

CHANGING LIVES

The newsletter for the Joyce L. Sobel Family Resource Center



Master Gardeners join together to help with the new Family Resource Center landscaping.

COVID-19 RECAP

It has been a year since JLSFRC geared up to help our community respond to the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the past twelve months, a few of the relief services provided by JLSFRC have included:

- Over 1,300 home deliveries of critical supplies to vulnerable islanders.
- 146 island families helped with emergency rental assistance.
- 5,224 nutritious meals provided to local families with children.
- 600+ hours of Learning Pod instruction and tutoring for elementary and middle school students.
- Free community webinars on managing stress & anxiety, budgeting & personal financial planning, and Strengthening Families parenting classes.



New solar panels were installed to help meet our energy needs.

WAYS TO GIVE

JLSFRC is so grateful for "Island Generosity", and it's lots of fun to see the many ways that generosity is expressed. Here are just a few examples:

- Many generous islanders have shared some of their COVID-19 stimulus payment funds with the Resource Center – it's an effective way to make sure stimulus money truly helps the community recover as quickly as possible.
- Some supporters make contributions via IRAQualified Charitable Distributions - another way to support the JLSFRC and realize tax savings. Please call your individual tax preparer or investment broker for details specific to your financial situation.
- And thanks to one of our island's youngest philanthropists, our center even received a donation from a magical source, when Kate asked the Tooth Fairy to give some money to the Resource Center to help other kids, instead of leaving it under her pillow.



Kate with her letter from the Tooth Fairy

If you would like to support these ongoing programs, please:



<https://www.sjifrc.org/donate>



Matthew takes a break from our Learning Pod to play with Hammy.

CHILDCARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Safe, reliable childcare is one of the most important factors in kids' healthy development and school readiness - not to mention the critical role it plays in allowing parents to work consistently. San Juan Island is lucky to have terrific childcare providers, but big gaps in coverage still remain. For example, the island has no licensed infant care and no centers that provide evening or weekend coverage when many parents have to work.

With grant funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce and the San Juan Island Community Foundation, JLSFRC is leading a community-wide childcare needs assessment to determine the scope of local childcare options, gaps in services and workforce development needs.

With over twenty different community stakeholders serving on the project's advisory board, the ultimate outcome will be a detailed, comprehensive roadmap for increasing childcare capacity and making sure that every local family has access to the care they need.



Landscaping help from community volunteers.

FACILITY UPDATE

Thanks to our generous island community, the newly expanded Family Resource Center building is complete – but the work hasn't stopped there! JLSFRC's commitment to creating a more sustainable, environmentally friendly facility has resulted in many site improvements, including:

- Solar panels to help meet the energy needs of JLSFRC's operations.
- Colorful, fragrant and drought-tolerant native planting.
- Landscape features that create more habitat for beneficial birds and insects.
- A comfortable walkway that encourages pedestrian traffic between the Food Bank, ResourceCenter, Mullis Center and Master Gardener's sites.

Huge thanks to the many volunteers who showed up to rake, dig and plant. Keep your eyes open this spring and summer, as more than 7,500 seeds, bulbs and native plants begin to bloom on the Resource Center grounds!

SUPPORTING NEW PARENTS

The first year of parenthood can be a roller coaster of joy and exhaustion. But imagine what becoming a new parent right in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic is like! JLSFRC continues to provide a wide array of free services for new parents and their little ones, from a bi-monthly Zoom group for new parents to "Curbside Connections", a program that enables families to drive by the Resource Center and pick up packets with activities that promote healthy child development and some de-stressing tips and treats for Moms and Dads.

Call us at **(360) 378-5246** if you'd like to learn more!



Abbie and her baby, Esther.

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Clayton with his Valentine card.

YOUNG ADULT ASSOC. OF SAN JUAN ISLAND

JLSFRC's Young Adult Association of San Juan, more commonly known as YAAS, was formed by a group of alter-abled youth who wanted to create a regular social outlet that was inclusive. Since its beginnings in 2019, the program has grown in members and mission.

Now, the group meets weekly and is aimed at creating an accepting gathering space and performing community service and education projects. Most recently YAAS focused on random acts of kindness such as making Valentines for homebound seniors and advocating for improved public transportation that is wheelchair accessible.

Word of the group has spread to Orcas and Lopez so YAAS hopes to grow an inter-island connection. In short, YAAS is a group of big-hearted young people who are trying to create the kind of community they need and there's no shortage of potential ahead!

For more information, call Delphina at **(360) 378-5246**.



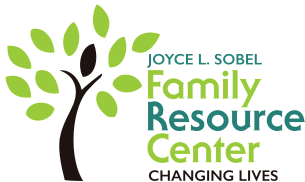
How Can I Help Today?

The following items are on our wish list:

- Caring volunteers for our Island Neighbors and Youth Mentoring Programs
- Do you have a ferry ticket that is set to expire? Please share with the FRC!
- Paper towels for our Household Essentials Program
- Disinfectant wipes for the FRC Learning Pod



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