In 2019 Community-Minded Enterprises was once again named as one of the Best Places to Work in the Inland Northwest by the Spokane Journal of Business. To receive this award two years in a row is quite an honor. It’s the dedicated staff that makes CME great.

Our organization continues to pride itself on providing flexibility for employees and encouraging staff to find comfortable balances between family and work life.

“I love working for Community-Minded Enterprises. This non-profit not only cares about me as an employee, but about my family and their wellbeing. I am able to take time off when needed and I have flexible work-from-home options. CME really is a great place to work!”

--Jessaca Rife, Early Achievers Coach
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As I reflect on my first year, my goal has been to “Ignite the why!” Our focus was on getting in touch with why we do what we do, and how we can continue to make people’s lives better. The challenge is how to do that in a meaningful and high-impact way. As we were thinking about what our priorities would be, we looked internally at our strengths and reached out externally to experts and trends challenging our communities. What we learned convinced us that the world should be doing more to address the needs of its least resourced people. At the core of our work is the idea that every person deserves the chance to live a healthy and productive life and to do that they need to be resilient. This goal became a reality in March 2020 when we convened as a board and staff to conclude a comprehensive strategic plan. It has been my privilege to see Community-Minded Enterprises reignite our reasons for serving our communities. To do this work I have seen staff at all levels dive in to get to why we do our work. We have expanded our board, adding new members, who join a board of leaders with a passion to serve. It has been dynamic! We added two new programs and have examined how we could expand our administrative support to our programs.

Next, we will “Swing for the fences!” I recently read that Warren Buffet said this to Bill Gates. I think it is just what we want to accomplish in our work at CME. Our goal will be to think big about how we impact our communities. We will look to integrate our programs in new ways that best serve our communities. We will look upstream, what did it take for this person to be here? How can we impact them before they need our services? We will actively seek out our partners, challenge our board and provide opportunities for our staff to think and learn together.

I hope you can support us as we endeavor to swing for the fences. We welcome your support as innovation and forward-thinking takes resources. Please visit our website https://community-minded.org/donate/ and donate. It is an opportunity to be on board for the future!

-- Lee Williams, Executive Director
Community-Minded Television, CMTV14, celebrates a third year in our home at 3rd and Browne in Downtown Spokane. CMTV14 has been busy in 2019, producing diverse and original local programming. A highlight for the station was collaborating with Maurice Smith on a powerful documentary on Spokane’s homeless called “My Road Leads Home”.

The station also supported the work of Better Health Together, videotaping trainings so attendees could participate remotely and taught area high school students the art of film making in a series of Saturday classes. The team was on the go; bringing its video skills into the community with the help of the CMTV14 van and participating in CME’s annual event Hands Across the Falls.

The station also held two events drawing crowds to the studio. CMTV14 hosted a First Friday event in June and started a new tradition with the first annual “Cameras and Cocktails” fundraiser.

Thank you to our community partners: The Alliance for Media Arts + Culture, Better Health Together, City of Spokane, City of the Spokane Valley, Laboratory Spokane, The M Show, Paradox Studios, Purple Crayon Pictures, Spokane Arts, Spokane Film Project, Spokane Public Library, Spokane Transit Authority.
The Child Care Assistance Program has been serving families in Spokane County since 1993. CCAP provides parents in outpatient substance abuse treatment with access to quality child care. In 2019, the program served 189 children. This free referral service links parents to a network of in-home providers and child care centers, as well as before and after-school care. These amazing early learning professionals specialize in caring for children exposed to drug or alcohol abuse providing them with a safe haven.

"With this program, we have seen success stories of people who started in a vulnerable place. With the help of treatment programs and access to childcare, two generations are given the opportunity to be successful - the parent becoming stable and the child becoming kindergarten-ready."

-- Luc Jasmin III, Owner Parkview Early Learning & President, WA Childcare Centers Association

This work is made possible thanks to support from: Spokane County Regional Health.

Plan to Work assists people transitioning from Social Security benefits to employment. Our team is based in Spokane but serves clients across much of Washington State. Community Work Incentive Coordinators provide individualized assistance to people receiving SSI and SSDI. This free service helps to break down barriers to employment through benefits planning.

Katherine’s story - Through Plan to Work, Katherine was linked to resources that helped her identify a career that was a good fit for her. She was able to find part-time employment, and sign up for affordable health care coverage. Katherine says she felt very supported by Plan to Work during her transition to employment.

This program is funded through a Social Security cooperative agreement.

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)
Serving Air Force Families who have a child with special needs.
This program was retired in 2019
Recovery Café Spokane celebrates three years in its Peaceful Valley location providing meals and the popular latte hour four days a week. The café was busy in 2019, providing more than five-hundred peer-lead recovery circles and welcoming nearly 3,500 people through its doors. Manager Christine McMackin runs the Café, which seeks to provide a welcoming environment where people can heal and build connections. Recovery Café services are free to adults who are 24 hours clean and sober.

Hands Across the Falls 2019, was a wet and cold one, but that didn’t dampen spirits. A smaller but enthusiastic crowd lined the Monroe Street Bridge, holding hands in a moment of silence to celebrate and honor those in recovery. This was the third year for the event, which is held in September as part of National Recovery Month. The event was a success thanks to an army of volunteers. Special thanks to major sponsors: Amerigroup, Molina Healthcare of WA, Empire Health Foundation, Community Health Plan of Washington, Spokane Police Department.
State Opioid Response (SOR) and Substance Abuse Service (SAS) programs were new to our work in 2019. Clients receive help with housing, transportation, and supplemental health care along with peer lead support and accountability. Our team, all with lived experience, helped hundreds of clients in 2019. Here are a few of their stories.

