



# 2014 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.

### A Positive Impact in 2014

What a great year! Blue Skies continues to serve our local homeless, low-income and foster children by focusing on its signature programs and services - Little Wishes Enrichment Program, One-Time Little Wishes, Instrument Loaner Program, the Shoe Give Program and Winter Warm-Up Program. Additionally, Blue Skies administers the Josh Fueston Swim to Live Fund and offers a Driver's Education Scholarship program.

In January, our board elected to extend our programs to provide service for youth up to their 18th birthday or graduation from high school, whichever occurs first. This was quite a positive change that significantly impacted several teens who would have otherwise aged out of the Little Wishes Enrichment program right in the middle of their growth and personal development.

We hear from our families how much they appreciate our support, and need our services and programs. We want to thank you for choosing to support Blue Skies and our local homeless, low-income and foster children. Your help allowed us to positively impact over 1,000 children in 2014. The organization is proud of its continued growth, and in its ability to serve the children of Whatcom County. Please consider Blue Skies when planning your giving in 2015. - Julie Guay, Executive

### Did you know?

- Blue Skies for Children is Sleep Country USA's Whatcom County partner and distribution location for foster families.
- Woodland Park Zoo donates 400 passes to Blue Skies for Children each year.
- 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 145 Volunteers who worked 1,561 hours in 2014.
- More than 1,000 children receive services through Blue Skies each year.
- Blue Skies works with non-profit *Computers For Kids in Need* to help put a refurbished computer in the homes of needy families.
- More than 300 local businesses support Blue Skies for Children through financial donations, sponsorships and in-kind donations.

### In 2014, Blue Skies Programs

- Sponsored (4,372) Enrichment Sessions through Little Wishes Enrichment Program.
- Granted One-Time Little Wishes for (134) children.
- Distributed (2,692) coats, gloves, scarves, hats, blankets and other items to (722) children through our Winter Warm-Up Program.
- Loaned (27) musical instruments per month.
- Provided (312) children with a brand new pair of shoes and socks.
- Supported (16) children through the Josh Fueston Swim to Live Fund.

### Financial Highlights For Year Ended December 31, 2014

Cash Donations	\$198,336
In-kind Donations	\$ 64,939
Program Expenses:	\$189,266
Management & General Expenses:	\$ 42,792
Fundraising Expenses:	\$ 19,361
Total Expenses:	\$ 251,419
Total Assets:	\$165,082
Total Liabilities:	\$ 3,964
Net Asset Balance:	\$161,118

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

2008 - 34%	2009 - 30%	2010 - 24%
2011 - 22%	2012 - 19%	2013 - 20%
	2014 - 18%	

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.

## 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.

### We wish to thank our dedicated 2014 Board of Directors

<p><b>President</b> Giang Ha Haskell Corporation Assistant Controller</p> <p><b>Vice President</b> Cecelia Carson WordCrafters NW Owner</p>	<p><b>Treasurer</b> Gladys Hyatt, CPA Moss Adams LLP Retired Partner</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> Lisa Recht Retired</p>	<p><b>Seth Carson</b> <b>Director</b> American Family Insurance Agency</p> <p><b>Tony Criscuola</b> <b>Director</b> VECA Electric Project Manager</p>	<p><b>Ray Pierce</b> <b>Director</b> Haskell Corporation Corporate Safety Director</p> <p><b>Sheila Connors</b> <b>Director</b> Corporate Sales Best Western Plus Lakeway Inn</p>	<p><b>Shari Skinner</b> <b>Director</b> Haskell Corporation Accounts Receivable</p> <p>***** If you are interested in joining our board, please call 360.756.6710</p>
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### 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 a **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.

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 Soles4Souls 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.

In 2014, Blue Skies proudly extended its programs to provide service to children up to 18 years of age.

#### **Blue Skies for Children Granted 134 One-Time Little Wishes for Homeless, Low-Income and Foster Children:**

Bicycles & helmets...computers...gymnastics...soccer...dance...mountain camp...yearbook...  
ASB cards...cleats...football...skateboard...wrestling...uniforms...cheer...Boys & Girls Club Membership...ballet...tutoring...  
summer camp...baseball...volleyball...fastpitch...recital costumes...art class...swim lessons...hockey camp...



### A Huge Thank You For Your Support!

From 1,000+ children in Whatcom County...to all of you! Thank you for helping to keep our local children warm throughout the winter, at the bus stop, on the playground and walking home after school. Your support means so much to so many!

