Who We Are

Our Mission

“Calling forth the gifts of all people through Christ-centered community.”

Our Philosophy

We welcome strangers, we evoke gifts, we seek ways to put those gifts to work, serving in the community.

Our Team
2018: A Year of More Transitions

Two years ago, our CFS director and Servant Leadership Manager decided to move our offices out of the Collegium, to join the Vista Hermosa Foundation staff in their offices within the Vista Hermosa community. Our plan was that by stepping back from day to day management of CFS/Collegium, we would have more time to invest in working with the PAC member communities of practice that had been birthed over the years from the Center for Sharing, while giving opportunities for Collegium staff to take on more leadership in their place of practice.

However, a couple of things happened. For one thing, we realized that it was too soon to leave Collegium staff without adequate on-site support because most were too new to the mission of CFS/Collegium. At the same time, our VHF staff decided that after many years of operating within the Broetje Orchards and Vista Hermosa Community, it was time to move their offices closer to town to a place with space for receiving visitors, hosting events, etc. The result was that we all moved back to the Collegium in June, including the

Vista Hermosa Foundation staff:
Suzanne Broetje - VHF Executive Director
Guadalupe Broetje - VHF Scholarships Program
Melanie Lopez - VHF Grants Coordinator
Glenn Cross - SL Manager for CFS
Cheryl Broetje - CFS Director

These two foundations complement one another: CFS offers a place-based laboratory for the theory and practice of love that transforms. VHF funds programs in 5 countries who ascribe to its theory of change, which seeks to assist people in getting connected in one or more of four domains: connection with self, God, others, my place. We believe that with these life-giving connections comes spiritual wellbeing which over time can be measured by: healthier lifestyles, sufficient economies, life-enhancing education, and pro-social engagement with community.

“we saw our calling as providing safe places where people can connect and share stories, building bridges over widening gulfs in a polarized society, and also acknowledging the importance of defending the vulnerable.”

- Robert Owens Scott
The Collegium Cafe’s purpose is to function as a “third place” where strangers visit for many different reasons, whether for a meal, a visit with friends over coffee, fries and soda or a special event. Here people can casually meet, get to know each other over time, while developing safe social networks and a deeper sense of community. We are a place where people can feel like they are at home. If you would like to see some of our stories you can follow our blog on Facebook or our website.
Our New Participants: Katie, Travis and Maribel

Genesis Alvis-Jara

Genesis completed the Work Readiness program in July 2018. After working hard to get financial aid she attended her first quarter at Columbia Basin College in the fall. Genesis is now working full time at a local retirement home, helping take care of the elderly. She shared with us that she feels as though the work she is doing today is helping her prepare to be able to take care of her mom someday, when her mom gets to be that age.

Jose Claro

Jose and his family were one of the first to move into the Tierra Vida apartments back when they were first built. He is currently attending Columbia Basin College and is working towards a degree in social work. In 2015 Jose went through our youth barista training program and excelled. In 2018 when we heard he was looking for part-time work we were excited to bring him on in the Café.

Miranda Higgins

Miranda completed the Work Readiness Program mid July. Shortly after she left here, we were able to connect her with a manager of a local retirement home. She is now employed there and has been working hard serving the elderly. This is a new chapter for Miranda, and we are very proud of her for allowing herself to continue to grow and learn new things every day.

Our work readiness program focuses on individuals who are in need of healing and are willing to work while addressing personal development issues such as housing, finances, relationships, future goals, personal health and parenting issues, etc. within a safe, caring community setting. Café employees also learn how work as a team to host rentals and catering events of interest to the community at the Collegium.

2018 Program Graduates

Miranda Higgins

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TEN years ago the Collegium Café opened its doors to welcome in guests, passers-bys and strangers from the newly developing Tierra Vida neighborhood, who often go on to become our friends.

The atmosphere changes as the day progresses, from early morning coffee regulars on their way to work, to the lunch bunch, to the after-school crowd rushing in to get their cups of noodles, fries, or munchies. And...they come in to be seen, to be greeted by people who are happy to see them after a hard day at school.

Abraham Regunta leads by serving individuals and gets, on average, 200 visits each week. Specifically, he plays and teaches lots of board games like Carroms and Chess. His real contribution however is displayed in the amount of listening he does...mentoring, affirming their virtues when he sees them, and guiding them through some of their ‘growing up’ pains (like learning how to disagree and still remain friends, or how to respect people from all cultures). It all happens within the safe, positive public environment of a café space, which he captures in weekly blogs.

