





30 Years of Building Healthy, Stable Families















Executive Director

A Letter From Our 🌠

Years ago, when I spent sleepless nights tossing and turning, trying to figure out some way to pay bills, it would never have crossed my mind that God would use me to encourage others to live without the heavy weight of debt. The commitment to be debt-free that my late husband Barry and I made when we married has evolved into the BCS Sustainable Families Program: Our mission is to build a financially stable community by providing education, food, and nurturing accountability. After 30 years, the impact on families becomes more evident each day.

When BCS began, I contacted each new participant. Today, my job has come full circle as it is again primarily my responsibility to do intake interviews. As families pour out their distress, it is obvious the BCS opportunity can change their lives. You'll read testimonials in this newsletter from people who have achieved the seemingly impossible. The most exciting part is our families do the work! We offer tools for their success, encouragement, accountability and community - but lives don't change without the buy-in of each participant, and the hard work to relearn established habits, set goals, exercise discernment and humility, sacrifice, and collaborate with spouses and partners. We see the bells go off as people get it. They get excited. They share with their kids. It's ridiculously fun to watch. Of course, our staff are doing their jobs exceedingly well to promote an environment for this to happen - and I'm incredibly proud of them - but this is only part of the story.



Suzanne Birch Executive Director

Our in-kind and financial donors give crucial foundational support. But it can't be stressed enough that the desire to flourish and experience freedom drives the 850 BCS families to succeed. They volunteer. They take the classes. They meet with our financial counselors. They contribute to the sustainability of BCS. They encourage each other. They step out of their comfort zones and try new things. They transform their own lives. THEY do the work.

It hasn't always been easy over the last 30 years, but to see BCS in 2022 gives me great joy and satisfaction. The growth and impact of this program has increased exponentially. Barry would be proud ♥.

Suffere

Birch Cultural Values

Our Guiding Principles



Integrity We model a culture

of honesty, grace, and dependability.



Safety

responsibility to take a knowledgeable, deliberate, and mindful approach to a holistically safe environment.



Teachable

We promote combining selfvareness, ambition, curiosity, and guidance in the strive towards growth through success and challenges.



Relationship **Focused**

We create value for others in a supportive community that fosters inclusiveness, true belonging, and acceptance.



Gratitude

appreciation for the opportunities provided and the benefit of our community.



Solution Oriented

We encourage a community that works humbly and collaboratively to provide creative strategies to



We pause to reflect setbacks, and rejoice in our collective growth.

How We're Different



Ugly

Damaged

Our mission is to build a financially stable community by providing education, food, and nurturing accountability.

Our Theory of Change

Birch Community Services is founded on a belief that true charity comes from empowering each individual's capacity to be self-sufficient. Through our monthly service fee and volunteering, our model eliminates the potential shame of receiving.





Environmentally Sustainable

Every day, food is discarded from grocery stores and distributors across the Portland metro area. BCS is the vital connection, diverting products that otherwise go to landfills to the pantries of people who can use them.



Near End

Not Enough

Low

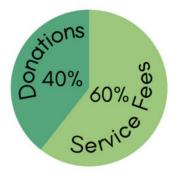
Financially Sustainable

Our families' monthly service fee accounts for 60% of our operating expenses, and their volunteer hours equate to 16 full-time employees. These contributions allow Birch to sustain itself with a much smaller proportion of external support than most nonprofit organizations. Additionally, these requirements allow a true mutually beneficial partnership between each family and BCS.



The 2-hour monthly commitment covers 60% of Birch's necessary labor.

The \$80 monthly service fee covers 60% of Birch's operating expenses.



Past Participants



It's not just about being a passive receiver. It's not a few people carrying a lot of people, but we all just help as we're helped. I never felt like I needed charity, I just felt like, I need help right now. There's an expectation that you'll get on your feet. You'll grow stronger. And you'll help others then."

Mary Dixon, BCS Participant 1992-1999

Birch is a magical place. It's a community....It's really wonderful to know we all have the common ground of needing help with our financial situations. At the same time, it feels really good to know our individual successes are not just ours, but community successes **too**. The more times we reach our goals, that is just inspiring the person next to us. And the next time they reach their goals it just inspires us to keep going."

