

# Bellevue LifeSpring

## A THANK YOU TO THE POINTS COMMUNITY



With the holiday season upon us and 2022 on the horizon, Bellevue LifeSpring would like to take a moment to share our gratitude to Points residents on behalf of the Bellevue children and families whose lives you have touched with your generosity.

Your support ensured that Bellevue LifeSpring was able to provide help to every child in Bellevue who was at risk of experiencing hunger or homelessness this year. We did not turn any family away that qualified for our food and rent assistance. All in all, your generosity has helped us prevent homelessness for nearly 1,000 Bellevue children and provided over 800,000 meals since the pandemic began. This is an incredible accomplishment. We know that poverty is solvable here in Bellevue with a community like the Points by our side.

### A Story of Holiday Support – Meet Amelia

Amelia is a bright and creative high school student who works hard in and out of school. Her favorite subject is art class. One day she hopes to become an art teacher. At home, it's just Amelia, her mom,

and her little brother, Charlie. Well, it's not exactly home. Before the pandemic, her family had to move into a hotel after being evicted from their apartment, without warning, because the landlord was foreclosed upon.

The hotel was just supposed to be temporary, but since COVID-19 hit, they haven't been able to catch up enough to get a place of their own — let alone find an affordable option and a landlord that will agree to rent to them. The family is making it pay-check by paycheck, with every dollar accounted for in bills.

Amelia has more responsibilities than your typical carefree 16-year-old. As soon as she could, Amelia started working part-time after school to help earn extra income for her family. On top of juggling school and a job, Amelia often must care for Charlie on the weekends while their mom is at work.

The extra income Amelia earns after school helps, but because of the economic effects of the pandemic, her mom had to take a significant pay cut at work. Now Amelia often finds herself skipping meals on the weekends to make sure her brother has the food he needs. Amelia rarely gets to indulge in hobbies like creating art because, by the time she is done with her responsibilities, it is often late at night.

This holiday season, Amelia's hope is that her family spends time together with special celebratory meals and presents under the tree. Because of the Points community's support of Bellevue LifeSpring's Holiday Adopt-A-Family program, Amelia and her brother Charlie will receive the food

they need during the winter break from school and gifts for the holidays.

Amelia's holiday wish is to finally get her own art materials to start painting again. Her brother's wish is for a scooter. Thanks to a generous donor from the Point's neighborhood, both their wishes are coming true. Amelia and her brother have been sponsored through Bellevue LifeSpring's Holiday Adopt-A-Family program. Amelia will receive a gift card to an art store in Bellevue, and her brother is getting that scooter! Amelia and her brother will also receive clothing gift cards to purchase new warm winter clothes and grocery store gift cards so they can enjoy family holiday meals together.

For the first time in what seems like forever, Amelia, her brother, and their mom will experience the joy surrounding the holiday season.

### Have You Made Your End-of-the-year Giving Plans Yet?

The ripple effects of this pandemic are continuing, leaving hundreds of Bellevue children like Amelia and Charlie at risk of experiencing poverty. Most urgently, 3,285 Bellevue children are at risk of experiencing hunger over the coming winter break when schools are closed and they don't have access to free meals at school.

*To help ensure children in our community don't experience hunger this holiday season, visit [www.BellevueLifeSpring.org/donate](http://www.BellevueLifeSpring.org/donate) today and join your neighbors in investing in the wellbeing of Bellevue children.*