



2013 ANNUAL REPORT

2505 Cedarwood Ave. • Suite 5, Bellingham, WA 98225 • Phone 360.756.6710 • www.blueskiesforchildren.org • 501(c)3 Tax ID# 91-2061794

Mission

To raise hope and self esteem by sponsoring enrichment activities and other essentials for homeless, low-income and foster children.

Vision

To grant a Little Wish for each and every eligible child. To increase the capacity to grant Little Wishes for children in need through grants, donations, fundraisers and our signature Sponsor-a-Child Program.

We are in need of (3) additional board members! Can YOU help Blue Skies for Children by donating your time, talents and connections? Please call Julie Guay at 360.756.6710 for more information.

Financial Highlights For Year Ended December 31, 2013

Cash Donations	\$187,203
Inkind Donations	\$ 63,156
Program Expenses:	\$146,785
Management & General Expenses:	\$ 38,693
Fundraising Expenses:	<u>\$ 33,710</u>
Total Expenses:	\$ 220,188
Total Assets:	\$153,529
Total Liabilities:	<u>\$ 4,266</u>
Net Asset Balance:	\$149,263

In 2013, Blue Skies Programs

- Sponsored (3,029) Enrichment Sessions.
- Granted One-Time Little Wishes for (112) children.
- Loaned (20) musical instruments per month.
- Distributed (2,261) coats, hats, gloves, scarves, blankets and other items to (508) children through Winter Warm-Up Program.
- Provided (252) children with a pair of brand new shoes.
- Supported (10) children per month through the Josh Fueston Swim to Live Fund.
- Awarded (6) Driver's Education Scholarships.

Blue Skies is actively working to maintain a low administrative expense ratio:

2008 - 34% 2009 - 30% 2010 - 24%
2011 - 22% 2012 - 19% 2013 - 20%

2013 In Retrospect

The year 2013 brought many opportunities to Blue Skies for Children. Our amazing partnerships with Sleep Country USA and Soles4Souls blessed our organization with inkind donations. Our local supporters and business sponsors helped make our fundraisers successful and our enrichment providers and sponsors helped us increase the number of children who received our much needed help.

Blue Skies continues to focus on its signature programs - Little Wishes Enrichment Program, One-Time Little Wishes, and its Instrument Loaner Program, the Shoe Give Program and Winter Warm-Up Program. We brought back our Driver's Education Scholarship program and continue to administer the Josh Fueston Swim to Live Fund. The organization is proud of continued growth, and in its ability to serve the children of Whatcom County.

Did you know?

- Blue Skies continues to be the only local non-profit to hold the BBB's Charity Seal Accreditation in Whatcom County!
- Blue Skies is Sleep Country USA's Whatcom County partner and distribution location for foster families.
- Blue Skies offers volunteer opportunities to teens in need of completing court appointed community service or senior project community service hours.
- Blue Skies was blessed by 127 Volunteers who worked 1,859 hours in 2013.



PROUD MEMBER

Our Programs & Services

Our **Little Wishes Enrichment Program** grants Little Wishes for ongoing support of lessons and activities including, but not limited to, martial arts, team sports such as baseball, ice hockey, soccer, swim team, or football, and individual activities such as swim lessons, dance, ballet, gymnastics, ice skating, or horseback riding, as well as, art lessons, or music lessons such as piano, violin or guitar.

Our **One-Time Little Wishes Program** grants Little Wishes in support of school trip fees, summer camp enrollment fees, bicycle and helmet, special needs equipment, tutoring, computers, school related supplies such as a scientific calculator, or an ASB card (required to participate in school sports), sports fees and/or uniforms, cleats, and other items. The Little Wish requests are as unique as each child.

Our **Little Wishes Instrument Loaner Program** loans musical instruments to children who wish to participate in their school band or orchestra, but find they are unable to afford the monthly rental cost of an instrument.

Our **Shoe Give Program** provides children in need with brand new shoes and socks. Item availability and sizes are dependent on donations received. (Program offered each April - May)

Our **Winter Warm Up Program** provides children in need with coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and blankets. Item availability and sizes are dependent on donations received. (Program offered Nov 1 – Dec 31.)

Josh Fueston Memorial Swim to Live Fund - In memory of 19y year old Josh Fueston, this fund has been established to support children in need who love to swim and wish to participate on the Bellingham Bay Swim Team. The fund also offers help with swim meet fees, swim lessons, developmental delay swim therapy and supplies, and pool passes.

