2025 Impact Report

Serving 10,000+ Nonprofits Since 1989

501 COMMONS

We all rise when nonprofits thrive. 501 Commons **amplifies the strengths of nonprofits**—so ALL people and communities flourish.

Boldly Stepping Forward

When organizations partner with 501 Commons, they don't face challenges alone. They gain a trusted ally. We're a foundational support that stands beside them when resources are scarce and uncertainty is high. 501 Commons always has their back. Because we do, nonprofits can continue serving their communities with impact driving momentum.

Time and funding is always tight. Even as many of our nonprofit partners face budget and staff cuts, the demand for their missions grows. They turn to 501 Commons to stand in that gap between limited resources and expanding need. **Our finance, human resources, management consulting, and technology services deliver customized expertise from seasoned professionals at a fraction of the cost of hiring full-time or part-time staff**. And when nonprofits need to reimagine their future, beyond what overextended teams can manage alone, 501 Commons consultants and Executive Service Corps members step in. Our affordable, high-impact support helps chart and execute a clear path forward.

None of us succeeds alone. Each of us stands on the foundation built by family members, teachers, mentors, and advisors who believed in us and invested their time and wisdom. In the same way, thousands of nonprofits across Washington State and beyond have been able to grow, adapt, and endure because 501 Commons and donors like you were there when it mattered most.

In this report, you will see the real-world impact of this partnership:

- How our HR team provided critical stability to Friends of the Children–Seattle during a period of staff reductions and leadership transition.
- How our financial services brought consistency and confidence to Sound Employment Services' small but mighty team.
- How two Executive Service Corps members helped revitalize the board of The Hamlet in Lopez Village, positioning the organization for renewed vitality.

Today, the nonprofit sector is facing the most challenging conditions in generations. Funding streams are experiencing seismic shifts. Long-standing philanthropic partners are scaling back or disappearing. Individuals facing economic pressure are often forced to adjust their giving.

Yet the needs in our communities continue to grow. In this moment, the question is not whether support is needed, but how boldly will we step forward.

Your generosity makes it possible for 501 Commons to continue strengthening the organizations that are essential to our local communities. Together, we can ensure that thousands of mission-driven organizations not only survive, but thrive so that the social fabric of our communities holds strong.

With Gratitude

In 2025, 501 Commons received $360,000 in contributions from foundations, companies, and corporations. We have benefited from contracts to provide services to the Washington State Department of Commerce, Pierce County, and King County. Additionally, 200 people have donated – or recommended donor advised fund grants – totaling $216,000, including a $150,000 grant directed by one donor that was critical to restoring our working capital this fall. More than 1,700 people also left small "tips" to support GiveBIG when they donated on the Washington Gives website.

Philanthropic support from foundations, companies, and individuals will always be essential to keeping 501 Commons' services accessible to the diverse organizations and leaders we serve. While nonprofits using our services provide 90-95% of our annual budget, services like GiveBIG/Washington Gives, Nonprofit Advisory Services, training programs, and discounted management consulting depend upon continuing support from foundations, companies, and individuals. Please visit wagives.org/501-commons and make a contribution to maintain these services in 2026.

Foundation Supporters

Kirkpatrick Family Fund
Lorna Jordon Foundation
Medina Foundation
Norcliffe Foundation
Seattle Foundation
TomKat Foundation
Peg and Rick Young Foundation

Corporate Giving

Amazon
Apex Law Group
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King County
Pierce County
Washington State Department of Commerce

The Hamlet in Lopez Village: Clarified Roles and Plans Energize the Board

For seniors 55+ who call Lopez Island their home, The Hamlet is a welcoming place in the heart of Lopez Village where they can continue to experience the inclusive community they have come to enjoy.

Like many nonprofit organizations, The Hamlet went through significant board turnover, creating a situation where many members were unfamiliar with the organization's mission, programs, and operational needs. This, in turn, made governance and planning for the future challenging.

The Hamlet, led by executive director Heather Harrison, had to change. They reached out to 501 Commons for assistance.

