

The Washington Caregiver Co-op Chronicle



INTRODUCING WASHINGTON HOMECARE COOPERATIVES - A SECONDARY CO-OP

Washington State has made its mark throughout the nation as being the home to five caregiver owned home care co-ops, with three of the five co-ops launching only in the past five years. Now our beloved home care co-ops are coming together to create the first state-wide home care co-op network- Washington Homecare Cooperatives!

Washington Homecare Co-ops (WHC) is a secondary co-op - meaning it is a co-op of all our 5 homecare co-ops! Our network of the caregiver co-ops is democratically directed by each member co-op to provide services such as mutual aid and support, a robust training program, group marketing, and offering professional development and networking opportunities to allow all of the caregiver co-op members to come together and share in this community. Currently the WHC Board is made up of all 5 homecare co-op Administrators: President: Kippi Waters of PHC; Vice President: Paulette LaDouceur of CHC; Kathie Rivas of HHC;

Newsletter Highlights

Introducing Washington Homecare Cooperatives (WHC)

Save the date! Caregiver co-op events, trainings and more

Caregiver Corner - Submissions welcome!

The 2024 Nat'l Homecare Co-op Conference

Meet our state's Caregiver Co-ops!

Developments from the NWCDC - New Projects and Updates

Caregiver Careers and Caregiver Resources Library

Safety First- Caregiving Safety Tips



GETTING TO KNOW WHC

[CONT..] Treasurer: Alicia Champion of RHC and Member-at-large: Kathy Conners of COL. Together this group has worked over the last 2 years to incorporate this co-op, apply (and be awarded) a grant to develop a website and logo and now are currently working on creating a caregiver training program!

Our individual homecare co-ops are small and we are competing with some big players in the homecare industry. For example, Right at Home is a 21.2 million dollar company which franchises local agencies.

While we are small individually, together we make up about 100 Washington caregivers. The homecare industry is projected to keep growing through 2030 and we hope to keep growing our 5 homecare co-ops and starting more throughout Washington State.

Over the coming months the WHC Board will be reaching out to caregivers and finding out how the WHC can best serve YOU, our membership.


If you have questions about WHC, please ask your Administrator or feel free to reach out to Deborah Craig- Deborah@nwcdc.coop

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to empower Washington State caregivers through cooperative membership, training, education, and support.

OUR VISION

Our vision is a world where caregivers are inspired, respected, and fairly compensated in worker-owned cooperatives.



SAVE THE DATE!

RIDGELINE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON- FEB 14 | SEQUIM

RIDGELINE ANNUAL MEETING- FEB 17 | PORT ANGELES

PENINSUSLA ANNUAL MEETING - FEB 22 | PORT TOWNSEND

CAPITAL HOMECARE ANNUAL MTG - FEB 25 | CHEHALIS

CIRCLE OF LIFE ANNUAL MEETING - FEB 29 | BELLINGHAM

RIDGELINE WORKFORCE JOB FAIR- FEB 27 | PORT ANGELES

[NWDC GOVERNANCE TRAINING PART 1 - MARCH 4 | VIRTUAL *](#)

[NWDC GOVERNANCE TRAINING PART 1 - MARCH 5 | VIRTUAL *](#)

NAT'L HOMECARE CO-OP CONFERENCE - MARCH 6-8 | DULLES VA

[NWDC GOVERNANCE TRAINING PART 2 - MARCH 18 | VIRTUAL *](#)

[NWDC GOVERNANCE TRAINING PART 2 - MARCH 19 | VIRTUAL *](#)

PENINSUSLA ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE- APRIL 15 | PORT TOWNSEND

RIDGELINE SPRING FLING BAZAAR- APRIL 27 | SEQUIM

**click on training date to learn more*

2024 NAT'L HOMECARE CO-OP CONFERENCE - WHO'S GOING?



The **National Home Care Cooperative Conference** is one of the highlights of the year for people who believe worker-ownership offers better jobs for caregivers and better care for clients. This conference was put together for caregiver-owners of homecare co-ops, and each year the conference offers **two scholarships to each co-op** so they can send two members, expenses paid, to meet the national homecare co-op community and experience group education, training and celebrate our national impacts together. Here's who's attending this year!

