanne Birch presenting Sue with a drawing by participant Forrest Conyers on March 4, 2020

Sue Meyers: From Participant to Supporter

Sue Meyers became a Birch participant in 1996. Her husband had suddenly lost his job and weekly trips to BCS kept their family of six from going into debt. Now they are thriving, and in 2010 Sue founded Chase Me Again, a local thrift store, that encourages reuse and donates proceeds to local nonprofits. Sue answered a few questions for us:

Why did Chase Me Again first give to Birch?

I remembered how well-run BCS was and how helpful they were in my time of need. We voted to give \$1,000 and the whole Board of Directors signed up for a tour.

Why do you continue to support Birch?

Birch Community Services is a food bank on steroids plus vitamin B12. Our board of directors likes to help other organizations that can show results in a strong and tangible direction. We were amazed at the depth of work the volunteers accomplish and the volume of product that gets into kitchens of families.

What's your favorite thing about Birch?

I love the strength you give people to do better tomorrow and not just today. Food and clothing are essential, but only provide temporary help. The financial education Birch provides is a missing factor in many organizations trying to help society.

A Time for New Partnerships



Kari Lackstrom, Lyndsay Kooistra and Debbie Harvey donating a bounty of toiletries.

La Porte: *Corporate Volunteering*

In 2017, LaPorte shareholder, Lyndsay Kooistra, came to the annual Birch fundraising breakfast. In early 2020, she joined the Charity Committee at LaPorte and was excited to help Birch. The committee planned for La Porte's 60 employees to tour the warehouse, volunteer, and do a spring cleaning/donations drive. When COVID-19 threw a wrench in their plans, they quickly pivoted to help with Birch's immediate need - toiletries! (See photo of their generous shopping spree.)

"Nice Matters" is the mantra of Marv LaPorte, the President and founder. He believes by helping others around us to succeed, we all benefit and thrive. LaPorte is drawn to BCS's commitment to the community, accountability program, and volunteerism and looks forward to continuing to support Birch in the future.

Imperfect Foods: A New In-Kind Donor *A note from Rich Andler, Donations Coordinator*

Imperfect Foods started donating to Birch this past July. Their capacity to work with us has been a factor as we deepen our relationship. **Together we are able to move goods quickly, reducing spoilage and getting them out to the community.** From my initial text about donations available, until the last pallet is loaded, everything has been professional, friendly, and timely. Birch's philosophy complements Imperfect Food's by keeping produce and groceries out of the waste stream, supporting the work of so many organizations and pantries to help those in need, and educating families about how to become sustainable, self-supporting entities. We are excited to expand our relationship further.



Meal prepared by BCS participant



A Time to Reflect

"The day after reading Earning Excitement by Paul Nourigat, our 7-year-old decided to set up a store in front of our house to sell candy to neighbors. She is now working to determine how much she will set aside for savings, who she'd like to give to, and how much to reinvest back into her little store to have more products to sell.

It's been really fun to see her take principles she read about in the book and directly apply them to her life. It has been helpful to have books that she can pick up and read on her own to reinforce principles we're teaching."

— Alicia

January 2020

Our donation match through our partnership with StandTogether was renewed until March. Thank you to all our online donors.

April - October 2020

BCS Teaching Garden: BCS volunteers were able to social-distance garden and helped plant, tend, and harvest 1,658 pounds of fresh produce.

May 2020

Our annual breakfast shifted to a virtual Facebook Live Event. It was a new experience, but we enjoyed it! Check out our YouTube Channel if you missed it.

July 2020

Paul Nourigat, local Financial Literacy author, donated his five-book sets to Birch families with children aged 7-11.

August 2020

We launched a new website design. If you haven't seen it yet, visit birchcommunityservices.org. Tell us what you think!

November 2020

The Northwest Society of Interior Design has presented us with the Gift of Design this year. They're hosting a competition open to all designers to redesign and renovate Birch's three old bathrooms. A panel of judges will pick the best design on December 10, and the renovation should begin in January 2021.

Coming February 25, 2021

Birch's first virtual auction is coming. If you don't receive our emails and would like to, please contact us. If you would like to donate an item or experience, please contact valerie@bcs.org.



