Mission
Birthday Dreams is dedicated to bringing hope, joy and a sense of self-worth to homeless children with the gift of a birthday party.

Vision
We envision a community where every child is celebrated on their birthday.
A Message From Our Executive Director

As I reflect on 2022, my heart is full. With the help of our dedicated volunteers and donors, we were able to celebrate the lives of 1,306 homeless children. Our volunteers are indispensable to what we do. They wrap gifts, bake cakes, fill birthday party orders, create party games and party hats, serve on committees and the board, buy gifts, and deliver birthday parties.

But let’s not forget our donors, who provide in-kind gifts and party supplies, as well as auction items. They also provide the funds we need to run the business and to buy gifts to fulfill specific requests when we don’t have that cherished item on our shelves.

Why is all of this so important? Why do we care so much about giving homeless children the gift of a birthday party?

Because tens of thousands of people are homeless on any given night in Washington State, and thousands of those are children. When a child’s world has been turned upside down due to homelessness, they often feel ashamed, lost, and alone, and as if the world has turned against them. Tragically, thousands of children are caught up in the homeless crisis on any given day, filling their lives with fear and uncertainty through no fault of their own.

Think about it. Homeless children have lost everything: their home, friends, possessions, safety, and security. Add the loss of a birthday celebration, and it only exacerbates the problem because these children may no longer feel relevant to the world around them. This often results in more shame, more anger, more hopelessness, and destructive behavior.

We know that recognizing a child’s importance on their birthday has a positive impact. And Birthday Dreams does it day in and day out, by providing complete and custom-made birthdays tailored specifically for each individual child’s interests and birthday wishes.

Birthday Dreams’ mission is to bring hope, joy, and a sense of self-worth to a homeless child by providing the gift of a birthday party. Since our founding, Birthday Dreams has become a fixture in the non-profit community in the Puget Sound. We have provided over 12,500 birthdays to children-in-need. That’s over 12,500 smiles, and over 12,500 moments of joy.

We couldn’t do this without the dedication and compassion of our volunteers and supporters! Together, we bring light into the darkened lives of so many children, lifting them up and helping to give them hope for the future.

So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

With gratitude,

Chris Spahn
Executive Director & Co-founder
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Parent Testimonial

“I am a single mother with one child at home still. I am disabled due to a work injury years ago and have been struggling to find work this year. Money has been very tight. I was certain that I would not be able to provide a birthday party for my son who was turning 14 last year. My son was doubting that he was going to get a celebration, but I told him that we would find a way. That is when Birthday Dreams came to our aid! They put together a fantastic video-game themed party package that arrived just in time. My son was totally surprised and it made us both feel like we’re gonna be okay this year!”

-KG, Single mom of 14 year old boy
What an amazing and record-setting year 2022 was for Birthday Dreams! I am so very proud of the work that our team did last year. Usually with the highs there come some lows – but last year Birthday Dreams really did have a whole lot of high points. One word really sums up what 2022 meant to me, momentum.

In the Spring, we organized our 2nd annual Miles for Smiles 5K virtual fundraising event. Over 125 supporters participated in this fun, activity-centered event. We hit our fundraising goal for this event and are now gaining momentum to make the Miles for Smiles 5K an annual event that gets our supporters excited and active each and every year!

Another crucial aspect of the year was raising awareness about Birthday Dreams in the community. What we do for the homeless youth in the Puget Sound region is amazing, but there are still so many people who are unaware of Birthday Dreams and what we do. To address this, we partnered with The Bull 98.9 FM and other local media outlets to spread the word about our work. Daily radio ads, weekly spotlight segments, and print ads and articles in local magazines all helped to increase awareness about the organization's work. Additionally, two TV segments featuring Birthday Dreams on KING 5 were a tremendous success. While there is still work to be done, these efforts helped the organization to become better known in the community.

A HUGE success last year was our signature fundraising event, The Gala of Dreams. On Saturday, October 8th we held our big event with well over 300 in-person and virtual guests in attendance. The Gala featured incredibly strong and enthusiastic client speakers, Melody Callier and her son, Jace, who shared their touching story about just how important Birthday Dreams was for them in a time of need.

Seeing the 300+ people in the Hyatt Regency ballroom that evening was amazing and there was certainly some magic in the air that autumn night. As the Gala came to a close, we witnessed some incredible Live Auction bidding battles and when the event concluded we tallied a record-breaking total of $239,000! The success of the Gala of Dreams can be attributed to the hard work of the Gala Steering Committee, who did a wonderful job of putting all the pieces together to make it happen.

