

United
Way



United Way of
San Juan County

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

WE.
LIVE.
UNITED.





UNITED WE WIN.

LIVE UNITED

See how your contributions have helped the people of San Juan County.



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Many years ago, my son lost his mother to breast cancer at a very young age. With the support of the Primary Intervention Program at the Elementary School, he was able to find a sense of refuge during this period of grief, and for that I am forever grateful. This program was supported by our local United Way. After observing our chapter's positive impact in the San Juan Islands Communities and experiencing the support and camaraderie first hand, I chose to get involved. United Way continuously meets critical needs for vulnerable families and individuals throughout the islands.

At United Way, we support families and individuals within the community, with funded programs promoting health, human services, education, senior services, and income stability needs. As I watched my sons battle grief and grow into young men, I often thought about the potential outcomes if our family didn't have access to the Primary Intervention Program. I'm not sure how we would have persisted. Often, I have remarked to them that adverse life situations can happen to any of us and we have a duty to give back since we have been so blessed.

Imagine the impact you can have with your donation. This might be to help a child struggling in school with the after school reading enrichment program, a cold weather shelter for the homeless, a school food program for children who are hungry, or an elder needing help with transportation to services to remain independent in their home. Each donation benefits someone and enhances our local organization's community impact.

Families are a special priority. They are the backbone of our island communities but too often they lack sufficient income, housing and health care. United Way of San Juan County invests in families alongside investments in individuals who need assistance.

Every donation matters and multiplies the United Way impact!

This year we hope to expand the number of donors in the county so that our impact can be even greater. When you donate, you become part of the solution to the challenges in others' lives and a vital part of the strength that is the San Juan Islands.