Our **Driver's Education Scholarship** - Blue Skies awards (3) or more driver's education scholarships in the amount of \$350 in each Spring and Fall. This scholarship is available to teens who are 15 to 17 years of age. Teens submit an application, essay, references, and must meet minimum GPA requirements.

History of Blue Skies for Children

Established in 1997, Blue Skies was created out of a need in our local community to help the children of Whatcom County raise hope and self-esteem.

In 2002, Blue Skies became a 501(c)(3), and hired its first executive director. The organization was initially modeled after Treehouse for Kids in King County and offered a Little Wishes Program as well as a clothing outlet where children in need could "shop" for clothing for free twice a year. The program was offered to homeless, low-income and foster children.

In 2004, Blue Skies re-focused its programs targeting children ages 6 to 15.

In 2007, the organization had grown significantly and the board of directors made the difficult decision to close the clothing outlet and focus on its well established **Little Wishes Enrichment Program**, keeping children healthy and active by sponsoring ongoing enrichment activities such as sports, dance, swimming, martial arts, music and art lessons. In September, the organization moved its office to a new location and hired its current Executive Director.

In 2008, Blue Skies established its **Sponsor-A-Child Donor Program**. That same year the **One-Time Little Wishes Program** was formalized, offering children an opportunity to receive support for school trips, summer camp, ASB cards, sports cleats, bicycle & helmet, and other individual needs.

In 2009, Blue Skies established a unique **Driver's Education Scholarship Program** for 15 to 17 year olds. Additionally, it formalized the **Instrument Loaner Program** for children wishing to participate in their school band or orchestra but could not otherwise afford the instrument rental fee. The same year, Blue Skies became the first non-profit in Whatcom County to receive the Charity Seal Accreditation from the Better Business Bureau.

In 2010, Blue Skies formalized its **Winter Warm-Up Program** to provide a warm coat, hat, gloves, scarf, and blanket to our children who need it most. Blue Skies partnered for the first time with Sole4Souls to distribute brand new shoes and socks, establishing an annual **Shoe Give Program**. That same year, **The Josh Fueston Swim to Live Fund** was established by Laurie Fueston, in memory of 19 year old Josh Fueston, an avid swimmer, to provide enrichment support to children who wish for swimming lessons, help with swim team fees, or are in need of swim therapy. Blue Skies is the administrator of this fund.

In 2012, Blue Skies for Children received the coveted Chamber of Commerce **2012 Non-Profit of the Year Award**.

In 2013, Blue Skies was honored to have received the **BBJ Readers' Choice Non-Profit Award**. Blue Skies for Children is an active member of the Whatcom/Bellingham Chamber of Commerce, and continues to be the **ONLY** organization in Whatcom County to hold the State of Washington **Better Business Bureau Charity Seal Accreditation**.

We wish to thank our dedicated 2013 Board of Directors

President:
Cecelia Carson
WordCrafters NW
Owner

Vice President:
Giang Ha
Haskell Corporation
Assistant Controller

Treasurer:
Gladys Hyatt, CPA
Moss Adams LLP
Retired Partner

Secretary:
Lisa Recht
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**Seth Carson
Director**
American Family
Insurance Agency

**Tony Criscuola
Director**
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**Ray Pierce
Director**
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Corporate Safety
Director

Thank you to all that supported Blue Skies in 2013! If you are planning to give in 2014, remember that you can give a donation using your credit card by December 31 to be deductible in the same year. Checks must be written and postmarked by Dec 31st for same year deduction.

Meridian High Senior Collects for Blue Skies

Kaylee Fuhrman, Senior at Meridian High School decided to collect items for donation to Whatcom County's homeless, low-income and foster children. This picture says it all! The amount of clothing she collected filled her mother's van. Blue Skies sorts through and keeps all gently used coats, hats, gloves, scarves and blankets, and consigns all other clothing at WeeOnes and The Clothes Rack. Blue Skies receives payment in the form of gift cards and distributes to families in dire need. Great job Kaylee!!



