

**531 kids received care packages this quarter!**

**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.



Here are a few heartfelt words from the families we serve...

*"Thanks so much Bloomin' Boutique for your incredible support during such a challenging time. After fleeing a difficult situation, I was worried about how to provide for my child. Thanks to your generosity, we received awesome new clothes, a bunch of school supplies we need, and even books and art supplies. This really made a difference in our journey towards healing and rebuilding our lives."*

*"I can't express how grateful I am to Bloomin' Boutique for their support during this tough transition. Moving into a shelter was a big change for my child. Receiving clothing and school supplies not only helped to meet our needs but also brought a sense of normalcy and comfort during a difficult time. Thank you so much Bloomin' Boutique for the awesome work you do!"*



**Seniors Can Reduce Tax Burden By Donating to Charity Through Their IRA**

If you have reached the age (70½ years old) where you are required to take an annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from an IRA, you are likely aware that those distributions are reported as taxable income. There are a few exceptions and a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is one of them. A QCD is a *nontaxable distribution* made directly by the trustee of an IRA to organizations that are eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.

Making a QCD can benefit the taxpayer by reducing their taxable income while supporting qualifying charitable organizations of their choice. The taxpayer doesn't have to worry about meeting the standard deduction or itemizing deductions with a QCD. A QCD comes out of the IRA non-taxed.

If some or all of your annual RMD is used for charitable giving, there is a provision within the RMD allowing an individual to direct funds to qualifying charities. As a 501(c)3, Bloomin' Boutique qualifies as one of these charities.

We are grateful for the numerous donors supporting our efforts and realize that donations come in all forms and sizes. By directing any or all of your annual RMD to Bloomin' Boutique, you will be supporting local children in need. As a volunteer run organization, over 94% of all donated funds go directly to supporting our mission.

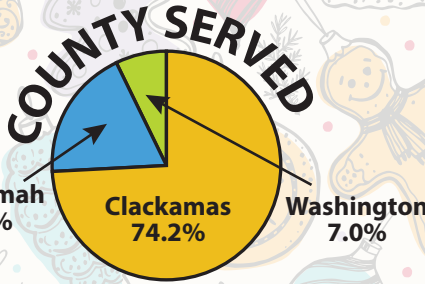
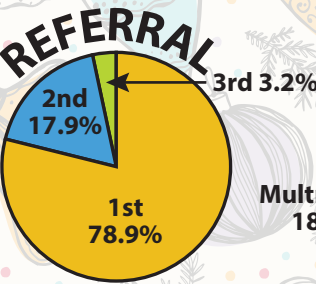
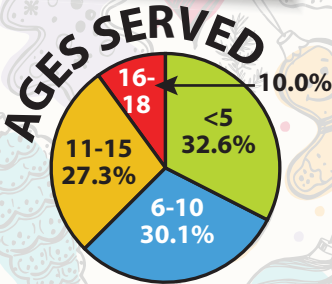
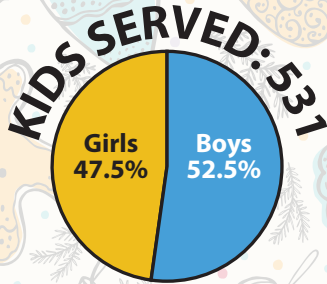
Your financial advisor or tax professional can review possible advantages and handle the process of using a QCD.

Thanks for your consideration,

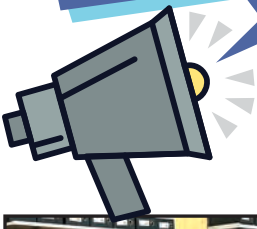
*Patti Serres* Patti Serres  
 Bloomin' Boutique, Founder and Executive Director  
 503.320.0789 • Patti.Serres@BloominBoutique.org

**BY THE NUMBERS**

IN-KIND DONATIONS	\$17,653
CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED	\$265,500
VOLUNTEER HOURS	2,852



