

GIVING THANKS TO OUR WEST BELLEVUE NEIGHBORS

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With the Thanksgiving holiday around the corner, Bellevue LifeSpring would like to express our gratitude to our West Bellevue residents for your partnership in building a better Bellevue community and supporting local children. Thank you for your commitment to philanthropy and for joining our tradition of neighbors helping neighbors.

A History of Giving Back

In 1911, a group of women living in Hunts Point formed a coalition dedicated to supporting their neighbors in need. They called themselves the Overlake Service League and delivered food baskets, goats for milk, seeds, and farm equipment to help families plant and harvest food.

During the Great Depression and following years, the Overlake Service League helped those out of work find jobs and delivered milk to school children. They also started a Well-Baby Clinic that provided immunizations before the existence of a hospital on the Eastside.

As Bellevue grew, so did the need. Over the years, Overlake Service League, now known as

Bellevue LifeSpring, went from serving hundreds of neighbors to providing food, education, clothing, and emergency assistance to thousands of local children.

The spirit and tradition of neighbors helping neighbors, founded by West Bellevue residents over a century ago, continues today.

A Story of West Bellevue Support

Meet Sydney — a bright and energetic 13-year-old that attends Highland Middle School. Sydney likes to hang out with her friends, play soccer and is excited to attend high school next year. Her story is similar to the nearly 4,000 Bellevue School District students facing food and housing insecurity.

Sydney, her twin-baby brothers, and her parents live in an apartment in Bellevue. Both Sydney's parents work hourly minimum wage jobs. Sydney's mom works during the day at a restaurant, and her dad works at night cleaning local office buildings. They work opposite schedules, so there is always a parent home with the twins. Childcare is just too costly.

Even though both of Sydney's parents work, they struggle each month to ensure rent is paid and there is enough food for the family. That is why Sydney receives free lunch at her school.

With the rising costs of food and rent, Sydney's parents shared that they often fall short despite their best efforts to plan and budget their income. When this happens, they have to prioritize rent over other bills to ensure they can keep a roof over their head. Missed bills cause the family to fall even further behind financially.



Sydney and her family also visited Bellevue LifeSpring's new Bellevue Family Hub resource center, located at Sydney's school. At the Hub, Bellevue LifeSpring staff provided them with grocery store food vouchers and clothing support.

Sydney's mom shared that the support they received gave her and her husband the opportunity they never thought they'd have, the chance to catch up financially and feel more secure and stable.

Our thanks to you!

Bellevue LifeSpring is grateful to be able to provide nutrition, warmth, opportunity, and stability for children in need like Sydney. We can provide this support because of our community's collective generosity. We truly could not do this work without your support. Thank you!

Happy Thanksgiving from our Bellevue LifeSpring family to you!

To learn how you can provide joy to children and families like Sydney's during the upcoming holiday season, visit www.BellevueLifeSpring.org/holidayprogram.

Just one unexpected expense or emergency can plunge a family into food and housing insecurity.

Recently, Sydney's mom had multiple work shifts cut unexpectedly, and the family found themselves without enough money to cover next month's bills. Thanks to the generosity of our West Bellevue community, Sydney's mom was connected with Bellevue LifeSpring, and we were able to cover their rent payment so that this family could remain in their apartment home.

Tis' the Season!

Give Where You Live and Make Holiday Wishes Come True for Bellevue Kids

bellevue LifeSpring®
Helping Bellevue's Children and Their Families For Over 100 Years

Get Started at www.BellevueLifeSpring.org/HolidayProgram