

TECC NEWS

March 2026

Thurston Early Childhood Coalition

Who we are



TECC is a community based organization who is working together to build and support high quality early care and educational environments for Thurston County children and their families caregivers.

Join us

ALL are Welcome!

9:30AM - 11:00AM
4th Thursday of every month.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82182024692?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82182024692?pwd=9sV77oJrMR82NgaX8VvnNbG0HCvIa0.1)
[VvnNbG0HCvIa0.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82182024692?pwd=9sV77oJrMR82NgaX8VvnNbG0HCvIa0.1)

Meeting ID / 821 8202 4692

Contact

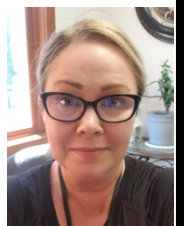


thurstonecc@gmail.com
sthurman@ssp2p.org



360.485.2985

Shawn Thurman
Thurston County Lead



"THE GREATNESS
OF A COMMUNITY IS MOST
ACCURATELY MEASURED BY
THE COMPASSIONATE
ACTIONS OF ITS
MEMBERS."

- CORETTA
SCOTT KING





Meet your 2025/2026 Board

Thurston Early Childhood Coalition (TECC) Monthly Meetings

TECC meetings are held monthly via Zoom, free to attend and open to the public. **Your voice matters!**

If you are a parent, provider, or community member who is passionate about supporting local Thurston County families, we invite you to join us. Come share your ideas, learn about resources, and be part of a collaborative community working to make a difference.



Izi LeMay
Chair



Genrietta Parker
Vice Chair



Trista Houdyshell
Secretary



Kenny Brock
Treasurer



Tom Parnell
Member at Large



Jenny Cimbalnik
Member at Large



Jess Lee
Member at Large



Shawn Thurman
County Lead

If you would like to learn more about TECC, please contact :

Shawn Thurman

360.485.2985 / sthurman@ssp2p.org



WASHINGTON COMMUNITIES for CHILDREN



Thurston County

As part of their commitment to advance the success of all children, **Thurston County Early Childhood Coalition** (TECC) is preparing to host a free, full-day STARS training with lunch, networking, and resource-sharing opportunities for child care providers. In addition to trainings, executive coalition members participated in virtual advocacy week and met with legislative members from across the county. With the fear of benefit cuts, TECC responded by distributing four \$500 mini-grants to organizations providing direct food services to families in need.

Visions for Early Learning (VEL) includes the coalitions serving in the counties of: Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, North Pacific and Thurston.

Our individual coalitions were highlighted in the Washington Communities for Children March newsletter! Get the full story at:

https://www.washingtoncfc.org/news?mc_cid=288a18825f&mc_eid=b1ad14795f



Thurston Early Childhood Coalition



TECC Members Meeting / Thursday March 26, 2026 9:30am-11:00am

- Welcome!
- Please put your name, organization (if applicable) and email in the chat.
- Feedback on STARS hours training
- Guest Speakers- Intercity Transit.
 - Nick Demerice (Chief Marketing Officer) and Izi LeMay (Village Vans Supervisor) will present on anticipated Bus System Redesign.
- Agency updates
- Planning for Suddenly Summer!

Meeting ID: 821 8202 4692 Passcode: 084432

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82182024692?
pwd=9sV77oJrMR82NgaX8VvnNbG0HCvIa0.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82182024692?pwd=9sV77oJrMR82NgaX8VvnNbG0HCvIa0.1)

**For questions or how to learn more about TECC, please contact:
Shawn Thurman sthurman@ssp2p.org / 360.485.2985**



INTERcity TRANSIT

NEXT STOP

This May, we are taking you to your next stop—an improved transit experience!

Bus System Redesign
Schedules and maps are available now.

