

See **YOU** at the
Cruizin' for the Kids Car Show!

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.

Sharing from one of our partners... thank you, Ivan...

Just a glimpse of a past memory
from times way back in the old country,
and that same distant memory being born again
in a new country, in a new generation.

A country where the hope of a new and brighter future
is awaiting to dawn.

A land that promises opportunities and
a chance of freedom for everyone.

A community where its people
still have hearts
that beat fervently with love
for their fellow neighbors.

A place far away from home
that we can all now call: HOME.

As the storm passes in our lives
and the dark clouds dissipate from the sky overhead,
the warm rays of the sun shine down
upon these seeds of hope that have been planted,
and they begin to sprout and bloom
into something truly amazing.

Community Recognition Speaks Volumes

As the recipient of the North Clackamas Chamber's Irwin Adams Lifetime Achievement Award, I truly appreciate being recognized as a leader in our community... but, as many leaders can attest, an individual can only accomplish so much – it takes a supportive tribe to rise to the top.

Enthusiasm, passion and positive energy – I've got that – but it is the generosity of sponsors, donors and individuals who form the ever expanding circle of love that truly makes a difference in the lives of so many underserved children.

This award, and many others, genuinely belongs to everyone involved with Bloomin' Boutique... without their full support and belief in our mission, Bloomin' Boutique would be unable to reach the numbers of children we serve each year. New clothing, bedding, basic hygiene products... if a child sees that someone cares about them, someone they do not even know, then they can begin the process of feeling special, seen and, most importantly, *loved*. Their confidence soars, they come out of their shell and ultimately become productive members of their communities. None of this is possible without the conviction of so many... I sincerely thank you all!

Patti Serres

Patti Serres

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

BY THE NUMBERS

Apr - May - Jun 2023

IN-KIND DONATIONS	\$19,540
CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED	\$95,000
VOLUNTEER HOURS	1229

KIDS SERVED: 190

Girls 52.2%
Boys 47.8%

AGES SERVED

16-18 13.7%
<5 33.7%
11-15 28.9%
6-10 23.7%

REFERRAL

3rd 6.8%
1st 82.6%
2nd 10.6%

COUNTY SERVED

Multnomah 14.7%
Clackamas 76.3%
Washington 9%

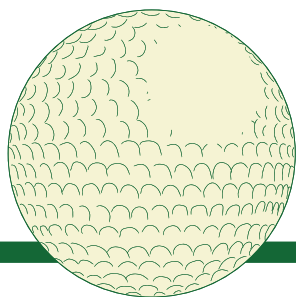
BloominBoutique.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

Please join Bloomin' Boutique in supporting those that support us!

Fundraising events like these are needed to keep our shelves stocked so that we may give a *hand up* to another child in need.



EVENT *Swing for the Kids
2nd Annual Golf Tournament
Benefiting Bloomin' Boutique*

SPONSORED BY **kw** PORTLAND ELITE
KELLER WILLIAMS, REALTY

Questions?
Reach out to Jeff Nielson
503.957.4905
jnielson@kw.com

WHEN *August 7, 2023
11:30am Registration
1:00pm Shotgun Start
6:00pm Dinner & Auction*

WHERE *Stone Creek Golf Course
14603 S Stoneridge Dr
Oregon City*

DETAILS *Players Fee: \$150 a head
includes golf, food & shirt
Hole Sponsor: \$300
Beverage Hole Sponsor \$500*



SCAN to Register



Cruzin' for The Kids

**6th Annual Car Show
Benefiting Bloomin' Boutique**

WHEN *August 27, 2023 • 10am - 3pm*

WHERE *Serres Farm
14620 S Forsythe Rd
Oregon City*

Questions? Got a Cool Car?
Contact
patti.serres@bloominboutique.org

*Flyer included
in this newsletter*

DETAILS **FREE ADMISSION**
Cool Cars - Live Music - Food available for purchase





Crum & Forster
\$15,375



Autzen Foundation
\$7,600



Juan Young Trust
\$10,000



**Daniel & Tamara Driver
Giving Fund**
\$10,000



Templeton Foundation
\$15,000



**Richard B. Siegel
Foundation**
\$30,000



**Spirit Mountain
Community Fund**
\$7,500



**Women of Willamette Valley
Country Club - Spring Luncheon**
\$1,300 and counting



**Thank
you**

**we greatly appreciate your support
in giving a *hand up* to kids!**

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!



One Purchased = One Donated

To our incredible network of Giving Partners,

Thanks to you and the work that you do, we've been able to donate **100 million clothing items** to the people who are at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness in your communities.



Organizations like yours, and your dedicated staff and volunteers, have proven that **little things can make a big difference**. Our customers support our mission by making purchases that give back. Our Giving Partners ensure that the items we donate get in the hands of those who need them most.

