



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF WHATCOM COUNTY

FORWARD



2023
Community
Impact Report

MOVING FORWARD FOR THE YOUTH WE SERVE.



It is with joy and gratitude that we present our annual report, a testament to the incredible journey we've had together. The theme for this year's report is *Forward* encapsulating the strides we've made and the exciting trajectory we are on.

The past year has once again demonstrated our commitment to propel young minds and bodies toward a great future. Guiding our members *forward* through a challenging landscape, our approach has been one of adaptability and resilience. We've pivoted and innovated so that every child we serve receives the support they need to thrive.

As we move *forward*, we are led by our steadfast dedication to inclusivity, creating safe spaces, fostering growth, and instilling values that equip youth with the tools they need to shape their futures.

Collaboration has been the key in our journey *forward* this year. We've strengthened our partnerships within the community with those who share our vision of ensuring that every child has access to the great opportunities they deserve.

Looking *forward*, our focus is fixed on the horizon of possibility, a future where our organization continues to provide spaces of inspiration, learning, and empowerment.

None of this would be possible without your unwavering support. Your generosity, time, and belief in our mission continues to push us *forward*, thank you.

TOGETHER, WE ARE PAVING THE WAY FOR

growth



2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY



Winter co-ed basketball finishes a strong season

MARCH



Teens enjoy Cooking Club as a way to learn about healthy meals

MAY



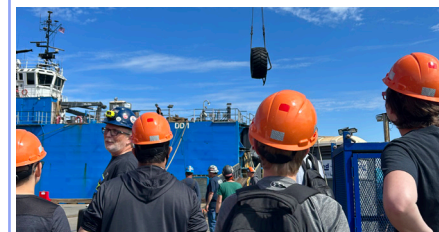
Kindergarten readiness is a focus as we head into summer

JULY



Bellingham Bells baseball team visit our Club kids

SEPTEMBER



Teens experience workforce opportunities through field trips

NOVEMBER



Brand new mini busses arrive at three of our early learning sites

FEBRUARY



Clubhouses focus on social-emotional learning exercises

APRIL



Inspire Higher Dreams Gala & Auction breaks fundraising record

JUNE



All-day summer camp offered for a fun-filled nine weeks

AUGUST



Paella Party with a Purpose launches Great Futures campaign

OCTOBER



Athletes' skills grow during fall volleyball

DECEMBER



Winter Wonderland Pancake Breakfast hosted for families

2023 COMMUNITY IMPACT



Early Learning Center Highlights

562 available spots

123,149

meals and snacks
served

4

sites
county-wide

Ages served:

Infant - Age 12

Clubhouse Highlights

724 members served
by Clubs

43,797

meals and
snacks served

1,091

sessions of
Project L.A.N.E.
programming

4

sites county-wide

Athletic Highlights

788 kids participated
in Athletics

117

volunteer coaches
served as mentors

219

games played
on the
fields/courts

4

sports offered this year

Revenue Highlights

Campaign for Great Futures raised:

\$368,716

Inspire Higher Dreams Gala raised:

\$500,331

Paella Party with a Purpose raised:

\$114,596

Annual All County Breakfast raised:

\$108,171

INFANTS

4 weeks to 12 months

Our commitment to nurturing the youngest members of our community in the last year has been exemplified through our dedicated infant care program. Designed with a focus on holistic development, our responsive teachers have provided a safe, stimulating, and caring environment for infants from age four weeks to 12 months, ensuring their early months are filled with love, learning, and support.

Through specialized curriculum, attentive caregivers, and an intentional focus on meeting crucial early milestones, we've cultivated a solid foundation for infants, setting them on a path forward towards a future full of promise and opportunity.

Our efforts in infant care represent our unwavering dedication to fostering learning and growth from the earliest stages of development.



Reaching for toys

Reciprocating sounds

Social bonding

TODDLERS

12 - 30 months

In our steadfast commitment to comprehensive child development, the toddler care initiatives have flourished over the past year. In our recently remodeled classrooms, our evidence-based, targeted programs for toddlers have centered on creating a safe, flexible, child-oriented environment that accommodates burgeoning independence, development of important social skills, and cognitive growth.

Through the use of HighScope curriculum and tailored activities, our staff provide a supportive space where toddlers explore, learn, and develop essential skills, laying the cornerstone for their future educational success and personal growth. Our dedication to toddler care underscores our mission to guide young individuals forward, ensuring that each child is able to take confident steps toward a promising future.



Feeding themselves

Building friendships

Developing motor skills

PRESCHOOL

2 1/2 - 5 years

This year our preschool program has blossomed into a vibrant hub of early childhood education, where enthusiastic teachers have provided a welcoming environment, and offered a play-based curriculum designed to ignite a love of learning in our youngest students. Our Pre-K program focuses on the whole child, integrating social, emotional and cognitive development, setting the stage for a lifelong eagerness for learning.

