

2024 IMPACT REPORT



BLUE SKIES FOR CHILDREN



MISSION

To raise hope and self-esteem by sponsoring enrichment programs and other essentials for homeless, low-income and foster children in Whatcom and Skagit Counties.

VISION

To help families with basic essentials and provide growth opportunities they cannot otherwise afford for their children, that raise hope and self-esteem and allow each child to feel equal to their peers. To increase the capacity to grant Little Wishes for children in need through grants, donations, fundraisers and monthly program donors. To increase hope and raise self-esteem in our homeless, low-income and foster children, ages six to eighteen.

Impact Snapshot

156 ONE-TIME LITTLE WISHES GRANTED



136 CHILDREN ENROLLED IN ONGOING ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES



2,442 NEW COATS, SHOES, AND BACKPACKS DISTRIBUTED



8 DRIVERS' EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



Dear Friends

In 2023, Blue Skies for Children embraced a season of transformation. We leaned into innovation and tested new approaches that deepened our impact on the lives of the children and families we serve. That momentum carried us into 2024, a year marked by purposeful growth, expanded partnerships, and a renewed focus on meeting unmet needs in our community.



We began the year with an unexpected office relocation in early 2024. What could have been a setback instead became a turning point. Our team rose to the challenge with creativity and resilience, turning a temporary disruption into an opportunity to strengthen operations and reimagine how we deliver services. We streamlined internal processes, expanded outreach efforts, and reaffirmed our commitment to accessibility for the most vulnerable youth in Whatcom and Skagit Counties.

Throughout 2024, we saw an increasing demand for our programs—especially for enrichment opportunities that help children build confidence, skills, and a sense of belonging. In response, we scaled our ongoing enrichment and Little Wishes programming, strengthened our relationships with local schools and community providers. Behind every program success is a story of a child whose life is changing for the better. Whether it's a girl who found confidence through gymnastics, a boy who discovered his voice in a music program, or a family who received the essential items they needed to get through the school year—your support made it possible. You are the reason we can say "yes" when a school counselor calls about a child in need.

As we look ahead to 2025, we carry with us the lessons of this past year: that resilience is built through community, that challenges can spark innovation, and that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive. We are excited to grow our programs, deepen community connections, and ensure that no child is left waiting for the chance to dream big.

Thank you for standing with us as we raise hope and self-esteem in young hearts and minds.

With gratitude,



Executive Director
Blue Skies for Children

OUR STAFF

Caprice Teske
Executive Director

Melissa Stevenson
Programs Manager

Alexandra Long
Office & Program Coordinator

Andrea Hausner
Bookkeeper



Projects

Little Wishes Enrichment Program

Back2School Boost

Drivers' Education Scholarships

Details

Funded ongoing enrichment activities such as music, dance, art, and STEAM classes, as well as one-time experiences like summer camps and educational field trips.

Distributed NEW shoes, coats, and backpacks through our distribution event and in-office appointments.

Provided scholarships up to \$500 for teens facing financial barriers .

Outcome

Children who would not normally have access to engaging and educational activities were able to learn new skills - building self-esteem, and developing the resilience and social-emotional skills essential for long-term success.

Children received essential gear that helped them feel confident, prepared for school, and ready to engage fully in learning alongside their peers.

Teens learned road safety and obtained their Drivers' License, opening doors to greater independence, access to employment, and long-term safety and success as they prepare for adulthood.

IMPACT STORIES

When Molly lost her mother at just nine years old, her world was turned upside down. Suddenly in the care of her uncle, Molly struggled with the weight of grief and the challenge of adjusting to a new home and school. Recognizing her need for emotional and social support, a school administrator referred her family to Blue Skies for Children. Through our Little Wishes Ongoing Enrichment Program, Molly began attending weekly gymnastics classes— an activity she had always dreamed of. Over the past two years, gymnastics has given her a consistent outlet to rebuild confidence, form lasting friendships, and regain a sense of joy.

Dominick's gift for music was undeniable—at just ten years old, he could hear a classical string piece once and replicate it from memory. His family, while supportive and proud, faced financial hardship that made music lessons and instrument upkeep impossible. Encouraged by a school administrator, they reached out to Blue Skies for Children. Through our Little Wishes Ongoing Enrichment Program, Dominick now receives regular lessons with a dedicated instructor and has even begun composing original pieces. With support from Blue Skies, his talent is being nurtured, and his future feels more within reach. Families like Dominick's often face tough choices, but thanks to community support, Blue Skies ensures that financial barriers don't prevent children from pursuing their passions.

These stories exemplify how Blue Skies for Children helps local youth find stability, hope, and belonging in the face of adversity.



