Amazon Employee Matching Gift Program to Benefit Cornerstones

Cornerstones is one of 10 local nonprofits included in $5 million employee matching gift initiative

For almost 50 years, Cornerstones has partnered with a vibrant network of corporate leaders and nonprofits to ensure that our region remains an affordable and healthy place to live and work. Working as community catalysts, we have proudly joined leading affordable housing coalitions to disrupt the root causes of homelessness, poverty, and inequality that currently affect our region's most vulnerable families, children, and seniors.

Now in a new corporate partnership with Amazon, Cornerstones is one of 20 nonprofits - 10 in Seattle and 10 in the Arlington region - benefiting from the company's newly launched employee match campaign. **Through September 30, 2019, Amazon will match one-for-one employee donations, up to $5 million collectively.**

"This is an extraordinary new opportunity to help every Amazon employee fulfill their vision for investing in the strength and stability of our community," said Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Cornerstones. "It is an honor to be chosen for their pilot program, and to do so alongside our partners in the region. We are confident that working with Amazon and our partners in this collaborative effort will result in even greater community volunteerism, support, and advocacy so that our region remains extraordinary place to live and work," Wilson added.
To read more about Amazon's employee matching program and plans for supporting affordable housing our region, click here.

If you know someone working for Amazon, please share why you offer your time, talents, and resources to Cornerstones. Your personal encouragement will help us engage even more people interested in ensuring stability, empowerment, and hope for local families and seniors in need.

Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Cornerstones is looking for volunteers to help support our various summer programs! Click to find out how to get involved, and if you are interested in becoming an ongoing Cornerstones volunteer, be sure to sign up for our next volunteer orientation.

Don't have time to volunteer this summer? You can also make a non-cash contribution from our wish list or make an online donation!

Staff & Volunteers Love Our Littlest Clients at the Laurel Learning Center

In 1977, with an eye toward strengthening the Reston and Herndon communities, Reston Interfaith -- now Cornerstones -- saw a need for affordable childcare for lower-income families. Forty-two years later, Cornerstones' Laurel Learning Center welcomes 130 students annually, from newborns to 6th graders. The Center provides not only the highest standard of early childhood care and after school programming but also support, hope, and stability for local families and their children.
Courtney Park-Jamborsky, our Center Director for the past 17 years, notes she loves every minute in her job. "Thanks to the dedicated support and leadership of Kerrie Wilson, Cornerstones' CEO, and Jeanette Phillips, our Chief Human Resources Officer, we ensure that every family in this area can take advantage of the child care resources at the Laurel Learning Center -- no matter the obstacles. Even if a family has recently come to this country, or is missing paperwork needed to register, or simply can't afford to attend, our goal at Laurel is to ensure that every child gets the care they need."

As an example, Courtney cited the circumstances of a grandmother raising her grandson. The young toddler lost his 22-year-old mother and only parent in a recent car accident. The child's grandmother is so grateful to have the hands-on support of the Laurel day school staff and volunteers. Her grandson has a safe, loving, and enriching environment during the day while she restructures her own life to be a parent again.

Volunteers at the Laurel Learning Center are a vital and important part of the Center and are involved in the day-to-day activities in many different ways. Courtney explained, "Our extraordinary volunteers are more like staff. They attend staff meetings and actively assist in the classrooms, after school homework, and go on field trips with the children. Thanks to one dedicated volunteer, (20 years of service and counting!) we have yoga classes and piano programs." Courtney underscores that it's the staff's direct engagement with volunteers that makes the critical difference. "Our volunteers' time, talents, and personal support make all the difference to our children and their families. We can't do this work without them!"

Volunteer Factoid

There are **50 school-age children** enrolled in Cornerstones' Laurel Learning Center. In the 2018-2019 school year, **every child tested at or above their grade level in all subjects.**

Meet Kaitlin Slack - Community Resource Coordinator at the Embry Rucker Community Shelter
People don't often get to pick their perfect replacement at work. But when Susan Alger, our current Director of Volunteer and Community Engagement, interviewed Kaitlin Slack, it was obvious that she was the right person for the Community Resource Coordinator position at Embry Rucker Community Shelter.

*The only real question in Susan's mind was, "Where is the volume control?"

It's hard to keep the sound down when you are filled with Kaitlin's kind of exuberance and enthusiasm for the job. She brings great passion to this position, having previously worked at the St. Francis Inn's soup kitchen in the Kensington area of Philadelphia, with the Holy Name Province of the Franciscan Friars. In addition to coordinating volunteers for the Inn's kitchen, Kaitlin helped out at the Thea Bowman Women's Center, a safe space providing showers and laundry, mindfulness sessions, games and outings, and more. She also ran a holiday adopt-a-family effort to provide gifts for 83 children in the community.

With a degree in Communications Studies, Kaitlin works to ensure that all our dedicated Shelter volunteers have a rewarding and meaning volunteer service experience. This year, Kaitlin plans to amplify the volunteer experience by conducting focus groups to collect feedback, provide more training opportunities and volunteer resources, and develop an online scheduling system. She also hopes to arrange informal social gatherings or meet ups for volunteers to get to know each other better.

In her not-so-spare time this year, Kaitlin recently put the finishing touches on her wedding plans, married her college sweetheart and #1 volunteer, Jack, and adopted two sweet kittens, Truffle and Oyster.

*If you are interested in volunteering or donating to the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, reach out to Kaitlin at Kaitlin.Slack@cornerstonesva.org or call 571-323-3675.*

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**Meet the Volunteer Team**

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