



# You Teach The ABCs In Our ELC

## You are the reason 62 children attended our Early Learning Center last year

Thanks to the support of generous donors, six children graduated from our Early Learning Center in June and will head to kindergarten in the fall. As a result, a new group of students will enter our doors.

Starting at a new school is scary for every child and family. But how does it differ for children experiencing homelessness?

***“Instability is a consistent factor with all of our parents and families.”***

Family Support Specialist Naomi explains “They’re all, for the most part, coming out of some sort of shelter program. So these children don’t necessarily have the security of a stable home and environment.”



“A new environment, new people, new teachers, and new caregivers can be much scarier than what that would mean to a child coming from a stable home.”

As the first day turns into the first week, staff focus on getting to know the children, working to build their social and emotional skills.

At the end of their time in the ELC you help each child graduate to kindergarten. Because of you, they are more stable, more confident and they understand their emotions.

Their next first day isn’t quite so scary.



Children in our ELC learn to understand the big emotions that arise from the trauma of homelessness.

**62** Children attended our ELC last year.



Over 70 families have avoided eviction since April when the Home Base program began.

***“It breaks my heart when there are older people. People take advantage of them. They’re vulnerable and weak. Sometimes it happens over as little as one hundred dollars.”***

**3,791**

Children and families found stability through Wellspring services in 2018.

**24,118**

Diapers were provided to families through our free thrift store in 2018.

**1,539**

Children received free clothing and essential items in 2018.

# You Prevent Families From Falling Into Homelessness

**Your partnership keeps families housed in their time of need.**

Keeping families housed is critical to preventing the cycle of family homelessness and is equally as important as getting families off the street. With your support, and a partnership with the Seattle Mariners and the King County Bar Association, we are working directly inside King County courtrooms to prevent evictions on the spot through our Home Base program.

Families using the program are on a very low income, living paycheck to paycheck. When an emergency happens they find themselves in a cycle of insurmountable debt.

Soledad, a Wellspring Housing Stability Specialist, helps them pay off this debt so they can avoid eviction. She hears from families daily on the brink of homelessness and what lead to their situation.

***“Sometimes it’s ‘I got sick, I couldn’t work’ or ‘I lost my job.’ Or, ‘the car broke down. I couldn’t make it to work.’”***

Missing one rent payment leads to families receiving late fees. Once the eviction process has begun, legal fees are added on top of this. A family could fall behind on their \$100 rent, only to find themselves in thousands of dollars’ worth of debt due to these fees.

**Soledad has prevented more than 70 families - and counting - from getting evicted since April.**

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# You Broke The Cycle Of Homelessness For Marcy

**“Sometimes you feel like breaking. Sometimes you feel like giving up. Just keep going.”**

Marcy found herself in an exhausting cycle. She was evicted from housing numerous times. She slept on the floors of relatives’ homes to get by. Each year, Marcy would rely on her tax refund to pay off her debts. But each year the debts got larger, harder to pay off.

When her partner started to physically abuse their children, she decided to break free. The decision left her homeless. She had two children to support but no family to turn to. But she did have Wellspring.

Your support helps families like Marcy’s pay off past debts, subsidize their rent, and achieve stability.



Together, we create a safety net and provide second chances.

***“I’m very blessed that Wellspring came into my life. I could have called my grandmother and she wouldn’t have done that for me.”***

Marcy is now studying and working at a college. When she graduates she wants to work in computer forensics. Although she’s been knocked down before, she’s determined to succeed.

**With your help, she will.**

## Will you help a child become ready to learn?

Before we know it, summer will be over and our children will be going back to school.

Wellspring families are depending on you for their backpacks and school supplies.



**Donate at 1900 Rainier Ave on weekdays from 9 AM to 4 PM.  
Email [drives@wellspringfs.org](mailto:drives@wellspringfs.org)  
or call 206-902-4259 for more info.**

**amazon**

Do you work at Amazon, or know someone who does? If so, now’s the time to give and spread the word.

Amazon is matching charitable donations, now through September 30, up to \$5 million made by its employees to select housing and homeless charities.

Wellspring is one of the 20 organizations that qualify.

**Please give today, donations of cash or stock will be matched and your impact doubled!**

# What Does Your Family Need to Thrive?

**A clean house, with heat and water.  
Comfortable furniture, space to relax.  
Enough money to cover monthly expenses, food, and rent.**

It won't surprise you to learn that families who step through our doors need those exact same things. Yet many of our programs are only receiving funding to address the most basic housing needs.

Take Scott as an example. He spent more than a year experiencing homelessness with his two children. Moving from motels, to his truck, and finally into shelters. When Wellspring found him housing and helped to subsidize his rent, he was ecstatic.

His relief was short-lived when he moved into his apartment. No table or chairs, no sofa, no beds. No cutlery, no cups or plates. Just empty rooms.

While we worked to get them the essential items they needed, Scott and his children slept on



the floor. Their few possessions pushed into the corners of their rooms.

They had trouble sleeping and couldn't relax. They had a roof over their heads, but not a home. They needed a place that helped them towards stability.

**We need your support so that we can cover expenses that fall outside of our housing funding. To buy beds, chairs, used furniture, and household basics. So that every family can thrive.**

## Ways To Give

### **Make a Donation**

Make a secure gift online, [www.wellspringfs.org/donate](http://www.wellspringfs.org/donate) or text the word "WELLSPRING" to 71777.

### **Become a Monthly Donor**

End the cycle of family homelessness year-round.

### **Give the Gift of Time**

Volunteer with us, with your friends or colleagues.

### **Increase Your Impact**

Ask your workplace if they have a matching gift program.

### **Leave a Lasting Legacy**

Include Wellspring Family Services as a beneficiary of your will, life insurance, or estate plan.



**Contact Asa Tate for more information at 206.902.4231 or [atate@wellspringfs.org](mailto:atate@wellspringfs.org)**