We've learned from many of you that the impact of these donations goes beyond meeting a material need and often serves as an important tool for trust building and connection. We know that it's through those moments of connection and when trust is established that there is an opportunity to learn more, **to meet an individual exactly where they're at**, hear their story and see their humanity.

In honor of this milestone, we're using this campaign as an opportunity to help shift the public perception of homelessness by bringing greater awareness to insights that reveal the breadth and complexity of the experience while sharing the voices of individuals who have faced a number of circumstances that lead to being unhoused. Our hope is that **with greater understanding comes greater capacity for compassion** and opportunity for human-centered solutions.

This campaign, and this milestone, would not be possible without you. From everyone at Bombas, **thanks a (100) million for being part of this mission.**

The Bombas Giving Team,
Kelly, Melina, Kerri, and Isabelle

"I wanted to say thank you so much for the bag of clothes they were really nice and they fit me. I also wanted to say thank you for the colors and pens that u gave me I wanted some new ones and those ones where perfect and also for the pink like makeup thing it was really nice and it had so many things that I could start wearing to school so thank you so much I appreciate it."



Thank you once again to you and your team for providing beautiful care packages for my clients. I wanted to share my testimony as to what I saw the day I visited their home:

Upon arrival at the home of my clients, who have been struggling to stay afloat with overdue rent bills, job loss, and a looming insecurity over their family's future, the last thing they expected was the surprise about to come from Bloomin' Boutique.

The pregnant wife and youngest son helped me carry the totes from the trunk of my car. They were mystified at the large puffy bags, until I explained to them that they were filled with new bedding and pillows; that's when the first set of smiles broke out.

The second jubilant smile came from the 11-year-old son who saw the blue soccer ball sticking out from one of the totes. "Una pelota!" he exclaimed, with a child-like wonder on his face.

The smaller brother pulled out of a bag a fuzzy ball with a Velcro mitt. The father remarked, "Hey, I used to have one of those as a kid," as he grasped the mitt and pondered on one of his distant childhood memories of a happier time.

I remember vividly the mother in her blue floral dress, sitting on a chair in the family den, holding up a pair of sweatpants for her youngest child. "Que lindo," she sighed, with that look only a proud mama could pull off.

While filling out rent assistance applications with the dad, the little boy went over to his father with the skateboarder toy set he picked up from one of the grey Bloomin' Boutique bags. "Dad, can you help me put this together?" said the boy in Spanish. "Let's see," the dad stately assuredly, and they both worked together to configure the kit as a team.

As I was sending out an email to the landlord and rustling through more housing papers, I caught a glimpse of the older brother trying on his fresh new pair of aqua-colored Converse sneakers. Way cool. The mother bent down, grasped the tip of his shoe, and told him to wiggle his big toe to check out the fit. "A little big," she chuckled, "but he'll grow into them quickly in no time." The mama told me to give her sincere thanks to the folks who provided these beautiful clothes for her family.

The documents for the rent help were all finally signed and dated, and as I left the home, got into my car, and pulled out of the driveway and down the street, I saw a father and his son happily playing in the yard with the same kind of ball and mitt when they were the same age.

Thank you Bloomin' Boutique for all you do for the community. Blessings your way. -IE, Northwest Family Services





Todos Juntos is a non-profit organization that services the rural communities of Clackamas county. As a Family Resource Advocate for Todos Juntos, servicing the rural communities of Canby/Molalla, my role is to help families and their children obtain the needed resources they need at the time. As such, clothing has been a major requesting resource. Due to our partnership with Bloomin' Boutique, we have been able to serve single mothers, migrant families, low income families, and many more. Being able to provide clothing from Bloomin' Boutique to these children of the families we serve, has truly been impactful! This partnership with Bloomin' Boutique gives families a sense of relief and builds on the resiliency of children. Bloomin' Boutique is truly phenomenal! Patti and her team have gone above and beyond in providing more than just clothes to children. Below are a few stories that I received from families I have served and in which, Bloomin' Boutique played a huge part of:

From a parent: "I can't be more grateful because you all went beyond what I could ever imagine! You even put together some toys for the kiddos that I know they will be thrilled when they see them. So much stuff and I'm so thankful for everyone involved because I really did not imagine all this help. Kids have clothes for the next 6 months and it should go a long way. Everything is really nice for both the boys and girls. Thank you!"

From a parent: "My daughter was overjoyed when she saw a toy doll in her bag of clothes. We definitely were not expecting to receive so much. Thank you Bloomin' Boutique for all that you do! Not only does my daughter have clothes that she loves, but a new toy doll that she can't let go."

From a youth: "Wow, thank you Bloomin' Boutique! I did not expect to receive more than just clothes. I really enjoy coloring, so when I saw that there were coloring utensils and a coloring book in my clothing bag, I got very excited. Thank you for the soccer ball too! Now, I can practice for the upcoming soccer season for school. Thank you again."