#### 2014 Major Donors (\$1,000+)

Anonymous  
Anne Marie Faiola & Chris Renoud  
BrambleBerry, Inc / Otion Inc.  
Bill Dodge  
Bonnie Rice  
Daryl & Karen Trezise  
Dewaard & Bode  
Dorothy Collins Brown  
Charitable Trust  
Eleanor & Henry Jansen Fdn  
Erin Baker  
Gerrit Loman  
Gladys Hyatt, PS CPA  
The Hafer Family Foundation  
Haskell Corporation  
Lynne & Jaime Henifin

Jan Bowman  
Karen Barlean  
Mayor Kelli Linville  
Kit Hardan  
LaserPoint Awards  
Laurie Fueston / Swim to Live  
Lisa Recht  
Michael Harrison  
New Belgium Brewing  
The Norcliffe Foundation  
Norm & Meg Vigre  
Pacific International Grout Co.  
The Pelo Foundation  
The Pless Family Foundation  
Ray Pierce  
Rhonda Van Nus  
The Rotary Club of Mt. Baker  
Saturna Capital  
The Seattle Foundation  
Sharon Yonally  
Steve & Julie Guay

Steve Widman, DDS  
Seth & Cecelia Carson  
Terry VanDenberg  
Thomas & Martina Horn  
Foundation  
The Ticket to Dream  
Foundation  
Toni Taft  
Trans-Ocean Products  
The Whatcom Community  
Foundation

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Thank you to all who supported Blue Skies For Children in 2014. We are 100% dependent on you and your support and can not serve those in need without your help.

#### How can You Support Blue Skies? Financial Support:

- Sponsor an event
- Sponsor-A-Child
- Become a monthly donor
- Annual Giving
- Employer Match Program

#### Donate In-kind:

- Item or service to auction
- New shoes & socks
- New or gently used coats, hats, gloves, scarves or blankets
- Musical Instruments
- Office Supplies

#### Volunteer:

- Coordinate a fundraiser
- Volunteer for Shoe Give
- Stuff and label envelopes
- Join our board of directors



# Yes, I want to support Blue Skies for Children in 2015!

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 2014 Little Wishes Enrichment Providers

## Major Community Partners:

- 3 Six 0 Music
- Arne Hanna Center
- Bellingham Art
- Bellingham Bay Swim Team
- Becky Gerlach (Piano Instructor)
- Bellingham Bay Gymnastics
- Bellingham Sportsplex
- Boys & Girls Club - Bellingham
- Boys & Girls Club - Ferndale
- Christen Mattix (Art Instructor)
- The Dance Studio
- Dancing for Joy
- Debra Chang (Piano Instructor)
- Eastside Soccer Club
- The Firs Youth Camps
- Frank Kuhl (Sax Instructor)
- Guitar Center
- Gym Star Sports Center
- Infinity Dance Company
- Jon Mutchler (Piano Instructor)

- Karate Quest - Bellingham
- Karate Quest - Ferndale
- Kelly Park Stables
- Kristina Turner (Violin Instructor)
- Larry Miller
- Mindport (Tutoring)
- MOJO Music
- Nadezhda Kondratyuk (Piano Instructor)
- North Coast Gymnastics
- Northwest Cheer
- Parents for Youth Soccer, Ferndale
- Regulators - Basketball
- Ruiz Family Martial Arts
- Sandy Lyste (Piano Instructor)
- Sue Gault (Piano Instructor)
- USTA Martial Arts - Bellingham
- USTA Martial Arts - Ferndale
- The Whatcom Rangers
- All Whatcom County School Districts
- WCYSA Whatcom Soccer
- Yelena Nelson (Violin Instructor)
- YMCA

- Alcoa
- Alaska Airlines
- Bank of the Pacific
- Bed Bath & Beyond
- Bellingham Athletic Club
- Bellingham Herald
- Computers for Kids in Need
- Creative Dancewear
- Fostering Together
- Michaels Business Machines
- MOJO Music
- Moss Adams
- Net Solutions NA
- Quist Violins
- Sleep Country USA
- Soles4Souls
- Speccom Systems
- Smith Gardens
- Together We Rise
- Village Books
- WeeOnes ReRuns
- The Willows
- Windworks
- Woodland Park Zoo
- WWU Comm 224
- Zumiez