Camilla Muldrow, Transitioned 2022







The Birch experience has given us wisdom. We never had conflicts about money, it was always that we didn't have it, and we weren't going to do this or that because we can't. Now, it's hey, should we do this? In six months, if we set it aside, yes we can! It's fun to celebrate what could be done. Since joining Birch, we now have a home. We have a dog. We have no auto loans to pay, no Visa bills to pay. We have a plan to pay for all the big things we're looking for in the future. We have Dino and Tina - financial counselors to call up if we need something."

Jason and Beth Stamper, Transitioned 2022

Current Families



"I had been a single mom of five kids for a year, lost part of my income, and I was in the place of 'what do I do now?' Birch has served as an amazing bridge. My kids and I are learning not just how to survive, but to really thrive and recognize that we can do anything we want. We just have to have a plan. This caused a huge shift in our whole household, starting with me.

No longer was I a victim of circumstances and other people's choices; I was in control. We are steering our own ship here, and the kids are seeing that. They know we can dream big, we just have to plan and save for it."

Janine, joined March 2022







In the beginning, we were hoping to have our money for groceries go a little bit further. Our biggest goal when we joined was to get a twobedroom apartment [for our family of three]. Now, we're constantly fed to the point where we can choose what we eat. Being able to have Thanksgiving, and say it's OK to have people over. We went from that dream of having a two-bedroom apartment to buying our first house, paying off a ton of debt, and achieving dreams we thought were completely unattainable. Being able to see the goal and the progress to get there has been a big jump. Birch provided the opportunity for us to get where we needed to be, so we could do what we knew we needed to do."

Gabe and Harmony Kilby, joined April 2020

 $Want\ to\ hear\ more?\ Check\ out\ our\ YouTube\ channel\ YouTube.com/BirchComServices$

BCS: Then and Now



In 1992, life looked different at BCS. A lot can happen in 30 years!

1992







Over 850 families come to the BCS warehouse weekly and receive an average of \$1,400 of groceries and household items each month

Suzanne and Barry distributed excess food from their front porch to neighbors in need





VEHICLES



Suzanne and Barry picked up excess food in their Toyota Cressida



BCS has a fleet of three 26' refrigerated box trucks and one transit van. These trucks are used approximately 8 hrs/day, 6 days/wk by staff and volunteer drivers



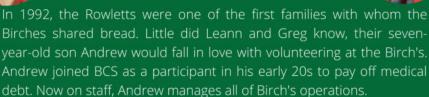
A few bags of squished bread from Union Gospel Mission





Andrew Rowlett

Operations Manager







Over 11 million pounds of food and household items donated from 300 food distributors, grocery stores, restaurants, etc.

Education: Then and Now





Board Member Egbert Kunrath teaches a financial course in the middle of the BCS warehouse in the early 2000s.



Our Computer Skills course was a huge hit in the early 2000s!



The BCS Financial Literacy Team in 2022: Dino Biaggi, Melissa Silva, Tina Birch, Beka Dorr, and Andy Collmer

2000

Board members Egbert Kunrath, Aaron Aigner, and Kevin Watts facilitate the first "Master Your Money" class for families at BCS. Egbert continues to offer the course four times each year for any interested family.

Early 2000s

A wide variety of special interest courses are offered by families and community members such as couponing, design on a budget, canning, and cooking courses.

The "Master Your Money" course is now strongly encouraged for all families who have been at Birch for more than one year.

2009

Birch's first teaching garden opens where families volunteer and learn to garden. Learn more at bcsi.org/gardens.

2015

Dino Biaggi is hired as the first full-time financial staff member. He launches a mentoring program where specific families are matched with community volunteers for financial mentoring.

2016

In order to best help families benefit from BCS, one-on-one financial meetings become required for every family at least once each year.

2017

The re\$tart curriculum is created and every family is required to take the course.

2020

Financial courses and meetings are all moved to Zoom, making it easier to expand class size and allow couples to attend together (without the necessity of finding childcare).