**SHOUT OUT!**



**We thank our community partners for filling our collection boxes for the season... making the holidays even more special for our kids who received toys, games and gift cards tucked into our already amazing care packages!**



**Girl Scout Troop #10061 West Linn**  
*wrapped toys and gifts for kids in need*



**Fred Meyer Corporate** *your continued support is greatly appreciated!*



**Coffman Excavation**  
*thank you for 13 years of supporting the kids in our community!*



**Oregon City Methodist Church**  
*this year's drive gifted 221 sets of pjs!*



**Jo loves to crochet!**  
*she created 63 blankets and 41 hats for our kids' comfort this year alone!*



**Mapel Boutique and Bras for Girls**  
*your donations make a huge impact in the life of a young girl!*



**So proud!!!  
Smiles all around!**



# Thank you

for your generosity

**Bloomfield Family Foundation**

**Frank & Evelyn Schmidt Family Foundation**

**OCF Joseph E Weston Public Foundation**

**Clackamas Women's Services**

**Howard W. and Dorise C. Irwin Foundation**

**The Marquis Foundation**

**North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce**  
Christmas Giving Breakfast recipient

**Anonymous**



## 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!*



## Bloomin' Boutique care packages made with love

*"Thank you Bloomin' Boutique for giving me clothes, school stuff and toys. It feels really good to have stuff that is just for me. I really liked how soft all of the clothes were. This made going to a new school less scary!"*

*"I got a really cool purple backpack and stuffy that I love! It makes me feel happy and safe. I love wearing my new clothes and showing them to my friends. Thank you, Bloomin' Boutique!"*

*I wanted to write to you about the impact Bloomin' Boutique had on one family in particular, and then also regarding themes I see across the board with families that receive this service.*

*This past December, I delivered packages to a low income family of three kids. All three kids received care packages from Bloomin' Boutique and you would have thought it was Christmas morning when I walked in with the overflowing bags! All three, especially the sister, are reserved, but that day they were loud, laughing and eager. The boys, who try their best to avoid attention, were clamoring to show me their new jackets, shoes and books. One said, "This is the best day ever," and the daughter noted, "These clothes are so nice and so cute." They received the clothes over a month and a half ago, and still just yesterday when I walked in, the brother said, "Look! I'm wearing my new jacket and pants; they're so soft." For all three kids, these clothes impacted them. Bags marked with their names, with clothes in their sizes, and freely given, said to those children: "You are seen, you matter and you are worthy to receive nice things."*

*Every time that I've delivered a Bloomin' Boutique care package to a family, I notice that kids light up, and they feel special that there's something that's high-quality and just for them. Although indirectly impacted, a change comes over the parents' faces as well. They are relieved. These caregivers want to provide every good thing for their kids, just as every parent does. By providing packages to the kids, Bloomin' Boutique reminds parents that kids are truly raised by a village, and they are not alone. Although systemic barriers, hard circumstances and difficulties never fade away in a day, the hope these brown paper packages gives parents brings hope and encouragement. Hope and encouragement are the forces that can bring change, and that can overcome all odds, if we can just hold on to them. Bloomin' Boutique helps families do just that. Thank you SO MUCH BB!! - AN, Youth Villages*

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*Bloomin' Boutique has been so impactful for our students at HVMS! When they haven't had nice brand new clothes in years, getting clothes and items from Bloomin' is so special. They come to school so excited to wear their new items! - SA, Happy Valley Middle School*



*Wanted to give you an update on the families reaction to the donation they received from your agency.*

*First off, I am blown away at the thoughtfulness and care that was put into each of these kiddos packages. The quality of the items was incredible and not something that I have experienced with any organization in the past 17 years that I have been in the Social Services field. So thank you, from a past consumer, to professional, what you do DOES matter to these families!*

*The teenager was literally squealing with delight when opening his packages. He could not believe that the items were actually stuff that he would wear, and the SHOES!! He was super excited about the shoes (they matched perfectly with an outfit that he had on). He is a hefty kid, and finding clothes that fit him, and his style is not easy! Ya'll hit the mark on this one!! He was also super appreciative of the personal hygiene items. He said, "How did they know I was black!" (I of course told him it was on the referral.)*