April - October 2020



July 2020



November 2020



February 2021

Thank You to Our Generous Community of Donors:

Addressing the root cause of financial hardship

November 2019 - October 2020

100 Women Who Care 7-11 Stores Advantis Credit Union Aaron and Kolina Aigner Lynn and Peter Ainley Alaska Airlines Albertsons Carilyn Alexander Madeline Allen Alpenrose Dairy Alpine Food Amazon Distribution Center Dylan Ambrose American Paper Converting Dave Anderson Nicholas Anderson Myrna and Jerry Angell Angels of God Apple Foods Wayne Arakaki Alexandra Ascuena Atlas Pizza Jonah and Jennifer Attebery Auntie Anne's Pretzels April Avery Bob Avila and Bess Wills Baby & Me Frank Baccellieri Robyn and Paul Bachman Sheila and Paul Baker Bar-S Foods Company David Bartolme Bill and Jodie Basaraba Sacha Basho Earl and Sunny Bates Robert and Rosalie Baugh Bayha Family Melody Beier Bell-Carter Packaging Duane Benting Helen and John Beseda Nicole Bethune Elinor Betts Suzanne Birch Bishops Storehouse Jeana Bisping Fred Blank Marcia Blasen and Mario Brusasco Steve Blixt Rachel Bock Bonita Packing Company Sylvia Bradley Alyssa Bresnahan Claudia Brooks Jake Brownson Ben and Janet Burns Sally Butsch Calvary Chapel Worship Center Deborah Cameron Pat Canham Stanley and Harriet Carpenter Teresa Carr Scott Cassidy Susan Cassidy Centennial Schools Greg Cervetto Dave and Antoinette Chalmers Charlie's Produce Chase Me Again Chef George, Inc. Mark and Kim Childs Deborah Chin CHS Fund of OCF Clackamas County Bank (Sandy) Clackamas County Gleaners Clark County Food Bank Michael Clark Classic Foods Coffee Household Dan and Kerri Connors Consumer Cellular Wayne and Beverley Cooke Corfini Gourmet Costco	Joel Cramer Susan Craven Crossroads Food Bank Jennie Cutts Daniel House Danner Boots Darigold Dave's Killer Bread Maureen and Kerwin Davis Dr. Beverly De La Bruere Suzanne Decker Dermody Properties Foundation Diamond Lines Kim and Dale Dickinson Kristin Doherty Family Gary and Roberta Dossick Judi Duffy Karen Dunn Trinity and Vance Dutton Julie Easterly Bill Edlefsen Kathy and Joseph Edwards Mark and Debbie Eisenzimmer Elite Associates Lisa and John Elwood Stephanie Erickson Ever Fresh Fruit Company Evergreen Property Management Excel Brokerage Lauren Eyler Dang Janice Ezell Marilyn and Allen Fadenrecht Todd Fankhauser James Fanning Farmers Brothers Coffee Jeffrey Feiffer Fetch Coffee Roasters Steve and Brenda Fivcoat Pauline Fong Margo Fowler Margie and Jay Fraley Linda and Brian Fraught Fred Meyer Joana Freedman Emily Kendal Frey Frito-Lay Fuji Produce Alexis Fultz-Valenta Gales Creek Meadows Farm Michael Garland Charles and Rhonda Garner Gatto & Sons LaVelle and Wayne Geist Georgia Pacific Reilly and Miriam Gibby Bill and Carol Gilbert Ted and Connie Gilbert Neil and Renee Gillenwater Giltner Trucking Michael and Barbara Goertz Jack and Jennifer Goodnow Paul Goodrich Teresa Goodwin Gordon Fayne Inc. Ashley Graff Grand Central Bakery Sandra Gray Grayrose Marketing Group Inc. Graziano Produce Karyn and Dick Green Kurt and Anne Green	Austin Green Gresham Breakfast Lions Club Grocery Outlet Daniela Grogro Amy Grover Gulick Trucking Jesse Gwinn Karla and Spencer Haas Habeck Trucking Habitat for Humanity Restore Arley Hall TJ Hammack Linda and Craig Hanson John and Olivia Harrold Harry's Fresh Foods, Harris Soup Company David and Susan Hata Havens Family John and Dorothy Hay Sharon Hayden Jennifer Heidrick Helen Bernhard Bakery Henningsen Cold Storage Heritage Bank Heritage Specialty Lisa Heston Brian and Nicole Hill Hi-Lo Hotel Hi-School Pharmacy HLC Distributing Aaron Hockett Sarah Holcomb Robin and Doug Holman Daryl and Lynn Holstine Katie Holzmann Honey Mama's Hoover Family Foundation Hope Station Community Services, Inc. Lil Hosman and Ann Faricy Michelle Humphrey Ron and Joan Hurl Imperfect Foods Karen Dunn Independent Actuaries, Inc. Inmar Supply Chain Services Insperty The Jackson Foundation Gregg Jazuk-Hayward Sandi and Ron Johannesen Jasmine and Julian Johnson Ryan and Amy Jones Amy Jordens and Jeremy Thomas Tamra and Michael Katz KeHe Joan and Pat Kelly Don and Gladys Kent Martina Keyn Kiersey & McMillan, Inc. David Kiersey Kinco Gloves Kathy and Paul Kingzett Tim and Sue Kitch Kiyokawa Family Orchards Kyle