



MISSION: INTEGRATION

HANFORD

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SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

HANFORD MISSION

**HMIS**

INTEGRATION SOLUTIONS

# MISSION: MODERNIZATION

Leveraging the latest technology and streamlining processes to boost efficiency and deliver exceptional value.

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## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



At HMIS, modernization is about leveraging the latest technology and streamlining processes to boost efficiency and deliver exceptional value. It helps our teams work better together, transforming how we operate and keeping us on the cutting edge.

Our new employee resource group, VIBE, is focused on professional development and exemplifies our commitment to fostering an empowered workforce, laying the groundwork for sustained innovation.

The Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) team is at the forefront of innovation by researching the use of nano UAS for completing flights inside underground waste storage tanks. This cutting-edge approach enhances our ability to safely and efficiently gather critical data in challenging environments.

Additionally, the launch of HAL, our Hanford Artificial Intelligence Liaison tool, marks a significant leap in our modernization journey. HAL improves efficiency by automating routine tasks, providing insightful data analysis and enabling swift, data-driven decision-making, empowering our teams to concentrate on strategic initiatives.

These are just a few recent advancements that position HMIS for a future of agility and continuous improvement. Not only do we embrace modernization, we set the benchmark for excellence and innovation at Hanford.

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## 5 MINUTES WITH ALISON HULL

What do golf, Bohemian Rhapsody and the Seattle Kraken have in common? They're just a few of Alison Hull's favorite things when she steps away from one of her other favorite things: her role as the director of Applications, Product Management & Records for Information Management Services.

### 1. What brought you to Hanford?

I had just completed a consulting contract with a medical device company via my own company I had started in 2020. I was missing the interaction with coworkers and consistency of full-time employment. With over a decade of product management experience, I sought out positions locally and applied for a posting at North Wind for a Director of Product Management position and started there in January 2021.

### 2. What made you want to be a leader?

I was a lifelong natural leader — senior class president, team captain and soccer coach — and I like the challenge of getting the right people on a team and mentoring them to evolve and grow in their roles.

### 3. Who is a mentor that has made an impact on you?

I've had several great mentors along the way. The most valuable advice I received was to "stay down to earth" and remain humble.

### 4. What does modernization mean to you?

Modernization is always on my mind as our team works on a multiphase project

to modernize HMIS business systems as well as planning for future updates to the application portfolio.

### 5. When you're having a tough day, what do you do to turn things around?

If things ever get overwhelming, I take a deep breath and a step back to gain perspective. I find that it helps me to look back at past challenges and realize – it could always be worse!

### 6. What's something about you that people would be surprised to know?

I was really shy through middle school and freshman year. I was super quiet and unsure of myself, but by the end of high school I gained confidence and started to really step into my own and be ok with who I am – a "geek in disguise" lol.

### 7. What's your bucket list travel location?

My bucket list travel location is Galapagos Islands. Another thing folks are surprised to hear is that I have a degree in Zoology, I had planned on going into medical school. The studies I did in college stuck with me and the ability to see species that Darwin identified would be awesome (going back to my "geek in disguise comment").



## RAPID FIRE

EARLY BIRD	NIGHT OWL

## RECOGNITION

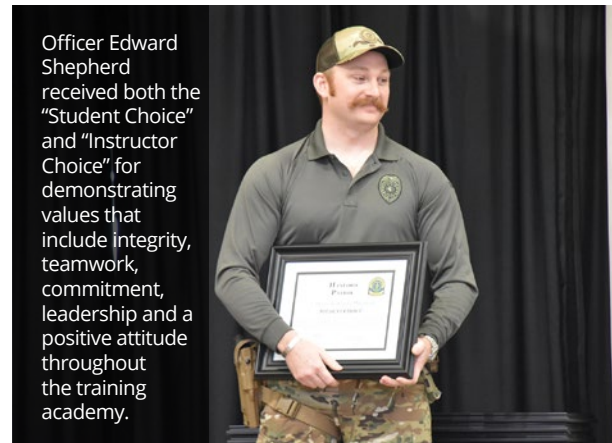
### New Hanford Patrol Officers Take Oath to Protect the Site

Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg

Hanford Patrol welcomes 11 new officers to the team following their successful completion of the Patrol Training Academy. These officers took the oath of office, presented by DOE Director of Security and Emergency Services Tim Haddick, at the graduation ceremony on Jan. 29. These are the newest members of a team who carry out the mission of protecting Hanford assets and people.