MARCH GUEST SPEAKERS



The Thurston Early Childhood Coalition is excited to announce that representatives from Intercity Transit will deliver an informative presentation at the upcoming members' meeting on March 26th. This session will spotlight the anticipated Bus System Redesign, set to launch on Sunday, May 3rd, with a special focus on improvements for youth and families in Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, and Yelm.

Nick Demerice (Chief Marketing Officer) and Izi LeMay (Village Vans Supervisor) will present on the enhanced mobility and connectivity offered by the new system. The redesigned bus network will provide extended routes, more frequent service, and safer stops—making it easier for families to reach schools, parks, and community centers. Attendees will gain practical guidance on leveraging these improvements and supporting clients through the upcoming changes.



To ensure a smooth transition, organizations are encouraged to review and utilize the Next Step Service Change Community Partner Toolkit. You can access the toolkit at

<https://www.intercitytransit.com/next-stop-partner-toolkit>.

We invite you to participate as we work together to create a more connected future for youth and families in our communities.

Healthy Boundaries, Healthy Life

Community Conversations with a Therapist

Scarlett-MA, LMFT, CMHP-



- ◆ Join us for free bi-monthly community conversations with Scarlett!
- ◆ Discover how to set healthy boundaries and live a healthy life.
- ◆ Leave each session with powerful tools to support your journey.

Time: 11:00am - 12:30pm

Place: ASHHO Cultural Community Center
5757 Littlerock Rd SW Tumwater, WA 98512
(across from Tumwater Costco)

Donations Appreciated!



SCAN QR
CODE TO
REGISTER

FREE
ENTRY

Save the dates!

- ◆ Feb. 21
- ◆ Mar. 7
- ◆ Mar. 21
- ◆ Apr. 11
- ◆ Apr. 25
- ◆ May 9
- ◆ May 23

Lunch Provided!

Please Register No Later Than 2-Days Before Event Date

ASHHO
CULTURAL COMMUNITY CENTER
come join us

360-918-8625 | info@ashho.org
www.ashho.org



Warm Hearts

Soup Bowl Fundraiser



you're invited!

Creating and supporting high quality early learning opportunities for children.

Invest in early learning programming today and help Child Care Action Council provide high-quality early learning opportunities in our community. The Warm Hearts Soup Bowl Fundraiser supports programming for over 10,000 children and families. Our Warm Hearts luncheon will take place on **May 5th at 11:30 at the Lacey Community Center**. During our event our guests will hear from early childhood education experts, the Child Care Action team and the community we serve to explain our impact. A minimum donation of \$100 is suggested, which includes lunch and your soup bowl to take home.

At Child Care Action Council our mission is to nurture early learning communities through direct family services, ECEAP preschool programs, and professional development for childcare providers. These programs ensure that every child in our region has access to the quality of care they deserve. During this event, guests will hear directly from early childhood education experts and the families we serve to see the tangible impact of this work.




Learn More 



Enjoy:

- ✓ Enjoy Program Updates
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ A discussion on why Early Learning matters

REGISTER NOW!

-  ccacwa.org/events_projects/warm-hearts/
-  For questions please contact CCAC staff at events@ccacwa.org
-  Can't attend the event, but you would still like to make a donation? Visit the QR code above!

Masquerade Gala & Auction

Unmask an unforgettable night of elegance, tasty food and drinks, and inspired giving...all in support of families and survivors.



Saturday, May 2nd

5:30-10:00pm

Capital Event Center
6005 Tye Dr SW,
Tumwater, WA 98512



FREE Drop-In Group



Infant Feeding & Postpartum Support Group

No registration or HOCCM membership required



An evening with best-selling author & parent educator

Barbara Coloroso



**APRIL
2ND**

**6:00PM-
7:30PM**

DOORS AT 5:30

**IN-PERSON
& ON ZOOM**

**FREE
EVENT**

**A CONVERSATION ON BULLYING:
Helping Our Kids Discern Between
Mistakes, Mischief, and Mayhem**

**JAMES KOVAL CENTER FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS**

4155 6TH AVENUE NE
LACEY, WA 98506



Registration is Now Open
www.familyess.org/coloroso



Washington State
Health Care Authority





NEW!

