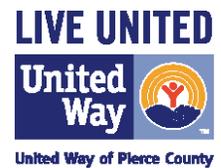


CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



SPRINGBROOK

The residents of Springbrook Park applied for United Way funding in their neighborhood because they had no common area to build a sense of community together. They noted in their application that high poverty, transiency, and crime define the vicinity. With their grant, they decided to create a community garden so that the residents of the area could all have a shared project.

Alyce, one of the adult leaders, plays a critical role in providing a local emergency network for the community. Alyce shared that garden activities have been bridge builders within their tiny neighborhood cut off from Lakewood by I-5. She has seen parents of children, racially divided at first, start to come together under a common bond of work and play. Alyce also connects community members who cannot come to the garden. She was contacted by an older lady who had saved a ball of string to help the kids build a structure for newly planted peas. Children who were once afraid to go to the park now play in it happily every day- their feeling of danger now a thing of the past.

This community has come together in a new and meaningful way - - moreover, there is ownership in the project from a wide assortment of stakeholders. This is one small step to breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty. If we all continue to champion the cause of caring, like so many in the Springbrook community, and outside the Springbrook community, like United Way, then there is much hope.

By focusing on working together to help young children and their families, we can remove the barriers preventing them from breaking the cycle of poverty.

Providing the basic needs and support that helps people get on their feet and move toward stability.

Why It Matters

144,000 people visit food banks each month. Nearly **half** of those are working families

It is estimated that **2 in 5 homeless** in Pierce County are children.

33 percent of callers to South Sound 2-1-1 lived in homes with children under the age five.

Food, shelter and utility assistance, basic needs, are the top resources needed by callers to South Sound 2-1-1.