Volunteer Newsletter

Camano Center & 2nd Chance Thrift Shop

Gratitude for the Moments

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 continous growth. We act with a heart of service.

November has a way of reminding us to slow down and think about gratitude. We give thanks for family, friends, good health, and the many blessings in our lives. Here at the Camano Center, it is also a natural time to think about the incredible people who give their time to our organization. But this year, I'd like to look at gratitude a little differently.

What if some of the most valuable things our volunteers give are the very things we never think of to count? Every year, we track volunteer hours, recognize milestones, and celebrate the tremendous amount of work that gets done because people choose to share their time with us. Those numbers matter. They help tell the story of our organization and the difference volunteers make in our community. But they don't tell the whole story.

- There isn’t a place on a timesheet to record the extra five minutes someone spends listening to a person who simply needs to talk.
- We don’t have a category for the laughter shared between volunteers working side by side or the friendships that develop between people who may never have met otherwise.
- We can’t easily measure the reassurance someone feels when a familiar volunteer arrives to drive them to a medical appointment, or the comfort of being greeted by someone who remembers their name.
- And how would we ever calculate the value of the volunteer who notices someone struggling and quietly steps in to help without being asked?

These are the things we don’t count. Yet they may be some of the most important things our volunteers give. There is another side to this that is just as important. Volunteering is not always only about what we give. Sometimes it is also about what we receive without even realizing it.

- A friendship we didn’t expect.
- A reason to get up and go somewhere on a difficult morning.
- A chance to learn something new, feel useful, share a laugh, or be part of something bigger than ourselves.

I have heard volunteers talk about how much their volunteer work means to them, how they look forward to seeing the people they volunteer alongside, and how rewarding it feels to know they are making a difference. That is one of the things I love most about volunteerism: gratitude doesn’t travel in just one direction. Sometimes the person offering help walks away feeling every bit as grateful as the person receiving it.







The Things That Matter Most

This November, I hope we can all take a moment to appreciate the things that never show up in a spreadsheet.

- The kindness that happens when no one is watching.
- ·The friendships that begin with a shared volunteer shift.
- ·The small acts of thoughtfulness that make someone's day easier.
- ·The people who make us laugh, notice when we are having a hard day, or simply help us feel like we belong.

Most of these moments are not grand gestures. In fact, the person making the difference may never realize how much it mattered. So, as we enter this season of gratitude, think about the people and moments that have made a difference in your own volunteer experience. Maybe it is a fellow volunteer, a customer, a program participant, or someone who simply made you feel welcome. And if someone comes to mind, consider telling them. Because while we may never be able to count every meaningful moment, we can make sure those moments don't go unappreciated.

Thank you for being part of a community where some of the smallest acts of kindness leave the biggest impressions.

CAMANO CENTER

Holiday Bake Sale

BAKED GOODS SUGGESTIONS:

Bake sale takes place during the Holiday Craft & Gift Bazaar November 21, 2026

Interested?
Sign up at the front desk.

Please bring items between Thursday, November 19 and Friday, November 20 by 3 p.m.



SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 21
9 AM-4 PM

COOKIES -PACKAGED 6 OR 12
BROWNIES
BERRY TARTS
SUGARFREE ITEMS
SNACK MIXES ~~LIKE CHEX MIX~~
SMALL LOAVES QUICK BREADS
YEASTS BREADS
PUMPKIN ITEMS
INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED ITEMS
SEASONAL ITEMS
SNICKERDOODLES
CHOCOLATE CHIP OR M&M COOKIES
CARAMEL OR FLAVORED POPCORN
GLUTEN FREE BAKED GOODS
HOLIDAY FAMILY FAVORITES

No perishables or items needing refrigeration please.
Package items in small amounts.
Please label items that are gluten free, sugar free or contain nuts.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Current Positions Needing Filled

Camano Center

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.

Meals on Wheels Driver
Help deliver hot meals to Camano Island residents on the south island route. Mileage reimbursement. Time commitment approximately 9:45 am - 11:30 am (every other Monday).