(Left to right) Back row: Levi Winebarger, Martin Cerrillos, Brady Bush, Brooke Petersen, Orlando Mora, Flavio Aguilar and Edward Shepherd. Front row: Leonardo Valencia, Abel Campos, Tristin Hancock and Eric S. Smith.



Officer Edward Shepherd received both the "Student Choice" and "Instructor Choice" for demonstrating values that include integrity, teamwork, commitment, leadership and a positive attitude throughout the training academy.



Officer Levi Winebarger, who achieved an overall GPA of 90%, received the "Top Academic" honor at the graduation ceremony.

## RECOGNITION



HFD Captain Anthony Lovato celebrates his first-place rowing victory with his daughter and wife - his "biggest cheerleaders."

### Fitness Tool Turns Into First Place Finish

Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg

What started as a way to stay in shape has turned into a hobby landing Hanford Fire Department Captain Anthony Lovato in first place in a national competition. Lovato began indoor rowing about nine years ago but had not rowed

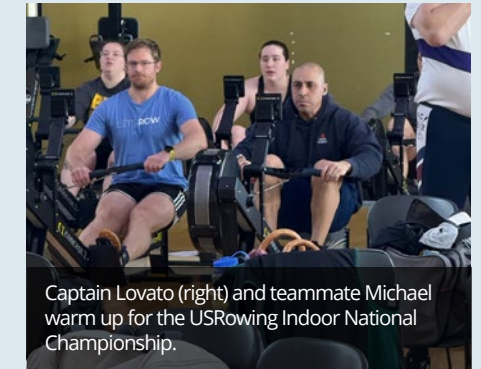
competitively until becoming a member of the Tri-Cities Rowing Association.

Having primarily trained on an "erg", short for ergometer, or indoor rowing machine, his interest in water rowing was piqued when the Tri-Cities rowing club started a few years ago. He jumped in last year, taking lessons through spring and summer, competing in his first regatta on Washington's Lake Vancouver in November. Despite the windy, rainy and choppy water conditions, Lovato's eight-person team finished second out of six boats with their raw time.

Fast-forward a few months, when the Association looked into competing in the USRowing Indoor National Championship, and Lovato committed to his first indoor competition. The national championship is setup across different regions and age groups, and rowing times are matched against other competitors nationwide.

Lovato participated as part of the Pacific Northwest region in Tacoma in the

To submit an item for our Mission: Accomplished section, please email [hmiscomm@rl.gov](mailto:hmiscomm@rl.gov)



Captain Lovato (right) and teammate Michael warm up for the USRowing Indoor National Championship.

Masters C class (men aged 43-49). He took first place in the 500-meter race with a time of 1:24.3! He also competed in the 2000-meter, placing fourth. While those results are impressive on their own, in the 500m he placed 11<sup>th</sup> overall with 281 participants of all ages, and 63<sup>rd</sup> out of 896 in the 2000m.

What he really enjoys about rowing is being part of a vast worldwide community. "I practice with a few people who aren't even in this country," shared Lovato. "We setup a video call and go through the same workouts together. It never gets boring, is really motivating and fun as heck!"



## MISSION: MODERNIZATION

### Loud and Clear: Upgrading Emergency Communications

*Contributor: Dustin Arbogast*

A new emergency radio system will mark a significant milestone in enhancing communication capabilities for Hanford's emergency services. Set to go live this summer, the project involves transitioning from an outdated system to a cutting-edge simulcast system, which promises to revolutionize how emergency responders communicate.