Peninsular Homecare Co-op: Robin Errichetti, Kori Stonhill, Kippi Waters

Capital Homecare Co-op: Scott Dison, Paulette LaDouceur, Madison Delp-McCrary

Heartsong Homecare Co-op: Kathie Rivas, Katherine Hager, Tammie Hager, Alisha Rivas

Ridgeline Homecare Co-op: Carol Baker, Karen Henning

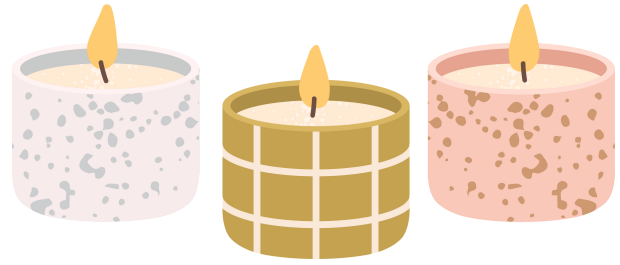
Circle of Life Caregiver's Co-op: Jamie Gerity, LeAnne Miller

Interested in attending the 2025 National Homecare Cooperative Conference?

Let your administrator and board know!

CAREGIVER CORNER

Notes, updates, op-eds, stories,
and success stories from our
cooperative caregivers!



A note from the Peninsula Homecare Co-op Chair of the Board:

“Working on a strong care team makes all the difference. When team members communicate with each other and our clients, we are all able to share experiences and observations to come together in a truly collaborative manner. This optimizes care team effectiveness and engages clients in the process of their care. My experience with PHC, as a member of strong, collaborative teams, has been the best employment experience of my life. I have grown in my capacity as a team member, a leader, and caregiver. Most importantly, I know the collaboration and cohesiveness of our care teams allows us to provide the best possible care to our clients.”



Robby Kilcullen
Board Chair, Caregiver-Owner
Peninsula Homecare Cooperative



Caregiver call to action! Submissions welcome!

Do you have something to contribute to the
WHC Spring Chronicle? We want to hear from you!

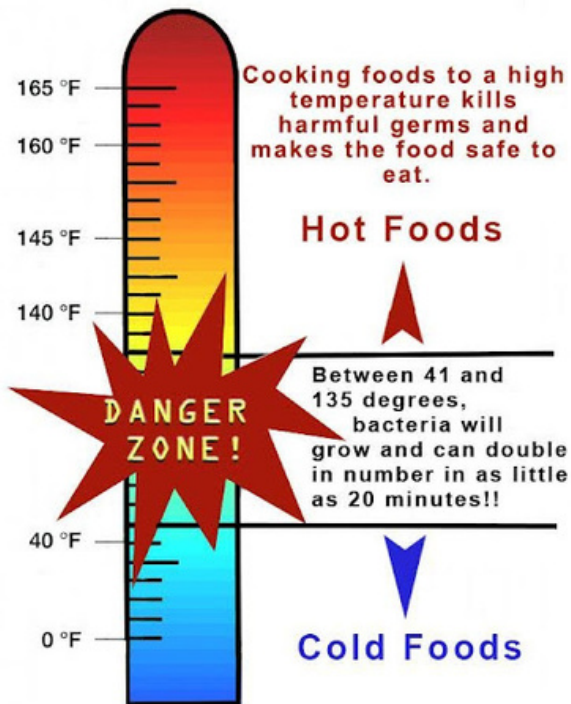
Be it an op-ed, a story you want to share, news and policy updates, a
challenge you overcame, a poem, all entries are welcome!

Please send submissions to nora@nwcdc.coop



CAREGIVER SAFETY CHECKPOINT- STAY IN THE KNOW SO YOU'RE SAFE ON THE GO

SAFETY IN THE KITCHEN -THE DANGER ZONE



Certain foods, called 'potentially hazardous foods', are more likely to cause foodborne illness if stored at improper temperatures. These foods must be kept hot at 135°F (or above) or kept cold at 41°F (or below) to ensure safety. Foods stored between 41°F and 135°F are considered in the DANGER ZONE and are unsafe to serve to your clients. Common potentially hazardous foods include meat, poultry, eggs, fish, cooked starches, cooked vegetables, sprouts, cut melons, cut tomatoes, and cut leafy greens.