Looking ahead to 2023, we are energized by the successes of the prior year. With a strong Board of Directors and the continued support of donors and volunteers, the organization is well-positioned to build on the momentum of 2022. Still, the singular goal remains to provide hope, joy, and a sense of self-worth to homeless children through the gift of a birthday party.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of a truly record-setting year! From our staff, Board, volunteers, and the thousands of financial supporters – you all make Birthday Dreams a shining light of compassion and joy in our community. I would also like to express my thanks and appreciation to the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust for its generous financial support of my position here at Birthday Dreams.

With gratitude,

Jarod Drozdowski
Development Director
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Birthday-in-a-Box
Birthday-in-a-Box: The supplies, gifts, and cake for a party focused on the birthday child. Parents arrange for the celebration for their child.

Total Birthdays
- 2022: 1,306
- 2021: 1,121
- 2020: 1,265
- 2019: 1,490
- 2018: 1,338

Group Birthdays
Parties are held at shelters each month for all of the children having birthdays.

*Due to COVID-19, Birthday Dreams was not able to host group birthdays in 2021.
Our Shelter Partners

The primary way in which parents learn about our services is through our partnerships with local shelters and non-profits that assist with housing. **We have active agreements with 73 shelters.**

We are currently accepting new shelter partners in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

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<th>Shelters Served</th>
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Grants: $355,613 (40%)
Events: $218,000 (30%)
In-Kind: $139,042 (20%)
Individual: $100,116 (14%)
Corporate: $20,320 (3%)
Matching Funds: $19,040 (2%)

Total: $712,491

For every $125 donated, another birthday dream comes true!
We couldn’t do what we do without our amazing Volunteers.

In 2022, we had 1,558 individuals, who volunteered 6,000+ hours!

- 189 People Donated
- 9,933 Amazing Birthday Gifts!
- 11,694 Gifts were given to children
- 121 People Donated
- 786 Cakes
- 54 Volunteers Delivered
- 1,051 Birthday Parties

For every $125 donated, another birthday dream comes true!
A Message From Our 2022 Board of Directors Chair

My favorite quote is by the poet Rumi: “Be a lamp, or a lifeboat, or a ladder. Help someone’s soul heal. Walk out of your house like a shepherd.”

It is so wonderful to serve on the board of an organization that believes in the power of shared humanity, compassion, and caring for the most vulnerable in our community - homeless children.

From my own experience, I know that what you choose to do today can help positively shape a child's life. When a child feels celebrated, they feel loved and seen. They feel like they belong and matter. That is what Birthday Dreams does – every day!

In 2022 we were able to celebrate over 1,306 homeless children on their birthdays and surpassed our 12,000th overall birthday celebration in September!

From a financial perspective, Birthday Dreams had a stellar year. Some of the successes we had last year illustrate just how much momentum we are building.

- Foundation grant revenue this past year reached a record level, of $175,000!
- Donations from individuals totaled nearly $80,000.
- Our In-Kind donations were nearly 35% above what we did the prior year and the highest amount we've ever received in a one-year period.
- We also hit a record in corporate contributions, with a total of over $20,000 in 2022.
- The Gala of Dreams was a huge success. On October 8th, we filled the Hyatt ballroom with 300 guests and raised over $230,000!

And I would be remiss if I did not pause to thank our real change makers and heroes.

- Our incredible volunteers, whose resilience and willingness to serve truly made a difference. In 2022, hundreds of volunteers donated over 6,000 hours of their time helping to make birthday dreams come true!
- Our thoughtful staff and Board of Directors. Last year we welcomed two new Board members, Janet Barker and Amy Hartman who contributed greatly to our Gala effort. And just this past February we welcomed two new Board members, Kristi Auld and Becki Culbert. We are fortunate to have them on the team as well!

We thank you all for your unwavering passion, support and care in these times of need.

I am so grateful to have had the honor and privilege to serve as the Board chair for the past two years, and I couldn't be more pleased to pass the baton to Janet Barker. Janet, thank you for saying yes and leaning in!

With our amazing Board leading the way, I have never been more certain that Birthday Dreams will continue its amazing positive trajectory in the years ahead!

With gratitude,

Priya Priyadarshini
2022, Board Chair
A Message From Our 2022 Board of Directors Chair

My favorite quote is by the poet Rumi: “Be a lamp, or a lifeboat, or a place of rest for a traveler.”

It is so wonderful to serve on the board of an organization that believes in the power of shaping a child’s life. When a child feels celebrated, they feel loved and seen. They feel the community - homeless children.

With our amazing Board leading the way, I have never been more certain that 2023 provides an exciting opportunity for Birthday Dreams. We will continue to focus on our core service of providing birthday parties to homeless children. We can look forward to celebrating 1500 children this year with continued growth in the coming years.