Mom to Mom

In person in Yelm!

Join other moms or female caregivers in a time of companionship to share victories and the hardships that can come with raising a child with a developmental delay or disability.

When: 3rd Tuesday of every month starting April 21st

Time: 11:00AM-12:00

Where: Timberland Regional Library

210 Prairie Park St NE Yelm 98597



To join please visit our website at
ssp2p.org,
use the QR code, or contact Sylvia
Davenport



Sylvia Davenport
Helping Parent/ Transition Director
360.352.1126
sdavenport@ssp2p.org

Sound Parent to Parent is a safe and welcoming space for all families. We do not share personal information with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and immigration enforcement is not part of our events.

South Sound Parent to Parent es un espacio seguro y acogedor para todas las familias.

No compartimos información personal con el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas de EE. UU. (ICE), y la aplicación de la ley migratoria no forma parte de nuestros eventos.



Strong Hearts

Grandparents Support Group



A welcoming space where any grandparent who provides care, support, or guidance, whether they are supporting their own adult child who is raising a child with a disability, or they are directly raising or supporting their grandchild.

Grandparents are the heart of so many families. Strong Hearts is a place to find support, connection, and community with others who understand the unique joys and challenges of your role.

What You Can Expect

- Warm, judgment-free conversations
- Connection with other grandparents
- Tips for navigating services and supports
- A chance to share your story and learn from others
- A space to feel seen, valued, and supported



Group Details

When: First Tuesday of every month at 5:30PM

Where: Virtual

Cost: Free for all families

Registration: Click on QR code or visit www.ssp2p.org

Hosted by: South Sound Parent to Parent (SSP2P)

For questions: Contact Sylvia Davenport 360.352.1126



This group will be facilitated by Kay Richardson and available in Thurston, Mason & Grays Harbor Counties.



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NOW ENROLLING

Lots of Love Daycare & Early Learning Center

Ages 6 Weeks - 9 Years Old

We Proudly Offer:

- State Subsidy Accepted
- Private Pay Options
- USDA Food Program
- STEAM-Based Learning
- Multi-Language Exposure
- Brightwheel App Daily Updates
- Early Achievers Rated Program
- Multi-Child Discount
- Military Discount
- Experience Curriculum



Before & After School Care Available

Bus Pick-Up from Zoned Elementary Schools

- School Breaks & Summer Camp

Schedule a Tour Today!

 **360-539-7321**

 **lodaycarelacey@gmail.com**





Olympia School District

Child Find Notice

- Are you worried about your child's development?
- Does your child have difficulty communicating with people outside the family?
- Does your child have difficulty keeping up with other children their age?
- Does your child have concerning behaviors?
- Does your child have a medical disorder or birth defect that interferes with their development?
- Does the child seem to have hearing or vision issues?

Olympia School District can help! **Any child, birth to five**, whose family has concerns about their child's development and lives within the **Olympia School District Boundaries** can contact our office to receive a free Child Find Screening.

For details visit bit.ly/OSDChildFind or scan the QR Code above.



"If I'm concerned about my child's development, who should I call?"



Research shows that most learning happens in the first 3 years. If you think your child, age birth - three, should be crawling, walking or talking and isn't, please contact South Sound Parent to Parent and schedule a FREE evaluation to see if your child qualifies for early support services. **NO Physician referral required**

For more information or to schedule an evaluation, please contact us at: [360.352.1126](tel:360.352.1126) / www.ssp2p.org



*Proudly serving families in Grays Harbor,
S. Mason & Thurston Counties.*

Bienvenidos a South Sound Parent to Parent!

