



SPONSOR-A-CHILD UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2023

As you may know, I am the new Executive Director of Blue Skies for Children. I took on this role last January and have been spending the last several months learning all I can about the community we serve, the programs we offer, and the resources required to effectively accomplish our mission. In 2022, Blue Skies for Children experienced multiple staffing changes that impacted some of our standard operating procedures. During this time, our **Sponsor-A-Child** program continued to flourish with one significant difference – consistent communication with YOU!

As our new staff got comfortable in their roles and things stabilized, we recognized that we had an opportunity to streamline communications, focus our energy on program delivery, and to also address some concerns about client confidentiality and equity within our Sponsor-A-Child Program. As a result, we are re-engaging with you, our Sponsor-A-Child donor, to provide program updates and to share how your donations have provided valuable enrichment and learning opportunities for children in our community.

We will no longer be providing children's photos or assigning a child to a specific donor. This change provides a greater level of confidentiality for our families and allows our staff to spend less time on matching children to donors and more time on providing program services. But we will continue sharing personal impact stories on a quarterly basis to keep our donors informed and connected to our work!

See how your donations have been raising hope and self-esteem below!

- “Ethan” has been attending weekly classes at Fight Lab, in the Bellingham Mixed Martial Arts program for 4 years now. Through Blue Skies sponsorship, he received his red-black belt last year and will likely earn his black belt this year! Sifu Martinez always raves about what an excellent student he is and how happy he is with his progress and the discipline he shows.
- After a couple of years taking piano lessons with Evergreen Music, “Jenny” decided she wanted to try something new, and physically challenging. We enrolled her in beginner Taekwondo classes at USTA Martial Arts and she is thriving. It is wonderful to support students like Jenny with the opportunity to expand their interest and skillset as they grow and determine what they are passionate about.
- Sisters, “Vanessa & Annie” have been taking dance lessons since 2019. Their dance instructor shares that they both have great attitudes and work hard to learn routines. “You can really tell ‘Vanessa’ loves to dance”, she said. “And “Annie” is constantly improving her skills.” They have only missed one class this session which shows their commitment and love of dance.

Read more!

- “Max” is currently taking private piano lessons with one of our local independent music providers. His teacher had this to say about him, “Max is a joy to teach. He doesn’t realize how talented he is. That’s good because he still puts in the necessary effort rather than rely on his natural ability.” We cannot wait to see how far Max goes with his music abilities.
- Blue Skies for Children has been sponsoring “Kathy” throughout high school and she is a true athlete. She is on the Bellingham Bay Swim Team with the goal of heading to the Olympics!

We hope these stories illustrate how transformative your donation is! Access to enrichment instills a sense of worth and possibility. Beyond that, this support sends the message that our community cares and believes in a child’s potential. As we start the new school year, we hope that you will maintain or even increase your monthly donation when the time comes to re-new. Our upcoming Charity Soirée and Online Auction, *Changing Futures ~ Changing Lives*, is another opportunity to help us raise more dollars to support this work. Please consider participating and invite your friends and family!

JOIN US!

With your help we can foster a generation of empowered, resilient, and hopeful individuals who can uplift their communities and build a bright future.

23RD ANNUAL CHARITY SOIREE & SILENT AUCTION

OCTOBER 26-30, 2023



SOIREE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 2023
BELLINGHAM CRUISE TERMINAL

CHANGING FORTUNES CHANGING LIVES



SILENT AUCTION
OCTOBER 26-30 2023
ONLINE & IN-PERSON



SCAN FOR MORE
INFORMATION





TICKETS AVAILABLE
SEPTEMBER 15TH

Gratefully,

Caprice Teske and the Blue Skies for Children Team