2021

A second financial counselor, Tina Birch, is hired so all families now meet with a BCS counselor at least twice each year.

2022

An additional financial instructor and assistant are hired, which increases financial course offerings throughout the year. Our inhouse financial literacy website also launched as a one-stopshop for all financial resources for our families.

Want the complete timeline of all facets of BCS? Check out the "Fast Facts" at our 30th Anniversary website: bcsi.org/30th

2022 Summary: A Time to Be Grateful 🥡

November 2021 - October 2022

Fiscal Responsibility





98.1% Program Expenses 1.9% Management & **Fundraising**

60% Internal Revenue Streams 40% Donations

Volunteering

30,980 Volunteer hours 1,682 Volunteers \$800,000+ Value





Food Distributed

11.2 million lbs of donations 1,705 lbs from our Teaching Garden

Education

re\$tart courses 10

3 Other financial courses

618 Class participants

1,151 One-on-one meetings

People Served

956

cumulative families served with food and financial education

other nonprofit agencies

30,000

individuals served through nonprofit agencies

Before

Participant Financial Progress



\$3,000 average savings increase



\$6,500 average debt paid off

re\$tart Impact

| Our family has a clear pictu our finances. | re of 55 9 |
|--|-------------------|
| Our family lives on a wi | ritten |

budget.

Our family's finances reflect our values and goals.

| 31% | 84% |
|-----|-----|

After

96%

33% 91%

Growth from 2021

Families Enrolled at Year End

575 families in 2021

growth

740 families in 2022

Financial Course Attendees

355 people in 2021

74% growth 618 people in 2022



When we started, BCS didn't make us feel like we had failed, but we were all in progress together with the people we met.

2022 Summary: Who We Are 🦙



November 2021 - October 2022

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 Team 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 2022

Alex Krider (President)

Avier Wealth Advisors

Egbert Kunrath (Vice President)

Kunrath & Willard Insurance Services (Retired)

Aaron Aigner (Treasurer)

Aigner & Co., Accountant

Leann Rowlett (Secretary)

Portland Christian Schools

Mark Childs (Past President)

Capacity Commercial Group

Greg Cervetto

Grayrose Marketing Group, Inc.

Ameena Farrouge

Nike

Chris McKillop

Rogers Machinery

Angela Small

Past BCS Participant

Alexander Spalding

Daniel House

Rick Teeny

EXPENSES:

Teeny Foods (Retired)

BCS **Financials** Contributions: \$725,678 In-Kind Donations: \$13,838,555 Membership Service Fees: \$766,436 Recycling Income: \$28,562 Other Income: \$15,711 Total Revenue:

REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT:

Program Service Expenses: Management Expenses: Fundraising Expenses:

ASSETS:

Total Expenses:

Ending Net Assets: \$2,354,307

FOR AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND 990S, PLEASE VISIT BCSI.ORG/DONOR-RESOURCES OR CHARITYNAVIGATOR.ORG