**Thank You
Sound Shredding
& Recycling
for your
support of
Blue Skies!**

**Our kids thank you for supporting
Blue Skies for Children's Shoe Give Program!**



2013 Major Donors (\$1,000+)

Anne Marie Faiola & Chris Renoud
Barron Smith Daugert, PLLC
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club
Bonnie Rice
Bramble Berry, Inc
Daryl & Karen Trezise
Dean & Sandra Blinn
Dewaard & Bode
Don & Crystal Greear
Eleanor & Henry Jansen Foundation
Frank Manchester
Gerrit Loman
Gladys Hyatt
Greenberry Industrial
The Hafer Family Foundation
Haskell Corporation
Jan Bowman
Joe & Kileen Swortz
Joel Hiltner
June Leonard Foundation
Mayor Kelli Linville
LaserPoint Awards & Promotions, Inc.
Laurie Fueston
Linda Blackwell
Moss Adams LLP
Pacific International Grout Co.
The Pelo Foundation
Saturna Capital
The Seattle Foundation
Seth & Cecelia Carson
Sheryl Schneider
Steve & Julie Guay
Stoneway Electric Supply
Terry VanDenberg
Thomas & Martina Horn Foundation
The Ticket to Dream Foundation
Tim Chandonnet & The Grinch
Todd & Tiffany Winkler
Trans-Ocean Products
The Tulalip Tribe Foundation
VECA Electric & Technologies
Whatcom Chamber of Commerce
Whatcom Women in Business
The Whatcom Community Foundation
Whidbey Island Bank

Major Inkind Donors

Alcoa Union Employees & their Families
Bed Bath & Beyond
Bellingham Bells
Sleep Country
Soles4Soules
Sound Shredding & Recycling
The Bellingham Ballet
The Woodland Park Zoo
Zumiez Foundation

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT
BLUE SKIES FOR CHILDREN!**



Yes, I want to support Blue Skies for Children in 2014!

Date: _____

Name / Group: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please select one of the following:

_____ I wish to Sponsor-A-Child on a monthly basis and I understand the cost to sponsor one child for one month is \$50.

_____ I wish to donate on a monthly basis in the following amount of: \$ _____

_____ Please designate funds to the following program: _____ (See page 2 for Programs)

_____ Please use funds as needed

_____ I wish to make a ONE TIME donation in the amount of: \$ _____

_____ Please designate funds to the following program: _____ (See page 2 for Programs)

_____ Please use funds as needed

Payment Type (circle one): Check Credit Card

Total Donation to be Paid (circle one): Monthly \$ _____ Quarterly \$ _____ Annually \$ _____

Credit Card Type: Visa MasterCard Debit

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: ____/____

Name on Card: _____ Zip Code: _____

Credit card payments will be processed on or about the 15th of the month. I understand that I may notify Blue Skies for Children to discontinue my support at any time.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

We wish to thank our 2013 Little Wishes Enrichment Providers

Major Community Partners:

- 3 Six 0 Music
- Arne Hanna Center
- Animals as Natural Therapy
- Bellingham Art
- Bellingham Bay Swim Team
- Becky Gerlach (Piano Instructor)
- Bellingham Art
- Boom Elite Karate
- Bellingham Sportsplex
- Boys & Girls Club - Bellingham
- Boys & Girls Club - Ferndale
- Creative Dancewear
- The Dance Studio
- Dancing for Joy
- Debra Chang (Piano Instructor)
- Eastside Soccer Club
- The Firs Youth Camps
- Frank Kuhl (Sax Instructor)
- Gym Star Sports Center

- Jon Mutchler (Piano Instructor)
- Karate Quest
- Christen Mattix (Art Instructor)
- Kristina Turner (Violin Instructor)
- MOJO Music
- Nadezhda Kondratyuk (Piano Instructor)
- North Coast Gymnastics
- Parents for Youth Soccer, Ferndale
- Regulators - Basketball
- Sue Gault (Piano Instructor)
- Total Confidence Karate
- US Taekwondo - Bellingham
- US Taekwondo - Ferndale
- The Whatcom Rangers
- All Whatcom County School Districts
- WCYSA Whatcom Soccer
- Yelena Nelson (Violin Instructor)
- YMCA

- Alcoa
- Bank of the Pacific
- Bed Bath & Beyond
- Bellingham Herald
- BIAWC Baker Creek Place
- Computers for Kids in Need
- Fostering Together
- Launching Success Learning Store
- Michaels Business Machines
- Moss Adams
- Net Solutions NA
- Quist Violins
- Sleep Country USA
- Soles4Souls
- Speecom Systems
- WeeOnes ReRuns
- WWU Comm 224
- Zumiez