Si cree que su hijo (de 0 a 3 años) debería gatear, caminar o hablar, pero no lo hace, no se preocupe: ¡estamos aquí para ayudarlo! Obtenga una evaluación GRATUITA hoy mismo. Si recibe asistencia estatal, es posible que reciba todos los servicios sin costo. ¡Comuníquese con nosotros para obtener más información!



Elizabeth Adelman
(360) 352-1126
eadelman@ssp2p.org



SSP2P es un espacio seguro y acogedor para todas las familias.
No compartimos información personal con el Servicio de Inmigración y
Control de Aduanas de EE. UU. (ICE).



Are you a typically developing child or teen?
Do you have a brother or sister with a disability or chronic illness?
Do you feel like you are the **ONLY** person who has a brother or sister with special needs?



... are for you!!

Programs for **typically developing** kids and teens that have a brother or sister with a disability

2026

CONTACT US

SIBSHOPS for 5-17 Year Olds

Saturday, May 9, 2026

10 AM - 12 PM

Mary Bridge Children's
Therapy

**TO GET ON OUR MAILING LIST OR TO
ASK QUESTIONS:**

email ncfriend@multicare.org

Sibshops Program Coordinator

Normajean Friend & Jasmine Wallace

Sample Sibshop curriculum: registration/introductions, games, obstacle course, snack, activity related to sibling issues, crafts, closing circle.

Primary goal: HAVE FUN

www.siblingsupport.org

The Sibshop Program is funded through the Good Samaritan Foundation



TO REGISTER FOR SIBSHOP – May 9, 2026

Register **online** today – www.multicare.org/ctuclasses

click on for patients & families and then click Sibshops

or **Scan the QR code**





Hands On
Children's Museum
INSPIRED LEARNING FOR ALL
WSECU



Spring Break Membership Sale!

\$35 OFF

**ANY Basic *or*
Deluxe Membership**

March 21st - April 19th

Join the
Museum
Today!





**Access to
Baby & Child
Dentistry™**

Give your child's teeth a healthy start.

Access to Baby & Child Dentistry (ABCD) can connect your child with a dentist who knows how to work with young children.

Your child may be eligible for ABCD if they...

- are between birth and age 6
- receive Apple Health (Medicaid) benefits
- and live in Washington state

ABCD provides...

- dental check-ups
- cleanings
- fluoride varnish to protect baby teeth
- fillings and other treatment as needed
- family oral health education about nutrition and home care for your child's oral health

Wondering how to get to the dentist's office?
Need translation during the dental visit? Want more information about caring for your child's teeth?

Get in touch with ABCD today!

Visit abcd-dental.org or DentistLink.org to connect with an ABCD dentist for your child.

Sheena Johnson
ABCD Coordinator
Thurston/Lewis Counties
CHOICE
360-539-7576 ext.103

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Food Pantries

Our Olympia and Lacey Food Pantries offer an indoor grocery shopping experience with the opportunity to choose most items.

Satellites

Our Satellite Food Banks operate in partnership with community organizations around Thurston County. Each satellite distributes a pre-packaged assortment of groceries and/or offers a choice shopping model. Regular food service options include fresh produce, bakery items, ready-to-eat items, frozen meat or plant based-protein, and shelf-stable items.

Please understand that using our Satellites counts towards your twice a month "full" visits and once a week "supplemental" visits.

Mobile Food Bank System

Our Mobile Food Banks provide food service to community members living in low-income housing who may have trouble accessing food bank services. We serve:

Olympia

- Boardwalk Apts
- Capitol House Apts
- Casa Madrona
- Drexel House
- Evergreen Villages
- New Horizon Communities (formerly Quixote Village)
- Olympia Village
- Olympian Apts
- St. Francis House

Lacey

- Magnolia Villa
- The Reserve
- South Sound Villa

Tumwater

- Tumwater Apts
- Tumwater Mobile Estates

Shelton & Yelm

- Shelton Senior Center
- Shelton Veterans Village
- Yelm Adult Community Center

Questions about Satellites or Mobiles? Email RebekahG@tcfb.org or call 360-352-8597 ext. 106

CLIENT SERVICES

In addition to our regular food service, clients may be eligible to receive food from two different federal programs: CSFP and SNAP (see below for information about these programs). Our Client Services Team can help determine if you are eligible and can assist with applications for these programs, either in person or by mail. Applicants for both programs must meet income requirements. CSFP applicants must also show proof of residency in Lewis, Mason or Thurston counties. Assistance is also provided if you are unhoused.