\$15,374,942

2022 **Awards**









\$14,890,043

\$15,181,327

\$179,378

\$111,906

Thank You to Our Donors

Addressing the Root Causes of Hunger: November 2021 - October 2022

1st Nation Deborah Chin 30 Second Cleaners Christenson Electric 7-11 Corporate Warren and Cinamen Christman Christopher Bridger Winery **Betty Admire** Aaron and Kolina Aigner CHS Fund of OCF City Of Gresham Lynn Ainley Albertsons Distribution Center Clackamas County Bank Clackamas County Gleaners Carilyn Alexander Madeline Allen June Clapp Clark County Food Bank Allie's Adorables Aloha Produce Classic Foods Margret and Wayne Cochran Alpenrose Dairy Amazon Distribution Center Patricia Collins Amazon Smile Columbia Gorge Helping Hands Angels of God Columbia Transport Kristen Anzellotti Dave and Terrie Comalli Apple Foods George and Sheri Comalli Wayne and Carol Arakaki Dan and Kerri Connors Arden Costco Pippa Arend Bonnie Cross Alexandra Ascuena Crossroads Food Bank Aspen & Birch Culinary Collective Associated Global Systems Daniel House David and Amber Austin Danner Boots April Avery Danone North America Avier Wealth Investors Darigold The Autzen Foundation DashMart Bob Avila and Bess Wills Dave's Killer Bread Bobbi Ayers Trina Davidian B&B Foods Maureen and Kerwin Davis **B4** Transportation DB Transit Frank and Martine Baccellieri Dr. Beverly De La Bruere Robyn and Paul Bachman Delta Express DeRose Community Bridge Sheila and Paul Baker Angie DeRouchie David Bartolme Sacha Basho Christina Devlin Earl and Sunny Bates Linda Dick Chris and Kathy Bayha Kim and Dale Dickinson Reaverton School District Madeline Dolgin Steven R. Bennett DoorDash Duane Benting Gregory Dubay Thomas Berry Karen Dunn Helen and John Beseda Trinity and Vance Dutton Bethany Bible Church Bill Edlefsen Elinor Betts Ben Edman Suzanne Birch Sheldon Edner Eric and Jenni Birch Kathy Edwards Bishops Storehouse of LDS Mark and Debbie Eisenzimmer Blackwell Consolidation EPB&B Fred Blank Lisa and John Elwood Marcia Blasen and Mario Brusasco Emmanuel Community Services Steve Blixt Emanuel Hospital (Legacy) Blount Fine Foods Ernest Packaging Solutions Bo-Mack's BBQ Everfresh Fruit Company Bon Appetit Catering Evraz Botsford And Goodfellow Inc Excel Brokerage Carson and Valerie Bowler Janice Ezell Marilyn and Allen Fadenrecht Sylvia Bradley Michelle Braulick James Fanning Candace and Marshall Fant Kenneth and Carol Bray Karen Brooks FedEx Buffalo Exchange Jeanie Ferreira **Bullhead Trucking** Peter and Karen Field Bunzl Distribution First, Inc. Gary and Mary Burch Firstenburg Foundation Steve and Brenda Fivecoat Ben and lanet Burns FolkTime Katherine Butts-Bernunzio Pauline Fong **BVI Transport** Todd Caldwell John and Jo Fraser Linda and Brian Fraught Fric Capelle Carefree Caribou Fred Meyer Fred W. Fields Fund of OCF Cascade Roamers RV Club Scott Cassidy Ioana Freedman Celestica Fresh Express, Inc. CentiMark Fuji Produce Michael and Judith Cerne Palmer Fujifilm North America Greg Cervetto G G D Trucking, Inc. Charlie's Produce Sarah Gabbart Chase Me Again Karen Gallaway

Neil and Renee Gillenwater Giltner Trucking Sandee Ginter GIST Philip and Suzanne Glynn Barbara Goertz Good Wolf Jack and Jennifer Goodnow GoPuff Grand Central Bakery Grayrose Marketing Group Inc. Kurt and Anne Green Karyn and Dick Green Gresham High School Gresham Modern Dentistry Grocery Outlet Distribution Center Grocery Outlet Happy Valley Grubhub Mike Grundon Gulick Trucking Jesse Gwinn Karla and Spencer Haas Ashley Hahn Kadie and Richard Hambleton TJ Hammack Tracey Hampton Karen Hanson Linda Harrell Kathy Harrison John and Olivia Harrold Jeri Haskins David and Susan Hata Steve Hatheway Sharon Hayden Healing Earth Massage Henningson Cold Storage Heritage Bank Heritage Specialty Foods Hillsboro School District **HLC Distributing** Aaron Hockett Robin and Doug Holman leanelle Holstine Hope's Bake Shop Hope Station Community Services Hopscotch Toys Lil Hosman Michelle Humphrey Hunger Fighters Oregon Ron and Joan Hurl Imperfect Foods Inmar The Irwin Foundation Pennie and Tim Isbell The Jackson Foundation JCB Packaging & Logistics John Soules Foods Jasmine and Julian Johnson Ryan and Amy Jones Ann Jones William Jordan Amy Jordens and Jeremy Thomas Jubitz Travel Center Kalama Sourdough Bakery KamaHomes Heidi and Kirby Kanada Tamra and Michael Katz Kazoodles Toys КеНе Kehilat Ha-Mashiach Kelty Keltner

