

JUNE Newsletter



Summer News!

Debbie was recently featured in the Pockets of Possibilities newsletter sponsored by Washington Communities for Children. Debbie's dedication and passion for the children in our community runs deep and wide. Read below to learn more.

Get to Know Debbie Ham

Debbie's career in early education spans over 25 years. Currently, she is the Executive Director of SELF, Support for Early Learning & Families, a non-profit based in Vancouver WA. She also represents Western Washington on DCYF's Early Learning Advisory Council.

Debbie began her career advocating for children when she became a parent of a child with special needs. Early on, Debbie conducted workshops for parents, developed sibling programs and started Clark County's Parent-to-Parent Program at the ARC of Southwest Washington. In the early 90's, Debbie provided leadership in developing and implementing the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program. That program is still operational and is administered at ESD 112. In the mid 1990's, Debbie became the Director of Child Care & Early Learning at ESD 112, overseeing a number of early childhood programs. These programs included Child Care Aware, Parents as Teachers, and Read & Play. In 2001, Debbie was one of the founding members of Clark County's Early Learning Coalition, SELF. In 2010, Debbie accepted the position as Executive Director of SELF. Over the last 11 years she has worked to build partnerships to address the inequities young children and families experience.

Debbie moved to Vancouver, WA in 1990. She and her husband Les raised 5 children (two with special needs) and are thrilled to be the grandparents of 5 amazing children (pictured). Debbie is dedicated to her family and her community. She is passionate about ensuring every child the opportunity to reach their full potential.

More Than A Job...

What I do for a living makes a significant impact. I get up each day knowing that my role will directly influence the children that I support. This is more than a job, it is a way to give back to my community, uplift the next generation and nurture the life of a child.

Will you join us? Apply today.

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Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Grows Fast

Since SELF launched Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Clark, Skamania and Klickitat counties in September, nearly 5,000 children, age birth to five, have signed up to receive a free hardcover book each month.

It starts with "The Little Engine that Could," and ends with "Look Out, Kindergarten, Here I Come!" In between are such titles as "Baby Sounds," "Llama, Llama, Red Pajama," and "Corduroy," each book geared to the child's age.

This is all made possible by donors like the Ed and Dollie Lynch Fund who understand the benefits of reading for young children. For just \$25 for one year, you can open worlds to a child with 12 well-chosen books. We are grateful for donors who know that kids thrive who read early and often.

To donate to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, or to sign up your child, click the button below.

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