

1200 kids served annually

Bloomin' Boutique is a non-profit organization dedicated to giving a *hand up* by providing *new* clothing, shoes, bedding and personal care items to underprivileged children, empowering them to become confident, constructive members of their communities.

Welcome to our newsletter. We value this opportunity to share stories with our community of supporters.

HUG O' WAR

I will not play at tug o' war.
I'd rather play at hug o' war,
Where everyone hugs
Instead of tugs,
Where everyone giggles
And rolls on the rug,
Where everyone kisses,
And everyone grins,
And everyone cuddles,
And everyone wins.

- Shel Silverstein

ARE U READY TO DONATE?
Donations of **NEW** clothing can be delivered to Serres Garden Center through June 30th!
14620 Forsythe Rd, Oregon City
OPEN 7 days a week
9am to 5pm (till 3pm on holidays)

Equity Policy: Every Child is SEEN, important and loved

Without exception, every referral to Bloomin' Boutique is treated as a person, not a number. Age, race, gender identity and special needs are thoughtfully addressed when curating a care package for each individual.

All care packages focus on the particular needs of the child they are created for. Examples include:

- specialized toiletries for people of color
- fidget toys and stress balls for those with autism
- toys and books relative to a child's skin color
- sports equipment to encourage overweight kids to get moving
- clothing that aligns with the gender identity of a child
- doodle bags for children who have difficulty engaging with others
- clothing to sustain an infant 24 months due to quick growth

Special circumstances prompt additional response:

- 24hr turnaround for kids facing homelessness, losing everything in a house fire or domestic violence
- partnering with other organizations to provide beds to kids, laptops to enable online therapy or haircuts to improve self-esteem

Every child is SEEN, important and loved. Bloomin' Boutique gives them a chance to succeed no matter what their challenges may be.

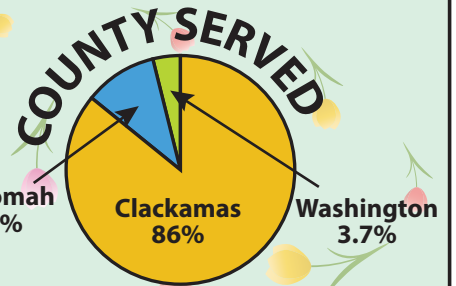
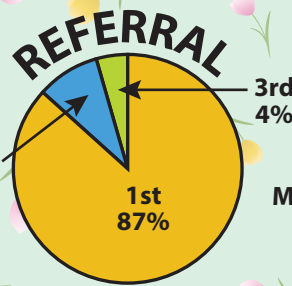
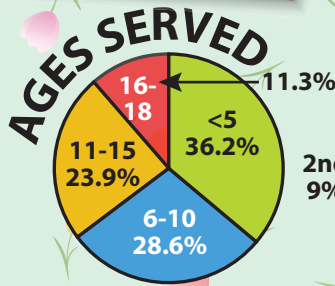
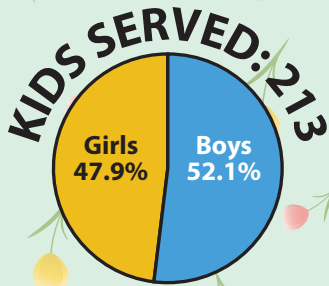
Patti Serres

Patti Serres
Bloomin' Boutique, Founder and Executive Director
503.320.0789 • Patti.Serres@BloominBoutique.org

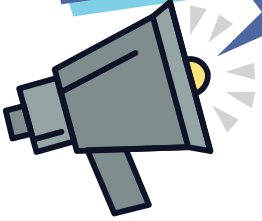
BY THE NUMBERS

Jan - Feb - Mar 2024

IN-KIND DONATIONS	\$28,806
CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED	\$106,500
VOLUNTEER HOURS	2122



SHOUT OUT!



WITH THE HELP OF MANY HANDS

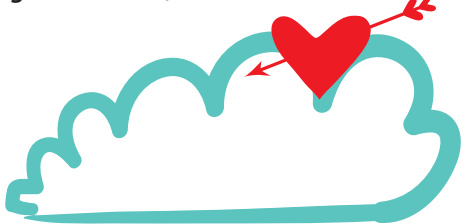
Rosie's Place Comes to Life!

