



# Blue Skies for Children

Raising Hope and Self Esteem in Young Hearts and Minds

WINTER ISSUE

2016

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Cross, President

Pam Reed, Vice President

Kristin Costanza, Secretary

Gladys Hyatt, CPA Treasurer

Julie Fosty, Director

Erica Burns, Director

Scott Caldwell, Director

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Auction 1

Backpack Distribution 1

Letter from Parents 2

Auction Sponsors 2

New Board Member 2

Fundraisers and Events 3

Winter Warm Up Update 3

Want to give back to the community? Are you thinking about joining a non-profit board? Blue Skies for Children needs you! We are looking for two passionate individuals to join our dedicated board.

## “It’s An Auction, Charlie Brown!”

About 150 people came out to support Blue Skies for Children’s 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner and Charity Auction, held November 19, 2016 at the Four Points by Sheraton. The event offered a fun “It’s an Auction, Charlie Brown!” theme including Bob Hagadorn who volunteers as our emcee, and dressed as Charlie Brown. DL Lautenbach was our live-auctioneer and Gary Bird of GMB provided expert DJ services.

The night included wine tasting, live and silent auctions, a bid board, a “man cave” auction area, three raffles offering a trip, a flat screen TV and wine rack with wine, games, and dessert dash. The live auction offered a trip to

Ireland, a ski getaway at Whistler, dinner and overnight at The Willows Inn on Lummi Island, a \$250 Gift Certificate to the Chuckanut Oyster Bar, a weekend in Seattle at the Crowne Plaza with tickets to the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theatre and so much more.

**Our Community helped us raise over \$89,000**

More than 333 businesses donated to the auction, 25 businesses sponsored the event, 2 businesses sponsored tables, 150 people attended the auction, more than 27 people volunteered, helped with set up and

worked at the auction. Two wineries donated wine, and 18 donors supported the Dessert Dash.

This event is key to Blue Skies for Children’s ability to serve our homeless, low-income and foster children in 2017, and our local community provided Blue Skies with amazing support. We wish to thank all who were involved in this event for their kind and generous contribution in making this event a success. For without you, we do not have an event, and would not have the ability to serve Whatcom County’s youth in the coming year.



## So Many Donors To Thank

With over 333 donors contributing to the silent auction, live auction and bid board auction, we can only say, THANK YOU to our amazing community and all you have generously given to make this event a success!

## Dessert Dash - A Success!

Thank you to our Dessert Dash Donors: Bank of the Pacific, Barkley Haggren, Bellwether, Cake Creations, Carolyn Gill, Community Food Co-Op, The Cliff House, Four Points Sheraton, Gathered Confections, Keenan’s at the Pier, Kelly’s

O’deli, Mt. Bakery, Nancy Shogren, Pure Bliss Desserts, Rhonda VanNus, Shari’s Restaurant and Whole Foods.

The Dessert Dash raised a total of \$7,180.



## A letter from Ashley's Parents



Dear Blue Skies

Our daughter has a gift. She is a true athlete in the sport of cheerleading. Many may not consider cheer to be a sport, but since she was age seven she has put her heart, soul and sweat into her chosen activity. At age 7 she got a back hand-spring. By age 9, she was doing full twists and was on an undefeated team. In 2011, we relocated to Washington. We had a lot of financial challenges, and struggled to keep Ashley in cheer and we ended

up having to take her out. Blue Skies for Children made it possible for Ashley to remain on the Blaine High School cheer squad, and she was the very first Freshman ever to be put on their team....Cheer has instilled a leadership role in her that we believe would have been missing otherwise. She is the senior class rep. and will graduate in June 2017. Being a school sport participant was vital for Ashley; it kept her focused and determined and helped maintain sufficient grades for college. Ashley will

be getting a four year college scholarship for cheer. It would not have been possible without her continuing in her sport, which was aided tremendously by Blue Skies for Children, she'll also likely be on the NCA staff next summer, teaching high school athletes during their camps, and will compete nationally on an annual basis in Florida. We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your assistance, because without it, Ashley would not be in the position she is in today. Steve & Erin D.

**Our Winter Warm  
Up program  
continues through  
December 22nd.  
Please donate new  
or gently used  
warm coats, hats,  
scarves and  
blankets for kids  
ages 6 to 18.**

## Thank You to our Auction Sponsors

We wish to THANK our local businesses that sponsored our 2016 Annual Dinner & Charity Auction, with the theme "It's an Auction, Charlie Brown!" Twenty seven businesses sponsored this event and combined, they contributed a total of \$13,500.

We appreciate their support so much and hope you will help us thank them by supporting their businesses in our community.

**\$1000 Sponsors:** Barron Smith Daughert, PLLC, Christ the King Church, Ershigs, Inc., Haskell Corp., Moss Adams, Mt. Baker Products, NW Safety Signs, Inc & NW Custom Signs and Graphics.

**\$500 Sponsor:** Bellingham Cold Storage, Gladys Hyatt, CPA PS, Hardware Sales, LaserPoint Awards & Promotions, Samuels Furniture, Sue Hilton Real Estate, Windermere.