We are very excited about maintaining our connections with our valued donors and building lasting relationships with new donors. We are gearing up for our two significant fundraisers Miles for Smiles 5K in May, and The Gala of Dreams in October. We will once again hold our Gala in person this year. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our incredible volunteers are truly our most valued resource. We could not deliver on our primary service of providing birthday parties and so much more without our amazing team of volunteers. We have volunteer opportunities for corporations, individuals, clubs, children and families. We thank you for your time, talents and commitment to Birthday Dreams. We would not be where we are today, without each one of you!

On behalf of our wonderfully dedicated Board of Directors, whom I have the pleasure and privilege of serving alongside, I thank you for your support of Birthday Dreams, your dedication, and generosity in serving children in our local communities.

With gratitude,

Janet Barker
2023, Board Chair
The Birthday Club is our donor recognition society, which we launched at our annual gala in October 2018. Annual gifts of $250 and more will help restore a homeless child’s sense of joy with the gift of a birthday party. Birthday Club donors help keep the work of Birthday Dreams sustainable by building a base of consistent donors who believe in what we do.
# Birthday Club Donors

## 2022 Birthday Club

### Superheroes ($5,000 and up):
- Advanced Medical Group, Inc.
- Ashley Seffernick
- Aven Foundation
- Bacon Family Foundation
- Chick-Fil-A
- Christine and Kevin Zeznick
- First Financial Northwest Foundation
- Gates Family Office Corp.
- Google Matching Funds
- Jeremy & Tamara Paul
- Jerome & Janet Barker
- Jessica A & Matthew Y. Mercer
- Karen Say-Valadez
- Ken and Karen Johnston
- Mary Koontz
- Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
- MJ Murdock Charitable Trust
- Priya and Kumar Priyadarshini
- Randall Morris Foundation
- Rj and Meena Jadhav
- The Janet Moore Fund
- Windows of Hope Foundation

### Heroes ($1,000 - $4,999):
- Allan and Merry Avery
- Amanda & Randall Morris
- Amazon - Logistics for Good
- Amber Smith
- American Energy Systems LLC
- Amy and Ben Hartman
- Amy Svensson
- Ann Verbeck
- Anna Reynolds
- Anytime Roofing, Inc.
- AXIA Home Loans
- Banner Bank
- BECU - Landing Branch
- Beibei Chen
- Ben and Shelby Dobbs
- Boeing Company Gift Match
- Carrie Barkley
- Chad & Chau Robertson
- Charles & Susan Allison
- Cherie & Josh Barokas
- Christina and Mark Jarvis
- Courtney O’Brien-McFarland
- Dale Kiesz
- Damien & Mary Pattenauede
- Dee Burris
- Delani and Robert Hansen
- Delightful Communications LLC
- Emily Sundstrom
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- EXP Realty
- Fales Foundation
- First Financial Northwest Bank
- Giving Group
- Glaser Foundation
- Grace Park
- Greg and Wende Wahl
- Hazel Miller Foundation
- Herzl-Ner Tamid
- Highland Dental Center
- Holly McGourty
- Hubbard Family Foundation
- James Ardissono
- Jan & Chad Martinell
- Janet Moore
- Janine & Robert Dodson
- Jennifer and Craig Grynewicz
- Jennifer Lee Wilson
- Jennifer Warrick
- Jerelyn Hampton
- Jill Tyree
- Kincaid Family Charitable Fund
- Kristin Kalning
- Laura Cameron
- Lauren Hammer
- Looking Out Foundation
- Loya Brown
- Made in Washington, LLC
- Modesto Garcia
- Nancy Toker
- Nanda Rajasekaran
- Nettles Real Estate LLC
- Omri Bahat
- Pradnya Jagtiani
- Princy Rekhi
- Rebecca Culbert
- Reisha Holton
- Rick and Teri Katzer
- Ritesh & Shruti Daryani
- Roger & Marlene Winter
- Ron & Deanne Nation
- Roxana & Dragos Tanase
- Ruth Hubbard
- Samara Caplan
- Swetha Chitturi
- Swift Group
- Tacoma Rotary Fundraising
- Tamar Heyman
- tegna Foundation
- Terex Corporation
- The Arfsten Trust
- The Catania Family Foundation
- The Gottfried & Mary Fuchs Foundation
- The Richard M Schulze Family Foundation
- The Tamara Paul Group
- The Tre Sorelle Salon, LLC
- Top of the Hill Quality Produce
- Tova Barden
- Tulalip Tribes
- Washington Federal Foundation
- Windermere Foundation
2022 Birthday Club Donors

