



The Sunshine Times

Dear Friend of Blue Skies:

We are so grateful to you and our community for your support of Blue Skies and our Little Wishes Programs. What a year it has been. We relocated our office and reorganized our programs in Fall 2011, and our organization has grown stronger by the changes we made. This past year has been one of rebuilding and we go into 2013 a more financially sound organization with five primary programs that continue to help fill the needs of our homeless, low-income and foster children.

Unlike many non-profits, Blue Skies does not sell memberships or services to our clients. Our clients are homeless, low-income and in foster care and receive our services free of charge. As an organization that solely exists on donations, grants and fundraising, we are happy to tell you that 115 people turned out to support Blue Skies 12th Annual Dinner and Charity Auction on October 13, 2012, and raised nearly \$60,000 net. This event is the key to our ability to provide support in the upcoming year.

As we approach the end of 2012, we hope you will keep Blue Skies for Children in mind when planning your year-end giving. Our programs provide much needed shoes & socks, coats, hats, gloves and blankets, as well as support for dance, music, art, and sports activities, swim lessons, and martial arts, as well as a variety of school related expenses such as help with school trip fees, school sport fees, ASB cards, and more. We thank you for your support of our organization and programs.

- Julie N. Guay, Executive Director

2505 Cedarwood Ave. Ste 2, Bellingham, WA 98225
Phone 360.756.6710 • www.blueskiesforchildren.org

Save the Dates

July 27, 2013

Blue Skies Rummage Sale

Saturday October 19, 2013

13th Annual Dinner & Charity Auction

A Huge Thank You to the
Whatcom / Bellingham Chamber



for awarding Blue Skies for Children
2012 Non-Profit of the Year !

Thank You Village Books



for including
Blue Skies for Children
in their giving tree
for our homeless, low-income
and foster children!

Thank you **Sleep Country USA**
For choosing Blue Skies for Children as
your Whatcom County community partner!



Our Winter Warm Up Program Is Underway!

Want to help keep a local child warm this winter? Homeless, low-income and foster families are scheduled to come in to our office every 15 minutes throughout November and December to pick up coats, hats, gloves, scarves and blankets. If you would you like to help a family this season, we are in the greatest need of new or gently used coats, gloves and blankets.

COATS: We are in need of youth sizes 8-18 and adult coat sizes Small-2XL. The majority of our 12-15 year olds wear adult sizes. Both new and gently used (clean and zipper must work) are welcome.

BLANKETS: We are in need of warm quilts and blankets. New and very gently used clean blankets are welcome. Bright colors are preferred.

GLOVES: We are in great need of knit gloves and snow gloves.

Thank you to **The Willows** knitting group who have provided us with a beautiful supply of hand made scarves.
Our deepest gratitude to **Alcoa / Intalco** staff and employees who have collected and donated hundreds of items to Blue Skies!
Thank you to the **Zumiez Foundation** for their ongoing support of Blue Skies for Children.
A big Thank You to **WWU Comm 224** Class for your support and collection of over 200 items!



Auction Held for Blue Skies for Children

Blue Skies for Children held its 12th Annual dinner and charity auction at Best Western Lakeway Inn on Saturday October 13th 2012. The event was well supported by the community raising a nearly \$60,000 net. **Major sponsors included Barron Smith Daugert, PLLC, Moss Adams, North Coast Electric and Silver Reef Casino, Hotel & Spa.**

We wish to also thank our many **volunteers** that make our annual auction a success each year: our tireless **Board of Directors**, as well as **Pam Needham, Michelle Childs, Tina Goldston, Brandon Goldston, Zachary Guay, Ryan Dhaliwal, Miranda Bauter, Lennette Corwin, and Diane Patterson.**

Additionally, our heartfelt thanks goes to **Mike Kent** for volunteering his time as auctioneer, and **Bob Hagadorn, of Snapper Shuler Kenner**, for emceeding our event. A huge thanks to **Erik Axelsson, owner of Sunset Music DJ** for providing DJ services for the event. The amazing event decorations were created and donated by **Karen Trezise**, and our appreciation also goes to **M&M Floral** for their donation of a floral centerpiece for the head table.

Our deepest gratitude goes out to over (220) NW Washington businesses that generously donated auction items, our many incredible sponsors, and our amazing and committed donors who came to the event and bid in support of helping our homeless, low-income and foster children. It has been a challenging year for Blue Skies but even more so for our local homeless, low-income and foster families. Because of YOUR support we will be able to serve those in need in 2013.