The current system, while still operational, relies on older technology with limited coverage, particularly within buildings. The new system will offer improved coverage and the ability to integrate seamlessly with other emergency responders' systems. This integration is crucial for mutual aid operations, allowing for more efficient and effective communication across different agencies.

Upgraded radio tower with the new antennas installed.

*Cont'd*

A primary objective of the new system is to accommodate a larger number of users simultaneously. By utilizing talk groups instead of fixed channels, the digital system will significantly increase the number of simultaneous conversations without requiring additional licensed channels.

Security enhancements are also a key feature of the new system. Encryption, which previously required manual intervention, will be automated, ensuring secure communications without additional equipment.

The transition to the new system has been a complex undertaking, requiring extensive planning and coordination among various departments, including Engineering, Reliability Projects Execution and the team at Motorola. Integrating this new technology with existing infrastructure was also a challenge.

As the launch approaches, the team is focused on a smooth transition, maintaining the functionality of the current system while preparing to activate the new one. The new system's redundancy and reliability will ensure that even if a component fails, the overall system remains operational.

The team is conducting final tests and training to make sure users are prepared for the switch this summer. The new emergency radio system will set a new standard for communication, enhancing capabilities, security and reliability for emergency services at Hanford.



The new equipment is ready to be installed during the upgrade.



The new network nodes are the "brains" of the new system.

## MISSION: MODERNIZATION

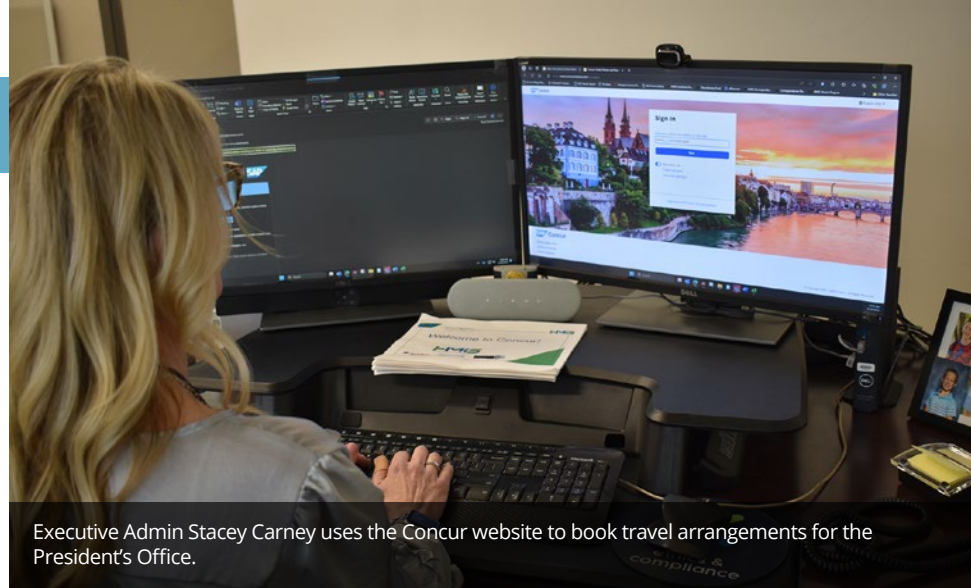
### Switch to Concur Helps Streamline Business Travel Reservations

Contributor: Shane Edinger

Thanks to a recent switch made by our Chief Financial Office organization, booking your business travel reservations is now a whole lot easier, and less expensive for the company.

In January, HMIS started using the nationwide network of SAP-Concur for business travel reservations. As part of the Leidos family, we can leverage Leidos' negotiated rates and discounts with hotel chains around the country, while using the Concur technology to self-book flights, hotel rooms and car rentals.

"Leidos is a huge corporation with a large footprint in the business travel marketplace," shared Amy Gadd, HMIS' deputy CFO and controller. "Since HMIS is a Leidos joint venture, our employees can take advantage of the discounts they've already negotiated, which is a cost



Executive Admin Stacey Carney uses the Concur website to book travel arrangements for the President's Office.

savings on the booking side, and there are a lot more hotel options available at the government-approved rate."