A consistent daily framework provides a blend of structured learning and creative exploration opportunities as children work towards kindergarten readiness. Through a variety of small and large group activities, dedicated staff cultivate a supportive classroom environment that encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and social interaction.

Our investment in the preschool program reflects our continued commitment to guiding young minds forward, preparing them for a successful transition to formal education, and instilling a foundation of future possibilities.



Language development

Identify colors

Count to 10

SCHOOL AGE - LICENSED CARE

6 - 12 years

Our licensed school-age program has been helping children to thrive during the before-and-after school hours, and when school is out-of-session. Over the past year our program has provided an active, enriching learning environment where school-age children engage in a variety of carefully planned, hands-on experiences that combine learning, fun, and personal development.

Our knowledgeable staff deliver programs that complement and enhance each child's school experience, and provide opportunities to explore a range of interests. Our dedication to this program echoes our commitment to developing every child's potential, leading them forward as they navigate their educational journey, build important life skills, and thrive on their path to young adulthood.



Confidence

Problem solving

Homework help

SCHOOL AGE - CLUBHOUSES

5 - 18 years

Academic Success: With an emphasis on our Read & Dream digital literacy program as well as our twice-weekly experiential STEM sessions we are continuing our year-round commitment to extending learning beyond the classroom.

Healthy Lifestyles: Through a variety of fun, engaging activities, Project L.A.N.E. (Lifestyle. Attitude. Nutrition. Exercise.) enhances the physical, mental and emotional well-being of our members every day. At the cornerstone of this important program are the nutritious meals and snacks that are served daily.

Good Character & Leadership: Youth find a safe, supportive place where they see caring adult mentors modeling positive behavior every day. Programs like Youth of the Year teach members the importance of being responsible, engaged citizens who demonstrate qualities such as integrity, kindness, and respect.

Self-directed learning

Communication

Community service



TEENS

13 - 18 years

We have long recognized that the teen years are critical to the successful transition from youth to adulthood. This year, in response to a growing local need, we launched a comprehensive, year-round, no-cost, workforce readiness and career prep program, named “Spark My Future” by the teens.

Through a suite of tailored Boys & Girls Clubs of America curricula, we have sought to empower our teenage members with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to successfully prepare a path to postsecondary opportunities.

Our teen-centered programs have engaged participants in diverse ways, including leadership opportunities, managing their finances, and cooking classes. We believe that with experience, training, and/or education, our young people will build skill sets to move forward in a career of their choice.