Thank You to our 12th Annual Dinner & Charity Auction Sponsors

Event Sponsors

Barron Smith Daugert, PLLC



Moss Adams, LLP
MOSS ADAMS LLP
Certified Public Accountants | Business Consultants

**Silver Reef Hotel
& Spa**



**North Coast
Electric**



\$500 Level

Ershigs, Inc. Otion, Inc.
Haskell Corporation
Samuels Furniture

\$250 Sponsors

American Family Insurance
Best Western Heritage Inn
Gladys Hyatt, CPA PS
Kevalena Properties LLC
Multop Financial
NW Safety Signs
PSE
The Unity Group
VECA Electric
Walk-In Health Clinic

Inkind Sponsors

4th Corner Communications - Video
Bellingham Herald - Advertising
Bank of The Pacific - Radio Advertising
The Formal House
Frontier Airlines
Jack's Bicycle
Karen Trezise - Decorations
Laserpoint Awards
Mike Kent, Auctioneer
M&M Floral - Floral Design
Simple Start Designs - Graphic Design
Bob Hagadorn - Emcee
/ Snapper Shuler Kenner
Sunset Music DJ

Thank You to our Live Auction Donors

Anonymous Donor
Anthony's Restaurants
The Bellingham Herald
The Bellingham Slams
Bellingham Golf & Country Club
Benihana Restaurant
Blue Skies Board of Directors
Cascade Bicycle Club
Chef Terry Van Den Berg
Chmelik Sitkin & Davis / Katherine Deets
Designer's Touch
The Crowne Plaza, Seattle
Frontier Airlines
Gladys Hyatt
The Hampton Inn
Henfin Construction
Homestead Golf Club
Joe's Professional Indoor Golf Lab
Karen & Allen Callery
Kelly's O'Deli
The Lakeway Inn

Lambert Garden Creations
Mt. Baker Imaging
North Bellingham Golf Club
Off the Top Studio / Karlene Winchester
Ram Construction
Roger Jobs
Sandcastle Resort at BirchBay
Semiahmoo Resort
Silver Reef Hotel, Spa & Casino
Suquamish Clearwater Casino
Swinomish Casino & Lodge
Tulio's Restaurant
5th Avenue Theatre, Seattle
The Seattle Seahawks
Seth & Cecelia Carson
Shuksan Golf Club
Steve & Julie Guay
The Steakhouse at Silver Reef
VECA Electric & Technologies
Wapato Point Cellars
Wilson Motors, Mercedes Benz

**A Very Special Thank You
to the following wineries that
donated to our
Auction's Wine Tasting:**

- **Le Chateau**
- **Lost River Winery**
- **Vin du Lac of Chelan**



**LOST RIVER
WINERY**



Welcome New Board Members

New Board Member - Lisa Recht

I am a recent transplant from the east coast. I admire Blue Skies for Children for their mission statement and the work they do. I appreciate that they are giving me the opportunity to help out in my new community and my hope is to see their programs fully funded so they may help every child in need.

New Board Member - Tony Criscuola



I've lived in Bellingham my entire life, and have three kids and four grandkids. Starting as a fisherman, I eventually began doing electrical work, moving into management in the late 90's. I'm currently a project manager for VECA Electric & Technologies.

I've donated to Blue Skies in the past, and when an opportunity presented itself in January 2012, I joined the board of directors. My goal on the board is to bring a personal touch to the vision of Blue Skies. Often times, children without means miss out on important enrichment programs because they just can't afford any more than basic living expenses, if that. Without positive activities to pursue, children will often go down a less desirable path. This is where Blue Skies comes in. Giving children positive opportunities at such a critical juncture in their lives will do a lot to eliminate many future problems.

Seeing the joy in a child's face when they have the confidence in knowing that they aren't left out makes this not just a good organization, but a great organization.

New Board Member - Charlie Cabe

Growing up in a smaller community, I was always impressed with the multitude of ways that people gave back to their communities through both service and monetary donations. I wanted to do the same for the community of Bellingham and greater Whatcom County. I feel that Blue Skies for Children is a perfect fit for me as our organization helps fulfill the desires of our community's children to engage in enrichment activities that allow them to enhance their childhood experiences and develop the skills and talents that will help them in the future.