Are there food thermometers in the kitchens where you cook for your clients? This may be a good goal for your cooperative to obtain!

**Tip courtesy of Kippi Waters, PHC*

Check out Peninsula Homecare's blog for a chart on safe minimum cooking temperatures.



Meet Washington's Home Care Co-ops!



Meet Circle of Life Caregiver Cooperative

Circle of Life Caregiver Cooperative opened its doors in 2009, and is the oldest and largest home care cooperative in Washington State. As is often the case, Circle of Life Caregivers Co-op, was started from necessity. A woman needed help taking care of her elderly father and she called out to other women for help.

Today, the cooperative is enjoying a time of growth. Circle of Life continues to provide high-quality in home care to Whatcom County's elders as well as grow their membership of caregivers. They currently have over 30 caregivers, the majority of whom are owners of their cooperative.

Meet Peninsula Homecare Cooperative



Peninsula Homecare was the second caregiver-owned cooperative to be established in western Washington. We opened our doors on February 8th, 2016. Our office is in the historic Flagship Landing Building, on the waterfront, in beautiful downtown Port Townsend.

We currently have 17 employees caring for 25 beloved clients. We are a coherent group devoted to our cooperative, our clients, and each other. Our 8th annual meeting is February 22nd where we will hold board elections, celebrate the success of 2023, and look forward to our strategic plans for 2024 - particularly expanding our services to include Care Management.



Meet Capital Homecare Cooperative

Capital Homecare Cooperative has established itself in the community as a source of support for elders and people with disabilities... for the past 6 years. We have recently extended our service area beyond Thurston county to include Lewis, Gray's Harbor & Mason counties. Our expansion project has gotten off to a great start in 2024 and we have been traveling around, forging new partnerships and connecting with many folks. We currently serve 14 caregivers, 10 members and 15 clients.

We are gearing up toward our annual meeting this month, where we will hold our board elections and review how far we have journeyed together the past year, also sharing our collective vision to guide our direction in the coming year!