Kenco

KG Specialties

Kim and Kody Kendall

Rebecca Kiefer

Kinco Gloves

Dana Kindle

Matthew Kingzett

Marsha and James Kitchen

CJ and Jenny Koll

Kool Pak

Anita Kreienkamp

Joanna and Richard Kreitzberg

Caroline Krider

Alexander and Katy Krider Harold and Kristen Krider Britney Krig Kroger Kroger Swan Island Dairy Eghert and Linda Kunrath Peter Langley John Lee Legacy Mt Hood Medical Center Legacy Supply Chain Bertrand and Cleo Leigh Leonard's Express Gina Leonetti Liberty Mutual Lieb Foods LLC Lou Ann Lindberg Lineage Christiana Linquist Lipman Produce Little Stocking Co. Matt and Terra Long Bodil Lundberg Carter Lusher M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust Magno-Humphries Labs Majha Motors Trucking Malea Miriam and Dan Malinaric Jim Malnar Marie Lamfrom Foundation Jon and Diane Marks Dawn Martin and Estelle Golden Martin Brower Kenneth Martin Barbara Massinger Kim and Donald Matson Marcia Mattoso Thomas Mayer Bradley McFeters Doug and Elise McGuire Cameron McKillop Chris McKillop Kevin McKinney Kristen McNall Don and Rosemarie McNutt Melinda McTaggart McTavish Medical Teams International Marti Mendenhall Greg Mettler Katie Metzger Carol Meyer Microchip Microsoft Traci Mildenstein Mission Foods Mission Teens, Inc. Aaron and Erin Molstad Suann Mooney Val and Alisha Morar John and Lynne Morrison Peggy Moser Jerry Mylet Twila Mysinger Renee Naslund National Freight Carrier, Inc. Nestle Network For Good New Seasons Market Newport Meats Next Level Transporation Nike INC Diane Noriega Northwest Enforcement Northwest Naturals Raw Pet Food IIII Novak NW Freight NW Natural **NW Summit** Terry O'Connor OC Farm Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation

Olive Garden

Todd Olson

OnPoint Community Credit Union Oregon Children's Outreach Oregon Spice Company Organic Valley Organically Grown Company Beverly Ormseth Oroweat Baking Co. Nancy Orr Anna Osmukhina Pacific Foods Pacific Office Automation Keith Patterson Dean Patzer Pepsi Beverages Company Erin and Joel Perry Stephanie and Ben Peters Ron and Juanita Peterson Karen Phillips Pine Hilll PJ Food Services PACS Portland Food Project Portland Fruit Portland Lents Foursquare Portland Nursery Portland Public Schools Portland Rescue Mission Barbara Ports and Michael Moser Rachel Pricer Prime, Inc. Provvista Tammy and Jay Puppo Lisa Ouaid Quality Custom Distribution Cynthia Quinn lenny and Brad Ouirie R & S Bros Trucking Rallenti Pasta, Co Donald Ramsthel Ratlo Bros Red Lobster Relay Resources Rescuing Leftover Cuisine Reser's Fine Foods Rhona Mahl Rod and Ruth Ann Richards Ridwell Marcy and Brad Riegg Rinella Produce Jeff and Melissa Rippey Shirley Rippey Tim and Janice Rippey Valerie Rippey Ritchie Rich Rene Ritchie RNJ Express Road Knight Randall Charitable Trust Bree and Justin Roberts Kirstan Rogers Denise Rolen Roma / Performance Foodservice Patrick Rose Darren Ross Lawrence Rout Leann and Greg Rowlett Andrew Rowlett Sandra Rubin Amy and Al Ryan S & H Fuels Salsas Locas Sanctuary Church Food Pantry Kathy and Mark Savre Sue Savers Flizabeth and Mark Schaffer Bob Schommer Schwan's Company Lisa Schwartz Secret Aardvark Trading Co. Enass Selim and Mohamed Gomaa Shamrock Foods