Medical Transportation Driver
Assist Camano residents with transportation to medical-related appointments. Mileage reimbursement provided. Flexible schedule.



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.

Holiday Craft & Gift Bazaar
Location: Camano Center
Saturday, November 21
9 am - 4 pm

All Volunteer Holiday Party
Location: 2nd Chance Thrift Shop
Tuesday, December 8
2 pm - 4 pm
Carpooling recommended

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/

Make a Difference

CAMANO CENTER'S 2ND CHANCE THRIFT

SHOP • GIVE • SUPPORT

CAMANO CENTER



THANK YOU!

Every action helps support our local community.

ROUND UP OR DONATE

Round up your purchase or make a financial donation in-store. Every dollar makes a big impact!

FOLLOW & SHARE

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram and share our posts. Help us spread the word!

VOLUNTEER

Give your time and talents. We can't do it without amazing volunteers like you!

DONATE ITEMS

Donate gently used, good condition items and help give them a second chance to shine!

Improvements coming to our shop in August!

Our older building will soon be receiving some renovations and improvements . We kindly ask for your patience and understanding during this renovation period.

Together, We Build a Stronger Community!

1335 Hwy 532, Camano Island, WA 98282 • 360-629-6142

All proceeds benefit Camano Center programs and services.

Thank you for your support!

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

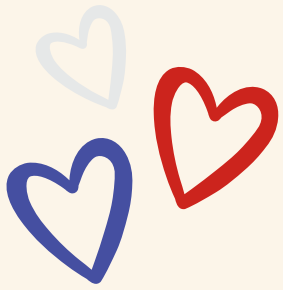
These forms of grief often go unrecognized, but they can affect our emotional well-being just as strongly. Because your well-being matters, we have a Peer Support Program for volunteers.

What it is:

- Compassionate, non-judgmental listening
- Emotional support during times of stress, change, or loss
- A safe space to talk and be heard
- No cost

What it is not:

- Clinical counseling or therapy



This service is optional and available to any volunteer who feels it could be helpful.

Call (360) 387-0222 to schedule an appointment or find out more information.

Volunteer Support Pathways

Where to go for help, growth, information, and support.

You're not alone. We're here to help!

1 Problem Solving



1. Talk with your supervisor.
2. If the issue is not resolved, contact Lisa Brents, Volunteer Services Manager.
3. If more help is needed, talk with the Executive Director, Bonnie Eckley.

2 More Volunteering or a Better Fit



1. Talk with your supervisor or Volunteer Services.
2. Explore extra shifts, substitute roles, special events, or another volunteer position.
3. If interested, ask about leadership, committee, or future board opportunities.

3 Schedule Changes



1. Let your supervisor know as soon as you can.
2. Talk about temporary or ongoing schedule changes.
3. Explore flexible options such as shorter shifts, every-other-week, or substitute volunteering.

YOU
Our Volunteer Community

Helpful pathways when you need support or want to get more involved.

4 Information & Training



1. Review your volunteer handbook and orientation materials.
2. Visit our Volunteer Resource Library: **camanocenter.org/resource-library/#volunteer**
3. Ask Volunteer Services if you need help finding information.

5 Peer Support & Wellness



1. Call the Center at 360-387-0222 to set up an appointment.
2. Reach out if you need support or someone to talk with.
3. Watch for wellness classes and helpful resources in Camano Connections.

6 Stay Connected



1. Read Camano Connections and volunteer emails.
2. Watch for trainings, appreciation events, and new opportunities.
3. Ask questions and stay involved in the ways that work best for you.

Camano Center
Get connected.

Questions?
Lisa Brents, Volunteer Services Manager
360-387-0222 • lbrents@camanocenter.org

Camano Center's 2nd Chance Thrift

We want volunteering to be meaningful, manageable, and rewarding.

2nd ChanceThrift Shop, 1335 Hwy 532

ALL VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY *party*



8 DECEMBER

2pm -4pm
Appetizer-style/drop in
50% off shopping

Parking is limited. Carpooling recommended.