



YOUR GIFT IN ACTION!

GIVING

UPDATE
ORCAS COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

OCTOBER | 2025



SUE'S STORY

When Sue's marriage ended last winter, she found herself staring at a stack of bills that seemed to grow taller each day. Her modest income now stretched impossibly thin across rent, utilities, and the necessities her 3-year-old depended on.

"I remember sitting at my kitchen table after my child went to bed, trying to figure out which bill I could afford to pay that month," she recalls. "The weight of those decisions felt crushing."

Desperate for solutions, Sue reached out to the Resource Center. **Because of YOUR generosity, she was met with immediate, life-changing support.**

YOUR donations empowered staff to help Sue set financial goals, receive essential Coates Cabinet hygiene items to stretch her budget, and stay on track during weekly check-ins.

"I was provided with practical necessities and compassionate guidance that helped me believe I could do this," Sue shared. "For the first time in months, I started to see a path forward."

Today, Sue is rebuilding financial stability with a sustainable budget, part-time work that accommodates her parenting schedule, and even a small emergency fund.

"What the Resource Center gave me wasn't just assistance," she reflects. "It was knowing I wasn't invisible, that my struggles mattered. Their support changed everything for me and my child."



BETH'S STORY

An islander facing serious mental health challenges, found courage to reach out for help during one of the hardest times in her life — when maintaining stable housing and managing critical medical needs felt overwhelming.

Because of YOUR compassionate support, Beth received personalized assistance, connecting her with housing resources, medical care, and ongoing counseling.

Step by step, Beth has made incredible progress: maintaining steady employment, attending essential medical appointments, and staying consistent with medication — transformations that donors like you made possible.

Today, Beth is regaining stability, improving her quality of life, and building a foundation for a healthier, more secure future.

MARY'S STORY

Mary, a dedicated healthcare worker, took pride in her independence and ability to provide for her family. Then came the diagnosis and mounting medical bills. For the first time, Mary found herself unable to afford even the most basic household necessities.

Because of YOUR compassionate support, Mary didn't have to face this challenge alone.

Resource Center staff helped her complete medical financial assistance applications to reduce the burden of healthcare bills. Through the Coates Cabinet program, Mary received essential household and personal care supplies that many of us rarely think twice about — preserving her dignity during recovery. Easing financial pressure during treatment, allowed Mary to focus on healing.



JAMES'S STORY

Not long ago, James was struggling to meet his most basic needs. Each day was uncertain, and the weight of navigating housing insecurity, financial strain, and declining health put him at risk of losing everything.

But thanks to donors like YOU, James now has access to guidance and the tools to gain stability.

At the Resource Center, he finds a hot meal and a nonjudgemental support team — small yet powerful reminders that he belongs to a caring community.

James has learned how to navigate programs that provide food, medical care, and financial relief. Step by step, he's rebuilding his life — and, most importantly, he now feels hopeful about his future.

This transformation didn't happen by chance. It happened because of YOU. Your support helps create moments of dignity, connection, and progress — for James and so many others on Orcas Island.

PATRICIA'S STORY

When we made Orcas our home, I felt called to give back to this special community. Learning about the Resource Center's work, I quickly discovered an organization that profoundly aligned with my core values.

I've been fortunate to have a life of opportunities and stability. Now, it's my turn to support neighbors facing unexpected challenges. The people the Resource Center serves are community members, friends, perhaps even family—navigating life's unpredictable journey. Without vital safety nets, what happens to those most at risk?

A moment I'll never forget: walking past the Resource Center courtyard and witnessing a staff member offering a hot meal and sleeping bag to a young person in crisis. In that instant, I thought, 'That could be my child.' **The realization struck me deeply: our community's wellbeing depends on our collective compassion and action.**

This is why I serve. This is why I give. This is why the Resource Center's mission resonates so profoundly in my heart.

Your partnership in this vital work whether through volunteering, donating, or simply spreading awareness — creates the safety net our community needs.

*Patricia Benton
Resource Center Board Chair*