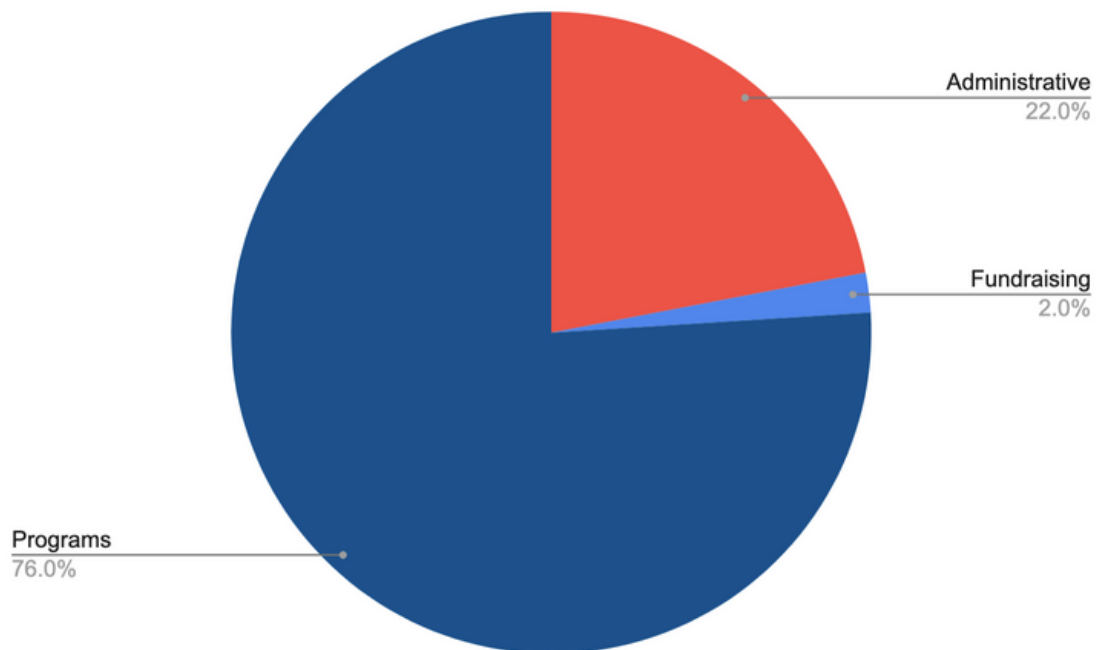
William Morrissey

PRESIDENT, UNITED WAY OF SAN JUAN COUNTY



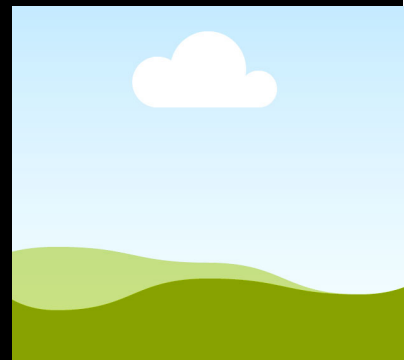
FINANCIALS

YOUTH AND FAMILIES SERVED BY 11 PROGRAMS
WITH TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF
\$106,190.53



2019 SUPPORTED AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS

- San Juan Island Family Resource Center
- Lopez Island Family Resource Center
- Orcas Community Resource Center
- SJI School District – Primary Intervention Program
- SJI School District – Reading Program
- Lopez Children’s Center
- Orcas Early Childhood Education Initiative
- Orcas Senior Center
- SJI Shuttle System
- Whatcom Council on Aging
- San Juan County 4H



LOPEZ CHILDREN'S CENTER

Julian has been attending Lopez Children's Center since the day he turned two. His parents live in two households and have faced many of the challenges of Island families; finding affordable housing, consistent employment and meeting all their family needs while supporting two homes. Julian has been able to attend the Lopez Children's Center PAL and now Preschool programs consistently throughout the last two years.

Through support from United Way and the Lopez Community, his parents have been offered scholarships to help them through months with low or no employment, enabling Julian to stay in class and continue his learning.

This consistency has not only been life changing for Julian, but also for his parents; knowing that their son is welcomed into a high quality early learning environment enables them to focus on doing what they need to build a stable home life. This is an ongoing situation for their family and Lopez Children Center will be here supporting them all, so that he will be ready to move on to kindergarten next September.



ORCAS EARLY LEARNING GROUP



Before becoming a mom, I attended college and earned my B.S. in Biology with the intention to work in restoration science. However, my circumstances changed when I became a single mom of two young girls. I needed a full-time job and I couldn't wait to find one in my field.

My daughters' preschool was hiring and I took the job to be closer to my children while at work. During this time, I discovered my passion for forest school. My new goal was to become a full-time teacher in the forest. To accomplish this I needed new degrees and certifications.

Finding a way to pay for these classes became a problem. I had already attended college so it was hard to find funding to get my CDA, lifeguard certification, and forest school teacher certification.

Paying for the classes and the time away from work would have made attending these classes impossible on my budget. Having the help from ECEI gave me the ability to attend my training, allowed me to be lead teacher at the first licensed forest preschool in the country.

UNITED WE WIN.

LIVE UNITED

WHATCOM COUNCIL ON AGING



Dick Thomson is a fixture at the corner table at nearly every lunch served at the Orcas Senior Center. In addition to the balanced meals, Dick enjoys socializing with the other people who participate in the meals. "The camaraderie is really important!" When asked about his favorite meals, Dick replied that he really likes 98% of what is served.

For 15 years, Dick served as a volunteer Meals on Wheels driver, delivering meals to homebound seniors throughout Orcas Island. He shared that he found it a joy to see the happy faces of the seniors when he brought them their meals.

He also found joy driving people to off-island appointments. Although he is no longer volunteering as a driver, Dick can still be counted on each meal day to help seniors who need assistance getting seated or carrying their lunch.