BLOOMIN' BOUTIQUE'S FULFILLMENT CENTER FOR THE LITTLE ONES!

*Moving is never easy! Even if it is only a few miles down the road. And creating a pleasant, energy filled space to handle the fulfillment of care packages for birth through size 7/8 takes an enthusiastic group of awesome sponsors, donors and volunteers!! The new space enables more volunteers to be working together, efficiently, to serve the hundreds of local kids needing a **HAND UP**, not a hand out.*

Thank you!
Contract Furnishings Mart

Thank you!
Milwaukie Floors & More



Thank you!
Stephen, Project Mgr



Thank you!
Cindy, Operations Mgr



Special thanks to
AnneMarie, John, Joellen, Kris, Kat, Eric and everyone who gave their time and hearts to seeing this project through to completion!



OnPoint Community Credit Union
Oregon City

Gary and Kary Myers
Advised Fund of OCF

Clackamas County Arts Alliance

Summit Realty Group Inc

**Clackamas County
Cultural Coalition**

ALTA Good Deeds Foundation



Your partnership is much appreciated!

**We extend a special thank you
to the Bloomin' Boutique Board Members
who all gift generously on a regular basis**

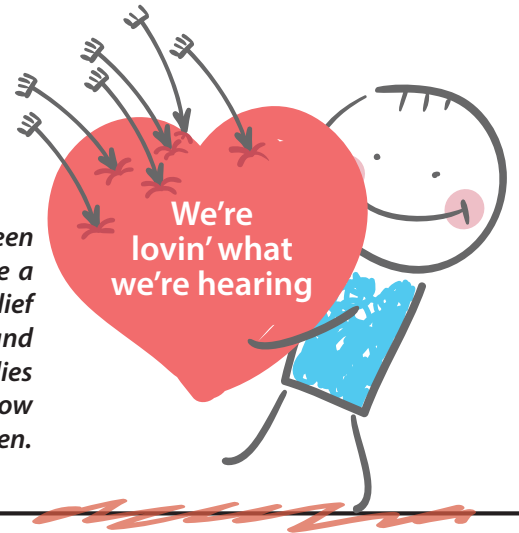
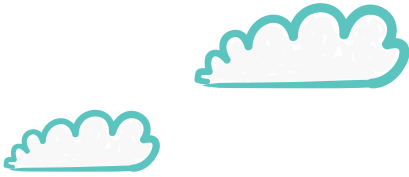
Looking for Community Service Opportunities?

Does your company or organization encourage your group to support non-profits?

"Team building" opportunities for groups of 3 to 10 volunteers are available!

Come help us assemble newborn kits, school supplies, art and activity kits and toiletry bags!!!

contact Patti Serres at 503.320.0789 to see what opportunities await!



These care packages are so beyond meaningful to each family they touch. I have been able to witness the impact of what Bloomin' Boutique is able to provide each time a family receives their order. It is truly amazing the smiles, the confidence, and the relief that you are able to bring these families when they need it most. You truly go above and beyond to meet needs of the children. Every package that you create for the families is so full of compassion that you can feel it. I wanted to thank you and let you know how much we as a community appreciate the time and effort you put in to make this happen.
- TS, ODHS

"Thank you so much for the clothing and gifts that you gave to my daughter. I would like to mention that the clothes were very useful for my daughter's skin type; with cotton, the skin no longer gets irritated.

I cannot afford the all cotton clothing that she needs on the income of my household." - MR, Healthy Families Oregon

...

"The stuff I got from Bloomin' Boutique is TOO amazing! I am so appreciative and the items they gave were extremely thoughtful and everything that I needed. It will help me get through the next several months!" - KD, ODHS

...

