



2015 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.

Financial Highlights

For Year Ended December 31, 2015



What A Year!

Blue Skies for Children had a banner year! But only because YOU helped us grow and be able to support more children than ever before. We continue to maintain low admin to program ratios and still do what we do with just three part-time employees, Julie Guay, Maya Green and Samantha Stanley, and 185 amazing and dedicated volunteers.

Cash Donations	\$244,579
In-kind Donations	\$ 76,081

Program Expenses:	\$218,790
Management & General Expenses:	\$ 46,732
Fundraising Expenses:	<u>\$ 21,267</u>
Total Expenses:	\$ 286,789

Our board of directors welcomed two stellar board members, Pam Reed, owner of Alicia's Bridal & The Formal House, and Kristin Costanza, who is the Associate Director of Development for the Mt. Baker Theatre. We celebrate Giang Ha, who was on our board for nearly five years and acted as President for three years, and are sorry to see him move on to other areas of service. We also want to thank Dimi Hartman, Maren Anderson, Sheila Connors, & Katie Dunne for their service in 2015.

Total Assets:	\$196,794
Total Liabilities:	<u>\$ 1,806</u>
Net Asset Balance:	\$194,988

Blue Skies continues to serve our local homeless, low-income and foster children by focusing on its three Little Wishes Programs and three distribution programs, including our: Little Wishes Enrichment Program, One-Time Little Wishes, and Little Wishes Instrument Loaner Program. Our distribution programs include the Shoe Give Program, our Back to School Backpack Program, and Winter Warm-Up Program. Blue Skies administers the Josh Fueston Swim to Live Fund, offers a Driver's Education Scholarship Program, & acts as the Whatcom County distribution partner for all Sleep Train USA Foster Kids and their five inkind item drives.

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%	2015 - 17.55%	

We receive kind letters and emails from our families about how much they appreciate our support, and need our services and programs. We want to thank YOU for choosing to help us support our local homeless, low-income and foster children. Your help allowed us to positively impact over 1,000 children in 2015. The organization is proud of its continued growth, and in its ability to serve our local children.

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.

We hope you will consider Blue Skies for Children when planning your giving in 2016.
- Julie Guay, Executive Director

In 2015, Blue Skies Programs

Did you know? In 2015:

- Woodland Park Zoo donated 400 passes for our homeless, low-income and foster families.
- Blue Skies offers volunteer opportunities to groups in need of service learning opportunities, and worked with Wild Whatcom a variety of projects.
- More than 1,000 children receive services through Blue Skies each year.
- More than 300 local businesses support Blue Skies for Children through financial donations, sponsorships and in-kind donations.
- Local ladies who knit and crochet donated over 300 scarves to our Winter Warm Up project.

- Sponsored (5,509) Enrichment Sessions through our Little Wishes Enrichment Program.
- Granted (152) One-Time Little Wishes
- Loaned (50) musical instruments per month.
- Distributed (538) children with a brand new pair of shoes and socks.
- Distributed (112) Back to School Backpacks
- Distributed (2,843) coats, gloves, scarves, hats, blankets and other items to (537) children through our Winter Warm-Up Program.
- Supported (16) children through the Josh Fueston Swim to Live Fund.
- Awarded (10) Driver's Education Scholarships.

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 Distribution 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 **Back to School Backpack Distribution Program** provides up to five children per family with a brand new backpack. (Aug/ Sept)

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

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 2015 Board of Directors

<p>President Giang Ha Haskell Corporation Assistant Controller</p> <p>Vice President Shari Skinner Haskell Corporation Accounts Receivable</p>	<p>Treasurer Gladys Hyatt, CPA Moss Adams LLP Retired Partner</p> <p>Secretary Lisa Recht Retired</p>	<p>Pam Reed Director Alicia's Bridal & The Formal House Owner</p> <p>Kristin Costanza Director Mt. Baker Theatre, Assoc. Director of Dev.</p>	<p>Ray Pierce Director Haskell Corporation Corporate Safety Director</p> <p>Sheila Connors Director Corporate Sales Four Points Sheraton</p>	<p>Dimi Hartman Director Umpquah Bank</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Also serving on the 2015 board:</p> <p>Katie Dunne Maren Anderson</p>
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Blue Skies for Children Granted 152 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...

We wish to thank our 2015 Little Wishes Enrichment Providers

Major Community Partners

Arne Hanna Center
Bellingham Art
Bellingham Bay Swim Team
Becky Gerlach (Piano Instructor)
Bellingham Bay Gymnastics
Bellingham Sportsplex
Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County
Barbara Borries (Piano Teacher)
Blaine High Cheer Team
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
Jesse Seales (Guitar Teacher)
Jon Mutchler (Piano Instructor)

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
NW Wa 4-H Camp
Parents for Youth Soccer, Ferndale
Regulators - Basketball
Ruiz Family Martial Arts
Sandy Lyste (Piano Instructor)
Sue Gault (Piano Instructor)
USTA Martial Arts - Bellingham & Ferndale
The Whatcom Rangers
Whatcom Stables
All Whatcom County School Districts
WCYSA Whatcom Soccer
Yelena Nelson (Violin Instructor)
YMCA

Alaska Airlines
Bank of the Pacific
Bellingham Athletic Club
Bellingham Herald
Computers for Kids in Need
Computers 4 Kids / Haywire
Creative Dancewear
Fostering Together
Michaels Business Machines
MOJO Music
Net Solutions NA
Quist Violins
Sleep Train USA Foster Kids Program
Simple Start
Soles4Souls
Speccom Systems
Smith Gardens
Together We Rise
Village Books
WeeOnes ReRuns
The Willows
Windworks
Woodland Park Zoo
WWU Comm 224
Zumiez