

# Local charities and how they spend their money

Here are some of the largest charities that have operated in Snohomish County during the past five years:

CHARITY'S NAME	LOCATION	AREA OF SERVICE	YEARS OF DATA	REVENUE	ALL EXPENSES	SPENDING ON PROGRAM SERVICES	PERCENTAGE SPENT ON PROGRAMS
Compass Health	Everett	Mental health	5	\$170,996,403	\$168,633,494	\$152,590,839	90%
Henry Cogswell College *	Everett	Education	5	\$115,419,106	\$116,623,654	\$112,135,611	96%
Community Health Center of Snohomish County	Everett	Health	5	\$78,684,699	\$62,096,798	\$50,156,830	81%
Providence Hospice & Home Care of Snohomish County	Everett	Health	4	\$59,034,177	\$53,110,464	\$42,079,719	79%
YMCA of Snohomish County	Everett	Sports	4	\$57,262,370	\$55,047,046	\$46,901,176	85%
United Way of Snohomish County	Everett	Human services	5	\$51,304,728	\$52,263,743	\$44,090,176	84%
Senior Services of Snohomish County	Mukilteo	Human services	4	\$37,128,578	\$37,079,069	\$33,580,717	91%
Boys and Girls Clubs of Snohomish County	Everett	Youth	4	\$20,050,855	\$17,768,852	\$13,860,386	78%
Housing Hope	Everett	Housing, shelter	5	\$18,951,390	\$15,335,003	\$13,020,285	85%
Diversified Industrial Services	Mukilteo	Human services	4	\$15,102,867	\$15,860,909	\$9,948,738	63%
Work Opportunities	Lynnwood	Health	5	\$12,647,377	\$12,596,819	\$10,993,470	87%
Providence General Foundation	Everett	Health	4	\$11,522,834	\$13,185,157	\$8,672,865	66%
Village Community Services	Arlington	Human services	5	\$10,230,426	\$10,023,507	\$8,396,727	84%
Progressive Animal Welfare Society	Lynnwood	Animal welfare	4	\$9,253,391	\$11,337,063	\$8,967,252	79%
Mount Baker Council Boy Scouts of America	Everett	Education	4	\$9,217,471	\$9,424,096	\$5,387,006	57%
Cocoon House	Everett	Housing, shelter	5	\$8,986,680	\$7,296,887	\$5,609,206	77%
Operation Lookout National Center for Missing Youth	Everett	Public affairs	4	\$8,814,642	\$8,833,992	\$1,283,379	15%
Little Red School House	Lynnwood	Education	5	\$7,851,775	\$7,285,133	\$6,301,702	87%
Bridgeways	Everett	Human services	4	\$7,808,690	\$7,958,477	\$6,211,359	78%
Imagine Children's Museum	Everett	Arts, culture	5	\$7,448,676	\$1,999,690	\$1,298,029	65%
Sherwood Community Services	Everett	Human services	4	\$6,973,819	\$7,139,551	\$5,987,176	84%
Northwest Organization for Animal Help	Stanwood	Animal welfare	4	\$6,733,728	\$1,472,416	\$728,046	49%
Snohomish County Center for Battered Women	Everett	Housing, shelter	5	\$6,341,419	\$6,434,572	\$5,135,585	80%
Work Force Development Center	Mukilteo	Education	5	\$6,034,112	\$6,484,518	\$4,684,304	72%
Smithwright Estates	Lynnwood	Human services	4	\$5,875,597	\$5,881,920	\$5,248,687	89%
Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Snohomish County	Everett	Food	4	\$5,767,378	\$5,763,413	\$5,425,610	94%
Deaconess Children's Services	Everett	Education	5	\$5,735,700	\$6,170,148	\$4,994,454	81%
Edmonds Community College Foundation	Lynnwood	Education	5	\$5,706,040	\$9,222,540	\$7,680,621	83%
Greater Everett Community Foundation	Everett	Community	4	\$5,313,211	\$2,860,413	\$2,014,789	70%
The Everett Symphony Association	Everett	Arts, culture	5	\$4,890,355	\$4,197,999	\$1,423,432	34%
Camp Fire USA Snohomish County Council	Everett	Youth	4	\$4,854,391	\$5,182,820	\$3,857,115	74%
Everett Community College Foundation	Everett	Education	5	\$4,781,018	\$5,078,615	\$3,484,323	69%
Spinal Cord Society, NW Chapter	Edmonds	Health	5	\$4,704,516	\$4,653,713	\$3,344,217	72%
Assistance League of Everett	Everett	Health	5	\$4,237,205	\$1,990,581	\$1,129,739	57%
Stillaguamish Senior Center	Arlington	Housing, shelter	4	\$4,143,993	\$4,495,048	\$3,748,493	83%
The Max Foundation	Edmonds	Health	4	\$4,070,593	\$3,694,333	\$2,880,666	78%
Washington Vocational Services	Mt'lake Terrace	Education	4	\$3,621,333	\$3,575,094	\$2,775,902	78%
Soundview School	Lynnwood	Education	3	\$3,611,377	\$3,533,042	\$2,937,343	83%
Arts Council of Snohomish County	Everett	Arts, culture	4	\$3,332,669	\$1,353,777	\$927,162	68%
Drug Abuse Council of Snohomish County	Everett	Health	4	\$3,150,389	\$3,420,903	\$3,313,727	97%

