



# BELLEVUE COMPANIES JOIN BELLEVUE LIFESPRING IN THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

Written by **Rachael Eichner**

During the complex challenges of 2020, Bellevue LifeSpring joined forces with local corporations to harness our strengths for the greater good. These partnerships have proven successful in creating positive change for our community.

COVID-19 has made this year incredibly difficult for Bellevue families in need. Partnerships with local companies like Amazon, The Bellevue Collection, Microsoft, Safeway, and Symetra have been fundamental to achieving our goal of preventing hunger and homelessness for Bellevue children. Many of these companies' executives and employees live locally and in the Points Community. Their personal support is also helping to make a difference for children right here in Bellevue every day.

We were thrilled to recently announce that our partners at Amazon have created a Right Now Needs Fund to support students in Bellevue. Amazon established this fund with a \$700,000 commitment to Bellevue LifeSpring each year for the next two years. Their investment reflects a true partnership where we will innovate together to provide basic needs and eliminate barriers to learning for all students.

"This school year is difficult for many families in need, and we want to provide more students from underserved communities with what they need to be successful while learning from home," said David Zapolsky, Amazon General Counsel and Senior Vice

President and Alliance for Education board member. "We value speed, flexibility, and scale when we build and operate. Our Right Now Needs Funds help schools exercise these same values to support students in the community and we're excited to extend this support to Bellevue with our support of Bellevue LifeSpring."

Safeway, our food partner since 2014, made a \$115,000 investment to our COVID-19 relief fund. Our partnership with Safeway allows us to only pay for the value of the food vouchers redeemed by the families we support. This ensures that no food goes to waste and that donor dollars are used efficiently and effectively.

"Safeway is pleased to partner with Bellevue LifeSpring because of their strong partnership with the Bellevue School District in identifying the families that are struggling within the region. We believe everyone should be assured meaningful access to basic needs of food, shelter, and education, and Bellevue LifeSpring has been very effective in helping families meet these needs," shared Sara Osborne, Director of External Affairs for Safeway.

Our longtime partners, The Bellevue Collection, contributed over \$50,000 to our COVID-19 relief fund. Local tech giant Microsoft also contributed big this year to help fight hunger and homelessness. Symetra, a diversified financial services company headquartered here in Bellevue, continued their support of Bellevue kids with a \$25,000 donation.

These bold investments go immediately toward nutritional support and eviction prevention for local families living in poverty and have helped us to not turn away any child in need of our services.

## Why Partner With Us?

**Transparency** – Bellevue LifeSpring has always been committed to transparency when it comes to how we are using funding to serve the community. We created a donor dashboard so that the community can see how their investments are making an impact for Bellevue kids. Visit [www.BellevueLifeSpring.org](http://www.BellevueLifeSpring.org) to check it out.

**Accountability** – We have been serving Bellevue children in need since 1911. Our close partnership with the Bellevue School District ensures we reach the children in most urgent need.

**Fight Hunger and Homelessness in Your Backyard** – Currently, an estimated 4,200 children in Bellevue live in poverty. That number is continuing to increase due to the effects of COVID-19. We can work to change this together.

## Let's Join Forces

Thanks to our community's support – from Points residents donating to corporate partners investing – we're changing lives and building a stronger Bellevue together. While we've made great strides, we know there is still much work to do.

**For more information on how you can help fight hunger and homelessness here in Bellevue visit [www.BellevueLifeSpring.org](http://www.BellevueLifeSpring.org).**