Thank you Bloomin' Boutique for your partnership with Todos Juntos! Your services truly make a positive difference in the lives of children, youth, and families.

I would also like to personally thank you and your team for going above and beyond in providing more than just clothes to children. Bloomin' Boutique is truly phenomenal! -JL, Todos Juntos

I would like to thank you and the beautiful work you do with Bloomin' Boutique. When mom saw all the bags she started to cry, she was so happy her kids were going to have new clothes to wear. She was really grateful and emotional. The little ones little faces lit up when they all their new shoes and toys. The work you do is important and so appreciated. - AO, ODHS

...

"Charlie got home last night. He loves the clothes. The shoes fit perfectly. He liked them so much that he did his own laundry so he could wear it today for the choir end of year party and to get to know the new members for next year. He just came out this year in February. I felt so bad cause I couldn't get them the clothes they needed to feel comfortable and all the old ones got holes or falling apart. Thank you so much from both of us!"

Dear Patti and your awesome group of volunteers, THANK YOU for fulfilling our requests to our school family who lost most everything in a house fire! Your team worked so quickly to select and prepare the care packages for this family before school was out for the summer and we were SO APPRECIATIVE!

Here is what the mom messaged me: "Those care packages were the highlight of my kid's day! We all needed the positive moment to remember what community is about. We kept calling it Christmas in June! Thank you."

Bloomin' Boutique definitely continues to give kids a hand up and meets their needs in a real way when their world is turned upside down.

THANK YOU doesn't seem like it's enough but we do THANK YOU! - CC, Alliance Charter School

Thank you for giving a child the confidence to walk into school with their head held high. The first few days they were in their new school they were embarrassed about the fact that their clothes didn't fit. Though their family tried to find used clothes, they were all well worn. Bloomin' Boutique provided wonderful, new clothes that fit this kiddo so well. Thank you for your support, generosity and care to give stylish options to our more vulnerable population. - LM, OCSD

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

27

2023

10am - 3pm

(Judging Noon - 2pm)

Cruzin' for the Kids

6th ANNUAL

**FREE
ADMISSION**

Donations of
NEW CLOTHING
for a child age 5 - 18
appreciated!

Mark Seymour and Friends

COOL CARS - LIVE MUSIC - FOOD SURPRISE APPEARANCES!

Got a cool car to show?

Join Us! Gates open at 8am for registration

Questions? Contact patti.serres@bloominboutique.org

vehicle registration
\$20 per vehicle
(cash only please)

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



[BloominBoutique.org](https://www.bloominboutique.org)

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

LOVE IN ACTION: Help Local Children in Need!

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

Bloomin' Boutique provides BASIC NEEDS to **720** children each year!

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!

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: Does Bloomin' Boutique have any paid staff?

A: None of the many Bloomin' Boutique volunteers receive any compensation for their effort; they are "paid" purely by the satisfaction of being a part of doing something good for kids in need. Beyond generous, these volunteers perform a number of tasks including receiving inventory, removing price tags, stocking shelves, carefully preparing individual care packages, and cleaning and organizing the three facilities. In addition, there are volunteers who shop for needed items and one that prepares all of the Bloomin' Boutique marketing materials and forms required by the organization. Finally, there is a volunteer board of directors that sets and monitors policies and procedures.

We carefully track volunteer hours. This past quarter alone, volunteer hours totaled 1229.

Maximum effort and funding goes toward supporting our mission of helping kids, and we are understandably proud of the selflessness displayed by our cherished volunteers.

Q: How do you ensure people don't take advantage of your generosity?

A: All of the kids we serve are referred by an advocate from an accredited agency. We do not solicit or discriminate. The advocate is the primary point of contact. They submit the request and either pick up and deliver the prepared care package or, in the case of a high schooler, accompany the child to the Boutique facility where they can select and try on their own clothes. Our policy is that each child can receive help up to 3 times over a specific period of time. Each time, the number of items given decreases. For example, bedding is only included in the first package. We maintain a database of those served and strictly abide by our policies. We also coordinate with requesting agencies to identify potential abuse. Fortunately, that seldom happens and the families we help truly need the assistance.

Q: Older children can select their own clothes?

A: Yes! They may come to the Boutique facility with their advocate (no parents) for a personal shopping experience. With a volunteer present to provide assistance, they are free to pick out what they want, try it on and go home with their selections. The Boutique is set up like a store – it is clean and stocked with lots of NEW fashionable clothing. We often hear how a child arrives with their shoulders slumped, looking at the ground and leaves smiling with head held high.

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

You have made a difference in the life of a student with your love and kindness. Not only did they receive nice, quality clothing, but you gave them gifts and bedding, too. This student feels loved and supported, and I am proud to have an organization like Bloomin' Boutique in Oregon City! You all make a difference! - RF, OCSD

WE NEED
YOUR HELP

CURRENT NEEDS include
Everything for BOYS and GIRLS
size 7/8

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!