



Volunteer Newsletter



Camano Center & 2nd Chance Thrift Shop

Our Mission: We support healthy aging, connection, and well-being for adults 55 and older.

Our Vision: A community where older adults are empowered to live their lives to their fullest potential.

Our Values: We behave with compassion, respect, and integrity. We foster an environment of inclusion and continuous growth. We act with a heart of service.


Volunteering Today: Trends, Changes, and Your Voice

Over the past few years, volunteering has seen some remarkable shifts. Here in Washington State, the number of people giving their time has rebounded strongly—about one in three residents volunteered in 2023, a significant increase from just a few years ago. This growth reflects a renewed spirit of community connection after the challenges of the pandemic.

But while more people are stepping up, the way volunteering happens is evolving.

Many volunteers are seeking more flexible and meaningful roles that fit into busy lives. Virtual and hybrid volunteering options are on the rise, allowing people to contribute from home or combine remote and in-person efforts. Additionally, shorter-term and project-based opportunities are becoming popular for those who want to help but have limited availability.

Here at Camano Center, we are proud to have 287 volunteers who contributed a total of 20,318 hours in 2024. This level of engagement reflects a strong commitment from our community and compares favorably with national and state averages.



For context, nationally about 28.3% of Americans volunteer annually, with an average of around 70 hours per volunteer. In Washington State, roughly 33% of residents volunteer, often with higher engagement. At Camano Center, the dedication shown by our volunteers clearly demonstrates how vital volunteering remains to our mission and community.


We Want to Hear From You

- What kinds of volunteer roles are most fulfilling or exciting to you right now?
- Do you prefer ongoing commitments or short-term projects?
- Are there skills you'd like to use more, or new ones you want to develop?
- Would virtual or hybrid volunteering options better fit your lifestyle?
- What helps you feel truly appreciated and connected to our mission?

Your experiences and insights are invaluable in helping us shape a volunteer program that works for everyone. We're eager to learn from you and adapt so that volunteering here remains meaningful, manageable, and rewarding.

Volunteer Opportunities That Fit Today's Flexible Model

To give you a sense of how we're evolving to meet these needs, here are some examples of current volunteer roles that offer flexibility and meaningful engagement:

- **Helping Hands/CHORES Program** – Volunteers can choose when and how often to provide their time, offering rides or assistance as their schedule allows.
 - **Community Outreach** – Help teach occasional informational classes or staff outreach tables at community events, sharing information about the Camano Center and your own experiences as a volunteer.
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- **Special Events** – Volunteer for 2–3 hours at events you select, from helping with logistics to greeting guests.
- **Baking for Special Events** – Share your baking skills by providing treats for events, with a commitment that fits your time.
- **Gardening** – Choose your own schedule to help maintain our beautiful grounds and gardens, enjoying outdoor time while giving back.
- **Letter Writing** – Write kind, encouraging notes to local older adults who may be isolated or unable to get out, brightening their day with a personal connection.



We hope these options inspire you to find a role that fits your lifestyle and passions. Whether you're able to commit regularly or prefer to help now and then, every bit of your time makes a difference.

Thank you for being such an important part of our community. Your time, passion, and commitment are what make our work possible—and we look forward to growing together in the months and years ahead.

If you'd like to discuss any of these roles or have ideas about new ways to volunteer, please reach out anytime. Your input is what makes this community thrive!



With gratitude to everyone who made our auction such a special and successful evening!



Camano Center & Camano Sue's Art present:

HOLIDAY CRAFT & GIFT BAZAAR

Support Our Local Crafters

This Event Benefits the Camano Center

Sat. | November 15 | 9AM - 4PM

Camano Center | 606 Arrowhead Road | Camano Island

BAKE SALE | CANDLES & SOAP | POTTERY | PHOTOGRAPHY
JEWELRY | ORNAMENTS | METAL ART
HANDMADE GIFTS & MORE



CamanoCenter
Get connected.



Holiday Bake Sale

Saturday, November 15
During the Holiday Craft & Gift Bazaar
Sign up at the Front Desk

Please bring items
Friday, November 14
9 AM - 4:00 PM

Please do not include perishable items requiring refrigeration. Please package items in small amounts. We welcome your holiday favorites!

Not sure what to bake? Here are some of our most requested holiday treats:

- Holiday Cookies - packaged 6 or 12
- Berry Tarts
- Sugarless items & snack mixes like Chex Mix
- Small loaves of quick breads
- Dinner rolls
- Yeast breads— preferably whole grain
- Pumpkin items (seasonal flavored items)
- Label items with special ingredients - especially nuts
- Single individually wrapped items ie. donuts, cinnamon rolls, that can be purchased early in the day with coffee (The vendors loved this!)
- Brownies
- Gluten free baked goods
- Caramel Corn or other flavored popcorn



ALL VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY PARTY

Save the date!
Tuesday, December 16, 2 pm - 4 pm

Location: 2nd Chance Thrift Shop



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Current Positions Needing Filled

Camano Center

Bakers needed for the annual Camano Center bake sale at the Holiday Craft & Gift Bazaar on Saturday, November 15. Please call the Center or email to let us know if you are interested in donated baked goods. Items can be dropped off Friday, November 14th at the Camano Center.

2nd Chance Thrift Shop

Available Shifts:
Fridays - linens area
Saturdays - pricing/sorting

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Mark your calendars for some great upcoming events. For those who enjoy volunteering for special events, please let me know which events you would like to volunteer at this year.

Holiday Craft Bazaar & Bake Sale
Saturday, November 15
Camano Center
9 am - 4 pm

All Volunteer Holiday Party
Tuesday, December 16
2 pm - 4 pm (drop-in)
Location: 2nd Chance Thrift Shop

Would you or someone you know enjoy volunteering either at the Camano Center or the 2nd Chance Thrift Shop?

**Contact: Lisa Brents, Volunteer Services Manager
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or email
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