

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



Inspire Higher Dreams Gala & Auction Returns with Record-Breaking Support



Parent Emily Benekritis shares the Club's positive impact on her family. Photo courtesy of Turner Photographics.

This year's Inspire Higher Dreams Gala & Auction was a welcome return to our in-person event after three virtual years.

Held on April 28th at the Silver Reef Casino Resort, we rolled out the red carpet and poured the champagne for this enchanting night. Nearly 400 guests attended the evening in support of the *kids who need us most*. Attendees bid on 83 unique silent auction items online before sitting down for a surf & turf plated dinner.

Later in the evening, the live auction boasted 23 exciting trips, experiences,

Special thanks to our
Presenting Sponsor



and one-of-a-kind items. This year's Sponsor a Child benefited Project L.A.N.E., our daily healthy lifestyles program. With the help of two matching gifts, our generous attendees, and committed sponsors, we raised a record-breaking total of \$500,331! We are humbled and grateful for every community member who invests in our kids. *YOU are helping to pave the way for Great Futures - thank you!*



Guests held their bidder cards high. Photo courtesy of Turner Photographics.

Together, we INSPIRE HIGHER DREAMS



Gala by the Numbers

1 elegant evening

community sponsors: 32

378 attendees

\$500,331
dollars raised

Message from the CEO

In my first few months of being the CEO, the Board of Directors organized several “meet the new CEO” gatherings throughout the county to allow community stakeholders to meet me and share their thoughts about how we could best serve youth. As a new resident of Whatcom County, these meetings were extremely valuable, and provided important insight to inform the strategic focus of this organization for the next four years. Community listening sessions are a format that has guided our success in serving youth in numerous ways.

Due to the restrictions of gathering in person in recent years, it has now been more than five years since we conducted community listening sessions. COVID temporarily delayed the development of our next strategic priorities, and during that time, the challenges youth now face have changed. To help us establish long-term, forward-focused priorities, we are once again inviting community members to share their knowledge as we identify what our most important areas of focus should be for the next two to three years.

As we further position ourselves to create a better future for local youth, determine methods to leverage our strengths, and set objectives for our shared vision, we are also seeking community investment. The gifts received during our annual Great Futures campaign are critical in supporting our programs focused on enrichment, achievement and development of all the children we serve in early learning and Clubhouses.

I hope you enjoy seeing the impact of your gifts throughout this publication. I appreciate your willingness to continue to stand alongside us to ensure we are well-equipped to meet the ever-evolving needs of all children in our programs.

- Heather Powell, CEO

Together, we do **Whatever It Takes** to continue to...



...ensure all kids are well prepared for a successful post-secondary pathway & career

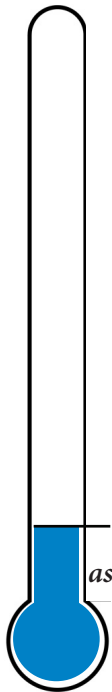


...give children a safe, nurturing place to have autonomy and discover their voice



...unlock the potential and fuel the dreams of every child

\$340,000



\$53,881

as of May 23

SUMMER CAMP

There's still time to join us for all-day camp from June 19 - August 25 in Bellingham or Ferndale. Open to kids who have completed the 1st - 5th grades, and offering a FREE teen program!



We're Baaaack!!
Week 1: 06/19 - 06/23



Under the Sea
Week 6: 07/31 - 08/04



Animal Planet
Week 2: 06/26 - 06/30



Everyday Heroes
Week 7: 08/07 - 08/11



Maker Space
Week 3: 07/10 - 07/14



Mad Science
Week 8: 08/14 - 08/18



Mind, Body, Soul
Week 4: 07/17 - 07/21



Best of the Best
Week 9: 08/21 - 08/25



Sports of All Sorts
Week 5: 07/24 - 07/28

Scan the QR code to learn more information and register your child



Project L.A.N.E.



We are celebrating the two-year anniversary of our healthy lifestyles program, Project L.A.N.E.

At this year's gala, "Sponsor a Child" raised an incredible \$243,811 to support Project L.A.N.E. This daily program teaches our members lifelong healthy habits that nourish their mind, body, and soul.

Recently, kids have been enjoying Four Square tournaments, basketball, and yoga classes. The staff pair these sessions with healthy eating activities like smoothie making and nutritious snack taste testing.



Little Caesars is celebrating 35 years of offering the Little Cheesers fundraising campaign. All six locations in Whatcom County encourage restaurant and takeout guests to contribute a donation of \$1 or more to our Clubs.

This year, the campaign is running from May 26 - June 30th. In its 35 years, Little Cheesers has raised an incredible \$110,000 since it started in 1988. Thank you Little Caesars for your continued commitment to youth in our community!

Early Learning Center Spotlight



Our friends at T-Mobile recently came to our Sunset location to clear out the Nature Reserve, an outdoor learning area on the property. Over 12 truck loads of debris were cleared out from the space so that it can return to being an educational space for all the early learning centers.

Thank you to the T-Mobile volunteers for ensuring that our kids have the opportunity to discover, explore, and learn about our ecosystems in nature!



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS ATHLETICS NEWS



Fall flag football & fall volleyball registration opens July 3. More information is on our website at whatcomclubs.org/athletics

Our 2023 baseball players have had an amazing season! Over 160 athletes have developed their skills over the last two months.

A very big thank you to our awesome volunteer coaches who are dedicated to nurturing the talents of our athletes.

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF WHATCOM COUNTY



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



Printing donated by K&H Integrated Print Solutions

Your Gift at Work

at our Clubhouses &
early learning centers

January - May 2023

Ages served:
infant-age 18

840

hours of
academic
success
programs

Up to
421 kids
per day

4

Teen
programs
county-
wide

548

athletic
participants

67,319
meals &
snacks served

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