

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: Community Services Consortium & Boys and Girls Club of Corvallis

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Local Organizations Team Up to Support Families during the Pandemic

Community Services Consortium (CSC) makes a \$50,000 donation to the Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis (BGCC) in support of their pivot to childcare for essential workers in the midst of the pandemic.

BGCC has been providing safe childcare, outreach, meals, and educational services, 10.5 hours per day five days a week, to working parents in Benton County since April of last year despite school closures.

With a previous membership of nearly 3,000 kids and youth—almost half of the 6,500 school aged kids in Corvallis—the BGCC has kept their doors open for about 100 participants over the last year.

Last April, BGCC gave employees the option to continue working. Fifty of them, about half, chose to stay and adapt to new safety protocols and programming. BGCC pays a hazard rate to program staff who are still working, giving them a bump in pay for their service and risk.

After a short closure at the start of the pandemic, BGCC opened their doors for emergency childcare—a notable shift from their usual after school activities and services, which is anticipated to resume in the fall—for essential workers, complying with state, federal and Early Learning Division health and safety guidelines. Starting with five children upon opening, they are currently serving about 100 participants.

Averaging a \$50,000 monthly loss in operating costs, securing funding has continued to be imperative to maintain staffing, in addition to the many other increased costs for PPE, resources, technology, and more.

The current program includes enrichment activities, ensuring students attend their virtual classes, and three meals a day provided in partnership with the Corvallis School District.

In search of additional funding, BGCC Executive Director, Helen Higgins, turned to Benton County, which was unable to provide additional funding. However, Benton County Commissioner, Xanthippe Augerot, referred Higgins to CSC in hopes of securing supportive funds.

At the start of 2021, CSC partnered with BGCC to provide supportive funding to help continue the services for working parents. CSC contributed \$50,000 of federal CARES act funding to BGCC, used to support their staff, outreach, and resources for participants.

“The funds we received from CSC really helped us cover our costs and keep the price of childcare low for families who had not budgeted for full-day childcare when youth are normally in school.” said Higgins, “The cost of the program is usually \$45 a day per child and we are only charging our parents \$100 a week.”

The modified BGCC program is providing services for families working for over 50 different employers in the region, with kids from all eight schools, allowing parents to continue working and local businesses to retain their employees.

“It is an honor and humbling experience to provide this service to the community,” said Higgins. “We’re doing something that’s really making a difference for families and kids. They have a routine, friends, enrichment, nutrition; kids need that, and what matters is there is a safe, supervised place for our children.”

BGCC continues to offer their childcare program to all families in need, not just essential workers, with no income or eligibility criteria. To inquire about registration, call (541) 757-1909.

To learn more and donate to support Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis and Community Services Consortium, visit their websites <http://www.bgccorvallis.org> and <https://communityservices.us>.