



# 2023 IMPACT REPORT



Art by talented, anonymous children at CCR



# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



2023 saw growth and engagement that we could only have dreamed of when The Village first opened its remodeled doors as many were closing in the spring of 2020. As Director, I am humbled by the collective strength of our supporters, staff, partners, and most of all: **our community members.**

This is at a time when we have also faced **unprecedented challenges** for our neighborhood. Our community grows faster than ever before with an increase in asylum seekers and refugees who come to us fleeing violence and trauma, while facing **displacement pressures** with the incoming light rail. We see a continued rise in requests for guidance in the complicated world of **immigration assistance**, while available resources are scarce. Our community voiced the need for us to be an advocate for **after school programs, healthcare access, and legal support.**

More than ever, our community needed a safe, welcoming, trusted, multicultural space to access resources, to connect, and to **experience joy.**



In the span of one year, we forged and fostered **partnerships** with more organizations that share our values than we ever thought possible. Coordinated Care is now onsite weekly to help residents—particularly children—access **affordable healthcare.** House of Wisdom brings expertise in culturally relevant after school **tutoring.** We host Snohomish County Legal Services monthly with an onsite **legal clinic** for housing law. And, our partnership with Sound Experience resulted in 33 Casino Road youth being able to **sail the Puget Sound** and around the San Juan islands this year.

It is impossible not to be motivated for the coming years with these standout partnerships, a **highly engaged community** that guides everything we do, fully dedicated staff, and clear results showing that we are making a difference to the people of Casino Road.

We see a future where everyone feels heard, connected, and empowered to become their own agent of change. Thank you for supporting our community. Together, we are **building on the momentum of 2023** to bring more programs for children, education support, equitable opportunities, and so much more to the residents of Casino Road.

Alvaro Guillen  
Director



# OUR MISSION & APPROACH

Through inclusive, innovative, and transformative collaboration, Connect Casino Road identifies, champions, resources, and **brings to life the vision and dreams of the Casino Road community.**



## Partnerships

Through **our partnerships**, we strive to build a safe, supportive, and resilient community where everybody thrives and reaches their full potential.



## Case Management

With a two-generational approach and trauma-informed practices in our **family case management program**, CCR works together with families to overcome generations of oppressive systems.

## Advocacy

We approach our **advocacy** work by amplifying the community's voice, rather than speaking for them.

## Our Vision: thriving families & a resilient community

In our Casino Road community, **families feel important, valued, and listened to.** We are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy. **We experience joy every day.** We are empowered to advocate for what we need, what we desire and what we dream of.

**Families choose to live here to transform their own lives and to become agents of change.** All of us feel interconnected, supported, and like we belong regardless of race, age, gender, language, culture or ability.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS



Attendees at our annual Summer Carnival **grew 3 times** this year to over 1,000.



Our Community Room was booked for residents' celebrations nearly **every weekend** over the summer.



Our community resource navigator became full-time, seeing **between 45-75** community members each month.



CCR and the Community Foundation of Snohomish County are among the **first nonprofits in the region** to adopt a living wage model. Under this model, we added 3 new full-time positions.



Our Wintertide event saw almost **400 attendees**, and more than **250 local children** received gifts from our free wintertide "shop."

# PARTNERSHIPS



We partnered with **House of Wisdom** to launch **weekly tutoring for K-12 students** in the Mukilteo School District. This program had consistent attendance of 10-35 students, even during the summer months.

**33 Casino Road youth** had the opportunity to sail to the San Juan Islands with our longstanding partner, **Sound Experience**. Together, we recruited two youths from the neighborhood to intern on the boat, giving them the opportunity to exercise leadership and work more closely with the crew.



At the beginning of 2023, **Coordinated Care** began offering **onsite healthcare and health system navigation**. They also sponsored two well-being events: a soccer camp for youth and a women's wellness event. With new state laws on health insurance access for the undocumented, this service is critical for many of the families, **reaching 50 people each month**.





We established a partnership with **Edmonds Center for the Arts**, which gives **low-income families access to culturally relevant events**. Many families in our neighborhood don't own a car, but this partnership offered transportation. Feedback from families have been overwhelmingly positive and supports our belief that arts activities are important social connection opportunities. In total, **ECA provided 27 tickets** to amazing shows!