2024 UNAUDITED FINANCIALS

Assets

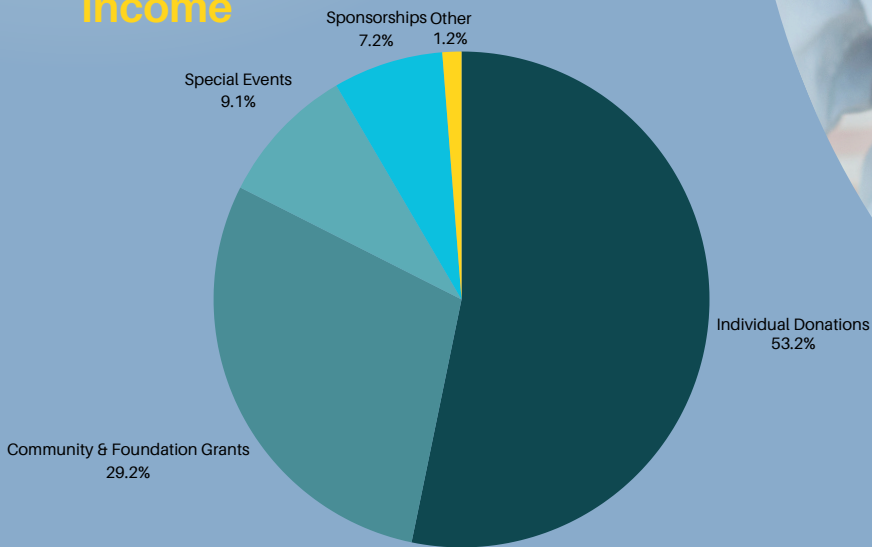
| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Current Assets | \$206,627 |
| Other Assets | \$ 5,925 |

Liabilities and Equity

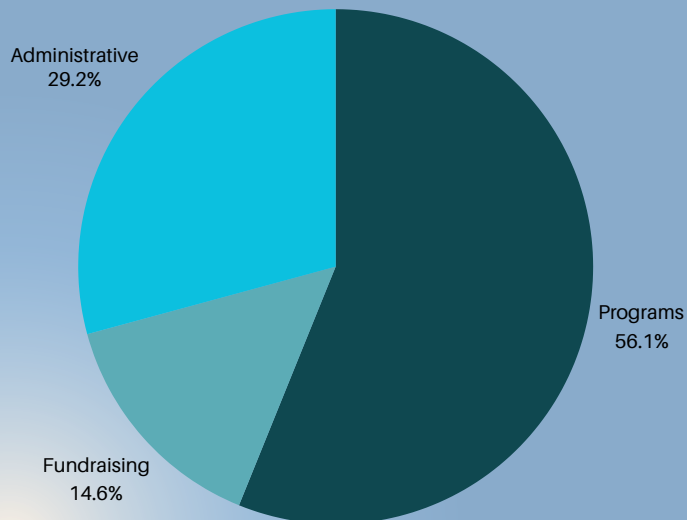
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| Current Liabilities | \$ 3,855 |
| Equity | \$208,697 |



Income



Expense



Funds Raised
\$354,370

In-Kind Donations
\$41,808

Administrative Ratio
29%

**We couldn't have done it
without your generous support.**



BUSINESS/FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| A1 Designbuild | Deborah Wernet Charitable Fund | Menace Brewing | Superfeet |
| Antique Auto Restorers Club | Dewey Griffin Subaru | MOD Pizza | Texas Roadhouse |
| Avenue Bread & Deli | Eleanor & Henry Jansen Fnd. | Morgan Handyman & Remodel | The Landings at Colony Wharf |
| Bellingham Bay Rotary Club | Guild of Pacific NW Employees | Mountain Pacific Bank | The Norcliffe Foundation |
| Bellingham Bay Swim Team | Grands for Good | Puget Sound Energy | Truly Electric LLC |
| Bellingham Cold Storage | Hemplers Foods Group | Quinn + Foster | Unity Church of Bellingham |
| Bellingham Festival of Music | Henifin Family of Companies | Red Robin Gourmet Burgers | WEA Fourth Corner |
| Bellingham Sunrise Rotary | Hillcrest Church | Rite Aid Healthy Futures | Whatcom Community Fnd. |
| BP Cherry Point Refinery | Jason & Carrie Loeb Foundation | Rose Construction | WECU |
| Catania Family Foundation | Jerry H Walton Foundation | Rule & Associates | Windermere Foundation |
| Christ the King Church | Morgan Handyman & Remodel | Samson Rope Technologies | Women Sharing Hope |
| Cool Runnings Construction | Little Family Legacy Foundation | Seakamp Engineering | Zeeks Pizza |
| CPI Plumbing & Heating | Local Union #191, I.B.E.W. | Seattle Foundation | |
| Edward Jones | Marr's Heating & Air Conditioning | Strider Constructions Co. | |

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