"Thank you so much! He was beyond excited! He loved everything; the car blanket was his favorite! There was such great stuff and for a kid who came here with nothing, it was like Christmas! The Bloomin' Boutique program is amazing and Oscar is very appreciative! It is all things a boy would love. He said everything fit!" - AD, Todos Juntos

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"I just wanted to send you a note to thank you again for the clothes that you brought for my child from Bloomin' Boutique the other day! It has been a long time since I was able to get her any brand new clothes and she really loved these! She actually loved them so much that she put on a whole fashion show for me and her sister where she tried on every outfit and modeled them for us. And the next day when she went to school in the first one of her new outfits I could just tell she felt like a million bucks. Thanks again and please tell the people at Bloomin' Boutique thank you too!" - MP, NAMI

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"It's Incredible, everything is so beautiful and perfect!!! I had nothing and now we have so much! I am so overwhelmed, Thank you so much!" - SC, NW Family Services

Once again, you have all outdone yourselves. When presented with a referral for a mother that I work with, you rose to the challenge again. This mom is really struggling as she has a 10-year-old daughter in 5th grade in our County and used to work when her daughter was younger. She also now has a 3-year-old son, who is nonverbal and lives with autism. His type of autism presents with some challenging behaviors, including a body and brain that just can't settle. He also has a strong aversion to the sensory of clothing on his body and will take his clothing off, given the chance. Mom has not been able to find a child care provider in our county that has the ability to care for him.

His mother has researched "adaptive" clothing; however, it is very expensive. She is working on getting her son connected with DD services and is reaching out through OHP, but until she has another resource in place, Bloomin' Boutique has been the only support she's been able to receive for his specialized clothing. Thank you so much for accommodating this 3-year-old boy's needs by fulfilling the request of footless, zipper pajamas, that his mother can put on his body, with the zipper in the back, so he keeps clothed and warm! Mom said he forgets about the clothing once he realizes he can't get it off and gets to just be a kid. Appreciate you all. - CW, ODHS

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Thank you so much for the help your organization has provided to the families that our district serves. The response of these parents is of enormous gratitude and relief as some of them are refugees and came in with nothing. We know that Bloomin' Boutique will come through for these children. - MH, WLWV School District

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"As a newly single struggling mom of two little ones, a big thank you to you from my family! All of the clothes, care packages and toys/books were perfect. They were exactly what we needed and I'm so grateful a service like this is available. We lost close to all of our belongings so this was a huge help. Thank you so much!" - AD, Todos Juntos



I would like to extend my gratitude and thanks to your wonderful team. I work at Boeckman Creek Primary School in Wilsonville as the school counselor. We are a large school with close to 500 students. Many of our students do not have all of their basic needs met. You have been a profound help to our community. This year, you've created care packages for over 12 students at my school alone, not to mention many of the other schools in the West Linn Wilsonville District. Kids come to school bouncy and happy in their new shoes and clothes. They tell me sometimes if they are wearing some of the clothes that came in their package with pride and excitement. The parents of these children are so grateful and relieved to get your support. Recently, a parent was very emotional when they said "yes" to receiving a care package from you. They said that sometimes, it's just so hard to ask for help. We help them see that they have a community of support around them, and being able to offer Bloomin' Boutique as an option really helps them feel cared for and seen.

Thank you for all you do! Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our community. All my best, with thanks.
- JC, Boeckman Creek Primary School

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Just wanted to give you a quote from this referral... the student doesn't give out his smiles very easily, but he had a big one on his face when he saw what was in the bags. He said, "Please tell whoever did this for me, 'much appreciated'... thank you so much." - NP, North Clackamas School District

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I wanted to say thank you again for the care packages you provide to the community! It is so valuable that each one is packed with consideration of the individual needs of the child in mind. The additional items in each package seem so thoughtfully selected with social and health equity in mind. This means a lot to families of children with atypical developmental needs especially, and we at Clackamas County Public Health are very grateful for this meaningful service your team provides to our community!
- JG, Nurse Home Visitor

*Age, race, gender
and special needs
are thoughtfully addressed
when curating
each care package*

I am writing this email in support of all the work you and your volunteers provide for our youth and their families at Friends of the Children. We serve a diverse population of youth from many ethnicities and one thing that is very appreciated by the families is the time and attention put into each care package. Your volunteers take the time to select items and toys that reflect each culture African American, Hispanic/Latino and Asian. The reaction from parents when they receive these items is truly magical. Stories like the Hispanic mother receiving some books in Spanish that she could read to her kids, and the African American mother who was so happy to see the look on her daughter's face when she received her first black doll and said to her mom "they look like me" is awesome to witness. Thank you for catering to each family and the different ethnicities they all come from. It makes this work meaningful and special. - AB, Friends of the Children