**\$250 Sponsors:** American Family Insurance, Seth Carson Agency, Care Medical Group, Faithlife, HUB International, Home Attendant Care, Industrial Credit Union, Judd & Black, Kevalena Properties, LLC, Lynden Sheet Metal, Moncrieff Construction, Morgan Management, Northwest Propane LLC, Rose Construction, and Seakamp Engineering.



## Welcome New Board Member



Welcome new board member, Scott Caldwell. Scott works at Waddell & Reed and has been affiliated with them for the past 10 years. He works with clients and businesses to plan for retirement, insurance and estate planning needs throughout Washington State & several

other states. He has been involved with many different Non-Profit organizations in Whatcom County over the years including the WCYSA Soccer Board, the Big Brothers / Big Sisters Board (President for 3 years) and the Junior Achievement Board. Scott graduated from

WWU in 1996 with a degree in Secondary Ed and History. He enjoys playing soccer, running, hiking trails, and spending time with his wife Renee, his 5 year old son, Tristan and his 2 ½ year old daughter Kenzie.

For more information, go to [www.blueskiesforchildren.org](http://www.blueskiesforchildren.org)

# Community Fundraisers Support Blue Skies

## The Slo Pitch Sports Grill & Casino

The Slo Pitch held a one day all beverage and food benefits Blue Skies for Children event pm Tuesday Nov. 8th and raised an amazing \$7,855! Thank you Slo Pitch and the community for coming out to support Blue Skies for Children.



## Thrillingham's 8th Year

A huge thank you to Tanya Kniest and her volunteer team of zombies for putting on Bellingham's 8th Annual Thrillingham event on October 31st, at 8pm and 10pm. The zombies offered a flash mob performance of Thriller at a variety of locations in Bellingham during the week prior to Halloween including at The Leopold and The Royal Night Club. Zombies passed the hat for charity at each event and raised over \$2,000.



## Thrivent's Shark Tank for Charity

A brand new event occurred in Bellingham on Thursday Nov. 17th! Thrivent Financial held a Shark Tank for Charity at Hampton's Fox Hall, and invited Blue Skies for Children as one of eight non-profit organizations to pitch project requests. Blue Skies submitted requests for a glass panel office door, new door locks and shelving. We are still hopeful a donor will come through! For more info go to: [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com) or call Blue Skies 360.756.6710

*Our deepest thanks to The Pless Foundation, Tulalip Cares, and The Hafer Foundation, The Ticket To Dream Foundation, and the Zumiez Foundation for you annual support!*

## Blue Skies Winter Warm Up Program

Baby, it's cold outside!!

Blue Skies is both collecting and distributing new and gently used warm winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves and blankets to families with children ages 6 to 18.

We expect over 500 children to come through this program by the end of year.

The program will be distributing

items through December 22, to all children who are homeless, low-income or in foster care.

In 2015, Blue Skies distributed 2,843 warm winter items to 537 kids in need.

Every year we run short on warm blankets and this year is no exception. We are so grateful to local groups who have crocheted,

knitted, hand crafted, and sewn brand new brightly colored blankets, hats, scarves and gloves for our local community. We Thank You for your generosity and support. To donate call 360.756.6710



## Save the Date

Join us on Friday March 17, 2017 to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and support Blue Skies for Children's 10th Annual Casino Night fundraiser. Enjoy mock casino games, a no host bar, appetizers and a raffle dash. Event will be held at Northwood Hall from 6:30 to 9:30 PM.

Please RSVP by calling 360.756.6710. or buy tickets at [blueskiesforchildren.org](http://blueskiesforchildren.org).



## Did You Know?

Blue Skies for Children is proud to announce that we distributed (410) backpacks during our first annual Back-to-School Backpack distribution Program.

Thank you to Delta Dental and Women Sharing Hope for your contribution to this program.

To donate call 360.756.6710



## Blue Skies for Children

2505 Cedarwood Ave., Ste. 5  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Phone: 360-756-6710

Fax: 360-738-6684

E-mail: [BlueSkies@blueskiesforchildren.org](mailto:BlueSkies@blueskiesforchildren.org)

**Mission: To raise hope and self-esteem by sponsoring enrichment activities and other essentials for homeless, low-income and foster children.**



## Our \$1,000 Auction Sponsors



**ERSHIGS**



**HASKELL CORPORATION**

**MOSS-ADAMS** LLP

Certified Public Accountants | Business Consultants

**Thank You!**

# We Love Our Community Partners

We are excited to welcome three new community partners in 2016.

### The Bellingham Festival of Music

Has sponsored five children taking music lesson this year, in addition to supporting our musical instrument loaner program.

For more information go to



[www.bellinghamfestival.org](http://www.bellinghamfestival.org).

### Christ The King Church

Has committed to a long term partnership with Blue Skies, as one of eight organizations they have chosen in the local community, to provide both financial support and volunteers.

For more information please contact [wendyp@ctk.church](mailto:wendyp@ctk.church)



### Thrivent Financial

We are honored to have been chosen by Thrivent Financial, a fortune 500 investment firm as a local non-profit eligible for Thrivent Choice grants.

For more information contact Adrain J. Brodeur at 360.752.3386 or email



Thank you CTK for printing our Newsletter!