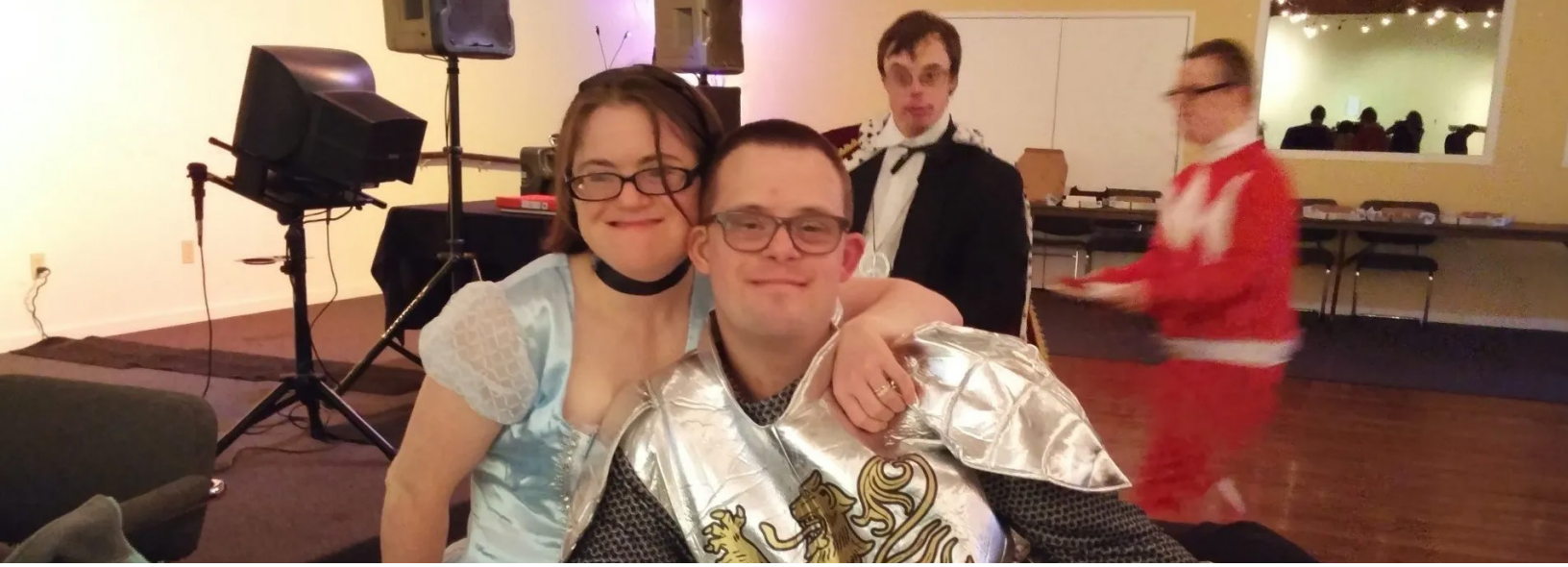
We paired them up with two of our star consultants, Charles Bookman, and Mike Harbor, who worked with The Hamlet on three projects to shore up their board leadership and governance.

They helped their board clarify its mission, define board responsibilities, and job descriptions, and lead them through a comprehensive strategic planning process.

"Since working with 501 Commons, our board has made significant progress," Heather says. **"Regularly reviewing and using our strategic plan has helped stabilize staffing, strengthen our financial position, and better prepare us to address long-term challenges facing the Hamlet community."**

Heather and board chair Barbara Orcutt both expressed appreciation for Charles's and Mike's deep knowledge of board roles and responsibilities and awareness of resources available to organizations like The Hamlet.

"Their guidance was both practical for our nonprofit (such as taking into account the unique challenges of operating on an island), while remaining grounded in nonprofit best practices," Heather and Barbara wrote.



Sound Employment Services: Staff Focus on Their Mission While 501 Commons Finance Experts Handle the Numbers

Mary Jo Webster, executive director of Sound Employment Services, does not consider herself to be a "numbers person." Thankfully, our Financial Services team has bookkeepers and accountants who can make budgeting and management easier.