Knobke Kool Pak Caroline Krider Alexander and Katy Krider Kroger Kroger Swan Island Dairy Angela Kunrath Egbert and Linda Kunrath Julie Kunrath	Kunrath & Willard Insurance Brandy Kuykendall LaPorte Insurance Scott Leadham Legacy Mt Hood Medical Center Cleo Leigh Gina Leonetti Les Schwab Haley Lewis Peter Lewis Liberty Mutual Susanne and Tom Lohkamp Los Roast Christa and Steve Lowe Greg and Linda Lundeen M. Brothers Transport M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust Melissa MacDonnell Magno-Humphries Labs Jennifer and Michael Makinster Katie and Devan Marchbanks Jon and Diane Marks Linda Marrs Marsee Foods Inc. Dawn Martin and Estelle Golden Adrianne Martin and Robert Thrapp Martin Brower Pam Masson Kim Matson Mo and Mike McClelland Doug and Elise McGuire Sarah McIlveen Don and Rosemarie McNutt Melinda McTaggart McTavish Shortbread Medical Teams International Anne Meixner Greg Mettler Microchip Microsoft Gene Mildren Mark Millar Rose and Brian Miller Milo and Beverly Ormseth Mission Foods Kimberly Miyake Aaron and Erin Molstad Moonstruck Chocolate Co. Val and Alisha Morar Steve Morasch Rachel and Steven Morrison Barbara Ports and Michael Moser Peggy Moser Mt. Hood Meadows Brian Murphy Twila Mysinger Renee Naslund Nestle Kim Neve New Seasons Market Newport Meats Nike, INC Rick and Debbie Teeny Diane Noriega Northwest Children's Outreach Northwest Enforcement Northwest Naturals Raw Pet Food Jill Novak NW Natural	Joseph Weston Odwalla Olive Garden Remy and Emily Olson OnPoint Community Credit Union Oregon Children's Ministries Oregon Children's Outreach The Oregon Community Foundation Oregon Wine Negotiants Organic Valley (Henningson) Organically Grown Company Oroweat Baking Co. Marlene Osborne Maggie Pace Pacific Coast Fruit Co. Pacific Power Foundation Pacific Seafood Pepsi Beverages Company Erin and Joel Perry Elizabeth Peters Thomas Peterson Elise Peterson Derek Petrek Gary and Chula Phillips Sue Piazza and Michael Patrick Pilgrim's Pride PJ Food Services Portland Adventist Community Services Portland Food Project Portland French Bakery Portland Fruit Portland Public Schools Portland Rescue Mission Prana Chai Eric Price Gloria Price Rachel Pricer Provista The Pumpkin Patch Punch Bowl Social Quality Custom Distribution Alexander Ragucci Donald Ramsthal Kenneth Ray Red Lobster Restaurant Relay Resources Rescuing Leftover Cuisine Reser's Fine Foods Restaurant Depot Lisa Revell Shanna and Sam Rice Lorin Rice Kelly Rickson Marcy and Brad Riegg Dave and Claudia Riewald Rinella Produce Jeff and Melissa Rippey Tim and Jan Rippey Valerie Rippey Rocky and Laura Henderson Roma / Performance Foodservice Melody Roth Andrew Rowlett Leann and Greg Rowlett Barb and Dave Sailor Salt & Straw Sanctuary Church Food Pantry Kathy and Mark Savre	Sue Sayers Scenic Fruit Company Robert Schommer Ehren Schwiebert Scout Troop #144 Set Free Christian Fellowship Mike Shaffer Shamrock Foods Michael Shanks Shin Shin Foods Doreen Shine SHR Transport Inc Shriners Hospital Dan and Sally Sieh Cindy and David Simon Alicia Simone Sherie Sittton Sky Chefs Thomas Slinkard Angela and Jesse Small Richard and Debra Smouse Susie Snortum SP Provisions Alexander Spalding Martha Spalding Colleen Spencer Stumptown Sales Xceleration Sun Gro Joan Sunderland Sunshine Division CindyLynn Swatland Kathy Swift Swift Trucking Sysco Sylvia Takeuchi-Owens Doug and Anne Tankersley Jan and Marianne Tauc Howard Taylor Beth and David Taylor Teeny Foods Sylvia and Rick Thompson Meredith Thurston Heidi Timberman Tim's Cascade Snacks Beverly Tobias Townsend Farms Trailblazer Foods Trapold Farms Trident Seafood Marguerite Truttman Turbo Turovskiy Linda Tyler Tyson Food Inc. Union Gospel Mission Quality Custom Distribution United Way of the Columbia-Willamette Ken Unkeles Ventura Foods LLC Veritiv Village Kids Supply Deborah Voves Mirko and Maria Vukovich Helene Wagner Janelle Wakefield Wayne Farms Tim Weidemann Jean Weigant Megan Westby WHH Foundation Ron Whisman Todd Wiegardt Tristan Wilde Kristi Wilkins York Angel Willard Emma Wilson WinCo Foods Laila Winner Karen and Chad Withrow Brandon Wooters XPO Logistics Robert Young Zarephath's Pantry Zupan's
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A Time to Look Forward