\* No longer in operation

Source: Washington Secretary of State charities data

## Charity: Christmas House's staff is all unpaid

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Brown-Wilson, 42, had a well-paying career as an escrow closer before being sidelined by brain tumors last year.

Now going through a divorce, she uses her meager disability payments to cover medical costs not paid by Medicare.

Once her income and other personal information were verified by Christmas House volunteers, Brown-Wilson was escorted with a shopping cart through a maze of tables stacked with new toys.

It's a charity Joel Woods happily supports.

"We like the fact that we're allowing the parents to maintain their dignity and give to their own kids," the retired Everett informa-

tion technology director said.

His motorcycle club, Gold Wing Touring Association, Evergreen Wings chapter, donated \$1,500 to the nonprofit in July.

The club previously adopted families at Christmas, but decided that being showered with gifts from strangers could be overwhelming.

Lynnwood-based City Bank is the largest single donor to Christmas House, giving over the past five years a total of \$130,000 for new bicycles. The money came from employee contributions matched by the bank's charity fund.

Conrad Hanson, the bank's CEO, didn't have a bike growing up and has supported the Kids on Wheels program to give others an opportunity that he never had,

a bank spokesman said.

City Bank's donations will pay for about 400 bikes this year. An additional 100 bikes were given by Sharing Wheels, an Everett charity that provides used bikes for low-income people.

"We try to get everything free first, before we spend a penny," said Kvangnes, who is general manager of Judd & Black.

One board member offers the use of a large barn on her Lake Stevens property. Another, in Snohomish, lends the use of a 40-foot cargo container.

The organization has no paid staff. Tax preparation, printing and advertising are all donated. Rent is also free.

A phone line and insurance are the only major expenses.

The charity also saves money

by making purchases at clearance sales.

That resourcefulness gives 87-year-old retired hairdresser Ralph Maxwell of Marysville confidence.

Maxwell and his wife started donating winter coats and making monthly cash contributions after his grandson volunteered for the group several years ago.

"I was tired of contributing to charities where 75 percent goes to make some cat fat," said Maxwell, who came up hard during the Great Depression and remembers Christmases when there wasn't enough to eat.

"And times are tough for people today," he said. "There's a lot of working poor out there."

Last year, Christmas House gave blankets, clothes, toys and other gifts to more than 7,600 infants, children and teens county-wide.

The charity is under a five-year agreement to operate out of the Boys & Girls Club in Everett's Delta neighborhood.

Many of those it helps live in some of the neighborhood's 700 public housing units.

In 2005, it netted \$124,000 in cash donations. That's nearly 29 times the budget it operated under in the late 1980s.

Pam Sorenson, vice president and longtime volunteer, said accountability is key to the charity's success.

"We do have rules, and I think the community trusts us that we are doing the best that we can with the items they donate," she said.

Each person seeking gifts has to prove they meet income requirements, are custodial parents of a child under 18 and a county resident.

Income guidelines are based on the federal poverty line. To qualify, a single parent with two kids would have to earn less than \$25,000 a year.

Last year, Christmas House started using a custom computer program to streamline the screening process and ensure that people only receive gifts once a year.

The change frees volunteers from thumbing through paper records. And the software? That was donated, too.

Brown-Wilson got in line at 3:30 a.m. She started collecting gifts about noon. By the time she crossed under a Nativity scene perched atop a basketball hoop, the Boys & Girls club gym resembled a bustling Christmas-themed bazaar.

Christmas tunes played on a stereo. Volunteers loaded tables and shopping carts with new toys.

Getting to that point took a lot of work.