I learned valuable lessons as a kid participating in youth sports and other activities and I would like other children to have the same opportunities that I had to fully engage in those activities that interest them the most. The staff and board members at Blue Skies for Children have done a tremendous job to provide these types of opportunities and I hope to help the organization continue to grow to be able to reach more of our community.

Are you interested in joining Blue Skies Board of Directors? We need you in 2013!

As a board member you bring business acumen, volunteer time, fundraising support and community connections.
Call 360.756.6710 for more information.



Welcome Samantha Stanley



I usually tell everyone I am from the Kent area, but I moved around a lot as a kid, including a year spent in Arizona. Throughout high school I was involved in many different activities, but the one that really impacted me was being a member of the newspaper and yearbook staffs. I went on to hold three different editor positions on two different papers along with being a reporter. This led me to a scholarship and a trip to Washington D.C to attend a conference for high school journalists.

I have recently relocated to Bellingham to attend WWU where I am a freshman. I hope to become a history and English teacher at the middle school level someday. I have a passion for helping kids brighten their futures. I come from a low-income family, so I know how tough it can be on young people. Being able to help those in the same situation I grew up in brightens my day.

Blue Skies is excited to have Samantha join our staff as a temporary WWU Work Study Student for the 2012/13 school year, providing general office and program administration support.

Congratulations!

The Blue Skies Board wishes to congratulate our staff:
Maya Green for serving (3) years as Program Administrator
and Julie Guay for serving (5) years as Executive Director.

Thank you for your support in 2012

The Clothes Rack SysCom - Jack Brown WeeOnes Reruns
The Willows Zumiez Computers for Kids in Need
Whatcom/Bellingham Chamber of Commerce
The Launching Success Learning Store

Start 2013 with an Inkind donation to Blue Skies for Children!

*Q: You may be wondering
what is an "inkind"
donation?*

*A: An "inkind" donation
is a donation of an
item or service.*

Donate to our Garage Sale

We collect throughout
the year for our annual
garage sale set for
Sat. July 27, 2013.
We welcome donation
of items sellable to
the community.

*As the calendar turns to
a new year and you
begin to think about
cleaning out your closets,
please keep Blue Skies
in mind.....*

Donate Clothing

We appreciate your
donation of children's
and women's clothing.
We consign these
items through
WeeOnes Reruns and
The Clothes Rack
Consignment stores,
and receive gift cards
to give to families
we serve.

Donate a Musical Instrument

We welcome most
gently used musical
instruments for our
Instrument Loaner
Program.

2013 Charitable Giving

How Sweet! Thank you to our 2012 Auction Dessert Dash donors:

Albertson's

Baskin Robbins

Chocolate Necessities

Cliff House

Food Co-Op

Grace Café

Haggen

Icing on the Cake

Katie's Cupcakes

Kelly's O'Deli

Lighthouse Bar & Grill

Nancy Shogren

Olive Garden

Rhonda Van Nus

Shari's

Swinomish Casino
& Lodge

As 2012 comes to a close, many are considering end of year charitable giving. Consider the following:

- Set up a monthly donation to Blue Skies or donate and one-time support of \$600 to Sponsor-a-Child.
- Consider giving appreciated property - you'll receive a tax deduction for the fair market value and you'll avoid paying tax on the capital gain.
- Depreciated investment assets should be sold first. Donate the cash to charity, and benefit by taking a capital loss.
- Make a year-end contribution using your credit card, but note that the gift must be processed and charged to the card by December 31, 2012 to be deductible on your 2012 tax return.
- Incorporate your charitable contributions within a comprehensive long-term estate plan strategy, taking into account the various tax-and cash flow efficient ways to structure charitable gifts. For assistance with your planning call your tax accountant or call Moss Adams LLP at 360.676.1920.

MOSS ADAMS LLP
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Information courtesy of Moss-Adams

Blue Skies for Children offers (5) Primary Programs

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. Also 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 & helmet, special needs equipment, tutoring, computers, school related supplies such as 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 we receive are as unique to the needs of 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 **Little Wishes Shoe Give-Away Program** provides brand new shoes for children in need each Spring. Item availability and sizes depend on donations received.

Our **Winter Warm Up Program** provides children in need with coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and blankets. Item availability and sizes depend on donations received.

