



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF WHATCOM COUNTY



**2021**  
**Community**  
**Impact Report**

# Our Organization Continues to Evolve.



Sometimes change is gradual, and other times, it can be sudden and unexpected. We are well-versed in both. In the last year, those changes have propelled us forward; they have inspired us to evolve.

Founded in 1946, we have evolved from a single Boys Club to four Clubhouses serving all youth. Then in March 2020, just days before a global pandemic turned all of our lives upside-down, we acquired the former Kids' World sites and began offering licensed childcare, thereby providing service to children from infancy through age 18.

The past two years have brought new forms of evolution to every area of our organization. From virtual programming to an increased focus on learning loss remediation, and an expanded approach to social-emotional learning, we have evolved. We continue to adapt with flexibility and purpose, expanding our reach and deepening our impact.

The long-term effects of the pandemic are still unclear. What we do know is that we will rise to meet the need – and we will do that because of the generosity of our community. Your response over the past year has been extraordinary. As the need for our services mounted, you came through with record-breaking support.

Thank you for your willingness to evolve with us so that *together*, we can continue to take care of *the kids who need us most*.



# 75 Years of Evolution

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

*1946 - The Beginning*  
One "Boys Club" in Bellingham

**Athletic Program offers year-round sports**

**Clubhouses county-wide open to serve all youth**

**Two 21<sup>st</sup> Century sites serving youth in the Mt. Baker School District**

*2020 to Present*  
**Acquired four early learning centers to serve kids infant - age 12**

## To Meet The Needs of Our Community.



# 2021 Year In Review

## JANUARY



Renovations begin at our early learning centers

## MARCH



Clubs encouraged reading on Dr. Seuss Day

## MAY



Celebrated National Childcare Provider Day

## JULY



Project L.A.N.E. launches

## SEPTEMBER



21st Century learning centers provide engaging STEM activities

## NOVEMBER



Virtual All County Breakfast fundraiser has record success

## FEBRUARY



Your Week to Give From the Heart virtual auction and fundraiser

## APRIL



Second virtual Gala met with outstanding community support

## JUNE



Clubs offer all-day summer camp for a fun-filled nine weeks

## AUGUST



Ferndale early learning center harvests their summer garden

## OCTOBER



Fall volleyball wraps up a successful season

## DECEMBER



County-wide Teen Night allows for safe interactions with peers

## 2021 Community Impact

Thank You For Helping Us Evolve.

### Clubhouse Highlights

Up to **270** kids served per day

**55,485**

meals and  
snacks served

**692**

hours of Healthy  
Lifestyles  
programming

**4**

sites county-wide

**2**

21st Century sites

### Early Learning Center Highlights

Up to **250** kids served per day

**116,432**

meals and snacks  
served

**4**

sites  
county-wide

Ages served:

**Infant - Age 12**

### Athletic Highlights

**325** kids participated  
in Athletics

**65**

volunteer coaches  
served as mentors

**532**

hours of play  
on the  
fields/courts

**4**

sports offered this year

### Revenue Highlights

Your Week to Give From the Heart raised:

**\$52,131**

Virtual Gala raised:

**\$314,850**

Virtual All County Breakfast raised:

**\$100,120**

Capital campaign Phase 1 raised:

**\$1.4 million**



# Academic Success

Boys & Girls Clubs understand that education is a primary cornerstone in building Great Futures for our kids. The need for out-of-school academic support has never been more apparent than over the past year – nor has its impact been greater. We provided distanced learning sites during school closures, and continued extracurricular help and enrichment activities when classrooms reopened.

Through hands-on, engaging games, activities, and STEM experiments, we are able once again to provide experiential education not always feasible during the school day. Our robust STEM curriculum helps members develop their critical thinking and problem solving skills. During nine weeks of summer camp, we offered a nationally recognized program named Summer Brain Gain to help build back academic skills.

We have seen a dramatic increase in assignment completion and improved grades, and we will continue to adapt and evolve this program to meet the existing and emergent needs of our kids as they work to get back on track academically after two years of upheaval.



STEM sessions • Summer Camp  
Homework Help • Literacy





# Healthy Lifestyles

From pandemic-fueled increased food insecurity and reduced physical activity to an exponential surge in mental and emotional health needs, our Healthy Lifestyles program has become more central to our work than ever before.

To help our children heal and rebuild from the impact of the pandemic, we recently introduced Second Step, a developmentally incremental social-emotional learning curriculum that provides tools for self-identification and management of emotions, impulse control, and resiliency.

This year, we launched a dynamic initiative to help improve Club members' knowledge of healthy habits, good nutrition and physical fitness. In addition to incorporating nutritious meals and snacks each day, Project L.A.N.E. provides all members with a daily, intentional focus on **L**ifestyle, **A**ttitude, **N**utrition, and **E**xercise. This program provides interactive, thought-provoking activities that build skills, behaviors and knowledge that contribute to a sense of well-being.