- Under the SOR program, Martin is now attending Spokane Community College and learning video production at CMTV14.
- Charles was in inpatient treatment when staff met him. After seven months in SOR, he is employed and has remained sober. Charles has successfully transitioned from the SOR program.

Funding provided by: The Washington State Health Care Authority

The Early Connections Play & Learn is a new and emerging program at CME, which began in the fall of 2019. Our trained facilitators host families waiting for appointments at the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Office on North Maple St in Spokane. Our facilitators provide a warm and comforting play area based on early learning best practices. Since it began, attendance has grown. Each week, you will find moms, dads, grandparents, caregivers and of course, kids. The program is designed for little ones, but all children and families are welcome. Sessions are every Tuesday. The program has been such a success we are already planning to expand in 2020.

“CME’s play and learn groups are a great place to connect families with resources while engaging kids in a fun and safe environment.”

-- Kimberly Holt, Community Engagement Coordinator

The program made possible by funding and partnership with Washington State Department of Children, Youth & Families and Catholic Charities - serving Central Washington
In 2018, I started leading the ECEAP team, where we provide high quality early learning to twenty children ages 3 and 4. It is challenging work, but so rewarding. We were tucked in the basement of the Southwest Community Center, but you wouldn’t know it. Our classroom is bright and inviting and there’s a park right across the street. We offer experience-based on-site field trips, like a visit from a beekeeper, which was a huge hit. Our program works to build social and emotional skills through a curriculum called Conscious Discipline. We are child-interest led while preparing our students for kindergarten. In 2019, our program received a level four rating out of five from the state’s Early Achievers program - a huge accomplishment. We were thrilled. On behalf of my awesome team of Destinee, Kelsey, and Will, we celebrate our families and thank them for a great year!

-- Arrianne Maldonado, Director Southwest Community Center ECEAP

What our parents love about Southwest Community Center ECEAP.

- “A great experience overall with the transition to Kindergarten.”
- “It has help her learning.”
- “ECEAP has helped my child because he didn’t know how to read, write and speak English.”
- “I just want say ‘thank you’ and that we appreciate and respect all of the teachers.”

Thank you to our community partners and funders: Community Colleges of Spokane, Washington State Department of Children, Youth & Families, Spokane County United Way, Spokane Central Lions Club and Southwest Spokane Community Center.
Child Care Aware of Eastern Washington stretches across eleven counties. To cover that much ground, we have an office in Spokane with an affiliate office in Pullman, and an office in Pasco with an affiliate office in Walla Walla. Our staff of 34 Early Achievers coaches, 10 who are bilingual, work with child care centers and family home providers to improve the quality of their programs. In May, our Pasco Office hosted a child care provider appreciation night, with 70 in attendance. Both offices participated in Advocacy Day in Olympia, WA. Our offices organized special letter writing efforts to lawmakers asking for their support of early learning.

In 2019 we provided over 390 hours of training to both English and Spanish speaking providers across 11 counties.

Members of our CCAEWA-Tri Cities team sending letters to legislatures
(Pictured left to right: Yadira Escoto, Brittany Hartikainen, Shawna Glasscock, Casandra Wilkerson, Lupita Curiel, Veronica Al Sumaeel, Yesenia Aquino Bautista, Lorri Hope, Jasmin Schmidt)
A note from a provider:

“My experience with the Early Achievers rating process and the coaching we have had has been fantastic. I thoroughly believe that without our coach, Jasmin Schmidt, we could not have had the level of success we have had. I can be more confident as a provider that we are more community minded, goal oriented, child-centered, and curriculum minded due in part to Jasmin and the counsel I received from her. I look forward to the future as we continue our path of improvement. “

-- Denise Thai, ABC's & 123's In Home Family Childcare – Richland, WA

Professional Development

The training calendar was full in 2019, with our Early Learning Professional Development team offering classes in Conscious Discipline, trauma-informed social and emotional learning. The program is sought after by teachers and early learning professionals. The team also expanded the Business of Childcare curriculum statewide. A two-day training for child care centers and home based providers was held. Using a train-the-trainer model, the team equipped others to take the program beyond Spokane. The comprehensive course, presented in English, Spanish and Somali was developed by CME and touches on all aspects of running a child care business with topics like accounting, management and marketing.
I am pleased to present to you the 2019 Community-Minded Enterprises Annual Report. I am always impressed by the accomplishments of this stellar organization – and boy do I have perspective. I started my career in the nonprofit world at CME, what used to be known as the Health Improvement Partnership. I left in 2006 to work for a national nonprofit, but I never lost track of the great works and people of CME. That might be why I came back to serve the organization as a board member. What makes this organization continuously be able to exceed their mission? The engaging staff, board, and community partners work diligently to ensure they are proactively meeting the needs and wants of the communities served by CME. They seek creative ways to address challenges, work collaboratively with key stakeholders, and take some good risks too. With your help, in 2020 we will work to continue the Community-Minded Enterprises mission started so many years ago. Thank you!

-- Julie Griffith, Board Chair

- Julie Griffith, Board Chair
- Toni Cooley, Board Vice-Chair
- Marilyn Thordarson, Secretary/Treasurer
- Ian Cunningham
- Luc Jasmin, III
- Ian Robertson
- Erik Poulsen
- Torney Smith
As CME continues its mission, we need your help. It’s all hands on deck. Please consider how you might like to contribute.

Volunteer
To learn more contact us info@community-minded.org

Donate
Make a donation to Community-Minded Enterprises or designate a program you love. Your gift could:
- Provide a meal at Recovery Café Spokane
- Underwrite video training for a student
- Help expand our play & learn programs to a new neighborhood

Donations can be made online https://community-minded.org/donate/ or send a check to

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