CSFP for Seniors

Commodities Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) serves seniors age 60+ who meet income eligibility requirements (verified annually). Eligible participants receive a 35-40 pound box of shelf-stable food each month that contains: peanut butter, cheese, cereal, rice/pasta, dried beans, juice, shelf-stable milk, canned meat, veggies, and fruit. Pickup location options, as well as limited home delivery options, will be discussed at time of application. Contact Berenice for assistance: BereniceHP@tcfb.org or 360-352-8597 ext. 212

Basic Food (SNAP)

Basic Food (SNAP) provides assistance to purchase groceries. For assistance, contact Client Services at 360-352-8597:

- Lacey Food Pantry**
- Jessica: ext. 206
 - Rosie: ext. 254

- Olympia Food Pantry**
- Berenice: ext. 212
 - Elisea: ext. 253
 - Brenda: ext. 209
 - Grethel: ext. 213

Other Bank

Our Olympia and Lacey Food Pantries offer cleaning and personal care products during the second week of each month. See inside for Other Bank schedule.



Thurston County
FOOD BANK
Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Our Pantries & Satellites



FIND A FOOD BANK LOCATION THAT FITS YOUR NEEDS

- ◆ Site offers CSFP
- 📄 Other Bank
- 🛒 Inside shopping
- 🚗 Drive-through
- 🚌 Closest bus route to site

OLYMPIA

Olympia Food Pantry ◆ 🛒 🚌 any bus
220 Thurston Ave NE | 360-352-8597
Monday*, Wednesday & Friday... 10:30am-3pm
*Closed the 3rd Monday of each month
📄 2nd Wednesdays 10:30am-3pm

Thurston County Resource Hub 🛒 🚌 12, 42, 41
929 Lakeridge Dr SW
360-786-5230
Shelf-stable pre-packed bags of food only
Monday-Thursdays 10am-4pm

The Evergreen State College 🛒 🚌 41, 48
2700 Evergreen Pkwy NW
Basic Needs Center (CAB 135) | 360-867-6137
Students preferred; choice shopping
2nd & 4th Tuesdays 2-4pm

Hidden Creek Community Church ◆ 🚗 🚌 47
1807 9th Ave SW | 360-357-3739
Wednesdays 9:30-11am

Rosie's Place 🛒 🚌 many buses
520 Pear St NE | 360-918-7879
For youth ages 12-24
Fridays 12-3pm

Olympia Senior Center 🛒 🚌 any bus
222 Columbia St NW | 360-586-6181
Serves seniors
3rd Fridays 10:30-11:30am

Church of the Good Shepherd 🚗 🚌 68
1601 North St SE | 360-357-3554
Serves Spanish speakers and all
4th Fridays 12-2pm

LACEY

Lacey Food Pantry ◆ 🛒 🚌 62A
7027 Martin Way E | 360-352-8597
Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am-2pm
2nd Wednesdays - Food & Other Bank 4-6pm
📄 2nd Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am-2pm

Lacey Farm Stand 🛒 🚌 62A
7027 Martin Way E | 360-352-8597
Open select Saturdays* 11am-1pm
*Check calendar at tcfb.org; closed in winter

Lacey Veterans Service Hub 🛒 🚌 62A/B, 66
4232 6th Ave SE, Suite 102 | 360-456-3850
Monday-Friday 8am-4pm

