

WhaleWorks Publication No. 008

Community Partnerships & Volunteer Network

Together We Build Stronger Communities.

Mission

WhaleWorks believes lasting community impact is achieved through collaboration. The Community Partnerships & Volunteer Network connects schools, businesses, nonprofits, civic organizations, volunteers, and families to expand educational opportunities, mentorship, workforce development, and community engagement throughout Grays Harbor County.

Community Need

No single organization can meet every community need alone. Strong partnerships increase access to expertise, volunteers, funding, facilities, internships, and resources while creating a coordinated support system for youth and families.

Strategic Partners

- Ocosta School District
- Whale of a Cone (Workforce Training Partner)
- Local businesses and chambers of commerce
- Community colleges and trade schools
- Technology and creative industry professionals
- Civic organizations and service clubs
- Healthcare and behavioral health providers
- Foundations, corporate sponsors, and individual donors

Volunteer Network

Volunteers serve as mentors, tutors, guest speakers, technology coaches, music instructors, event assistants, career mentors, and community ambassadors. Training emphasizes youth safety, professionalism, inclusion, and positive role modeling.

Three-Phase Funding Strategy

Phase I – Partnership Launch (\$20,000)

Volunteer recruitment, background checks, orientation, outreach materials, partnership development, and community events.

Phase II – Regional Growth (\$75,000)

Volunteer management software, partnership coordinator, expanded school collaborations, employer engagement, transportation support, and annual community leadership summit.

Phase III – Community Leadership Network (\$250,000)

Permanent volunteer and partnership center, leadership academy, regional collaboration hub, expanded corporate sponsorships, and countywide volunteer initiatives.

Expected Outcomes

Goals: Increase volunteer participation, strengthen school and business partnerships, expand internship opportunities, improve family engagement, leverage additional grant funding, and build a sustainable network supporting every WhaleWorks program.

Five-Year Vision: A countywide coalition where education, business, nonprofits, and volunteers work together to help every young person access mentorship, opportunity, and meaningful career pathways.