*Little Bella, who is almost three, was also super excited about the toys that were included. She did not pay much attention to the clothes until her mom brought it to her attention. She does not have much "girly" clothes (not because of personal reasons other than she wore what her mom had) and was very excited about her coat, shoes, and pretty girly things. Her mother made a statement that "You can really tell, that these people care" and she had gotten teary eyed, which is not an emotion that this mom has ever shown with me prior.*

*So to sum it up, the gratitude that was given for the items that were donated was pure, and real. Thank you from someone who has always shied away from utilizing resources such as these, for opening my eyes to knowing that there are genuinely thoughtful, caring, and compassionate people out there who take pride in the work they do!! Happy Holidays! - AE, Path-Home*

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*First and foremost, the family is ever so grateful for everything - the girls loved everything they received. The birthday girl loved her birthday bag and enjoyed having some bonding time with her sisters in making her cake. They thank you all very much and appreciate in making their holiday and birthday memorable! Thank you Patti and your wonderful team for all that you do and the care you all put in these care packages. - JL, Todos Juntos*



*This holiday season we had over 10 children from our school community in need who had not been adopted by other community sponsors for holiday support. We were running short on time and options and I reached out to Patti and Bloomin' Boutique for help. Bloomin' Boutique volunteers were able to put together gifts and clothing for all of the students who we referred, and were amazed at the quality and thoughtfulness of the items selected for each of the kids. One of the moms who received the items for her kids was in tears. She was so grateful and overwhelmed. She has almost lost their home due to financial strain, and knowing that there is community support behind them brings her so much hope and peace. She was so excited to take her boys to Panda Express with the gift card that she received as well. Thank you for being a consistent resource over the years and always coming through to help kids and families when we need it!*  
- SA, Baker Prairie Middle School

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*As a school social worker, Bloomin' Boutique is hands down one of my top resources. Each and every time, the student's eyes light up when handed a generous bag full of beautiful, brand new, high quality clothing. It never gets old and has become one of my favorite things to witness over the years.*

*A recent family expressed immense gratitude that their children were able to get new clothing in time for the winter months. They were excited to get to play with the new soccer ball and board game together over the upcoming Winter break. Thanks for all you do!* - NP, North Clackamas School District

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*You made a huge difference in the lives of three families today! One family was so grateful; the kids would not have had anything for the holidays. The kids opened the gifts and were so excited. One youth even cried from receiving the clothing.*

*One youth had no clothing, she was grateful to receive clothes.*

*One family's dad has been ill and not able to work. The entire family says thank you. Dad was overwhelmed to be able to offer clothes for his family. The family is smiling big from receiving clothing that is much needed.* - PFJ, Multnomah County

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*As a school social worker at a high school, working with Bloomin' Boutique has been truly wonderful. It was so easy to get connected to an incredible resource for my students and the turnaround was incredible. I gave the bag of clothes to my student who was very appreciative and surprised at how much he actually like the clothes. The next day I saw him wearing one of the shirts and pants. Couldn't be happier and more impressed with the whole process. Thank you so much!*  
- MW, North Clackamas

*I just wanted to take a moment to share how amazing the care packages from Bloomin' Boutique have been and the tremendous impact they've had. One story, in particular, stands out, a little girl in Pre-K received a worry monster, and it's been a complete game-changer for her.*

*Before she got the worry monster, she was incredibly shy and hesitant to let anyone at school hug her or even hold her hand. But now, she happily gets off the bus in the morning, gives me a hug, and even holds hands with me and other bus kiddos! Her mom shared that she's also stopped pulling her hair out, which is such a huge relief for the family.*

*The care packages your team puts together are nothing short of extraordinary. Every parent I've spoken with can't thank me enough, they're so grateful and love every single item. Your kindness and thoughtfulness truly shine through in the work you do, and it's making such a meaningful difference in so many lives.*