Turning Point Church 🚗 🚌 65
3525 Marvin Rd NE | 360-489-0378
4th Thursdays 1-5pm

St. Andrew's United Methodist 🚗 🚌 62A
540 School St SE | 360-491-2030
4th Saturdays 11am-1pm

Faith Harvest Helpers 🛒 🚌 66
5615 30th Ave SE | 360-459-1444
1st & 3rd Sundays 12-2:30pm

TUMWATER

SPSCC Food Pantry 🛒 🚌 43, 44
2011 Mottman Rd SW
Building 27 | 360-596-5212
Closed during school breaks; choice shopping
Tuesdays 11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesdays & Thursdays 10:30am-3:30pm

Tumwater United Methodist 🚗 🚌 12
1401 Lake Park Dr SW | 360-786-1416
3rd Wednesdays 5-7pm

Mountain View Church 🚗 🚌 13
940 Israel Rd SW | 360-943-0795
2nd & 4th Thursdays 10am-12pm

Tumwater Senior Center 🛒 🚌 13
215 North 2nd Ave SW | 360-754-4160
2nd Fridays 11am-12pm

Northstar Church of God 🛒 🚌 13
6820 Capitol Blvd SE | 360-358-2030
Choice shopping
1st & 3rd Saturdays 10am-12pm

LITTLEROCK

Little Rock United Methodist Church ◆ 🛒
6336 SW 128th Ave | 360-943-4720
Call ahead for availability
Last Tuesday of month 9:30am-12pm

RAINIER

Rainier Chapel ◆ 🛒 🚌 2
204 Binghamton St | 360-446-2614
Thursdays 10:00am-12pm

SHELTON

Faith Lutheran Church 🚗 🚌 6
1212 Connection St | 360-426-8611
Serves Spanish speakers and all
3rd Fridays 1-4pm



SCAN for a map of locations!
Or visit our website for more info:
tcfb.org



WE BELIEVE PARENTS ARE THEIR CHILD'S FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT TEACHER



Parents as Teachers

is a free home visiting program partnering with families to share information, resources and encouragement to support them through their child's most crucial years.

SERVING FAMILIES IN THURSTON AND LEWIS COUNTY FROM PREGNANCY THROUGH AGE 5

- Two monthly home visits**
- Developmental, health and family screenings
- Monthly group connections
- Access to the CYS resource network

At each visit Parent Educators bring activities and information suited to enrolled children's development, while additionally supporting families in creating goals and making connections to community resources.

Play is learning! The activities in our curriculum support language, motor, cognitive, problem solving, and social emotional development.

when possible PAT brings families

BOOKS
DIAPERS
Household and hygiene products
Child proofing and safety supplies
& more

PARENT EDUCATORS CAN SUPPORT FAMILIES WITH

- potty training
- positive discipline
- tantrums
- sleep transitions
- school readiness
- finding dentists, childcare and pediatricians
- building routines
- finding new ways to connect
- creating a safe home
- understanding their child's development and how to support it

PROVEN OUTCOMES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Research shows that when families participate in Parents as Teachers

- Children enter kindergarten ready to learn and the achievement gap is narrowed
- Children achieve school success into elementary grades
- Children's developmental delays and health problems are detected earlier
- Parents improve their parenting knowledge and skill
- Parents are more involved in their children's schooling
- Families are more likely to promote their child's language and literacy



OUR VISION All children will develop, learn, and grow to realize their full potential.

OUR MISSION Promoting optimal early development, learning and health of children by supporting and engaging their parents and caregivers.

OUR APPROACH PARTNER FACILITATE REFLECT

Contact us for more information on getting started!

Ryanne Zielinski, Program Director
(360) 701-2528
rzielinski@communityyouthservices.org

Washington State Department of **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**



UPCOMING EVENTS



If you would like to share flyers on our next newsletter,
please email : Thurston ECC thurstonecc@gmail.com

For more information about how you can be involved in TECC,
please contact: Shawn Thurman 360.485.2985 or email:
sthurman@ssp2p.org