Champions ($500 - $999):
AmazonSmile
Aubrey Larsen
Avenue Dental Care
Barbara Del Beccaro
Becky Nickels
Bill and Katie Morris
Binderiya Naimdii
Bradley Slatton
Business 2 Missions DBA
MBridge
Carla Bracken
Carole Jackson
Charity Gift Certificates
Cory Obrien
Dani Brazzle
Dawn & JayDee Dohrmann
Deane Cruze
Deborah and Timothy O’Brien
Devin Imamura
Disney Matching Funds
Doug and Shannon Luedtke
Emily Brooker
Eva Evans
Fazlollah Arian
George and Sandra Moore
Heidi Macdonald
Jake & Amber Madison
Jama Cantrell
James & Kallie Veeneman
Jeffrey and Shera Isaksen
Jeffrey Brown
Jennifer Fischer
Jim & Mary Helen Dean
John Berkeley
Kathy Flores
Katie Trout
Kelsey Mejlaender
Kevin & Marissa Busby
Leandro Aguinaldo
Lilya Crystal
Lipman Family Farms
Lori & Rylee Smith
Lynn Barashkoff
Mark & Vivian Blauman
Martin Lautman
Mecham Bookkeeping LLC
Melissa Stone
Melrose Grill
Nicole Kurtenbach
Nicole Palmer
Patrick Pardon
PayPal Charitable Giving Fund
Peter & Shelby Holden
Quota International of Kent Valley
Rhonda Laumann
Riverside Electrical Solutions LLC
Rock Steady Boxing
Russ DuBois
Samarad Holtzman
Scott & Julie Anderson
Shelby Holden
Sound Credit Union
Sprague Pest Solutions
Steve & Janine Cassidy
Steve and Gail Kaneko
The TIX Companies
Tiffany Richardson
Vivek Kapoor

Friends ($250 - $500):
Aimee Rochelle
Alexis & Michaele Williams
Alyssa & Randall Arley
Andrew & Jennifer Goodrich
Angie Carlson
Anh Quach Crandall
Annie & Brian Green
Arika Zwack
Barb Kluge
Beth Winchell
Bhrett & Melissa Monroe
Brianna Chavis
Brienne Aoki
Cascades Chiropractic
Celie Forrester
Chaz and Chris Spahn
Chris & Cheri Wells
Christine Barnes
Chun Lu
Ciera Young
Costco Wholesale Corp
Daisy Quitugua
Dana Visser
Danielle Saliba
Danielle Trentman
David Salzman
Deanna Hopper
Deanna Stanley
Debi Kissinger
Deborah Bloom
Deborah Donnelly
DKG - Beta Delta, Auburn
Doris and Jerry Miller
Elion Lipton
Faith Graham
Gary Goldstein and Cynthia Randall
Ginkgo Foundation
Glowforge Inc
Interpret This Inc
Jaime Kang
Jane Bibbe
Jason and Stephanie Azarcon
Jay & Tiffany Townsend
Jeremy Lautman
Jim and Carol Waugh
Jolene Bolton
Jordan Carpenter
Karen Middaugh
Karen Wilkinson
Kat Lana
Kathryn Guykema
Kroger
Laura Spinella
Leanne Procter
Mary Mann
Microsoft Alumni Network
Mikaela O’Brien
Monroe Machined Products, INC.
Nike
Niki Weiss
Nora Paxton
Randy and Kelly Barkhurst
Ranveer Chandra
Rebecca Daum
Red Beard Reliable Home Service
Roxane Blevens
Sakun Ganason
Sav-On Insurance Inc.
Seattle Fish Guys LLC
Shannon Mitchell
Sharon Gregg-Ellis
Siv Eng
Starbucks Corporate
Stephanie Reitz
Susan Larson
Susan Weber
Tiffany Stewart
Trishah Bull
Tsend-Ayush Bayanmunkh
United Way of King County
Vicki Kennerud
Wells Fargo Comm-Corporation

Thank You!

to all of our Birthday Club Donors!
**Decorate/Fill Goody Bags:** We provide the bags, ribbons, and candy. Volunteers decorate the bags with stickers or markers and fill them with candy and fun small toys that they purchased.

**Make Pin the Candle on the Cupcake game:** Birthday Dreams supplies the paper with the cupcake and candles. Volunteers cut them out and decorate them using markers and stickers.

**Create Party Games:** Come up with fun games that kids can play at a party. Volunteers put together kits with instructions that can be included in birthday boxes.

**Decorate Party Hats:** What’s a party without party hats? Due to the cost and lack of availability of party hats, we decided to create our own. Volunteers cut out and decorate the party hats for the kids to enjoy at their birthday.

1,487 volunteers participated in 76 community events, many of these were remote. Our top supporters were Microsoft, CarMax, and various school groups.
How To Volunteer

VISIT: birthdaydreams.org/WaysToGive/Volunteer

Volunteer Categories NEEDED:
- Party Helpers
- Bakers
- Delivery Drivers
- Office Help
- Events Help
- Party/Toy Drives
- Service Projects

Birthday Dreams is blessed with an army of volunteers dedicated to bringing smiles to kids who are homeless on their birthdays.

But we always need more.
Thank You!

BirthdayDreams.org
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