Workforce readiness

Life skills

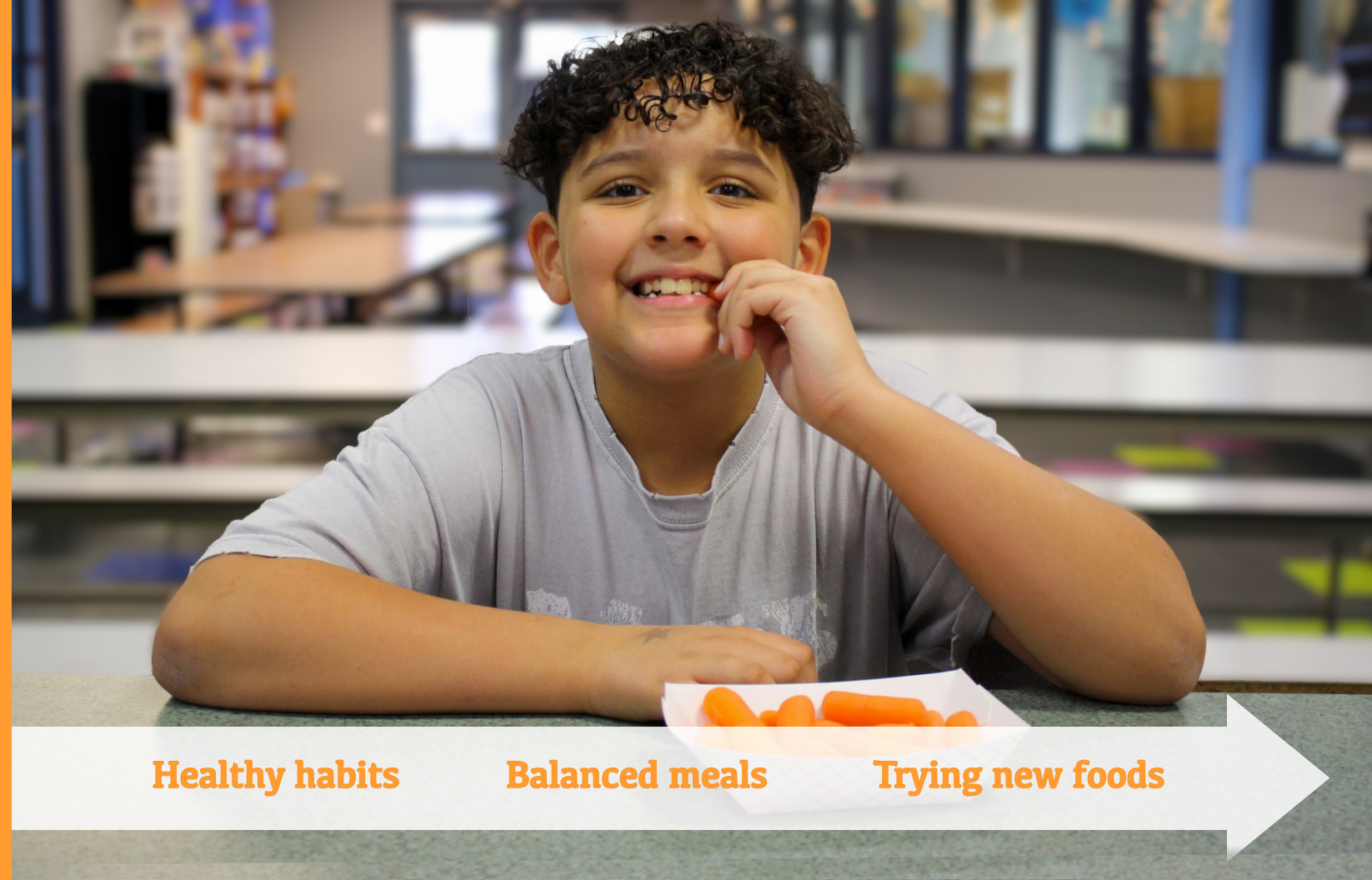
Peer-to-peer connections

HEALTHY MEAL PROGRAM

The daily healthy meal program is the absolute cornerstone of everything else that takes place at the Clubs and early learning centers. Teaching the value of good nutrition to kids at a young age builds a foundation that is essential to a healthy life. Seasonal menus are developed year-round by our Nutrition Director to consistently ensure high-quality, varied choices while maximizing the inclusion of locally sourced fresh produce. Meals for all ages consist of milk, fruit, vegetables, protein, and whole grains.

At the Clubhouses, in addition to providing wholesome meals and healthy snacks, we also conducted cooking classes, meal planning lessons, and taught members the importance of eating fresh fruit and vegetables.

At the early learning centers, our infants are fed on-demand. Toddler and pre-k classrooms are provided with large bowls of food to allow teachers to help children learn to serve themselves. The teachers and the children eat together, family-style, as this provides the teachers with an opportunity to encourage children to sample unfamiliar foods.



Healthy habits

Balanced meals

Trying new foods

ATHLETICS➔

Our year-round, recreational athletic programs provided a vibrant, encouraging, and inclusive space on-and-off the field for our young athletes to discover the joy of physical activity, and being a part of a team. From baseball and volleyball to football and basketball, we worked tirelessly to instill the values of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance to enhance both physical, and emotional health.

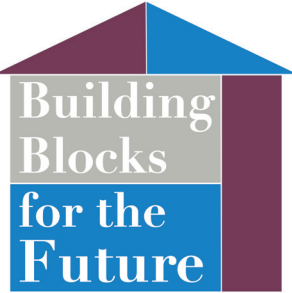
Our dedicated staff and volunteer coaches witnessed firsthand the transformative power of sports building self-esteem, promoting good sportsmanship, and creating a sense of community among our players. This program demonstrates our commitment to inspiring all participants to build a healthy lifestyle today, and carry these important life-shaping habits, and friendships forward into the future.

Determination

Teamwork

Camaraderie





Capital Campaign to Purchase Our Four Early Learning Centers County-wide to Benefit Whatcom County Youth



In an ongoing pursuit of service to our community through early learning programs, Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County has made remarkable strides this year related to phase three of our four-phase capital campaign.

This ambitious initiative to purchase all four of the early learning facilities acquired in 2020, has garnered enthusiastic support from our community, allowing us to have just \$2,369,114 remaining to retire the debt related to this important expansion of services.

Our four state-of-the-art early learning centers are serving our youngest community members because of the generosity of our community. As we continue to push forward to raise the remaining funds needed, we also want to express our gratitude to the investors who are ensuring we are able to lay a solid foundation for the future success of the children in our care.



