

# EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

April 29, 2021

Shelly Kolb announced last week that we successfully delivered on our 2020 Christmas Auction's largest revenue generator.

I just gotta say, you know you're doing something right when you can get 20 people to pay to show up for a dinner lecture.

And what topic could whet the appetite more effectively than a history lesson on the Plague Cycle.

GFU's Dr. Robin Baker was our lecturer. Terry and Becky Potter were the venue and wine hosts at [Meraviglioso Winery](#). Bon Apetit's catering crew did dinner.

\$2,700 was raised for the Foundation.

Bob Travers had an update for this year's **Summerfest** (fka Ok oberfest) which will be the weekend of August 27 and be held back at our original Memorial Park.



Emily Garrick-Stenson was our speaker last week representing [Lutheran Community Services Northwest](#) as its Marketing and Events Coordinator.

Emily is "from here." Many of us recognize the name Marcia Garrick (Mom) and we know her former boss from Abby's, Jeff Kosmicki (moved up from pizza boss to cop boss).

Lutheran Community Services' roots predates the Great Depression with Swedish immigrants founding Lutheran Compass Mission, Tacoma, 1921 serving the "down and out."

Lutherans in Portland formed a similar outreach in 1926 and Northwest Lutherans expanded efforts to clothing, bedding, food and shelter to the homeless of the '30s.

The 1940s saw efforts to resettle Eastern

European refugees.

Spokane and Tri-Cities, '56 and '64, expanded to mental health, marriage counseling, senior services and a rape crisis center.

Emily describes LCS as a kind of umbrella organization promoting health, justice, and hope. And while most organizations form a specific focus, LCS looks to see the need where they are and grow services there.

In our area we have **Safe Families for Children**, volunteer led support helping families already surviving on the fringe. This can be a ride across town to a safe place for kids, for hours or weeks, while parent(s) resolve a temporary crisis like housing or job interviews.

A church family wraps themselves around the family in crisis helping them to keep their children in a system that can be very hard to navigate, especially when the parents are already stressed by their circumstances.

**School Based K-8 Mental Health** started four years ago and is available at no cost or copay with funding seeded by the [Austin Family Foundation](#). It's staffed by therapist, not counselors, and

has expanded to the high school via the [Community Wellness Collective](#).

**A Family Place Relief Nursery**. If you visit you may not notice what's not there. You will not see posters for things like April being Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month. "We want families to come on their own and not feel judged for trying to be the best parents they can. It is easy to see a poster and think, "hey, I don't belong here, I'm not abusive, I just want to learn how to be a good mom."

The Relief Nursery solution addresses the stressors of isolation, depression,

homelessness, dependency, etc. The goals are to avoid foster care, neglect and abuse. 99% of children enrolled were able to remain living safely with their parents.

**Immigration Counseling & Advocacy Program** started ten years ago and is run by volunteers. It is not an activism group and is the only resource of its kind in our area. ICAP helps hopeful immigrants legally navigate the system with the help of a Department of Justice certified counselor.

One success story was the three year journey of a brother helping his Colombian brother and sister in law navigate the process.

Another was the Lopez family. Isobelle came to LCSNW desperate for help. She's an agricultural worker and had no resources to hire legal help when her husband was suddenly deported.

LCS walked beside her through the constantly changing federal rules. Make no mistake, this was not a quick fix. Last year the family was finally reunited, legally, after a decade apart.

By the way, this program has fundraiser coming up May 8, 2021.

## **[FIESTA en la Viña 2021!](#)**

What can you expect to find? Wines, wines, and more wines. A stay at Francisco and Kristen Stoller's Hawaiian condo with airfare by Alaska.

Last year's event, a virtual mid-pandemic program, raised over \$96,000. Click that link and find out more.

Of this year's graduating class, seven passed their citizenship processes.

Connie had a really useful contribution but apparently I was more focused on my focus, so to speak. So much for notes.