Shin Shin Foods Shriners Hospital Debbie Shulke Diane and Steven Simon Sky Chefs Angela and lesse Small Richard and Debra Smouse Shaffer Spaeth SolBody Massage, LLC Peter Spalding and Kevin Fadden Martha Spalding Alexander Spalding SSI Express Trucking St. Rita's SVdP St. Vincent DePaul The Standard Staples Starbucks Tony Starlight Thomas Stewart Beaver Stradley Irene Strobel Stumptown Sales Success Sunderland Garden Kathy Swift Swigert Foundation Sysco David and Barbara Tallmon Jan and Marianne Tauc Howard Taylor Judy and John Taylor Renee Taylor Debbie Teasdale Teeny Foods Rick and Debbie Teeny Bob and Peggy Thompson Tim's Cascade Snacks Ari Tjahjani and Purwadi Purwosumarto Tmk Transportation Michelle and Kirk Tolstrup Martha and Ernest Traffie Trailblazer Foods Trapold Farms Trio Furniture & Design, Inc. Tyee Yacht Club Linda Tyler Tyson Food Inc. Union Gospel Mission United Salad United Way of the Columbia-Willamette Ken and Mary Unkeles UV Transport Ltd Pavel & Irina Varivoda Peggy Vedder Ventura Foods LLC Veritiv Michelle Verser Deborah and William Voves Mirko Vukovich Helene Wagner Waste Not Food Taxi WCP Solutions Kristina Weedman Marci and Sid Welch Lauren Wells David Welty WHH Foundation Ron Whisman Rebecca Whitlock Wild Mike's Angelique Willard Willamette Valley Country Club Willamette Valley Vineyards Margaret and Tad Winters Chad and Karen Withrow XPO Logistics Robert and Marybeth Young Young People Dreamers and Achievers Zachary's Fine Woodworking

Zarephath's Pantry

Michael Zavoskey

Lynzie Zawadzki

Kristen Zipp

Chef George, Inc.

Karin and Jim Chesnutt

Children's Club, Inc.

Mark and Kim Childs

Garden Highway NW

LaVelle and Waynne Geist

Reilly and Miriam Gibby

Ted and Connie Gilbert

Bill and Carol Gilbert

Shamrock Run

Michael Shanks

Tom Shepherd

Your Support Matters

Families come to Birch for hundreds of reasons. But they all have one thing in common: They are at Birch to STOP living paycheck to paycheck.

When you give to Birch Community Services, you join a team where people are responsible for meeting their basic needs. **With 98.1% of costs going straight to benefit participants**, every dollar has an impact.



Warehouse staff Jason, Matthew, and Neel show off frozen cherries and chocolate pies in front of our new freezer.

Thanks to our generous family of donors, our perishable product distribution has been revolutionized over the past two years. We now can accept and distribute almost three times as much perishable food as we could in 2019. Thank you!

Our Wish List

Thank you for your support! You may contribute any amount to the follow projects, or to our general operating expenses.

- Upgrade security system ~\$18,000
- Additional cooler compressor for hot summer days \$40,000
- Moving fire sprinklers to construct a private meeting space in the office \$5,000
- New fence to reduce vandalism \$15,000
- Black Gold soil for Teaching Garden \$2,000
- Additional Shopping Carts ~\$300 each
- Just \$30/month covers costs for a family!

How You Can Help:

- Donate Financially by returning the enclosed envelope or visit birchcommunityservices.org
- Sign up to volunteer at bcsi.org/volunteer
- Become a monthly donor: BCS' cost to support a family is \$30/month
- · Shop smile.amazon.com
- · Donate toiletries 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 at bit.ly/birchnewsletter
- Attend our auction on April 22. Visit charityauction.bid/birch for details
- 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)
- Donate stock direct from a brokerage account to Birch

Questions About How to Support Birch?

Contact our Community Development Manager, Valerie Rippey at valerie@bcsi.org.





SAVE THE DATE!

April 22, 2023 Purchase tickets NOW! charityauction.bid/birch









Our first goal was just to eat. But then that opened up \$600 each month in our budget, and we were able to pound away all our consumer debt. Birch has allowed so much more than we imagined.

— BCS Participant, joined 2020