

I fondly remember last year's festive Christmas luncheon, "Merry Grinchmas". The décor was bright and cheerful and the tables were filled with members and guests all in their festive holiday dress. Unfortunately, this year will be different, but the board has been working to plan a virtual event worth attending. Mark you calendar for Monday December 14 @ 11:30 am.

Our November speaker was Dr. Susan Huntington, President and CEO of Boys and Girls Aid. Boys and Girls Aid, founded in 1885 is a nationally recognized social service agency whose program for youth in crisis helps more than 7,500 children throughout the State of Oregon each year. Boys and Girls Aid has been working with children in foster care, helping them to find "forever" homes for 135 years.

Boys and Girls Aid provides an in-house school, adoption services, foster care, respite shelter care, and advocacy for abused children. Additional services include programs to break the cycles of teen pregnancy, family collapse and child involvement in crime. They all place an emphasis on preventing teens from getting into the legal/court system. The availability of counselors 24 hours per day/365 days a year, ensure the effectiveness of these programs.

The typical child in foster care moves at least 15 times, carrying his/her belongings in a trash bag, and with no sense of permanence. Only 3% of foster kids go on to college, many don't graduate from high school. Their risks of homelessness and drug addiction increase if they remain in the foster care system until they "age out" at 18 years of age. Repeatedly the message was: all people want consistency and support from their families ...none of these kids get that. Boys and Girls Aid provide services to stop the cycle.

Many Charbonneau women are members of our Charbonneau Cypress Branch Auxiliary which was organized in 1990. They not only have raised funds in support of Boys and Girls Aid programs but have become involved in its programs by providing gifts, homemade cookies, and meals. If you are interested, you may find more information about this group and how to be involved at <http://cypressonline.org>.

For a little exercise and the ability to meet others, join our walking group any Monday at 1 pm to walk the neighborhood for about one hour. Bring your mask and meet us at Curry's.

And do plan to take a break from your holiday decorating or baking and enjoy a special holiday performance by Basso a Deux with their festive holiday tunes, including holiday classics, carols, and some very merry originals.

If you are not yet a CWA member, please complete a membership application form available on our new web site at www.CWACharbonneau.com or available in the clubhouse coatroom. Place the form in an envelope addressed to Lindy Anderson. along with \$20 dues for the year (covers August 2020 through June 2021). Deposit the sealed envelope in the CCC Drop Box just outside the entrance or mail it directly to Lindy Anderson, 7005 SW Country View Court, West, Wilsonville, OR 97070.

As this season unfolds, hope that it holds all you've been hoping for most.