

# Raising Hope & Self-Esteem

In the past year, Blue Skies for Children embraced change and embarked on a journey of experimentation and innovation. We explored new strategies, programs, and initiatives aimed at furthering our mission and growing our programs. Throughout this year, we experienced several successes that advanced our goals and enhanced our effectiveness. These successes, whether measured in terms of increased outreach, improved service delivery, or heightened community engagement, underscore the importance of embracing change to create an organization that is as resilient as the children we serve.

As we reflect on the past year, we are encouraged by the progress we have made and energized by the opportunities that lie ahead. Please take a moment to reflect on **2023** with us and to appreciate the community that rallied around us to **raise hope and self-esteem in young hearts and minds.**



## 2023 Annual Impact Report



### PROGRAM

### DETAILS

### OUTCOME

#### BACK-TO-SCHOOL

This year we partnered with Christ the King Church to hold a week-long distribution enabling us to distribute NEW shoes and backpacks to **10x** more families.

**32%** more shoes were distributed in 2023 over the same period in 2022!

#### WINTER WARM-UP

With the success of Back-to-School, we partnered with Christ the King again to distribute NEW coats and other winter items over 3 dates providing warmth to over **350** families.

**33%** more coats and warm items distributed in 2023 over the same period in 2022!

#### LITTLE WISHES

We worked with our existing program providers to on-board more children from our waiting list enabling us to sponsor on-going enrichment for **100** children and meet **85** one-time wishes.

**27%** more children were able to participate in activities like gymnastics, summer camps, art classes and music lessons in 2023!

#### 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jamie Smeall, President  
Matt Roth, Vice President  
Jessica Raymond, Secretary  
Gladys Hyatt, Treasurer

Regan Wynn, Director  
Lindsey Gerhard, Director  
Marissa Sena-Sheley, Director

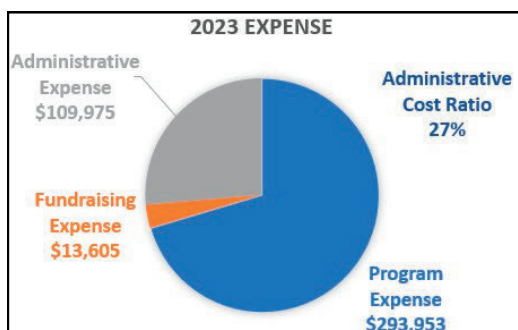
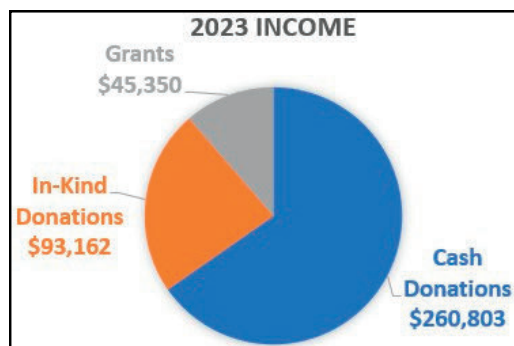
#### STAFF

Caprice Teske, Executive Director  
Jenessa Stringer, Enrichment Program Manager  
Alexandra Long, Office & Program Coordinator  
Ally Siglin, Office Temp

"It was absolutely incredible, easy from beginning to end and so friendly. My children are so excited about their new backpacks and shoes. When you walk in you automatically feel warm and everybody is really helpful and there is a lot for the kids to pick from. We're extremely grateful to be here today!"

— Danielle, Parent participating in the Back-to-School Shoe & Backpack Distribution at CTK

## FUNDING SUMMARY



## Mark Your Calendar

### Shine Bright: Student Talent Showcase & Reception

May 17, 2024 | 6pm

Our New Enrichment Showcase celebrates the creativity, talent, and hard work of students who benefit from engaging in after-school enrichment opportunities. We are excited to bring together many of our partners that are dedicated to providing creative, safe spaces for children to learn, explore, and grow. This will be an evening full of diverse performances, a silent auction of enriching experiences, dessert buffet, and so much more.



Make a difference today – donate to change lives.

# THANK YOU!

## 2023 PROGRAM PARTNERS



## 2023 DONORS & FUNDERS

Avenue Bakery | Avenue Bread & Deli | Bank of the Pacific | Barrett Transmission | Bellingham Bay Rotary Club  
 Bellingham Cold Storage | Bellingham Police Association | Bellingham Underwriters | Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship  
 Bill Dodge & Bonnie Rice | Birch Equipment Rental & Sales | BP Cherry Point Refinery | Braam Construction  
 Carol "Kit" Hardan | Catania Family Foundation | Coldwell Banker - Becky Brunk | Cowden Brothers Trucking  
 Deborah Wernet Charitable Fund | Fidelity Charitable | First Federal Bank | Gladys Hyatt Accounting  
 Global Credit Union | Haggen Foundation | Hempler Food Group, LLC | Industrial Credit Union  
 Little Family Legacy Foundation | Local Union #191, I.B.E.W. | Margaret & Andy Bogle | Matthew & Julia Roth  
 Mildred Mangles | Moss Adams LLP | Northwest K9 Inn & Spa | NW Custom Signs & Graphics | Em's Herbals  
 Petz Real Estate | Puget Sound Energy | Quinn + Foster | Rotary Club of Bellingham | Samson Rope Technologies  
 Samuels Furniture | Matt Ward | Seattle Foundation | Seeking Health | Southside Dental Care | Stan Kreft  
 Starvin' Sams | Superfeet | The Filling Station | The Landings at Colony Wharf | The Norcliffe Foundation  
 Washington Federal Foundation | WEA Fourth Corner | Whatcom Beer & Wine Foundation  
 Whatcom Community Foundation | Whatcom Educational Credit Union | Windermere Real Estate Foundation