

# Give Where You Live:

## ONE CIRCLE, ONE COMMUNITY

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During the COVID-19 pandemic, Bellevue LifeSpring has been inspired by the Points residents who came together to support their neighbors in need. From giving time to giving food donations to giving funds, we all have a role we can play in fighting hunger and homelessness for children right here in Bellevue.

This past spring, Bellevue LifeSpring One Circle members rallied their neighbors and community members to collect over 2,000 bags of food and hygiene items for Bellevue kids. Points residents, local students, Bellevue businesses, and neighboring communities all contributed to the success of the One Circle drive, more than doubling their goal. One Circle's initial goal to collect 1,000 bags of food and hygiene items came from putting their heads together with Bellevue LifeSpring Youth Council members. They motivated each other to think big and outside the box when it came to collecting donations. This creative collaboration not only resulted in donations of fresh fruit and vegetables, shelf-stable food, and hygiene items; it also helped raise awareness about the urgent needs of local kids and created many new community partnerships.

Local businesses Viome, the Nielsen RE Group, and Honda Auto Center of Bellevue all stepped up and contributed to the goal. Youth council members and students from The Overlake School, Bellevue High School, and Interlake High School helped promote the drive and raise awareness that many of their peers were at immediate risk of experiencing hunger. Students from the local Sacred Heart School in Clyde Hill collected over 100 bags of food, plus monetary donations, in just one weekend!

"To achieve a successful outcome, the One Circle chose to launch our food drive across many communities," explained Madonna Messina, co-chair of One Circle. "Our goal was to help with the current needs and also set up the Bellevue School District Family Connection Centers for future months. By providing essential food,



and hygiene products, and investments that helped provide grocery store food vouchers, we were able to extend our impact throughout the spring and into this summer."

The COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating for Bellevue's low-income families. No child can thrive on an empty stomach. The community's collective support not only provided essential nutrition but also helped to restore hope for local families in need.



### Bellevue LifeSpring's Newest Circle

The Bellevue LifeSpring One Circle is made up of compassionate Points community members driven to make a positive impact in the lives of Bellevue children. Members are current and retired business professionals and owners, stay-at-home moms, entrepreneurs, and philanthropists. They are committed to sharing their passion, time, and heart to provide much-needed assistance in the community.

In the past, One Circle members have hosted events to raise awareness and funds to support Bellevue LifeSpring programs. Events have included food and wine festivities, jewelry parties, and health and wellness symposiums. Their first annual One Heart One

Community event, held last year, raised a whopping \$30,000 for Bellevue kids. Are you interested in bringing a social aspect to your philanthropy and joining one of Bellevue LifeSpring's membership circles? Visit [www.bellevuelifespring.org/join](http://www.bellevuelifespring.org/join) to learn more.

### Take Action Today

"It's the work you do today that pays tomorrow," shared Madonna. "This drive really was an enormous effort involving a lot of students, businesses, and community members. We even received support from outside of Bellevue!" The collective impact made during this pandemic shows the strength of our community in times of great need. You can help us continue to ensure no Bellevue child experiences hunger or homelessness this summer by making an investment at [www.bellevuelifespring.org](http://www.bellevuelifespring.org).