In partnership with **ChildStrive**, we hosted **monthly mindfulness classes** for Latino parents held in Spanish.

Twice monthly **college and career navigation** became available to low-income youth ages 16-29 through our partnership with **Northwest Education Access**.

We also supported workshops to **help families learn about and apply for college financial aid**.



Families and youth participated in **local guided hikes and park days** with our partner, **Glacier Peak Institute**. Activities even included foraging for edible native plants!



The popularity of our onsite food bank, operated with **Volunteers of America**, increased to **900 visits a month** in the final quarter of 2023.

We collaborated to provide more multilingual promotion and to offer more **fresh, culturally relevant foods**.

# CASE MANAGEMENT



Your support of Connect Casino Road has a **real, deep impact** on the lives of our friends and neighbors.

In our **All Families Are Ready (AFAR) mentoring and counseling program**, 60 low-income Casino Road families—including **over 150 children**—work with a bilingual mentor on individual goals. They build confidence and develop tools for stability and self-sufficiency. As we work with these families, **we are in awe of their strength and resiliency**.

## In Their Words



Elizabeth joined AFAR in 2019 with her family of 4. As a single mother, **she was looking for skills to become more financially stable, communicate better with her teenage son, and advocate for her daughter** who was struggling in school.

Her mentor connected her to our onsite mental health partnership with ChildStrive. She attended counseling and parenting classes, improving communication with her son.



*Mental health was the area that helped me the most...they helped me identify certain emotions and I was able to work on them to be able to **understand, love and value myself**.*

Elizabeth, her mentor, and her counselor advocated for her daughter in school, getting her an Individualized Education Program.

Her mentor also directly connected her with Everett Community College to increase her marketable skills.

During her time in AFAR, Elizabeth grew her confidence and developed healthy habits and leadership skills—not only for herself but for her children, too.

**Elizabeth went on to coordinate a group of AFAR mothers focusing on women's empowerment and advocating for their children in the school system.**



*Here the **abundance of tools, patience, compassion, and love** that they gave me was what helped me...to be able to give those tools to my children. **First to me, and then the children.***



## Case Management

# OUTCOMES



### 24 families

showed an overall improvement in their family development as measured across 5 domains, including health and financial stability.



### 27 parents

showed decreased feelings of stress and being overwhelmed, and increased ability to manage stress and cope.



### 40 children

showed increased interest and positive play with other children.



### 25 families

reported the highest possible score for strong and supportive connections to the community.



### 32 families

reported the highest possible score for positive, supportive, and loving relationships within the home.

# Case Management HIGHLIGHTS



## Two-generational approach

Services are available to each member of the family with the goal of strengthening the entire unit.

We hosted two large events in 2023 focusing on giving families time to connect with their neighbors, with an emphasis on children's activities. From games at our Carnival to a musical storyteller at our Wintertide event, we set the stage for children to **come together and experience joy** at our community center.



**29 families** in this program participated in **bilingual mental health services** available to this program in partnership with **ChildStrive**, in addition to **parenting and mindfulness classes** available to all.

**The Woodland Park Zoo** donated tickets to AFAR families. At least 52 individuals had the opportunity to visit the zoo.



**Imagine Children's Museum** donated 16 annual passes to AFAR families.

Basic **computer classes** taught by an experienced volunteer were provided exclusively to AFAR families last winter. 8 families completed the series.



# ADVOCACY



Our advocacy work centered on two major themes last year.

**First**, during the planning of the Light Rail’s extension to Everett, **CCR continued to be a fierce advocate against the direct displacement of the Casino Square business plaza across from our community center.** This cultural asset is home to **25 minority-owned—and largely immigrant owned—businesses.** It is also a highly desirable site for a light rail station.

CCR engaged the community to hear their thoughts on the station’s placement and circulated a petition letter reflecting the neighborhood’s desire for a station across the highway. **More than 400 residents signed on, and a separate petition letter was signed by two dozen service providers.** We are proud of how **our advocacy kept the community’s preferred location** as an option during this complex process.

Watch our advocacy video, *“Away from Casino”*



SCAN HERE



With the support of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), **CCR and a Casino Square business owner attended a small-business anti-displacement conference in D.C.** to stay on the cutting edge of anti-displacement action.