The previous Sunday, more than 100 volunteers pumped soccer balls with air, assembled tricycles and unpacked mountains of boxes.

An estimated 700 people will give their time to Christmas House this year.

Daniel Borochoff, president of the American Institute of Philanthropy in Chicago, said the good deeds deserve recognition but do

little to combat poverty.

"Giving toys to a needy child is heartwarming," he said. "But what good are toys when you can't pay your heating bill?"

People who donate to the Christmas House should also consider charities that help struggling families all year, Borochoff said.

The charity is adapting to a change, serving a growing number of Muslim children from Everett's Iraqi community as well as recent Latino, Russian and Ukrainian immigrants.

Informational fliers are printed in Spanish, Russian and Arabic, and translators from Everett Community College also help.

As Brown-Wilson approached the last table of household goods, her shopping cart brimmed with gifts. A bubbly volunteer gave an understanding smile.

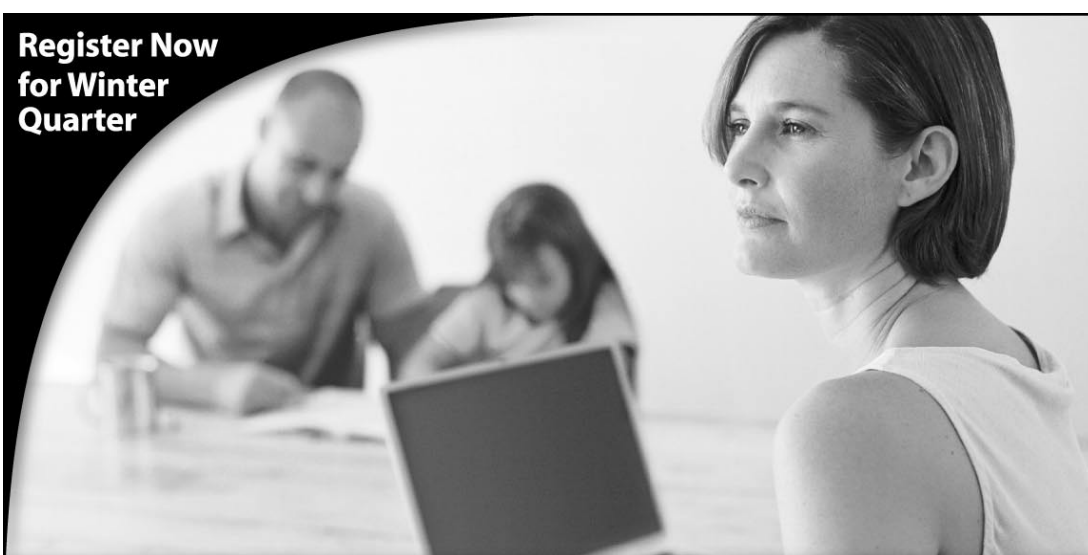
Jeanne Twombly, 33, turned to Christmas House for help when she was struggling a few years ago.

Twombly, who was 9-months pregnant at the time, said the help brought her tears of joy, something she won't soon forget.

If circumstances improve, Brown-Wilson said she would like to give back to Christmas House.

"I don't like to ask for help," she said after a volunteer gave her a hug and loaded her black sedan with gifts. "But my kids are going to be happy. And they are the most important thing to me."

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## Forest impact statements cut

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — Long-term management plans for national forests will no longer go through a formal environmental impact statement, the U.S. Forest Service announced Tuesday.

The Forest Service said writing the 15-year plans has no effect on the environment, making the impact statements unnecessary. That conclusion was based on changes to forest planning rules made last year and a past U.S. Supreme Court ruling that says a plan is a statement of intent and does not cause anything to happen.

Individual projects, such as

logging, were cut out of forest management plans in last year's rule changes. Those projects will still have to go through a formal analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act, known as NEPA, said Fred Norbury, associate deputy chief for the national forest system.

Norbury said cutting the environmental impact statement process out of the management plans should shorten the time to produce them to about three years, he said.

Plans now take five to seven years to write, at a cost of \$5 million to \$7 million.

Conservation groups accused

the Bush administration of trying to undercut NEPA, which requires agencies to take a hard look at the environmental effects of their projects and include the public in the decisions.

Chris West, vice president of the American Forest Resource Council, a timber industry group, said he thought the new rule was overdue.

"Wasting time and money, especially court time, on a broad general plan is not in the public interest," West said.

There are 125 national forests and national grasslands, all of which prepare 15-year management plans.