Nutritious Meals • Fitness



Social-Emotional Learning •





# Good Character & Leadership

The current partial return to normalcy for our youth has demonstrated their desire to reconnect with their communities – to help others as they have been helped, and to give back. Through an array of life-enhancing programs our members find a safe, nurturing environment where they are encouraged to explore the ways they can exemplify qualities such as integrity, honesty, and respect.

This summer, ten teens participated in the impactful Junior Staff program and gained valuable work experience by working alongside staff at the Clubs. Together, this committed group of young people worked more than 950 hours in nine weeks, helping prepare and serve daily meals as well as assisting staff in organizing fun, engaging activities for younger members.

Since launching a county-wide teen program in November, we are able to provide a tailored program that more intentionally meets the needs of this age group. A variety of programs will help empower members to serve others while making their own decisions, setting their own goals, and designing group service projects to give back to the community. When our teens are encouraged to look beyond the blue doors of our Clubhouses they find opportunities to become productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Service • Character Building •  
Leadership • Career Prep





# Early Learning Centers

We have been successfully operating our four early learning centers since March 2020. Our daily schedule provides consistency and a balanced variety of experiences and learning opportunities.

Children engage in both individual and social play, learn self-care skills, exercise muscles, and develop motor skills. Our new HighScope curriculum incrementally develops and better prepares children for kindergarten.

This year, the WA Department of Commerce awarded us a significant grant for extensive renovations at all four early learning centers. When the remodeling project is completed in 2022, each center will benefit from new flooring, cabinetry, paint, bathrooms, kitchens and fencing to ensure safe, state-of-the-art facilities in which our youngest members learn, play, and grow.

This year, we also launched a community-wide capital campaign to purchase the early learning centers, not only securing their future operation, but also enabling us to redirect current lease payments back into the organization. This represents an investment not only in our organization, but also in our community and our children.



All-day Care • Healthy Meals

HighScope Curriculum •







## Phase 1: Complete



## Phase 2: In Progress



## Phase 3: Future



## Phase 4: Future

Purchase Property  
1635 Main Street,  
Ferndale

Purchase Price
<u>\$1,462,600</u>

Purchase Property  
2320 Yew Street,  
Bellingham

Purchase Price  
\$1,807,032

Purchase Property  
4085 & 4090 Home Road,  
Bellingham

Purchase Price  
\$2,291,750

Purchase Property  
1906 Sunset Drive,  
Bellingham

Purchase Price  
\$1,978,825

**Total Amount Raised:**  
**\$1,462,600**



To learn more about the Building Blocks for the Future capital campaign, visit our website at *whatcomclubs.org*

- **The Need** In March, 2020 we acquired the operations of four early learning centers, preventing the loss of 532 daycare spots in Whatcom County. We committed to leases, with an option to buy the properties at a later time. That time is now.

We have already purchased the Ferndale center and have now turned our attention to purchase the three Bellingham sites at a discounted collective price. Owning all four facilities will allow us to save \$40,000 in monthly rent expenses, invest in improvements to increase capacity and build equity for future investments.

## ■ Impact *At-A-Glance*

*Ages of kids served:*

# Infant-12 years

532

*childcare slots that would have been  
lost if we did not acquire*

41%

*of local childcare providers were lost during the pandemic*

**61%** *of kids receive subsidies to attend*

**15%** *of childcare slots county-wide*

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

Nearly five years ago, Boys & Girls Clubs expanded our footprint of service to eastern Whatcom County. To address longstanding needs there, we successfully pursued 21st Century Community Learning Center federal funding, in partnership with the Mount Baker School District, to provide afterschool services for students at Mount Baker Junior High and Kendall Elementary School.

We provide a healthy snack each day, homework help, literacy and math support, STEM enrichment, and activities that strengthen physical and mental/emotional health and wellness.

Particularly over the past year, the 21st Century learning center has provided much-needed opportunities for members to engage in-person with other young people in a safe setting, to allow them to continue to develop social, emotional, and behavioral management skills. We look forward to a year of new growth in our ongoing service in the Mount Baker community.

Friendship • Confidence •  
Tutoring • Adult Role Models





# Athletic Programs

At Boys & Girls Clubs, we understand the valuable role youth sports play in enhancing the social, emotional, and physical development of our children. After the pandemic forced a year-long shutdown of our athletic department, we relaunched in March with a successful spring baseball season, followed by flag football and volleyball in the fall, and a mini's basketball skills program for our youngest members over winter.

After extended, largely sedentary, and isolating lockdowns, our sports program was a positive and welcome outlet for pent-up energy and the need for social connection. Volunteer coaches supported our program, encouraging every child to enthusiastically participate and increase their skill level.

Participants learned teamwork, communication, accountability, good sportsmanship, and especially this year, resilience. As part of a team, kids developed strong relationships with their mentors and reconnected with their peers. They learned to compete and have fun, to win, lose, and feel included. But perhaps the most valuable lesson learned this year was to just keep trying.

