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**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* For Immediate Release\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO SUPPORT COLUMBIA SPRINGS’ 2021 HOOKED ON NATURE DINNER AUCTION FUNDRAISER**

VANCOUVER, WA (September 30, 2021) – It’s easy to get weighed down in the monotony of life these days. It seems that there’s more bad news wherever you look! Thankfully, Columbia Springs is beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel with their upcoming Hooked on Nature dinner auction fundraiser, which will take place on October 9th at 6:00 pm.

Hooked on Nature is Columbia Springs’ largest annual fundraiser, responsible for supporting a significant portion of their yearly budget. This small nonprofit helps thousands of community members to find belonging in and love for nature each year through their 100-acre natural area and the historic Vancouver Trout Hatchery. Hooked on Nature is an opportunity for those who have been “hooked” to show their support for outdoor education in Clark County.

“When we started planning, we had no idea how successful this year’s event would be,” said Kylie DaCunha, Community Engagement Specialist at Columbia Springs. While they were expecting to be hard pressed to find businesses and sponsors able to participate after more than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, the mission of outdoor appreciation and protection still struck a chord with supporters.

“We understand how tough times have been for our businesses. We are so grateful for all of those that worked to contribute this year,” added DaCunha.

Sponsors for this year’s event include Paul Montague Tax Preparation, Johnson Bixby, Port of Vancouver USA, ilani, Tidewater, Columbia Credit Union, ZoomInfo, Clark Public Utilities, Waste Connections, and Dennis and Debbie Kampe. Businesses also came through with auction items; over $30,000 dollars’ worth of goods are available to bidders this year. Check out the full list of supporters at [www.columbiasprings.org/hooked](http://www.columbiasprings.org/hooked).

There’s still time to join in on the fun if you’d like to support Hooked on Nature and have a chance at some wonderful auction items! Columbia Springs hopes that you join them virtually for Hooked on Nature 2021. An evening to celebrate our environment and our community with a lively program, auction, and dinner it’s sure to be exciting event.

VIP At Home tickets (which include a gourmet salmon dinner from Simply Thyme Catering) are limited and cost $75 per person. If you’re only interested in the auction and program, a $50 At Home ticket option is also available. Visit www.columbiasprings.org/hooked to reserve your “seat” before it’s too late. “If you aren’t ‘Hooked’ on Columbia Springs already, we promise you will be after this night,” promises DaCunha!

Columbia Springs is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit on the Old Evergreen Highway in Vancouver, WA. Its mission is to offer a unique setting and educational experiences that foster greater awareness of the natural world and inspire stewardship.