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”

- Proverbs 22:6
After spending almost a decade sending aid to people who have been marginalized from sufficient participation in the marketplace, we realized that aid alone was not dealing with the root causes of poverty of injustice. So, in 1995 CFS pioneered its own Servant Leadership School as a way to raise up people to work together in practical ways on the causes of poverty and injustice, in the places they live and work.

We continue with that vision today, which over the years, resulted in seven communities organized around the teaching and practice of servant leadership, trauma informed care, and a Christ-centered, empowered worldview.

We held multiple Servant Leadership courses and classes in our local PAC communities of practice. We visited Centro de Compartimiento in Mexico twice, and skyped with them and Shepherd’s home team members in the Philippines throughout the year.

In 2018 we hosted three Community of Servant Leader supper events. These suppers are for those who have completed at least one main course in Servant Leadership. During the dinners, we ask participants to share how learning about Servant Leadership has impacted their work and personal lives.

At our fall dinner, Tyler Grace from Broetje Orchards, stated that servant leadership has taught him that people have good and bad days and because of that he is more compassionate, better able to work with others, and maintain good relationships at work and other places.

A participant from Jubilee, Marcus Howard, shared that the servant leadership course has helped him accept the brutal truth about himself as a person. He said that it has given him the tools to work on himself and become a better person, especially when working with his son.

This year we have seen a steady increase in attendance at our quarterly community of servant leaders’ suppers. They are being impacted by the personal testimonies of fellow SL alumni, and the fellowship of breaking bread together.

In June, SLD and VHF staff all moved our offices to the Collegium. Our return has strengthened the core team’s understanding and practice of the elemental pieces of Servant Leadership: shared leadership around the compassionate welcome of strangers, the evoking of gifts, and looking for ways to engage participants in activities they enjoy, in service of the common good.

In 2018 CFS trained and equipped 82 servant leaders.
In August of this year, Kaye and Selya Viray completed a 9-month residential program at Shepherd’s Home of Servant Leadership. Kaye and Selya have a home in Occidental Mindoro – one of the poorer areas of the Philippines with a significant tribal population of the Mangyan people who are native to the island. They felt a call to serve, but sensed a need to be equipped further to learn more about what it means to serve in their community.

While with Shepard’s Home, they experienced being part of the daily schedule of Shepherd’s Home, which operates as an intentional community that strives to live authentically together as they pursue spiritual wellness through activities that connect them with God, self, each other and their place. **Some of the daily activities at Shepherd’s Home include:** chores, gardening, meals together, worship and Bible study time together, a spiritual formation time (or “inner journey time”) together, a devotion time, a chapel and prayer time, and time working in service teams in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Through the spiritual formation time at Shepherd’s Home, Kaye and Selya grew significantly in their understanding of who they are as God’s beloved children. As part of this, they began to recognize that their areas of pain and brokenness could be redeemed by God and that they were broken to be given in service to other. They sensed that God has given them a special burden to serve families in Mindoro who are struggling with substance abuse.

Through their involvement in Shepherd’s Home’s gardening and agriculture programs, they discovered that they enjoyed using agriculture as a way to reach out, employ and connect with their neighbors. The realized that service is not charity – it is building interdependent communities where every person has a gift to give and it can be used to serve the others.
What We Did This Year

Karaoke w/Glenn

Dinah from Philippines

Set up Christmas Tree
How many does it take?

Walk for Water

Good Friday

Epiphany/Rosca de Reyes

Karaoke w/Glenn

Eat lots of food

Evening Program Crew
**Areas we’ve helped in:**
- College Tuition
- Housing (Rent) Assistance
- Daycare Expenses

**2018 FINANCIALS**

**EXPENDITURES**
- $374,167
  - Programs: 47%
  - Admin: 28%
  - Operations: 25%

**IN 2018, WE RAISED**
- $80,136

**DONATIONS FROM**
- Private Donors: 63%
- Grants: 26%
- Other: 11%

**DONATIONS**
- $80,136

**Amount Needed for Wages of Work Readiness Participant**
- 6 month – 20 hour week — $5,520
- 1 year – 40 hour week — $23,040
Want to be a part of what God is doing through CFS?

We want to hear from YOU!

Are you interested in:

- Learning more about CFS or any of our programs?
- Volunteering?
- Supporting one of our programs?
- Is your business, non-profit, community, or church group interested in Servant-Leadership Development?

If so, email us at info@centerforsharing.org for more information.

“The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not power but love, not force but example, not coercion but reasoned persuasion. Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve.”

– John Stott
No importa de dónde eres, estamos contentos que seas nuestro vecino.

No matter where you are from, we’re glad you’re our neighbor.

لا يهم اين ولدتم، و لكننا سعداء انكم جيراننا.