*Thank you again for everything. Your team is truly amazing!*  
- SD, PPS



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*I had a participant in dire need of a bed and kitchen table and chairs for her and her family. She had been waiting for more than 5 months. I was scheduled to meet with another resource we work with, but it would have been another long wait for necessary items, so I contacted Bloomin' Boutique to explain the situation. I just wanted to reach out and let you know, what a HUGE Blessing that referral was!*

*I got a call today from one of your donors, and I cannot thank you enough! My participant and I are truly grateful for you and your donor.*

*She is now receiving a full bed with bedding and a new kitchen table with chairs that is going to last her and her family a very long time. Thank you for blessing this family!* - CC, ODHS

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*I wanted to say thank you again for the beautiful care packages that you made for our families. The families we work with experience housing insecurity or are unhoused, and the students can face a lot of stigma because of their housing situations. We were able to give one mom her care package for her daughter when I got back to the office and it was so great to see her face light up as she went through it. Thank you so much for all the work that you are doing - it's helping our families so much! With appreciation,* - JS-L, North Clackamas School District

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*Bloomin' Boutique is amazing and has been such a huge help for a few of my families this fall – THANK YOU!! It was such a treat to deliver brand new, beautiful clothes, to families in need!* - KT, Clackamas County



*The saying: hand up. That is what stuck in my mind. Bloomin' Boutique didn't say I was getting a hand out, I was getting a hand up and that's exactly what my family needed. My family has felt the struggle like most families these past few years and when I was offered help through Bloomin' Boutique, it came at the perfect moment. My children needed new clothes badly and as a mother not being able to provide that broke me. I felt ashamed and embarrassed, but when Bloomin' Boutique was offered, I felt like a weight lifted. I wasn't a burden, my children were not burdens to them. They saw a need and they filled that need. Plain and simple. No judgement or shame, just love and compassion. This organization is run by angels in disguise. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!*

*Also I want you to know personally that your help made it possible that my husband and I don't have to budget cutting out our meals so we can buy the kids clothes they need. We are always happy to have a bread and Mayo sandwich if we need to as parents but having dinner is nice too. The ripple effect is way bigger than you may realize with what you are doing.*

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*I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for your incredible generosity and kindness during the holiday season. Your donation of clothing and toys brought so much joy and relief to families in need.*

*Your thoughtfulness and willingness to give back to the community truly made a difference and reminded us all of the power of compassion and support. It's because of contributions like yours that we were able to help bring smiles to so many faces during Christmas.*

*On behalf of everyone who benefited from your generosity, thank you once again. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and kindness.*

*Wishing you a wonderful and prosperous year ahead! Warm regards, - LU, OFSN*

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*"We are very grateful to have clothes given to my children especially around these cold months in winter. The quality is amazing, and stylish. May God Bless you all, even more than you have blessed us, so other families can receive these services like we have in good faith and good taste.... May God Be with us all...." - Lee Family*

*"I am thankful for my Advocate for recommending Bloomin' Boutique to us, because they helped us so much with having clothes at a time were we need to pay our bills, but we have been blessed to do both through Team Safer & Bloomin' Boutique. The process is made simple: find a sponsor or advocate organization and complete the application and less then two weeks someone will contact you, like they did us. Thank you so much, this has us able to celebrate the holidays this year.... Thank you!" - Dim Family*

*Bloomin' Boutique approached our office a few years ago and asked what kind of need there was for seniors who couldn't afford caps and gowns. I shared with Patti, the need is HUGE and every year there are more and more that simply, don't have the money. Our office donates to every school already, so when Patti shared, she had funds to add to what we already do, it was truly amazing to hear this, because we never want to turn anyone down. It was a phone call I'll never forget.*

*Since we've partnered with Bloomin' Boutique, they have been instrumental in helping hundreds and hundreds of seniors the past few years with donating money to fulfill their dreams of walking across the stage to receive their diploma with their classmates; this wouldn't be possible without your support. Each year we are approached by the schools sharing with us the financial needs for seniors have increased of those who can't afford to pay. We have been able to help them with Bloomin' Boutique's generous donations and we can't thank the organization enough!*