Phase 1:
Complete

Purchase Property
1635 Main Street,
Ferndale

Purchase Price
\$1,462,600

**Total Amount
Raised in 2021:**
\$1,462,600



Phase 2:
Complete

Purchase Property
2320 Yew Street,
Bellingham

Purchase Price
\$1,807,032

**Total Amount
Raised in 2022:**
\$1,807,032



Phase 3:
In Progress

Purchase Property
4085 & 4090 Home Road,
Bellingham

Purchase Price
\$2,291,750

**Amount Raised
in 2023:**
\$807,000



Phase 4:
Future

Purchase Property
1906 Sunset Drive,
Bellingham

Purchase Price
\$1,978,825



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

COMMUNITY AWARDS

2023 Community Awards

Our Champion of Youth Awards recognize two outstanding community members who have gone above and beyond to support our Clubs in 2023.

We also recognized one volunteer coach who has been vital in the success of athletics this year.

These special awards were presented during the Annual All County Breakfast on Thursday, November 2nd.



Congratulations to our winners!

Individual Champion of
Youth Award:
Patricia Kust

Business Champion of Youth
Award:
Hotel Bellwether

Coach of the Year Award:
Alisson Bonner

*Thank you for your dedication
this year to the kids who
need us most.*



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.

■

We are deeply grateful for the
donations of \$485,000 from our
2023 society members.



GIVING SOCIETIES

Anonymous (3)
Maureen & Rick Braun
Jim & Sharon Campbell
Dave & Mary Lynne Courtney
Pete & Kristi Coy
Greg & Elizabeth Grant
Lynda Hinton
Patricia Kust
Joan Matz
Tim & Marcia McEvoy
Amelia Mendenhall & Tyson Twiford
Andre & Julie Molnar, Hotel Bellwether
Brett & Tara Nebeker
Karen Richards
Stan & Terri Salstrom
Jerry & Michelle VanDellen
Elena & David Vander Woude
Bob & Kim Warshawer
Nick & Chantee Ziemkowski

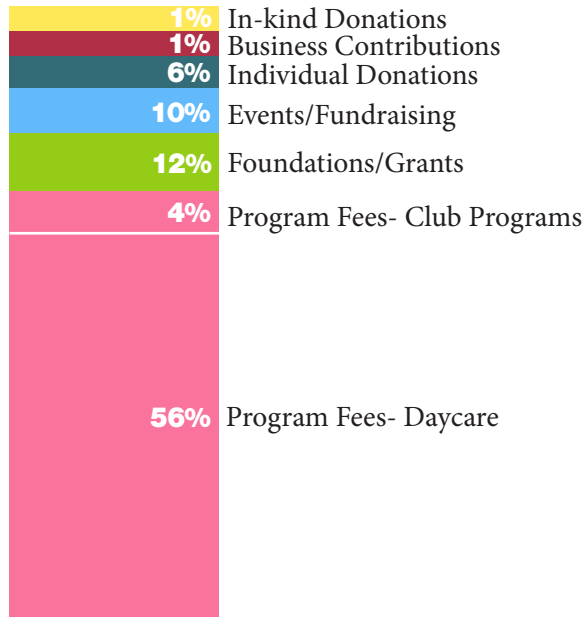
Endowment Fund

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 2023:
\$2,340,026

* All figures are estimated year-end and unaudited

Income, Expense, and Capital Investments Summary

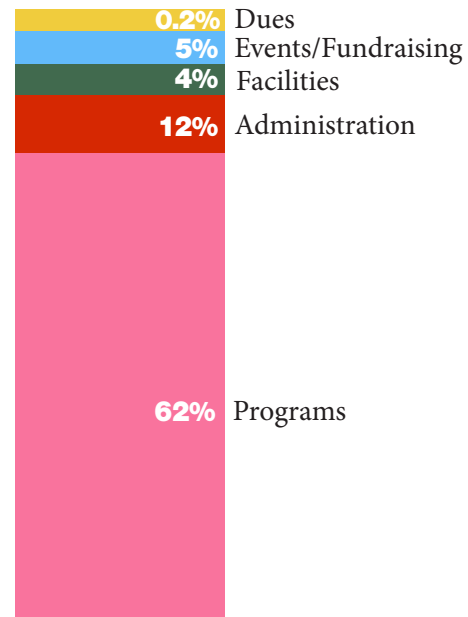


Regular Income: \$7,094,646



Total Income: \$7,886,682

* Phase three capital campaign fundraising



Regular Expense: \$6,415,474



Total Expense: \$7,641,274

* 2023 Depreciation Expense - \$471,108



Board of Directors 2023

Executive Board

Michelle VanDellen, *Board President*
Brett Nebeker, *Vice President*
Kristi Coy, *Secretary*
Kevin Cooley, *Treasurer*

Board Members

Paulina Antczak
Ali Brassfield
Randy Carroll
Jim McKenna
Charly Myers
Cassie Robles
Angela Yates



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF WHATCOM COUNTY

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