'ROUND TOWNER

A LETTER TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

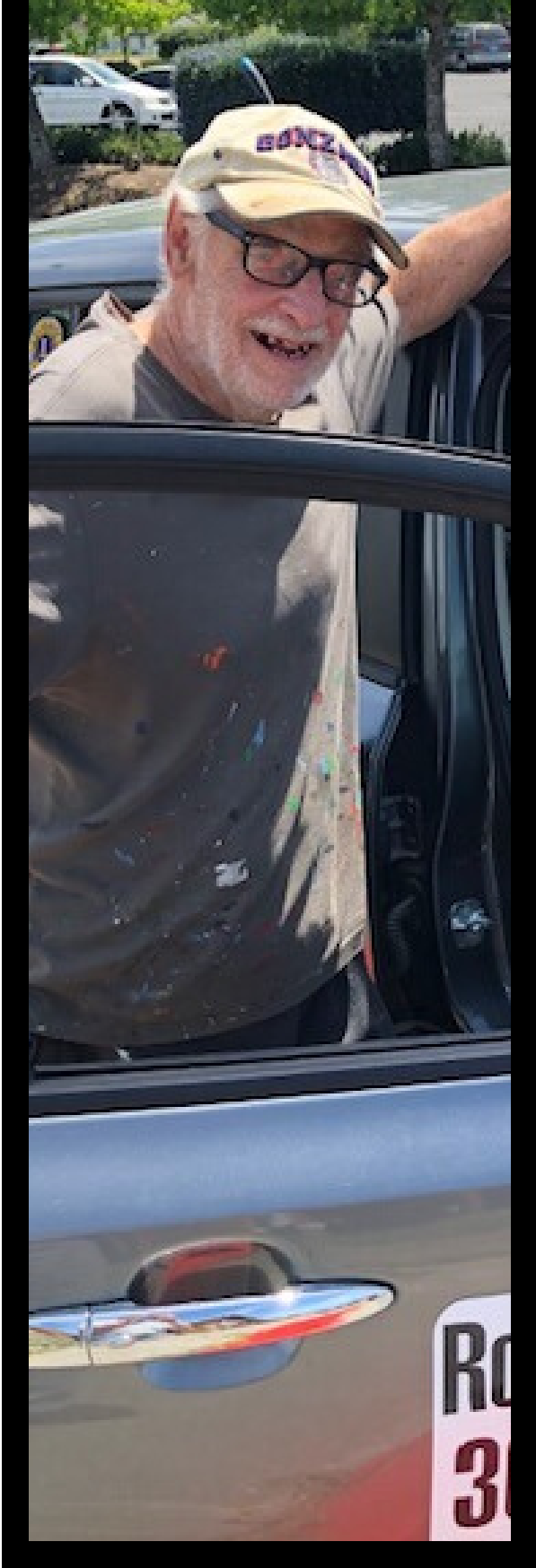
Cheers to the 'RoundTowner Team!

I am an old lady who appreciates the opportunity to solve some of my transportation problems.

Out here in the small town of Friday Harbor, in this insular community of the San Juan Islands, we are not blessed with the big-city, year-round metro bus system to take us where we need to go. Those of us who are old and/or disabled are past hitch hiking or hiking of any kind. Although I live a hop, skip and a jump from the grocery store, doctors restaurants and shops, my medical conditions make walking any distance a risky affair.

That's when the 'RoundTowner comes heroically to the rescue of the many elder residents of our community who have trouble getting around.





We, who live out here on an island, are an independent lot. Those of us who are elderly or disabled want to take care of ourselves with dignity, not always begging for rides from family and friends.

Crowded parking lots, and overloaded street parking are sometimes just too much of a challenge for me, and I fear backing into traffic and causing a terrible accident. That's when the 'RoundTowner is a real blessing to the peace of mind in our town.

Many of us elder citizens are struggling with low income budgets, fixed income status, and financial stress.

Having the opportunity to call for a free taxi is so welcome, and I hope that many of us offer donations. In fact, I hope the whole community steps up with support and donations to ease the cost of providing this valuable service to our town.

We need you, 'RoundTowner!

ISLAND NEIGHBORS



Now in its second year, the Island Neighbors Program is going strong. As a volunteer-based community outreach program for seniors and persons with disabilities, the program helps with needs such as moving, handyman tasks, light household duties, errand running, transportation, and off island medical trips.

This program flourishes thanks to a team of amazing volunteers.

Here's what one volunteer, Sarah Younglove, has to say:

Ever had a time in your life when you felt overwhelmed? Remember how it felt like you wouldn't get through it and you felt confused, frustrated and unable to do simple chores? I got a call from Ashley asking me if I would be interested in helping a woman who needed to move but was feeling overwhelmed with all that was happening in her life. I was asked if I could help her start to get organized with her move. I said yes, and that is when I met my good friend, Donna. She just needed someone to say she was ok, let's line up the boxes and identify what needs to be packed. I even gave her some homework, to keep her mind off of her confusion. She took on the challenge like a trooper. She has since then had to move two other times, but each time (with help from Ashley) her positive attitude grew more. We are buddies and keep each other posted by text. We have gotten together for lunch and I have visited her in her new home. Thank you, Ashley, for introducing us to each other and, "Right on Donna!!! It's so great to see you so involved in the community and ready to take on any and all challenges that come your way!!