

Spring 2021



## Navigating a Changed World

**Thanks to you we supported a record breaking number of families in 2020.**

One year ago the devastating impact of COVID-19 began to unravel. It seemed we had just begun learning of deaths caused by the new virus and scientists were warning of the potential for a global pandemic, by late March came the order to “stay at home”. Essential workers became a part of our global language and healthcare workers went from unsung heroes to unforgettable ones. Every day our collective anxiety became palpable. All the while, jobs were lost and the rippling economic fallout amplified the need for a safety net. ***With 129 years serving families in crisis, Wellspring was more than ready.***

For families facing homelessness the pandemic intensified the challenges of living in poverty. Through Wellspring, they encountered a supportive, compassionate team who met them where they were at, ready to help! ***By the end of 2020, Wellspring housing services helped more than 2,200 families secure housing;*** a significant increase from 2019, that is anticipated to continue to rise. The rental moratorium – although welcomed – proves to be one of the greatest challenges ahead as it delays an inevitable social and economic tsunami. Families already living under a cloud of anxiety, now ask, what next?



In addition to Wellspring's existing community service programs, we administered emergency relief funds established by multiple private and public sector organizations to assist workers who had lost their jobs due to the pandemic. These COVID relief funds, exceeding \$4,000,000, served thousands of families in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.

In response to the pandemic, teams created new tools and deployed new ways to ensure delivery of services. Our housing and family support staff worked virtually and families adapted remarkably well, saving on transportation to our office and accommodating time constraints. In Pierce County, Wellspring housing specialists connected with

young adults via text and FaceTime.

This past year we leaned into our ability to be nimble and quickly adjust to ensure staff stayed employed and families' needs were met. While our Early Learning Center (ELC) was closed (March to June), teachers refreshed classrooms and supported other departments. They developed curriculum for home schooling and kept in regular contact with parents. Grocery and gas cards were mailed to parents, and teachers delivered essentials to families. The closure allowed the time needed to deploy and strengthen health and safety protocols. Today every school day begins by greeting students in a designated welcome area for a health screening. In addition, the ELC closes an hour earlier to allow time to clean and sanitize the classrooms.

In March we also closed our Baby Boutique to public access but recognized an escalating need for essential items like diapers, hygiene products, clothes, and books due to the closures of similar facilities. Eligibility requirements were lowered, in turn, eliminating barriers to accessing essentials. Taking the lead from traditional retailers, staff implemented a personal shopping and curbside pick-up protocol. Families call in their shopping lists,

while staff do the shopping, and pack the items for easy socially distanced curbside pick-up. By year end there were 2,100+ shopping trips in the Baby Boutique.

Throughout the pandemic, Wellspring helped thousands of our neighbors discover their resilience while facing compounding crises. We kept our doors open virtually, and literally as soon as possible, to ensure those who faced the humility of economic strife were supported. Children were educated, clothed, and fed, and parents were heard and held. And through the continued uncertainty ahead, Wellspring remains committed to ending family homelessness!



*Refreshed classroom in the Early Learning Center*

# Fresh Start Drive

Mar 15 to Apr 15

Help children and families facing homelessness by donating personal care and hygiene items.

Every family deserves a fresh start.

### MOUTH:

Floss  
Toothpaste  
Toothbrushes (child & adult)  
Mouthwash  
Lip balm

### BABY:

Baby Shampoo/Soap  
Baby Wipes  
Diapers  
Ointment/Cream

### SKIN:

Soap/Body Wash  
Lotions  
Shaving Cream and Razors  
Deodorant (non-aerosol)

### HAIR:

Combs/Brushes  
Shampoo/Conditioner  
African-American Hair Products

### OTHER:

Female Hygiene Products  
Band-Aids  
Kleenex

*\*These are all suggestions; feel free to choose a favorite item to donate. New and full sized items only please.*

### To donate:

Text "Wellspring" to 71777  
Order from our Amazon WishList

Scan to shop 

Questions: [drives@wellspringfs.org](mailto:drives@wellspringfs.org)



# Join us!

## April 20

### 12 pm



Moving Forward from Here: Finding Clarity in Navigating Uncertainty and Transition

## #WellConnected

A virtual community presentation by Wellspring Family Services

## Your Impact in Action



After losing his job to COVID-19, Michael\* and his two children were living between their car and couch surfing for nearly a year. Wellspring's Homeless Student Stability Program (HSSP), which provides housing support services to students and their families experiencing homelessness, assisted Michael in securing employment. As a result, his family was able to move into their new apartment. Michael was so excited to surprise his children with their new home and their own rooms!

***"Wellspring was just the right support I was looking for, I feel lucky to have had HSSP's support and finally be able take a breath of fresh air." - Michael***

Michael has since offered to volunteer for Wellspring in any capacity needed. Thanks to supporters like you, Michael and his family are able to rest comfortably once again.

*\*Name has been changed for anonymity*

## 2020 Highlights



### 3,793

households supported through our community services



### 2,200

families were moved into a stable home or found stability in their current home



### 2,100+

shopping trips for essential items through the Baby Boutique



### 51

children received trauma informed early learning

# Lasting Change Campaign 2021

Finding Hope • Discovering Opportunity • Building Resilience • Centering Equity

The 2020 Lasting Change Campaign was such a HUGE success we are announcing the **Lasting Change Campaign**, from April 30 – May 7, 2021, is replacing the annual luncheon.

If you've been a Table Captain in the past please consider joining us online as a Lasting Change Champion to raise even more support for families facing homelessness.

For more information please contact Renae Goettel, Mission Advancement Manager, at [rgoettel@wellspringfs.org](mailto:rgoettel@wellspringfs.org)



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