

Inaugural Virtual Gala is Met with Outstanding Community Support

REIMAGINE HIGHER DREAMS

Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor



Although our annual Gala looked very different this year, the generous support from our guests remained the same.

Hosted on a virtual platform live-streamed from the Silver Reef Casino Resort, this year's Gala featured an array of exciting live & silent auction items and special drawing prizes. Guests had the option to enjoy our "Gala in a Box" at-home charcuterie board and dessert while they viewed the hour-long program.

Thank you to everyone who attended and donated. Because of you, we were able to raise an incredible \$301,882 to benefit our local kids. Your commitment to doing *whatever it takes* for the children in our community is truly life changing!

Gala by the numbers

1 great night

912 total views

\$301,882 dollars raised

3,779 kids impacted

Youth of the Year Winner Competes at the State Level



Faythe Rick (left) and Lynden Club Director Hana Shishkarev (right) celebrate Faythe before the state competition.

Whatcom County's Youth of the Year candidate, Faythe Rick, competed at the state level competition in early May.

She was featured during the virtual event and was able to share her story with attendees.

Thank you to everyone who joined the Facebook event to support Faythe and cheer her on. We are very proud to have had her represent Whatcom County Clubs!

How We Have Been Doing *Whatever It Takes* During COVID-19 to Take Care of the *Kids Who Need Us Most*

- Provided 1,800 free Grab & Go meals a week to kids ages 3-18.
- Distributed activity kits weekly to children county-wide.
- Installed Community Care Closets at our Clubhouses that are stocked with essential household items such as toiletries, cleaning products, and food for families in need.
- Launched a Virtual Club to connect members to Club staff daily and provide a variety of enriching programs while kids remain in isolation at home.
- Hosted an online Virtual Gala in place of our annual *Inspire Higher Dreams* Gala so that we are able to continue to provide essential services to vulnerable young people.

Message from the CEO

Our mission: To enable all young people, especially those who need us, most to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

These words have guided us for the past 74 years, never more so than today when our youth and their families face unprecedented challenges, uncertainties, and upheaval. Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County promotes respect, celebrates diversity and works to advance and prepare all youth for a great future.

Our strength is building trusting relationships that bring young people together. Our focus has always been to create positive change and we will continue to listen and learn so we can do this in ways that celebrate all children.

Boys & Girls Clubs has always prided itself on being a facility-based program, however; as the global pandemic spread and its impact deepened, we have transitioned. Our Healthy Meals program changed to drive-thru service providing more than 1,800 Grab & Go meals a week to hungry kids county-wide. We also began providing essential toiletries, infant care items, and cleaning supplies via our new Community Care Closet program. Our licensed care sites have remained open to serve children ages birth to 12.

Our dedicated team of youth development professionals started connecting with our kids through Virtual Club programs, checking in on them and assessing their social and emotional well-being during this difficult time.

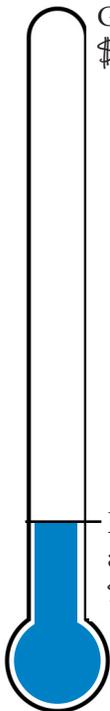
Your continued commitment is more important than ever. So once again, we are asking our generous community to “join our Club” and invest in our young people with a financial donation so that together, we can do *whatever it takes* to help our children recover from the trauma they have experienced.

Our goal is to raise \$250,000, so that annual membership fees stay at an affordable \$40 per year. We are committed to never turning a child away for the inability to pay.

Your donation will support some of the most at-risk youth in our community. Thank you for considering a gift of hope and being part of the team that does *whatever it takes* to ensure the children who need us most have a safe place to play, learn and grow.

- Heather Powell, CEO

Together, we are doing **Whatever It Takes...**



...to explore **STEM** careers



...to provide **academic support**



...to become a **caring citizen**



...to foster a **healthy lifestyle**

Everyday moments for youth. Greater communal good.



Summer's Here!
Week 1: 06/22 - 06/26



Animal Planet
Week 2: 06/29 - 07/02



Summer Scientists
Week 3: 07/06 - 07/10



Around the World
Week 4: 07/13 - 07/17



Going Green
Week 5: 07/20 - 07/24

SUMMER CAMP

June 22 - August 28



Builders Brigade
Week 6: 07/27 - 07/31



Out of This World!
Week 7: 08/03 - 08/07



Drama Matters
Week 8: 08/10 - 08/14



Beat the Heat
Week 9: 08/17 - 08/21



Play On!
Week 10: 08/24 - 08/28

Join the Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County for ten weeks of fun and engaging activities. Open to youth entering 2nd - 6th grade, each week follows a consistent theme at the Bellingham, Blaine, and Ferndale Clubhouses.

\$125 per week, includes breakfast, lunch, and snack.

Clubs will be open from 7:00 am until 5:30 pm.

To register your child, visit the Parent Portal: parentportal.whatcomclubs.org

For questions, please contact Director of Programs Dena Kindred at (360) 738-3808 ext. 310 or dkindred@whatcomclubs.org



Patricia Ann bid the highest amount on an auction item- \$20,000 for a painting by Sara Maloney and Heather Powell!



Staff Erik reads aloud to our members virtually in Power Hour.



Club staff working hard to safely distribute Grab & Go meals in Ferndale.



Spotlight



Haggen Food and Pharmacy continues to invest in our local kids. We were recently awarded two generous grants on behalf of the Haggen Foundation Nourishing Neighbors program to fund our Grab & Go meal program at both the Bellingham and Ferndale Clubhouses. Together, we are doing *whatever it takes* to keep our kids fed.

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF WHATCOM COUNTY



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF WHATCOM COUNTY
1715 Kentucky Street
Bellingham, WA 98229

**Whatever It
Takes to
Build Great
Futures.**

Printing donated by K&H Integrated Print Solutions

COVID-19 Pandemic Community Impact *April 3 - May 31*

Critical Issues

Hunger & food insecurity for those who rely on free/reduced lunch at school

Learning loss due to school closures

Increase in child abuse and neglect stemming from lack of supervision in working families

Club Response

12,600

Grab & Go meals served

240

hours of virtual programming provided

5,062

hours of childcare provided for infants to age 12

Online at whatcomclubs.com || Follow us on Facebook and Instagram #kidsattheclub