



A Letter from Josh Graves

Josh Graves recently addressed a letter to all employees giving an overview of changes underway to ensure Continuous Quality Improvement, innovation and financial sustainability. Our commitments to open communication, growth and change, and social responsibility can help us through the uncertainty of change and help us to continue to work as a unified team to achieve our mission ***to champion the positive development of children and adults, strengthen families and build community.***

[Learn More](#)

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Mount Angel Community Garden Opens

Mission Benedict has partnered with Marion-Polk Food Share to build a community garden for Mount Angel's residents with the hopes of bringing people together to learn about how to grow food sustainably. The garden is located just behind the St. Joseph Family Shelter and the raised beds will be available at no cost on a first come, first serve basis starting May 1.

This project wouldn't have been possible without support from our partners: Mount Angel Knights of Columbus Council #1767, Abiqua Landscape of Silverton, Habitat for Humanity ReStore of Woodburn, Marion-Polk Food Share of Salem, Northwest Farm Credit Services, Columbia Bank, Kramer's Nursery, Eder Farms and the Portland Nursery.



A Former Father Taaffe Mom Tells Her Story

In 2018, 60 pregnant and parenting young women and teens received the support they needed to protect and nurture their babies. Services and support ranged from providing a safe, stable, nurturing home at St. Brigid, to helping the young moms access pre-natal care and parenting classes in the community. Many served by the program received diplomas, earned their GED or completed trade school and are now employed. Some have reunited with family, and some have moved on to live at the new St. Monica Apartments, where they live more independently but can still access wrap around services and support to meet their babies' needs during the critical early months and years.

[Read More](#)

[Hear Lindsey's Story](#)



Tour the Family Resource and Child Development Center

If you're curious about all the commotion going on next to the Bishop Steiner Building, join Family Resource and Child Development Center Project Manager Chris Jones for a preview. The Center is slated to welcome partners including Salem Keizer Public Schools and Willamette Education Service District this fall. Meet Chris this **Wednesday, May 1 at 1:00pm** in the BSB lobby. All are welcome to tour, no need to sign up or RSVP.

[Read Catholic Sentinel Article](#)



Smoke and Tobacco Free Property Policy

In an effort to create a culture of health and wellness, the Board of Directors recently approved a policy that officially requires all CCS, CCSF and ISN properties and fleet vehicles to be tobacco-free. This policy is in effect and will be enforced starting in May. Please consult your supervisor if you have questions. Nicotine cessation products approved by a doctor will be allowed. For more information about smoking cessation support, visit the Wellness Corner in Ultipro, or contact Marilee Darby at mdarby@ccswv.org if you are interested in joining a tobacco cessation support group.

[View Policy](#)



United Way Plant Sale Event

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our annual Mother's Day Plant Sale! Stop by and pick up a nice plant or potted flower for your mom or someone you love!

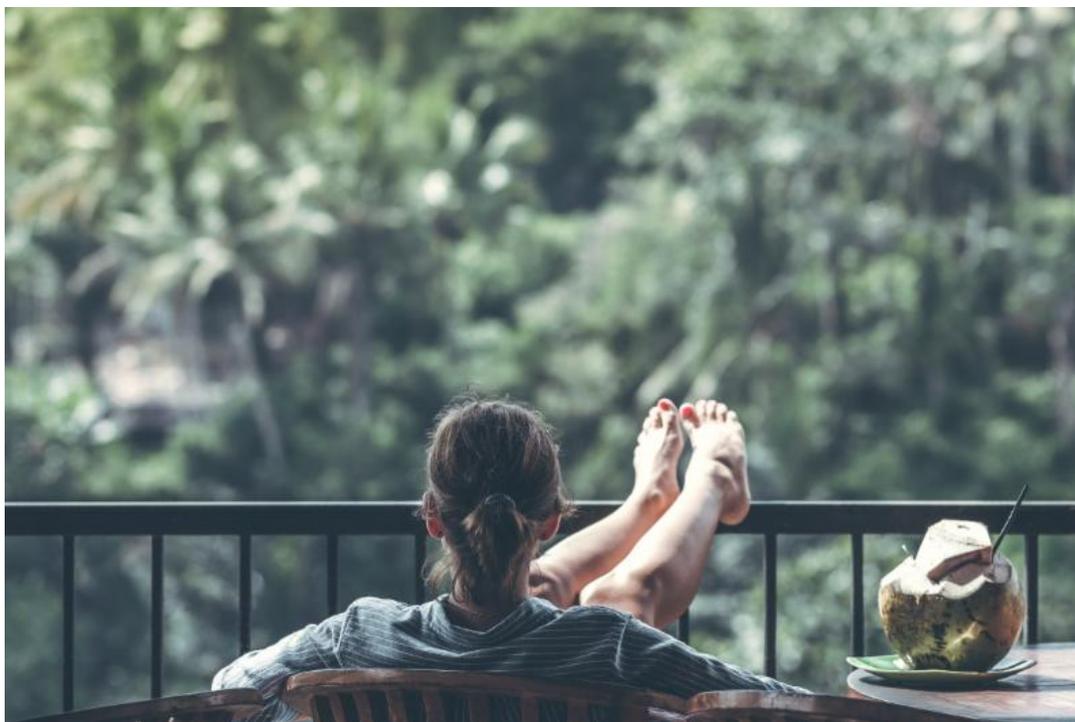
Thursday, May 9

All day

BSB Parking Lot

All our plants are donated so that all funds raised can help our partners at United Way. If you're interested in making a plant donation, contact Marci Holmes at mholmes@ccswv.org. If you're interested in volunteering at the Plant Sale, contact Heidi Frederick at hfrederick@ccswv.org.

[View Flier](#)



Culture of Wellness Corner - Down Shift

Even those living in the Blue Zones® regions experience stress. Stress leads to chronic inflammation, associated with every major age-related disease. What the world's longest-lived people have that we don't are routines to shed that stress. Okinawans take a few moments each day to remember their ancestors, Adventists pray, Ikarians take a nap and Sardinians do happy hour.

[Tips to Destress](#)

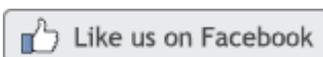


Sanctuary Theme of the Month - Justice ***Through the Lens of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion***

CCS has recently updated its policy language around Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and has a DEI team working to expand our shared knowledge in this area.

To understand the full meaning of the word equity, consider that it is possible for equity to be both a way of thinking and a result of how we think. Equity values "equal outputs" (of performance, achievement, opportunity, resources, etc). Equity assumes everyone starts from different places (in terms of history, experiences, opportunities, resources, etc). In contrast, equality values "equal inputs" (of resources, time, amount, opportunities, etc). Equality assumes everyone begins with "the same" (opportunities, resources, experiences, history, etc). Differentiating and fully understanding the difference between equity and equality enables CCS to promote justice through our policies, programs and practices. It helps us to identify the most vulnerable in our community and provide services in a just, fair and equitable manner.

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