For more information or to donate to any one of our programs, please call 360.756.6710.

Sponsor-A-Child Program

Blue Skies for Children's Sponsor-A-Child program continues to grow each and every month. We are thrilled to have individuals and businesses support our kids through our Sponsor-A-Child donor program! The program supports our Little Wishes Enrichment program offering children who are homeless, low-income and living in foster care, an opportunity to participate year round in an educational enrichment activity.

Our Little Wishes Enrichment program enrollment continues to grow and we support 75 children in ongoing enrichment activities such as Horseback Riding, Art, Ballet, Piano lessons, Saxophone, Martial arts, Swim team, Voice lessons, Baseball, Ice skating, and many other enrichment activities.

How the Program Works:

The Sponsor-A-Child program ties a sponsor and a Little Wish Enrichment program applicant together, and although the two shall never meet in person, the sponsor may receive a photo of the child, their age, a brief story about the child, and quarterly progress reports updating the Sponsor on the child's progress in their enrichment activity.

We are actively seeking sponsorship for our Sponsor-A-Child Little Wishes Enrichment and One-Time Little Wishes programs. Can you please help us meet the needs of our homeless, low-income and foster children, and Sponsor-A-child for \$50/mo? If you are interested in sponsoring a child, or obtaining more information about this program, please call 360.756.6710.

Did You Know?

For the fourth year in a row, Blue Skies continues to be the **ONLY** non-profit organization in Whatcom County to hold the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Charity Seal Accreditation, meeting all (20) requirements of the BBB.



Thank You to Those Foundations & Community Giving Programs that have Supported Blue Skies in 2012

Bed Bath & Beyond The Bellingham Bay Rotary Chase Giving Program Village Books
Eleanor & Henry Jansen Foundation The June Leonard Foundation New Belgium Brewery
The Norcliffe Foundation The Kiwanis The Tulalip Indian Tribe
Soles4Souls Sleep Country Women Sharing Hope WECU
Whatcom Community Foundation Whidbey Island Bank

Our families are so grateful for a warm coat, hat, gloves and scarf. Thank you to all who have donated.

**Thank you
Smith Gardens
For your support this
Holiday season!**

Thank you Fall 2012 WWU Comm 224 Class
For collecting donations for our Winter Warm Up Program.
WWU Students collected \$365 in donations & over 200 coats, hats, gloves, scarves, blankets and more!

WOW! 73 Kids are Awaiting a Sponsor

Are you interested in sponsoring a child's Violin or Guitar Lessons? Piano Lessons?

Martial Arts? Sports? Ballet? Art Lessons? Swimming Lessons?



Just let us know where your interest lies, and you can help make a homeless, low-income or foster child's Little Wish come true! Call 360.756.6710.



Thank you Whatcom County Realtors Association for including Blue Skies for Children in your 4th Annual Whatcom Give-a-Thon, held at the Samish Way Elks Club on Thursday November 29th.

Zombies Raise Funds for Blue Skies

Bellingham Tennis & Fairhaven Fitness put on Annual Bellingham Thriller presentation on Halloween night, with a show at 7:30 in Fairhaven and 9:00pm in Bellingham. The Thriller Zombie Dance raised \$500, and Bellingham Tennis and Fairhaven Fitness matched the donation for a total of \$1,000 donated to Blue Skies for Children.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Thank you to all
who Sponsored a
Child in 2012!

Yes, I want to support Blue Skies for Children in 2013!

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 withdrawn on or about the 15th of the month. I understand that I may notify Blue Skies for Children to discontinue my monthly/quarterly support at any time.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

How Can You Help? Let us count the ways...

1. Sponsor-a-Child (just \$50/mo)
2. Join our Board of Directors (We need YOU!)
3. Volunteer (stuff envelopes, volunteer at an event, conduct a coat drive, knit scarves, etc)
4. Donate a gently used Musical Instrument - (We are in need of violins, trumpets, flute etc.)
5. Donate Office Supplies (#10 envelopes, stamps, tape, pens, staples, address labels, etc)
6. Collect coats, hats, gloves, scarves, blankets for our Winter Warm Up Program
7. Sponsor an event
8. Attend our Garage Sale (July 27, 2013)
9. Conduct a NEW shoe drive / Donate new shoes and socks for kids ages 6 to 15.
10. Donate an item or service to our Auction (Set for October 19, 2013)