



your gift in action! GIVING

OCTOBER | 2026

UPDATE

ORCAS COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Mike

Mike worked in construction for more than a decade, but he had never been taught how to manage what he earned. Paychecks came and went, and any unexpected expense — a car repair, a medical bill — sent him scrambling.

He wanted something different for himself, but didn't know where to start.

Because of your support, Mike was able to join Orcas Money Smart and be paired with a volunteer mentor who helped him clarify his financial goals. Together, they built his first real budget, worked through credit basics, set up an emergency savings account, and created a plan to pay down old debt. Slowly, the constant financial stress began to ease.

"I always thought financial planning was for people who had a lot of money," Mike said. "Now I know it is for anyone willing to learn."

Your generosity makes this kind of practical, life-changing guidance free and accessible for islanders like Mike — helping neighbors build confidence, stability, and a stronger financial future.



Community Health Workers
Kyra Dyer & Isaac Perales

Teresa

Teresa had been managing a chronic health condition on her own for years, unsure how to navigate insurance paperwork or find specialists who could truly help. Appointments were missed, prescriptions lapsed, and her health slowly declined while the system around her felt impossible to untangle.

Teresa found someone in her corner at the Resource Center. Community Health Workers helped her understand her coverage, schedule appointments, and follow through with treatment. What once felt like an overwhelming maze became a clear, manageable path forward.

Today, Teresa is keeping up with her care and feels more in control of her health than she has in years.

Your support made it possible for her to face her health journey with confidence.

Grace

Grace has spent years working seasonal jobs on Orcas, saving carefully but never quite building a financial cushion. When her hours were cut back last winter, she found herself trying to stretch each paycheck further than it could go. Soon, even basic items like deodorant, toothpaste, toilet paper, and laundry detergent began to feel out of reach.

Grace found help through the Coates Cabinet Hygiene Bank. Shelves stocked with everyday essentials meant one less worry during a season already full of them. She did not have to choose between paying a bill and caring for her basic hygiene and well-being.



Small essentials = BIG difference!

You helped ensure Grace was one of the 468 households served last year — offering steady support exactly when it was needed most.

The Ramirez Family

Last winter, when heating costs spiked, the Ramirez family faced a choice no parent should have to make: keep the house warm or put food on the table. Rising utility bills had already stretched their budget thin, and the colder months brought added stress to a household already doing everything it could to stay afloat.

The Ramirez family found help before a difficult season became a deeper crisis. Energy assistance covered a portion of their heating bill, while weatherization improvements helped their home's efficiency — reducing drafts and making it easier to keep their space warm and safe through the winter months. That combined support brought relief when it was needed most.

Today, the Ramirez family remains warm, secure, and better prepared for the season ahead. **Your generosity helps ensure island families do not have to choose between heat or groceries!**

BOARD MEMBER STORY

Suzette Lamb

Suzette brings both heart and expertise to her service with the Resource Center. Since joining our Board and Program Committee in 2024, she has supported staff training and professional development, drawing on her background as a licensed psychotherapist and her experience in nonprofit and community-based work.

She values the relationships that make Orcas such a special place and believes that strong local businesses, nonprofits, and neighbors all play a role in sustaining a healthy and connected community.

That belief guides her service not only with the Resource Center, but also as Board Chair of the Orcas Senior Center and as a local business owner.

Outside of her community work, Suzette enjoys cooking, time with friends, and getting out on the water to fish.



Suzette Lamb
Resource Center Board Member

To further your support:

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