The Concur website is similar to travel websites like Expedia, and your organization's administrative assistant can help you set up a profile in Concur and make reservations. Controls are built into Concur to ensure reservations are compliant with Federal Travel Regulations and to protect the traveler from incurring non-reimbursable costs. There's also a Concur app travelers can use on government-issued cell phones or cell phones where a stipend is issued.

"The response from employees has been really positive," said Lance Kraftenberg, Treasury Office director. "The previous system involved a lot of email traffic about itineraries between our employees and the travel agency. Now, employees can pull up the Concur website and choose their flights, hotels and car rentals. It's really streamlined the process."

That streamlining has translated to a cost savings of about \$30 for every business travel booking. Plus, HMIS travelers still have access to 24/7 travel agency support through Altour Travel Management for any last-minute travel issues.

## MISSION: MODERNIZATION

### TEAM FOCUS: Environmental Compliance Officers

Contributor: Shyanne Palmus

Did you know that every HMIS organization has a dedicated Environmental Compliance Officer (ECO)? ECOs provide technical assistance to ensure we understand and are compliant with all applicable environmental regulations and permits.

This team of seven, led by Environmental Field Support Director Rachel Teel, is tasked with providing oversight, coordination and guidance for all environmental compliance activities for HMIS projects, operations, subcontractors and to our One Hanford partners and DOE.

ECOs are involved in almost everything we do at Hanford, regardless of subject area, from performing environmental screenings for new work packages and projects to assisting with disposition of excess property. A few other responsibilities include:

- Participate in assessments and inspections
- Assist with spill reporting, notification and mitigation
- Coordinate management and disposal of hazardous and state-only dangerous, radioactive and non-hazardous waste
- Collect data for annual reports and permits
- Environmental support to small and large construction projects



HMIS Environmental Compliance Officers. (Left to right) Back row: Anthony Ashby, John Skoglie, Rachel Teel and Daniel Gonzalez. Front row: Isabel Mendoza, Kelly Elsethagen and Deana Chiodo. Not Pictured: Carson Vore.

- Provide environmental reviews and documentation for routine and planned work
- Assist with resolution of environmental issues and interface with regulatory agencies
- Provide facility walk-downs to assess regulatory compliance status
- Provide management and disposal of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) waste for the Site
- Guide management of Universal Wastes, recycling and excess of materials and equipment

"As HMIS moves to modernize, our Environmental Compliance Officers are at the forefront, ensuring that our progress is rooted in environmental stewardship and compliance," said Teel. "Their expertise not only safeguards our environment but also propels us towards a future where innovation and responsibility go hand in hand."



## MISSION: MODERNIZATION

### Have you met HAL?

*Contributor: Shane Edinger*

When you have too many tasks and not enough time to get them done, you could probably use a little help from a friend, right? Well ... HAL could be your new best friend at work!

HAL is short for Hanford Artificial Intelligence Liaison and it can perform a wide range of tasks, from analyzing and summarizing a document to answering questions about math, science, engineering or computer coding.

“HAL was designed to streamline tasks, provide quick answers and automate repetitive work,” shared Jason Walli, HMIS’ Business Intelligence manager who was part of the HAL development team. “The goal is to give you more time to focus on more important assignments.”

Some of HAL’s early adopters have used it to analyze assessments and create a bulleted summary of actions, while others have used it to format reports to make them more readable. The team from North Wind used HAL to troubleshoot a roadblock they encountered with an older application.

HAL is a Hanford-specific AI tool that is safe and secure. Unlike external AI apps like ChatGPT, HAL will not train other models; all input and output will remain within our secure network to safeguard Hanford’s data.

“HAL is built on Microsoft’s Azure Open AI service, which has a Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program high certification approval,” Walli added. “It’s hosted on an internal HLAN server, which means our questions are safe, secure and only available to us.”

The team started developing HAL last June. It took them two months to build the platform and another month or so to complete production requirements. HAL has been rolled out in phases, starting last October with a small group of 30 employees

across Hanford. In January, all HMIS, DOE, IHA and Navarro-ATL employees were granted access to use HAL, and a full rollout to all Hanford Site employees will happen in March.

