



Volunteer Newsletter



Camano Center & 2nd Chance Thrift Shop



Sense of Community Index 2

One longtime Camano Center member recently shared a story that captures what community really means. He first came through the doors looking for a fitness class after moving to the island and not knowing many people. Before long, he found himself staying after class for coffee and conversation, attending events, shopping at 2nd Chance Thrift Shop, and eventually volunteering a few hours each month. “At first, it was just a place to go,” he said. “Now it feels like a place where people know my name.” That feeling of belonging is exactly what the SCI-2 survey helps us understand better.

The Camano Center is inviting volunteers to take part in a short, anonymous SCI-2 survey. SCI-2 stands for the Sense of Community Index 2, a nationally recognized survey designed to measure how connected, supported, and valued people feel within a community.

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.

For many people, the Camano Center is more than building. It is where friendships begin, where neighbors reconnect, where volunteers serve with purpose, and where community members come for support, activities, meals, shopping, classes, and conversation. The same is true at 2nd Chance Thrift Shop, where customers, donors, and volunteers all help create a welcoming place that strengthens our community every day.

This survey allows us to better understand what makes people feel connected here — and where we can continue to grow stronger together. The anonymous information helps us learn how people experience the Center and the thrift shop, what creates a sense of belonging, and how we can continue building programs and spaces that support meaningful community connections.

Every voice matters. Whether you volunteer weekly, attend programs occasionally, shop at the thrift store, donate, or simply stop in for a visit, your experience helps tell the story of our community.

The survey only takes a few minutes to complete, but the information it provides can have a lasting impact both locally and nationally. Here at the Camano Center, the feedback helps guide future programs, volunteer experiences, services, and community-building efforts. At the same time, because SCI-2 data is gathered nationwide, the anonymous responses also contribute to broader research that helps organizations and researchers better understand how connection, belonging, and community involvement improve people's lives. By participating, you are helping shape not only the future of the Camano Center and 2nd Chance Thrift Shop, but also contributing to a larger understanding of what helps communities thrive.



Copy & paste this link to fill out the online survey or pick up a hard copy to fill out at 2nd Chance Thrift Shop or the Camano Center.

<https://forms.gle/cog8qSaRUEYQZLQz9>

Complete by July 3, 2026

CAMANO CENTER & CAMANO SUE'S ART PRESENT:

SUMMER SOLSTICE ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

INDOOR & OUTDOOR VENDORS

METAL GARDEN ART
JEWELRY • FABRIC ART
POTTERY • WATERCOLORS
WOODWORKING
PHOTOGRAPHY • SOAPS
AND MORE



SATURDAY
JUNE 20
9 AM - 4 PM
AT THE CAMANO CENTER



CAMANO CENTER | 606 ARROWHEAD ROAD | CAMANO ISLAND | (360) 387-0222

Rain or Shine

Camano Center is Hosting

2ND CHANCE THRIFT SHOP CHRISTMAS IN JULY SALE

SAT. JULY 25TH | 9:00AM - 3:00PM
606 ARROWHEAD RD. CAMANO ISLAND

Donation-Based Sale!
Pay what you want and help support critical programs at the Camano Center.

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Make sure to bring your own bags, wagons, or crew to help carry items.

**Decor | Linens | Gifts
Clothing | Books
Home & More**

SAVE THE DATE

THE TWENTIES Gala

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 5:30 PM

20TH ANNUAL GALA AUCTION
BENEFITING THE CAMANO CENTER

TICKETS ON SALE 8.31.26 LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE CAMANOCENTER.ORG

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Current Positions Needing Filled

Camano Center

Memory Café at Camano Center

The Camano Center is launching a Memory Café—a welcoming, volunteer-led gathering for people living with memory loss or dementia, along with their care partners. These free, informal meetups offer a chance to socialize, enjoy simple activities like music or art, and build meaningful connections in a supportive environment.

We are currently looking for one additional volunteer to help co-lead this new program. If you're interested in getting involved or learning more, please reach out to Karen Conway at the Camano Center at kconway@camanocenter.org. Upcoming informational gathering/training is scheduled: June 22, 10 am -2:30 pm.

Camano Friends Club

Meaningful relationships and activities should be accessible to everyone, regardless of cognitive changes. We are looking for compassionate and patient individuals who are willing to be in the present moment with our members and serve as activity companions. Club meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please contact Lisa Brents or Tina Dinzl-Peterson for more information.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Summer Solstice Craft Fair
Camano Center
Saturday, June 20
9 am -4 pm

Everything Christmas in July
Thrift Shop Garage Sale
Camano Center
Saturday, July 25
9 am -3 pm

Gala Auction
Saturday, September 26

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
(360) 387-0222
or email lbrents@camanocenter.org**

**Webpage:
<https://camanocenter.org/volunteer/>**

How to Start a Memory Cafe in your Community: A Free Half-Day Training

JUNE 22, 2026 | 10 AM - 2:30 PM

Memory Cafes are free, informal, social gatherings for people living with dementia and their care partners.

