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*“Foster Care Supply Drive launched in SW Washington State to bridge the gap for youth entering foster care”, January 11th, 2022*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washougal, WA, January 11th, 2022. Today marks the final day of the Foster Care Supply Drive of SW Washington in the pilot areas. The Foster Care Supply Drive is a community resource project spearheaded by Jeannine Mills of Washougal, WA. The primary focus of this project is to provide for the basic needs of youth entering foster care. The donated items will be sorted by age and necessity and delivered to local DCYF offices and private foster care agencies to be distributed as needed. The majority of youth entering foster care do not have adequate personal hygiene products, properly fitted clothing, or comfort items. This project is a way for local communities to bridge that gap to mitigate the transition into foster care. The Foster Care Supply Drive was piloted in Washougal, WA, and Camas, WA. The donations were procured from 5 area businesses (54-40 Brewing Co., Country Financial-Camas, Craig’s Plumbing, Integrated Systems Group, and Robertson & Olson) and 1 private school (Riverside Christian School). The number of donations received was enough to create 110 welcome bags for children in foster care.

FCSD will advance to the remainder of SW Washington in the Spring of 2022. The press and public are invited to participate in raising awareness and participating in charitable giving.

Donation bins and marketing materials will be distributed to area businesses and schools in Washougal, WA, and Camas, WA between March 1st, 2022, and March 4th, 2022.

“I am over the moon by the community’s positive response to the Foster Care Supply Drive. Support is imperative for these youth during such traumatic times. I look forward to showing youth that enters foster care that they are not alone, they are loved, and that they have a whole community behind them who has their back.” - Jeannine Mills

More information on the company and the event can be found on our Facebook account:

<https://www.facebook.com/fostercareupplydrive>

Jeannine Mills has over 12 years of knowledge and experience within the child welfare system. Formerly a social services assistant for Clackamas County, OR, and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for Clark County, WA. Jeannine is currently a foster parent in Clark County, WA, a DCYF 1624 Representative for Region 6, and a committee member for DCYF's Fair Start for Kids Act Licensing Subcommittee.

Jeannine is a full-time psychology student, an active member of Leadership Clark County's 2022 cohort, the lead member for the Mom's Group of the Junior League of Portland, and a Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital Volunteer. In her spare time, she administers COVID-19 tests for Impact Health.