



Dear Friends of United Way,

As I wrap up my first months as Executive Director, I am reminded every day why my husband and I chose to make this community our home. This is a place filled with heart, resilience, and people who truly show up for one another.

Because of your generosity, thousands of local children, families, and neighbors experienced support, stability, and hope this year.

United Way exists to give everyone in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties the chance to thrive - and thanks to you, that mission is coming to life in powerful ways.

**This past year, your support helped:**

- **3,340 children** receive free monthly books through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.
- **38 families** joined early-learning playgroups that strengthen early development.
- **Nearly 6,000 young learners** started school, ready to succeed.
- **32,097 individuals** accessed nutritious food, housing, financial & health support.
- **5,000+ pounds of fresh produce** harvested by students in school gardens.
- **4,349 safe shelter nights** for **119 adults and children** fleeing domestic violence.
- **40 teens** each week found safety, support, and belonging at Teen Night.
- **400+ volunteers** uplifted our community during Day of Caring.

These aren't just numbers - they are children learning, families stabilizing, and neighbors finding hope because you cared. As the year comes to a close, I hope you will stand with us once again to ensure more children receive books, more families find stability, and more neighbors get the support they need during challenging times.

Please consider supporting our end-of-year giving campaign by donating online at: <https://www.cowlitzunitedway.org/donate> Not only will your gift be tax deductible, but your year-end gift stays 100% local!

Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient community - one child, one family, one act of generosity at a time.

Thank you for believing in what's possible when we unite for good.

With heartfelt appreciation and warm wishes for a joyful holiday season,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lois Smith".

Lois Smith  
Executive Director  
United Way of Cowlitz & Wahkiakum Counties