Camaraderie •

Teamwork •



Determination • Endurance



# Community Awards

## 2021 Community Awards

Our Champion of Youth Awards recognize two outstanding community members who have gone above and beyond to support our Clubs in 2021.

These special awards were presented during the Virtual Annual All County Breakfast on November 4, 2021.



## Congratulations to our winners!

**Individual Champion of  
Youth Award:**  
*Pete & Kristi Coy*

**Business Champion of  
Youth Award:**  
*Seeking Health*



The Jeremiah Milbank Society was initiated by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America in 2004. The society offers national recognition for individuals who demonstrate deep commitment to the children of their community with an unrestricted gift of \$10,000 or more in a year.

Jeremiah Milbank, the namesake of this society, exemplified a spirit of volunteerism, generosity, and compassion for those in need.

We are deeply grateful for our 2021 society members.

# Giving Societies



Anonymous (4)  
Brad & Lori Brown  
Dave & Mary Lynne Courtney  
Pete & Kristi Coy  
Greg & Elizabeth Grant  
Lynda Hinton  
Patricia Kust  
Jennifer Low  
Joan Matz  
Tim & Marcia McEvoy  
Brett & Tara Nebeker  
Karen Richards  
Stan & Terri Salstrom  
Dick & Sharon Skeers  
Tyson Twiford & Amelia Mendenhall  
Jerry & Michelle VanDellen  
Jeff & Diane Waldner  
Bob & Kim Warshawer  
Nick & Chantee Ziemkowski



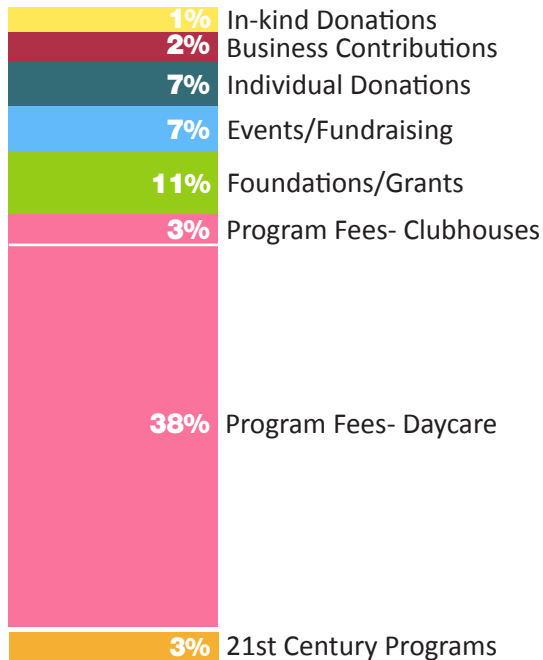
## Endowment Fund

This legacy fund was established in 2002. It continues to support Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County special projects, including capital improvements and maintenance, program capacity building, and staff development.

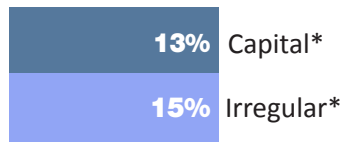
**Value in 2021:**  
**\$4,005,097**

\* All figures are estimated year-end and unaudited

## Income & Expense Summary

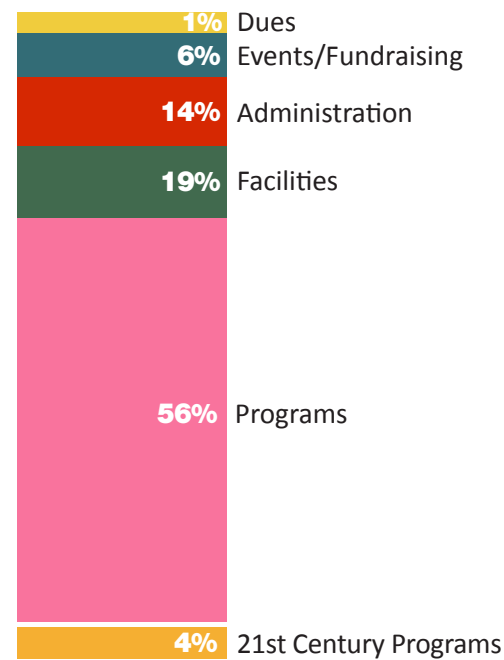


**Regular Income: \$5,168,774**



**Total Income: \$7,214,307**

\*Irregular income and capital includes several one-time COVID response/daycare acquisition grants and gifts.



**Total Expense: \$5,303,513**



## Board of Directors 2021

### Executive Board

Rob Lee, Board President  
Kristi Coy, Secretary  
Michelle VanDellen, Treasurer

### Board Members

Ali Brassfield  
Josh Cantor  
Kevin Cooley  
Josh Fish  
Jim McKenna  
Brett Nebeker  
Cassie Robles  
Angela Yates



## Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County

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