"Having everything on a spreadsheet, line by line, really allowed me to see exactly where our money was going and how changes affect us," Mary Jo says. "I've never been given that before."

Sound Employment Services helps people with disabilities find jobs and advance in careers that fulfill their needs and aspirations. Some of their clients have been affiliated with the organization for 40 years. They have a small but mighty staff of four, which is why SES has partnered with 501 Commons since 2018 for bookkeeping and fiscal management.

Mary Jo appreciates working with Charlotte Moss, Financial Services Associate. **"It's been great. She's very quick to respond and she makes sure we get our needs met,"** Mary Jo says. **"It's been a very successful relationship."**

SES' job coaches and educators can focus on helping people with disabilities land fulfilling careers while Charlotte takes care of the books.

Friends of the Children – Seattle: More Hopeful Thanks to Our HR Team

When students in the Pacific Northwest need a long-term mentor who will walk with them through the ups and downs of life, they can depend on Friends of the Children – Seattle to be there for them.

When Friends-Seattle needs HR expertise, they know they can depend on 501 Commons to reliably provide it.

For several years, our HR consultants have helped Friends-Seattle by providing a fair process for staff grievances, addressing disciplinary issues, crafting performance improvement plans (PIP), facilitating medical benefits enrollment, and providing staff training.

This past spring was especially difficult for the organization. Friends-Seattle navigated staff reductions, financial instability, and the departure of their executive director. However, Tamara Corn, Friends-Seattle's Senior Operations Manager, credits 501 Commons' Claudia Malone, Danielle Lyda, and Chris Carpenter with helping them get through this difficult stretch of time.

"I think that we have a newly refined outlook," Tamara says. **"We now feel a lot more confident that we will be around and that our mission will still serve our community."**

Edgar Masmela, Friends-Seattle's Deputy Director, appreciates that our HR experts are available to lend a helping hand.

He has seen tremendous progress within the organization because of partnering with 501 Commons.

"Our policies are tighter, cleaner, and more intentional. They're not 'cookie-cut,' but rather tailored to the work we do," Edgar says. "We hire our staff to be mentors and ask them for a 12-year commitment. As you can imagine, we need a lot of policies and safety procedures. Having the ability to shoot an email to Chris or Danielle, regardless of the issue, has been a huge asset."

Today, the organization's new executive leadership has hit the ground running. They hope to expand the organization's work through creative community partnerships. Friends-Seattle saw turmoil as an opportunity to regroup, refocus, and refine their strategic approach. They are dedicated to putting children who face obstacles on the right path.

In Their Own Words

IT Services

"501 Commons has helped us transition from a local server to the cloud and we couldn't be happier with how the process went and the abilities we now have in this new remote world."

– Kayla McKinney (Communities In Schools of Washington)

Data Solutions

"As Kidsave adopts Salesforce as our primary data application, 501 Commons offers the knowledge and expertise to guide us through the transition."

– Jeff Henderson (Kidsave International)

Cybersecurity Training

"Thank you so much for paying attention to the needs of nonprofits like mine who need a stepping stone in cybersecurity. The trainings provided were really essential in helping me set up a presentation to begin shifting the mindset of protective measures being too daunting, to there are very easy ways to improve our habits and mindset on cybersecurity."

– Cam Tu Nguyen, Volunteer & Student Success Manager at Northwest Education Access

Nonprofit Advisory Services

"Our nonprofit had no funds budgeted for a professional review, and Greg at 501 Commons stepped right in to help us update our language and make sure we were meeting state requirements with accuracy and circumspection. He had several great suggestions and corrections that hadn't even occurred to us, and we now have a much stronger, clearer document that should serve for years to come."

– Nancy Rudel, Board President at DuPont Historical Society

Thank You

When you give to 501 Commons, you don't have to choose among all the causes that matter to you. Your single contribution strengthens 2,000 nonprofits each year, multiplying your impact across all the issues you care about. Your gift fuels:

- Free advisory services
- Low-cost quick consults
- Sliding-scale management consulting
- Affordable learning programs

wagives.org/501-commons

Your support ensures that nonprofits across our state can continue serving the communities we all care about.