



**A group of volunteers sort clothing items in the Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific warehouse space. The clothing will go to help young people who are need of extra help.**

*Continued from Page 4*

There is nothing quite like watching a kid who has never had new clothes getting dressed up and being so proud to cut the tags off the new items, Mogenson said.

This year, instead of visiting the schools, league members have had to just drop off bags of clothing or vouchers to buy new clothes instead.

“We are really missing that contact with the kids we serve,” Mogenson said. “We were able to change the programs a little bit, though, and are still able to help out

kids without seeing them.”

This year, the league is on track to help more than 700 school kids get new clothes.

Another league program is the Duffel Bag Program, which provides a duffel bag full of clothing, a blanket, a book, a stuffed animal and other items to children who are placed in foster care.

That program expanded this year through a partnership with the Clatsop County Juvenile Department to provide duffel bags full of items to youth in trouble who may otherwise fall through the cracks, Mogenson said.

Cinderella’s Closet, another program

helps provide prom dresses to those who need them, and a new program called Outreach goes to help area children with anything else they may need.

This year has been difficult in a lot of ways but it has also led to some of the strongest community support efforts the organization has ever seen, Cartwright said.

The league had to cancel its two main fundraisers due to the coronavirus pandemic. So instead, it reached out to people and asked for donations.

They answered tremendously, Cartwright said. The direct mail campaign brought in more than it normally brings in

and businesses stepped up to donate, too.

“Both businesses and the people in our community have really helped us this year,” Cartwright said. “We just want to say how grateful we are.”

The league has a reserve fund, just in case of catastrophe, but the community has donated so much that it hasn’t had to touch that money, Mogenson said. Part of that has to do with a recent estate donation from a longtime friend who passed away, she said.

It’s even been able to start some new programs and a scholarship, though fundraisers like the chef night are still key to making things continue.