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Thank you so much Patti and all your team for creating these special bags/gifts for our clients. Seeing the emotions of the families makes my day! - SC, NW Family Services

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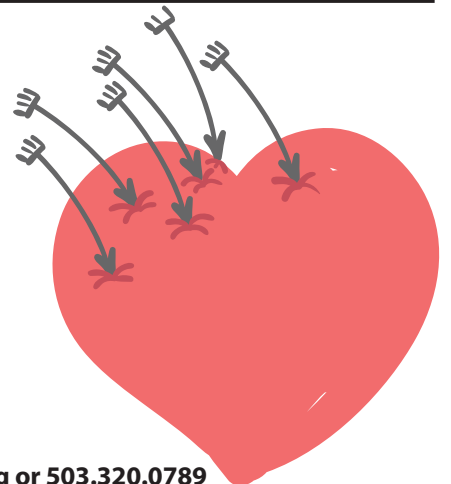
The kids were so excited to receive so much clothing, shoes, bedding and goodies from Bloomin' Boutique! You could see the joy on their faces as they looked within the bags. They are very thankful to be able to make their beds and tuck themselves into their cozy blankets during these colder winter days.
- LE, OC School District

Today, I was blessed to be able to provide two Molalla teenage girls with brand new clothing, bed sets, shoes and even an awesome birthday gift bag containing everything needed to make their own birthday cake for her upcoming birthday -- all thanks to the generosity of the supporters of Bloomin' Boutique. The girls were so excited to look through their bags and couldn't stop smiling because they were so thankful to receive all this wonderful stuff. Thank you so much Patti and team! - JH, Todos Juntos

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My family and I have purchased clothing to support the kids served by Bloomin' Boutique in lieu of Christmas gifts. My mother and I would like to come and drop off the clothing we purchased. My mom is wondering if she can just take a peek at the Boutique. She would like to see a little bit of the operation. Is that possible?

YES! If you would like a tour of the Bloomin' Boutique headquarters, contact Founder and Executive Director Patti Serres at patti.serres@bloominboutique.org or 503.320.0789



See you at Serres Farm!

14620 S Forsythe Rd
Oregon City



Awards!!!

Categories include
"Just 'Cause It's Neat!"
along with...
Pre-30s / 30-39 / 40-49
50-59 / 60-69 / 70-79
80-89 / 90-99 / 2000 and newer
Muscle Car / Convertible / Import
Truck: Pre-65 / 66 and newer
Motorcycle / Under Construction
BEST IN SHOW
sponsored by Bloomin' Boutique

SUNDAY

August

25

2024

10am - 3pm

(Judging Noon - 2pm)

FREE
ADMISSION

Donations of
NEW BACKPACKS
appreciated!

Cruzin' for the Kids

7th ANNUAL

COOL CARS - MUSIC - FOOD

sponsored by

OnPoint Community Credit Union • Oregon City
along with one of Bloomin' Boutique's generous patrons!

Got a cool car to show? Swag bag for the first 100 registrants!

\$20 per vehicle
pre-registration
with a credit card:
visit our website
BloominBoutique.org

on-site registration
\$20 per vehicle
(cash only please)

\$20 per vehicle
pre-registration with a check:
Make check out to Bloomin' Boutique
and mail to Bloomin' Boutique
19376 Molalla Ave Suite 160
Oregon City, OR 97045

Join Us! Gates open at 8am for registration

Questions? Contact patti.serres@bloominboutique.org

benefit to support
Bloomin' Boutique
a non-profit dedicated
to giving local kids
a hand up!

YOU can help!
We provide
care packages to
1200 kids per year!

HOSTED BY
BloominBoutique.org

open by appointment only • 19376 Molalla Ave, Suite 160, Oregon City, OR 97045



BloominBoutique.org

Non-Profit 501(c)(3) • Tax ID #83-2157929 • serving underprivileged Oregon youths residing in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties

1200 kids
served annually!

Every donation is appreciated and wisely used to support our mission to give a *hand up* to underserved kids

Thank you one and all for believing in your communities

HELP YOUR LOCAL KIDS IN NEED!