They typically take place in welcoming public spaces, such as restaurants, cafes, libraries, museums, and community centers.

WHO IS THIS TRAINING FOR?

Community members, volunteers, and organizations who intend to start a community-based Memory Café within the next year that will be open and accessible to the public.

WHAT WILL I LEARN AT THE TRAINING?

- How to start and run a Memory Café
- Ways to support care partners
- Skills for facilitating a welcoming and engaging Memory Café



HOW LONG IS THE TRAINING?

4.5 hours (Lunch included)

WHERE WILL THE TRAINING BE HELD?

The Camano Center

606 Arrowhead Road
Camano, WA 98282



REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY JUNE 15

Space is limited to 18 participants.

Register here:



<https://forms.office.com/r/i7KiE6nfuX?origin=lprLink>

Questions? Contact Katie, Project Lead for the Memory Cafe Expansion Project- karenadz@uw.edu / (206)685-6749

Starting in 2026, the UW Memory and Brain Wellness Center will work with community partners to launch the Memory Cafe Expansion project. We invite you to join! Learn more by visiting <https://depts.washington.edu/mbwc/resources/memory-cafes-wa>



CamanoCenter
Get connected.

UW Medicine
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

MEMORY & BRAIN
WELLNESS CENTER

Camano Friends Club

Volunteer Companion & Activity Partners Wanted

At Camano Friends Club, we believe that meaningful relationships and activities should be accessible to everyone, regardless of cognitive changes. We are looking for compassionate and patient individuals who are willing to be in the present moment with our members.



An Average Day Looks Like:

- Coffee & Conversation
- Stretching & Walks
- Brain Games
- Creative Process Activities
- Lunch
- Movement Activities
- Music



Camano Friends Club

Assist:

- Facilitate conversations
- Encourage members to engage in activities such as music, art, or games
- Serve lunch
- Ease the transition from one activity to the next
- Bond with a member needing extra one-on-one attention

Necessary Skills:

- Be open-minded
- Have a positive attitude
- Patience
- Flexibility
- A willingness to learn and adapt to ever-changing personalities
- Compassion

Additional Details:

- Program Location: The Camano Center, 606 Arrowhead Rd, Camano Island
- Camano Friends Club meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Volunteer time commitment is 6 hours from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. once a week. Partial shifts are also available (preferably twice a month minimum attendance).
- Background check, confidentiality agreement, and a photo release are required for all volunteers.
- Indoor and outdoor activities

A volunteer interest application can be picked up at the Camano Center, 2nd Chance Thrift Shop, or filled-out online at:

www.camanocenter.org/volunteer

Or, stop by or call and talk with our Volunteer Services Manager for more information. phone 360.387.0222



One-On-One Peer Support for Volunteers

Volunteering is meaningful work – and it can also be demanding. At the Camano Center and 2nd Chance Thrift Shop, many of us are balancing our volunteer roles with real-life challenges, such as:

- Caring for loved ones
- Managing personal health concerns
- Changes in mobility or independence
- Major life transitions

These experiences can bring stress, anxiety, and feelings of isolation – even when we are doing things we care deeply about.

Grief Isn't Always What We Expect

Grief doesn't only follow the loss of a loved one. It can also come from:

- Loss of independence or routine
- Changes in roles or identity
- Shifts in relationships
- Declining health
- Unexpected life changes

These forms of grief often go unrecognized, but they can affect our emotional well-being just as strongly. Because your well-being matters, we are introducing a Peer Support Program for volunteers.

What it is:

- Compassionate, non-judgmental listening
- Emotional support during times of stress, change, or loss
- A safe space to talk and be heard

What it is not:

- Clinical counseling or therapy

When:

- Third Tuesday of each month
- Appointments scheduled between 1:00–3:00 pm
- No cost

This service is optional and available to any volunteer who feels it could be helpful. Call (360) 387-0222 to schedule an appointment.

Camano Center & 2nd Chance Thrift Shop Volunteer Facebook Group

For those who may not know, we have a Facebook group for volunteers.

The intention of the group is to encourage sharing of what you and your friends are doing during your volunteer assignments with our organization.

This group also lets us reach out to ask for help when we are running short on volunteers in particular areas.

Please post your great pics or comments as often as you would like. Let's keep it fun and lighthearted.

*This page is for Camano Center & 2nd Chance Thrift Shop Volunteers only.
www.facebook.com/groups/992894578220212/
or scan QR code to join*