“This is more than just technology,” Walli said. “It’s a game-changer and we’re proud to help shape the future we’re building together.”



## MISSION: MODERNIZATION

### Unlock Your Potential with HMIS Employee Development Programs

Contributor: Jill Harvill

At HMIS, our commitment to employee development is reflected in our comprehensive training and education programs, which focus on job-specific skills, as well as professional and leadership growth.

We recently launched a new Employee Resource Group (ERG), called VIBE - Vision, Inclusion, Boldness and Excellence. VIBE is an employee-led ERG open to all employees that offers unique opportunities to connect with co-workers, enhance skills and transform business insight and personal growth.

HMIS partners with Development Dimensions International (DDI) to offer valuable courses to employees, taught by Workforce Development staff and other employees certified as DDI instructors.



Alison Hull instructs participants in the VIBE DDI "Declare Your Brand" course.

The first VIBE employee development courses kicked off in February and were incredibly popular. So much so, additional sessions were added! Taught by HMIS leaders, "Define Your Brand" and "Influence Your Career" were the first two VIBE-focused courses.

Participants identified their top values, connected those values with their purpose as a leader and crafted a personal brand statement that embodies the impact they want to achieve in the workplace. Next, they identified influence opportunities and chose strategies and techniques to engage people both emotionally and rationally.

"These courses help employees set clear goals for their careers with HMIS," said instructor Lynn Chandler. "By offering great development courses, it helps our employees know the company is invested in their growth, both professionally and personally."

## ONE HANFORD

### One Hanford Streamlines Procurement Process

Contributor: Shyanne Palmus

HMIS, H2C and CPCCo joined forces to streamline procurement processes, consolidating systems to ensure a seamless experience across platforms. New and integrated supply ordering, P-Card and electronic Billing of Materials (eBOM) systems, officially rolled out on Feb. 24. This three-pronged upgrade launches a new era of efficiency and security as we transition to a unified procurement process.

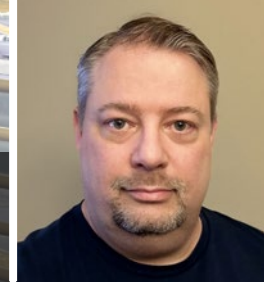
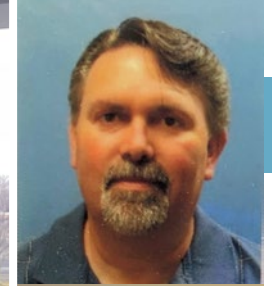
The integration of the Coupa Catalog into the Supply Ordering System (SOS), facilitated by DOE's Supply Chain Management Center, has been in the works since last fall and provides a centralized location for ordering supplies, which are all available through pre-negotiated agreements, resulting in better pricing and service.

"These new systems are all connected and have workflows that ensure the approval process moves quickly and efficiently for everyone involved," said Ben Moyers, Material Procurement manager.

The previous P-Card system was custom-built for Hanford nearly 20 years ago and in addition to being less secure, lacked the



Members of the HMIS teams that worked on this project included (from left): Holly Munroe, Shanna Reynolds and Jim Damskov. At right (top) Rob Dewey and (bottom) Sean Reffalt. Not pictured: Chris Downing, Ben Moyers, Annette Fox and Dashia Vander Sys.



modern features and tools of the new platform. Now, users can select predefined reports or create custom reports to fit their needs, to assist with reconciling orders and transactions.

Implementing the new SOS will also reduce the number of systems for the three contractors, replacing a cumbersome and complicated process for end-users, as well as the procurement and business integration teams.

"There wasn't an automated feature in our previous systems where you could shop and add to cart, where it translates it directly into a requisition. With this upgrade, supplies are all listed in one place and requisitions automatically sent to the SOS, making the process easier for everyone involved," said Procurement Director Scott Mason.



EZAC chairs and co-chairs are a key element to ensuring safety information reaches all employees.