Organize a clothing drive to support **Bloomin' Boutique** Non-Profit 501(c)(3)

dedicated to giving a *hand up* to underprivileged children



NEW CLOTHES - ALL SIZES
Boys, girls, infants, K-12

Bloomin' Boutique

Where futures blossom and confidence grows



If you would like to organize a clothing drive or make a donation, please contact Patti Serres, Executive Director: patti.serres@bloominboutique.org • 503.320.0789
serving Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties

BloominBoutique.org

Contact us and ask for DONATION BARRELS to place at your workplace!

We can give suggestions of most needed items and provide delivery and pickup of collection bins

In addition to fulfilling requests for new clothing,
WE PROVIDE
added assistance through special programs



Each of us has a story –

an unforgettable life-changing event making such an impact that we never forget the feelings we experienced.

See that girl in the pink pants? That was me the first time I got to go shopping for something new – something I got to pick out for myself. *In that moment*, I could see beyond all that was going wrong – the mother I had lost, the father that did not have the skills to cope with four small children, the trail of domestic violence, the fear of foster care services looming at the door. *In that moment*, I felt confident to take on the world. *In that moment*, I was seen, I was important, I was loved.

Patti Serres

Founder and Executive Director

Polka dots, black patent leather shoes, pink pants... whose story will you be a part of?



Q&A

Q: Are summer activities supported?

A. Our basic care packages allow advocates to request “special items” such as sports equipment, bikes, beds, special toiletries and special needs items. In addition, Bloomin’ Boutique offers a **Summer Get Away** package primarily designed to meet the needs of underprivileged kids going to outdoor school or camp. The package generally includes a swimsuit, sleeping bag, pillow, flashlight, journal, sunscreen, toiletries and backpack. Like all BB care packages, all items are new and must be requested and picked up by an accredited advocate.

As graduation season approaches, we should mention that Bloomin’ Boutique also has a **Cap and Gown** program. We found that some students were unable to attend their graduation because they could not afford the cost of a cap and gown. We rely on school administrators who identify students they feel should receive assistance and Bloomin’ Boutique will provide the cap and gown for this momentous day.

Q: What is included in a basic care package?

A: Since Bloomin’ Boutique serves from birth through high school, we are flexible and mindful of age-related needs. For example, a “newborn” package includes a six-month supply of diapers and a “middler” package includes books, games and toys.

A “basic” package for school age kids includes at least: a pair of shoes, 10 pair of socks, 5 pair of underwear, 4 pair of pants, 5 shirts or tops, pajamas, jacket, hat, gloves, swimsuit, shorts, art kit, backpack, school supplies, toiletries and bedding. All items are new, with many name brands the kids can and do wear with pride. Our thoughtful and efficient volunteers often tailor the package to suit the likes of the individual (for example, matching handmade dragon blanket and pillow case). Watching the volunteers preparing a care package is like watching a mom or grandmother happily preparing special presents. We estimate the retail value of each current care package at \$500, but it often goes above that when “extras” are sprinkled in. If we know a child will soon be celebrating a birthday, we include cake mix, candles and even a baking pan so they can bake a cake for their special day!

Thanks to our many generous donors and partnerships with retail organizations that offer merchandise discounts, we maintain a sizable inventory, enabling us to meet what is sadly an increasing demand.

GIVING
made
easy!



DONATE NOW

- Donate **gift cards or funds** to enable us to fulfill requests and “fill in the gaps” (*larger sizes, special needs*)
- Contribute your **Fred Meyer Community Rewards** to #HV581 (Bloomin Boutique); *sign up at fredmeyer.com/community-rewards*
- Collect **bottles and cans** and have your refund credited to Bloomin’ Boutique; *for BottleDrop blue bags and tags, contact patti.serres@bloominboutique.org • 503.320.0789*

Did you know that two bottle drop bags will provide a child with a pair of quality shoes? Contact patti.serres@bloominboutique.org to receive blue bags and labels to properly credit the Bloomin’ Boutique account.



WE NEED
YOUR HELP

CURRENT NEEDS include

PJs size 5T - 14/16

BOYS and GIRLS

as always, we only accept **NEW** clothes

Ready to donate? Please reach out to
Patti.Serres@BloominBoutique.org
to make arrangements for contactless pick-up
and drop off of donations.

Our personal shoppers will wisely use your cash donation
to obtain the specific items a child needs.

Our website can accept cash donations via credit card.

BloominBoutique.org

Thank you for making a difference!