Trading Discouragement for Hope

When you give to Birch Community Services, you join a team where people are responsible for meeting their basic needs. **With 95.5% of costs going straight to benefit participants**, every dollar has an impact.

\$10 Funds one shopping trip	\$30 Funds a family for one month	\$40 Soaker hoses for BCS Gardens
\$75 Provides ten weeks of shopping trips for a family	\$150 Funds a family's financial education for one year	\$350 Funds a family for one year
\$500 Provides one week of fuel for our trucks	\$1,000 Funds three families for one year	\$2,500 Provides continued education for staff
\$4,950 Cost of freight for high quality chicken	\$8,000 New pallet jack with built-in scale (saves drivers one hour daily)	\$130,000 Cost for Cooler Expansion (our next big project)

“ *I could not thank you enough for the difference Birch has made in our family. And there are hundreds of families just like ours. It's amazing.*

— Tim B.

How You Can Help:

- **Donate to our General Fund** by returning the enclosed envelope or visit birchcommunityservices.org
- Become a monthly donor: sponsor a family for \$30/month
- Shop smile.amazon.com
- Search Amazon's Charity Wishlist for Birch and purchase a Christmas gift for a child
- Donate toiletry and shelf-stable items
- Follow Us on Social Media
- **Spread the word to someone in need**
- Pray for BCS participants, staff, volunteers, and board
- Have a PayPal Account? Select Birch as your favorite charity.
- **Sign up to receive our emails**
- Invite a friend to attend our Virtual Auction on February 25
- **Ask if your employer offers a match for eligible donations**
- If you are 70 ½ or older, consider donating from your 401K or IRA without paying taxes (This year, it is not required to take a distribution until you are 72)



Generous volunteers spent countless hours fixing a donated baler. (Left to right: Tim Dixon, Frank Womack, Clay Mott (Advance Wire), Dan Radke, and Mike Niemeyer.)



“

*I took all the classes that were offered. By freeing up my grocery budget, **I can happily report that I have paid off \$20,000 in credit card debt and am now debt free besides my mortgage!** I also have an emergency savings fund. My daughter attended "How to Pay for College Without Debt" and has managed to receive scholarships to attend her top pick university.*

— Rosanne

Would you join us in supporting families with *life-changing* results?

Donate by returning the enclosed envelope, or at birchcommunityservices.org.