Kevin Schoonover, Safety Programs technical advisor, shares Voluntary Protection Program activities and upcoming safety campaigns with EZAC chairs during a monthly all-chair meeting.

## ONE HANFORD

### The Essential Role of EZAC Chairs in our Safety Culture

*Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg*

In our commitment to fostering a safe workplace, Employee Zero Accident Councils (EZAC) play an important role in safety efforts. EZACs ensure representation and participation from both Bargaining Unit and non-represented employees. Each year, nominations are held to select new EZAC chairs and co-chairs.

These individuals take on responsibilities beyond their regular duties, contributing voluntarily to our safety programs and showcasing their leadership qualities.

As an EZAC chair, sharing information from the monthly Presidents' Zero Accident Council (PZAC) meetings with their teams is vital. They manage monthly EZAC meetings to flow down information, communicate safety performance data, including injury trends and lessons learned, and foster an environment of open communication.

By participating in monthly EZAC All-Chair meetings, they help share practices and ensure a unified approach to safety across the company.

Our EZAC chairs also oversee safety inspections, update safety boards, maintain safety logs and track issues to closure. If unresolved safety issues persist, they evaluate whether these should be escalated to PZAC.

"We appreciate our managers and supervisors recognizing the value of time well spent to sustain and grow the HMI safety culture," shared Chris Nielsen, Safety Programs manager. "Our EZAC chairs are an essential element of the safety program and maintaining worker involvement and continuous improvement. Thank you for all you do!"

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### 2025 Youth of the Year

*Contributor: René Brooks*

Leadership development for youth is at the heart of our community outreach programs, which is one reason we continue supporting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton and Franklin Counties. As the sponsor of their Youth of the Year program, HMIS employees have several opportunities to volunteer with the program as mentors and judges.

Ryan Burdo (and his wife, Crystal), Casey de Groof and Mike Winkel served as judges for each of the club-level competitions, while Jennifer Ollero and Daniel Saucedo judged at the organizational level. Before the final competition, Lynn Chandler, Chris Cope, Mitch Davis, Mike Winkel and Jim Whalley spent time with each teen individually, providing feedback and coaching on their essays and speeches.

Jim Whalley, our Organizational Development program manager, is always quick to volunteer for opportunities like this. He helped the youth with their preparation and attended the final celebration where the winner was announced.

“Watching these teens transform from tentative to confident is a remarkable journey,” shared Jim. “Each step reveals their resilience, creativity and growth, reminding us of the incredible potential within every young mind.”

This year’s winner is Robert, from the Pasco clubhouse, who will now go on to compete in the statewide Youth of the Year competition.



(L to R) Mike Winkel, Lynn Chandler, Daniel Saucedo, Jennifer Ollero, René Brooks, Sean McFadden and Jim Whalley congratulated Robert (top), the 2025 Youth of the Year.



Lynn Chandler with Prime Contracts helps Youth of the Year finalist Robert with his essay.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Supporting Future Leaders: CBC Foundation Scholarship Breakfast

*Contributor: Shyanne Palmus*

HMIS is proud to support the Columbia Basin College (CBC) Foundation scholarship program to empower students across the region to achieve their educational goals. Our sponsorship highlights our commitment to making a meaningful impact in students' lives and fostering the next generation of leaders.

Recently, our team attended the CBC Foundation Scholarship Breakfast, where we met some of the inspiring scholarship recipients and heard their stories of perseverance and ambition. These students are excelling academically and poised to make significant contributions to our community.

The CBC Foundation offers a variety of scholarships to alleviate financial burdens and open doors to higher education for students from diverse backgrounds. By investing in these scholarships, we help create opportunities for students to pursue their dreams and build brighter futures.