*With your continuous donations, we can continue to help more seniors and truly give them that pride they deserve. When graduation day arrives, think about that senior who will put on their graduation gown, they will hang their school-colored tassel on their cap, and march into the auditorium with Pomp and Circumstance playing ..... it's a very special moment in that senior's life.*

*A sincere thank you for helping out all the seniors that have benefited from this organization, words cannot express the gratitude we have for Bloomin' Boutique and it's donors.*

*Gratefully, - M&KT, Jostens*

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*Most of the families that are moving into shelter have had to leave everything behind. They are already going through a really hard period of transition and uncertainty. It can be really challenging finding resources in the community that provide quality clothes, and we want survivors to know that they deserve to have nice things. Being able to provide kids with new and personalized clothes can alleviate a lot of stress and instill confidence in them! We cannot thank Bloomin' Boutique enough for all of their hard work and amazing services; their organization really helps change the lives of struggling families.*

*There is nothing like seeing one of your younger participants' eyes get huge when they come into the office and see the big bags full of clothes and toys just for them. Thank you for making clients feel seen and special in what is often a moment of big uncertainty/transition. You are so appreciated. - CWS*



over 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](mailto:patti.serres@bloominboutique.org) • 503.320.0789  
serving Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties

[BloominBoutique.org](http://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




**Bloomin' Baby**  
NEWBORN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR TEEN MOTHERS



**HAND UP for Higher EDUCATION**  
Education Scholarship Fund



**Summer Get Away Package**  
CAMP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Swimsuit - Sleeping Bag - Pillow - Flashlight



**CAP & GOWN**  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

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: How is Bloomin' Boutique funded?

A. As shown in the "By The Numbers" graphic on the cover of this newsletter, Bloomin' Boutique provided over 500 care packages to needy children this quarter. Fulfillment requests come from authorized agencies and the need continues to grow hand over fist.

With a retail value of \$500 per package, that equates to over \$250,000 worth of new clothing being distributed this quarter alone. At that rate, the Boutique is heading toward donating OVER A MILLION DOLLARS of clothing in a year.

We are grateful for the numerous donors supporting our efforts, both private and corporate. Donations come in all forms and sizes: cash, grants, gift cards, bottle drop bags or new clothing, shoes, bedding and toiletries. Individuals, businesses, church and civic organizations actively support the Boutique. We also host several fund-raising activities throughout the year as listed on our Facebook page. Over 94% of all donated funds go directly to supporting our mission.

## Q: What age groups do you support?

A. We accept request forms from authorized advocates for children from birth through high school. Sizes range from preemie newborn to XXXL. Our three locations are generally organized by age group: infant/toddler, "tween" and teen, however, individual packages are prepared by size. Some teenagers may wear smaller sizes while some "twens" are into adult sizes.

## Q: How do you handle a request for a size you don't have in inventory?

A. While we maintain a large inventory at each of our locations, it is not possible to anticipate all requests. Plus size clothing or larger shoe sizes are the most common items that are not always stocked on our shelves. When we get a specific request for something we don't have on hand, a call goes out to one of our volunteer shoppers who is then tasked with fulfilling the need. A couple of recent examples come to mind: a young man wanted to join his high school swim team and needed a competition style swimsuit; and another was a request for a size 17 sneaker. Both requests were ultimately met. Our volunteers take pride in putting together something special for each referred child with the goal of providing the requested items quickly so that the care packages can be completed in a timely manner.

**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](mailto:patti.serres@bloominboutique.org) to receive blue bags and labels to properly credit the Bloomin' Boutique account.



WE NEED  
YOUR HELP

**CURRENT NEEDS include**

**FULL SIZE TOILETRIES**

**2 in 1 shampoo/conditioner, deodorant,  
toothpaste, hair brush, comb**

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

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!*