Meet Heartsong Homecare Cooperative

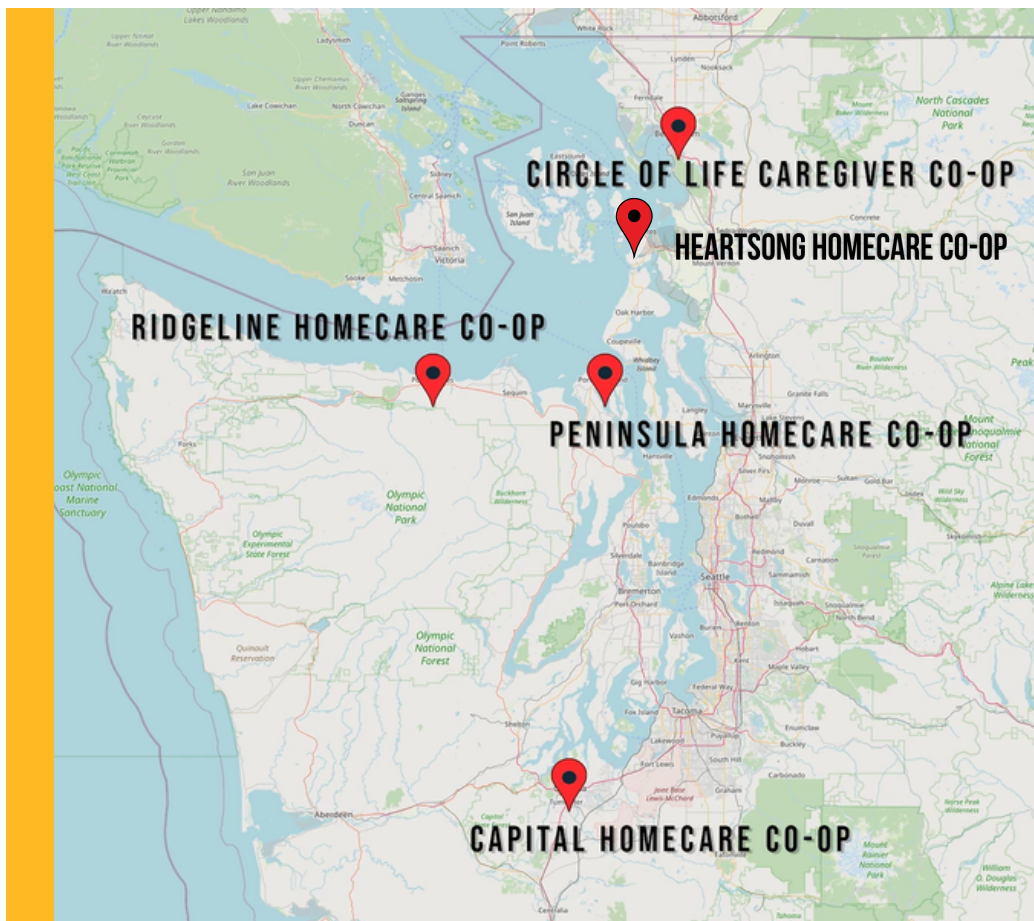


We are Heartsong Homecare Co-op, we offer in-home care to those in need of daily assistance for both Skagit and Island Counties. We opened our doors in August 2021. Beginning with our two co-founders Kathie Rivas (Admin) and Jessica Holden (Care Manager) hitting the ground running, we have grown into a team of 23 caregivers with 14 members, offering membership to those caregivers that want to grow.

We provide services from 3-24-hour assistance, 365 days a year. Additionally, we offer support to our local facilities and communities through Nursing Pool Services, volunteering and offering of local resources.

MEET RIDGELINE HOMECARE CO-OP

Ridgeline Homecare Co-op in Port Angeles, WA opened its doors as the fourth home care co-op in February of 2020, in perfect sync with the outbreak of Covid19. In spite of the plethora of challenges this burgeoning co-op faced, this incredible, female led, caregiver led team modeled the cooperative difference so exceptionally that within a year they began to flourish, and are now showing wonderful profits and rapid growth. Their caregivers are used to rural and beautiful conditions as they provide in-home care with the backdrop of the world famous Hurricane Ridge and the Olympia Mountain Range.



HEMECARE CO-OP CAREERS

Stay up to date with caregiving positions and opportunities at any one of our member co-ops- Click below to check out each co-op's career page!



CAREGIVER RESOURCE LIBRARY

[Northwest Cooperative Development Center](#)

[The DSHS Direct Care Workforce Collaborative](#)

[In Home Services WACs](#)

[CDF Homecare Co-op Initiative](#)

[WA Dept of Health Resources for HCA](#)

[In Home Services RCW chapter](#)

[International Cooperative Alliance](#)

[DSHS Continuing Education Resources](#)

[Dementia Training Videos- Teepa Snow](#)

[The 7 Cooperative Principles](#)

[The ICA Group](#)

[PHI International](#)





northwest
cooperative
development center

UPDATES FROM THE NWCDC

Hello WA Co-op Caregivers!

The NWCDC will be working in South East Washington – in the Walla Walla/Benton County area – to organize caregivers to start a new homecare co-op. So far, all 5 of our homecare co-ops are located in Western Washington and we think it would be very exciting to have a homecare co-op in the east side of the state, where the need for good jobs is so immense.

We are currently in the process of researching the area, finding out how great the need for homecare is, what other agencies are charging and what they are paying caregivers. If we deem the project feasible, we plan to do a series of viral workshops through the Small Business Development Centers. It would be great to have interested caregivers come to some of the workshops as guests to talk about YOUR co-op and why you think homecare co-ops are an important part of the eldercare industry. I'll be reaching out to you all once we know the dates and times.

If you know people in the Southeast WA area that you think would be supportive of this project, please let us know!



TALK TO US

(1 (360) 441-1766

deborah@nwcdc.coop

Washington Homecare Cooperatives (WHC) is supported and fiscally sponsored by the Northwest Cooperative Development Center.

NWCDC is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3), organization devoted to assisting new and existing cooperative businesses in every sector with a special emphasis on Resident Owned Communities, home care agencies, and converting existing businesses into worker-owned or community-owned cooperatives. NWCDC primarily supports cooperatives in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho but has also supported projects as far away as Alaska and Hawai'i.

Founded by cooperatives in 1979, the Center has grown into the Northwest's leading provider of services for co-op business development. We have a long history of collaborating with communities, governments, economic development agencies, and other cooperatives, sharing expertise and building cross-sector support for new and existing cooperatives