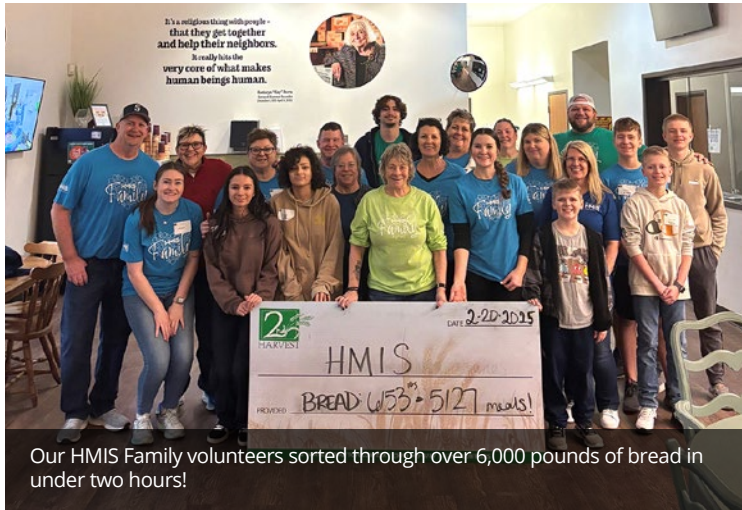


HMIS employees Melissa Torres, Diane Cato (left) and Doug Christensen (right) with one of the CBC Foundation Scholarship recipients, Francisco Guzman.



### Supporting the Children’s Developmental Center

As they get ready to begin a capital campaign for a renovated or new building to expand services to infants and toddlers with special needs, the Children’s Developmental Center got a head start on fundraising at their annual gala – raising more than \$221,000! HMIS proudly served as the matching donation sponsor for the raise the paddle. Thank you to the employees and their loved ones who attended the gala on behalf of HMIS.



Our HMIS Family volunteers sorted through over 6,000 pounds of bread in under two hours!

### Sorting Through It All

Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

There's something special about rolling up your sleeves, working side by side with friends, and making a real impact in your community. That's exactly what our HMIS Family of volunteers did during our latest visit to Second Harvest, and we couldn't be prouder of the effort and heart that went into it!

With a team of about 20 volunteers, we sorted, organized and packed over 6,000 pounds of bread in under two hours! That's the equivalent of 5,127 meals for families in need. It's incredible to know we made such a meaningful difference so quickly.

Volunteering at Second Harvest is one of our favorite ways to give back, and it's easy to see why. The energy in the room is contagious! Everyone is smiling, laughing and working together with one goal in mind: to help our neighbors in need. Our HMIS volunteers are a dedicated and compassionate group, always ready to jump in and serve whenever they can.

A huge thank you to Second Harvest for welcoming us with open arms every time and for the incredible work they do every single day. We love being part of this mission, and we can't wait to be back soon!



Shannon and Kenzie Hofstad pose for a quick photo while working hard!



HMIS Family volunteers sort through food for Second Harvest.

### HEROes Among Us: The Volunteers Behind the HERO Program

Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

If you've ever scored discount movie tickets, taken your family to a Mariners game or even gone whitewater rafting through the HERO program, you have a team of dedicated volunteers to thank! HERO isn't just another program, it's built by volunteers who love bringing joy to their coworkers and community. Want to try an escape room at a discount? Thank a HERO volunteer. Ever dreamed of taking a HERO-discounted trip to Greece? Someone on the board helped make that happen!

The HERO board is made up entirely of volunteers who dedicate their time to making sure employees and their families have access to amazing experiences. They work with agencies who help book those epic group trips, negotiate deals for discount cards and make sure events run smoothly. Employees are encouraged to suggest events, whether it's a bowling league, comedy night or a Harlem Globetrotters game.



If it sounds fun, HERO will try to make it happen! HERO is available to all Hanford employees and their families, past and present. The goal is to create safe, family-friendly events where employees, retirees and loved ones can make lasting memories.

Of course, all this awesomeness takes a little effort. Board members meet monthly and commit to hosting at least one event a year. They consider it a small price for the reward of seeing hundreds of coworkers and their families laughing and bonding. So, next time you hear about a HERO event, take a moment to appreciate the team behind it. And if you have great ideas or just love making people happy, why not join in? After all, HERO is always looking for more heroes!