We continue to support organizations like Homes and Hope Community Land Trust and LISC in their community engagement efforts as they make **incredible progress on affordable housing in the neighborhood.** Additionally, CCR is pursuing new partnerships to **help families with financial stability and employment** in hopes we can further reduce residential displacement.



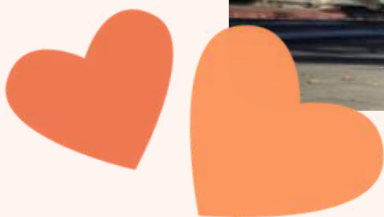
# ADVOCACY



**Second**, CCR has continued to advocate for **language access**.

Around 50% of Casino Road community members prefer to speak a language other than English at home, yet we continue to see that applications, websites, and tools for receiving services are not translated into other languages. **This systemic barrier excludes members of this community who most need support.**

We are working with multiple agencies to make their resources more accessible, and **we were successful in advocating for Snohomish County to translate voting pamphlets into Spanish.** While we continue to pursue systems-level victories like this one, we are keenly aware of the importance of bilingual resource navigation for non-English speaking community members.



# 2024 AND BEYOND

Our partnerships will continue expanding in 2024 to address a wider range of resources requested by the community.



**Preventative healthcare** is a priority, and we are thrilled to be bringing Medical Teams International onsite for a **free mobile dental clinic** and Lahai Health for **free primary healthcare**.



By the end of 2024, we aim to **expand our AFAR case management program to 75 families**, working individually with the most vulnerable families in our neighborhood.



By the end of 2025, our goal is to extend our community center hours into the evening to make **resource navigation more accessible to community members working during the day**.

**This resilient community deserves spaces and programs that are responsive to their challenges and aspirations.** That's why we dedicated so much time in 2023 to grow our team, partnerships, and outreach so that we can play our part in this vibrant neighborhood's story.

**The Casino Road community is at the heart of our work.** Alongside regular listening sessions, **we are actively brainstorming with community leaders** on how they would like to be involved in decision-making for our organization.

Together with the community, we strive towards a Casino Road neighborhood where **all families feel interconnected and supported to become agents of change.**

# PLANNING OUR PROGRESS

CCR is a fiscally sponsored organization under the Community Foundation of Snohomish County. We could not be more grateful for the continued support and guidance of the Community Foundation.

To continue our journey, CCR is in the process of becoming an independent 501c3 organization. **We plan to be independent by 2026.** This will allow us more flexibility in fundraising, program establishment, and responsiveness to community needs.

**Donations to CCR through the Community Foundation of Snohomish County are and will remain tax-deductible** under 501c3 regulations. Together with the Community Foundation, we are planning each step for a gradual and smooth transition.





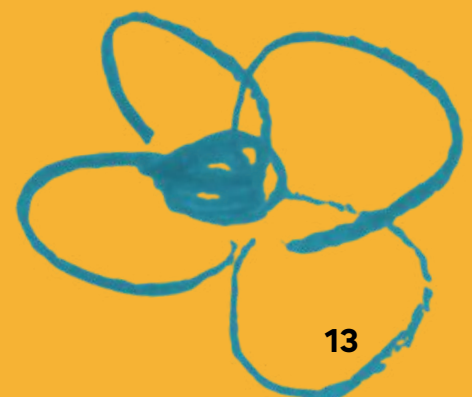
# THANK YOU

Our biggest thanks to the individuals and organizations who have supported us in the past year. **YOU** are the driving force that brings resource navigation, college-credited English classes, legal clinics, education support, healthcare navigation, and JOY to our community. Thank you.

## Get Involved

There are a lot of ways to make a difference together with the Casino Road community. Here are some places to get started:

- **Come in for a personal tour** of our community center campus. See for yourself how your involvement with our programs and partnerships impact the families. Reach out to Genna Kilduff at [genna@cf-sc.org](mailto:genna@cf-sc.org) or (425) 320-5220 to schedule
- **Volunteer** at one of our community events like Wintertide or our summer Carnival
- **Empower the community** and our innovative partnerships, space, and programs:





**CONNECT**  
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