



THE ADVOCATE ASPECT

THE SEASON OF GIVING



As we approach the season of giving, it's a time to pause, reflect, and appreciate the profound impact that generosity can have on individuals and communities alike. While the concept of giving

often conjures images of beautifully wrapped presents, it extends far beyond mere material gifts. It's about the transformative influence we wield when we give of ourselves—our time, our kindness, and our compassion.

Beyond the bows and ribbons, the power of a helping hand cannot be overstated. True giving involves extending that hand to those in need, offering support to friends, or simply being present for someone who could use a listening ear. These seemingly small gestures create a ripple effect, weaving connections that fortify the very fabric of our communities.

In a world that often races against the clock, the gift of time is immeasurable. Whether spent volunteering at a local charity, sharing quality moments with loved ones, or mentoring those in need, the time we invest carries the potential to craft enduring memories and instigate positive change.

Generosity isn't contingent on the size of the gesture; it's rooted in the intention behind it. A genuine smile, a heartfelt compliment, or a small act of kindness can illuminate someone's day and set off a chain reaction of positivity. Let's revel in the beauty of these uncomplicated yet powerful gifts.

Our communities flourish when we unite to give back. Whether supporting local businesses, engaging in community initiatives, or contributing to charitable causes, our combined efforts contribute to the well-being of the places we proudly call home.

As we extend our hands in giving, we find ourselves receiving—often in the form of gratitude, connection, and a profound sense of fulfillment. This cyclical dance of giving and receiving forms a harmonious rhythm that enriches not only our lives but also the lives of those around us.

This season let's revel in the joy of giving in its myriad forms. Whether through thoughtful acts, cherished moments with loved ones, or contributions to causes close to our hearts, let's create a season infused with warmth, compassion, and shared experiences.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION



Victim Services Outreach is making a significant impact by extending its services to various local communities. Recently, our team visited the Kettle Falls and Colville libraries, engaging with residents to provide valuable resources and information.

Our commitment to spreading holiday cheer continued with involvement in Kettle Falls Operation Santa, bringing gifts and festive spirit to families in need. Recognizing the importance of addressing food insecurity, we collaborated with Hunters Food Bank and participated in Colville Walmart's food distribution program, ensuring that essential resources reach those who require assistance.

These outreach initiatives represent our dedication to creating positive impacts across a spectrum of community needs. By extending our services to various locations, Victim Services is fostering a sense of unity and support, exemplifying the transformative power of community outreach. We remain devoted to making a lasting difference in the lives of individuals and families throughout our diverse and vibrant community.



DV SUPPORT GROUP

Did you know we offer a support group to survivors of domestic violence?

We use positive support and healthy relationship skills to aid survivors in their path forward. We focus on an array of topics such as: self-esteem, self-care, relationship dynamics, parenting and communication styles, boundaries, and much more. Our support group is survivor-driven with a facilitator to help build a strong support system.

Safe. Confidential. Non-judgmental.

If you are interested in joining, call our office at 509-684-3796.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



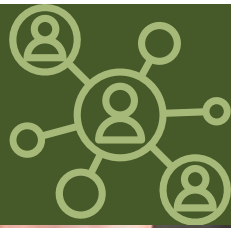
Peggy Townley's journey with our organization began when she assumed the role of Director of Alternative to Violence and later Family Supports. Today, she holds a significant position on our Board of Directors. Peggy, a passionate gardener, also contributes her grant-writing expertise to Woodland Theater in Kettle Falls.



Peggy's commitment to volunteering spans an impressive four decades, with her first involvement dating back to 1983. Her guiding principle in life is succinctly captured in her quote, "Do the right things right."

She wants fellow volunteers to appreciate the sense of fulfillment that volunteering brings and the profound ability to answer the call for help in the middle of the night, underscoring the true essence of selfless service.

CLIENT SERVICES



2023 has been a great year for our Children's Advocacy Center. Our accrediting body, National Children's Alliance, has rolled out the 2023 Standards for Accreditation and we, along with system partners, have been working hard to meet the new standards.

In August, we said goodbye to Cheryl Hotchkiss as our forensic interviewer. Detective Jen Stearns of the Stevens County Sheriff Office took over as the new forensic interviewer. She is doing amazing work at the Children's Advocacy Center.

We would like to take a moment to thank all our amazing system partners for all their hard work in 2023.

COMMUNITY NEWS



POSTER CONTEST

Unleash your creativity in the Healthy Relationships Poster Art Contest for ages 13 and above, who live in Ferry, Lincoln, or Stevens County.

Join us in using art as a powerful tool to foster healthy relationships and raise awareness about the impact of violence. Create compelling visuals inspired by one of the following prompts:

- *Love Like That*
- *Love Shouldn't Hurt*
- *Speak Up, Stand Together*

Whether by hand or graphic design, your art can amplify the importance of positive relationships and the collective strength in standing against violence.

Email your completed poster to kaguayo@ruralresources.org, including your name, age, and a brief description. The deadline for submissions is January 8th. The top 3 winners will get a gift card.

TRIBAL PROGRAM



December marks the conclusion of the first half of school programming for the Tribal Program in the Inchelium, Wellpinit, and Columbia school districts. These individual cohorts have positively impacted over 300 students, nurturing their cultural knowledge and connection to their heritage.

Throughout the program sessions, students have actively participated in diverse activities to deepen their understanding of their cultural roots. As part of their journey, these students have dedicated their time and skills to create handcrafted gifts for their loved ones. These heartfelt presents will be shared during the first annual Winter Solstice event, fostering a sense of community and appreciation.

The Tribal Program has also completed its third annual "Giving Tree" project in collaboration with the Mistequa Casino. Through this initiative, the program has received anonymous gifts from generous donors and patrons of the casino, benefiting the clients and participants. This act of kindness has brought joy and unity within the community, showcasing the power of Indigenous collaboration.

As December concludes, the Tribal Program expresses gratitude for the year's accomplishments and the transformative experiences shared with the students and community members. They eagerly anticipate the progress and growth that the coming year will bring, continuing their mission to empower Indigenous peoples and preserve their cultural identity.



VOLUNTEER!



Want to make a difference? Volunteer!

Volunteers play an essential role in supporting survivors. We provide all necessary training and education to our volunteers. As a new volunteer, you will join a community of supportive people that all have the same goal: supporting survivors, giving hope, and preventing violence.

Interested in supporting survivors of crime, violence, and abuse in your community?

Visit ruralresources.org/volunteer or call our office at 509-684-3796 for more information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

- › **Helpline Volunteers:** Take shifts on our 24-hour helpline from the comfort of your own home. Provide support, crisis intervention and referrals to callers.
- › **Office/Clerical Support:** Assist with clerical projects in the office, and provide coverage at the front desk.
- › **Childcare Provider:** Provide childcare at our office while a parent or caregiver is receiving services at Rural Resources Victim Services.
- › **Fundraising:** Assist with fundraising projects or events.
- › **Community Awareness:**
Team up with the Community Engagement Department to increase awareness and provide outreach by attending local fairs and events.



956 S. Main St. | Colville, WA 99114
1018 Morgan St. | Davenport, WA 99122

90 N. Clark Ave. #C | Republic, WA 99166
3328 Hall Creek Rd. | Inchelium, WA 99138

Every Victim. Everywhere.
No Exceptions.

24-HOUR HELPLINE
1-844-509-SAFE

www.RuralResources.org

   RuralVictimHelp