



2023

Annual Report

BIRTHDAYDREAMS.ORG



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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 2023, my heart is filled with joy and gratitude. With the help of our dedicated volunteers and donors, we were able to celebrate the lives of 1,525 homeless children last year! That is a staggering number, and it makes me think of all of the people who came together to achieve it, as well as the people who are touched by our work.

Our volunteers are indispensable to what we do. As volunteers, you serve on the Board of Directors and on committees. You buy and wrap gifts, bake cakes, and create party games and hats. You fill birthday party orders and deliver birthday parties.

Our donors provide in-kind gifts and party supplies, as well as auction items for further fundraising. As donors, you provide the funds we need to run the business and to buy gifts to fulfill specific requests when we don't have that special item on our shelves.

You take the time. You give generously. You care. Why?

Because tens of thousands of people are homeless on any given night in Washington State, thousands of those affected by this crisis are children. When a child's world has been turned upside down due to homelessness, they often feel angry, ashamed, and hopeless, as if the whole world has turned against them, through no fault of their own.

Homeless children have lost so much: their home, friends, possessions, safety, and security. With your help, we ensure they don't lose a birthday celebration too.

We do this because we know that recognizing a child's dignity and uniqueness on their birthday has a positive impact. A couple hours of joy make a difference that extend past the party itself, providing hope for the future.

That's why Birthday Dreams provides complete and custom-made birthdays tailored specifically for each individual child's interests and birthday wishes. That's why you volunteer. That's why you donate. To provide a light in the dark.

Since our founding, Birthday Dreams has provided over 14,000 birthday celebrations to children in need and become a fixture in the non-profit community in the Puget Sound. We couldn't have done it without you.

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



Sincerely,

Chris Spahn

Executive Director & Co-founder

Parent Testimonial

"Being a single dad, I want to give my daughter happy memories of her birthday. I got depressed and was hating myself for not being able to give my daughter what she wished for. As her birthday approached, I needed help. Being on a fixed income and living in the HopeLink shelter in Redmond, I was not in a good place. Then Birthday Dreams came into my life. It felt like a weight was lifted off my shoulders. My little girl was so happy when we gave her a birthday party. She was surprised and thankful for everything. Thank you, Birthday Dreams, for all that you have done!"

**N.P. - single dad of
a seven-year-old girl**

A Message From Our Development Director

Birthday Dreams brought a LOT of smiles to children this past year. It is my pleasure to share some statistics, achievements, and plans for the future with you.

2023 was a year of setting records. We provided 1,525 birthday celebrations to homeless youth - the highest yearly number of birthday parties in our organizational history!

In the Spring, over 125 supporters participated in our *Miles for Smiles 5K* where they walked, ran, and rolled to help us hit our fundraising goal and spread the word about Birthday Dreams! In the Fall, 350 guests attended *The Gala of Dreams* and raised a record-breaking \$265,000! The Gala featured the moving testimony of our client family, the Adkison's - Derrick, Charisma, and Caitlin. The Adkisons shared their story of how Birthday Dreams provided birthday hope and joy at a time they needed it most. Seeing all of our guests energized in their support of us, that evening was simply wonderful.

The success of the Gala of Dreams can be attributed to the hard work of the staff and volunteers that made up our Gala Steering Committee. None of the success of the event would have been possible without their dedication and excellence!

But it is not all about the numbers. Another crucial goal for 2023 was raising awareness about Birthday Dreams in the community at large.

Last year, we partnered with MOVin 92.5 FM, KIXI 880AM, and other local media outlets to spread the word about our work. Birthday Dreams was featured in daily radio ads, weekly spotlight segments, and print ads and articles in local publications, like GREET Magazine. Additionally, a KING5 TV segment featuring Birthday Dreams and our partner, The Randall Morris Foundation, was seen by thousands in our community. These efforts helped shine a spotlight on Birthday Dreams and positioned us to connect with new supporters in the community.

We have set some robust goals 2024, but we are confident that we will be able to achieve them. With a strong Board of Directors and the continued support of our amazing donors, we are well positioned to build on 2023's momentum.

Still, our 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.

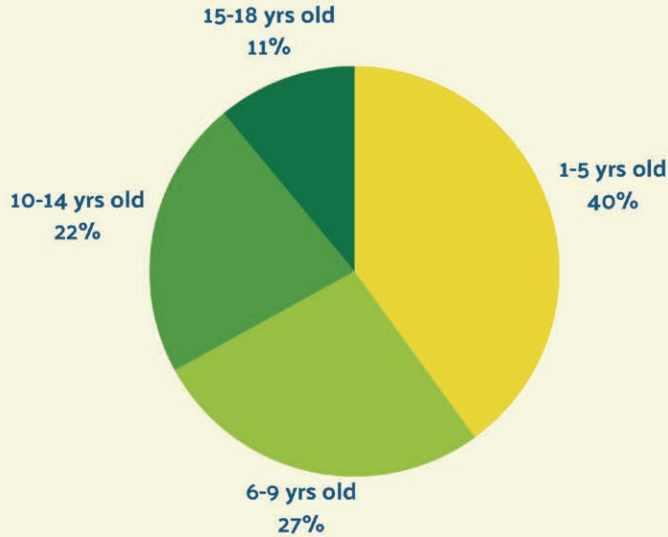


With Gratitude,

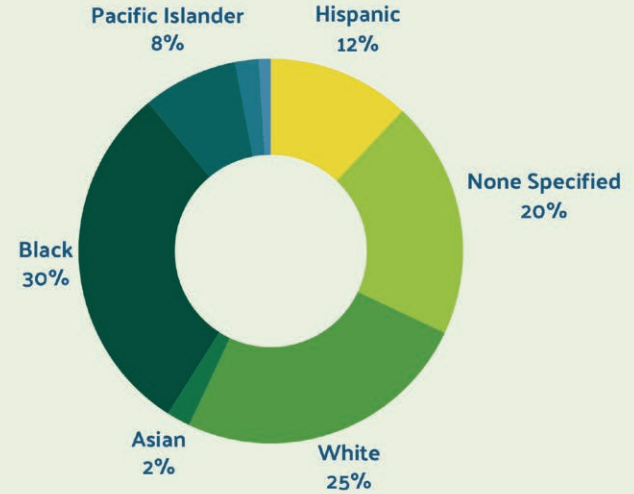
Jarod Drozdowski

Development Director

Age DISTRIBUTION



Ethnicity DISTRIBUTION



Children Served

Homelessness impacts families and it is important not to overlook the impact on children. We provide birthday parties for homeless children from age 1 to 18.

Serving the Puget Sound area, in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties.



2023
1,123

2022
1,265

2021
1,121

2020
1,141

2019
975



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.

1,525
Birthdays
Celebrated

Total Birthdays

2023
1,525

2022
1,306

2021
1,121

2020
1,265

2019
1,490

402



Group Birthdays

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

2023
402

2022
41

2021
0*

2020
124

2019
417

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 nearly 80 shelters.**

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



Shelters Served

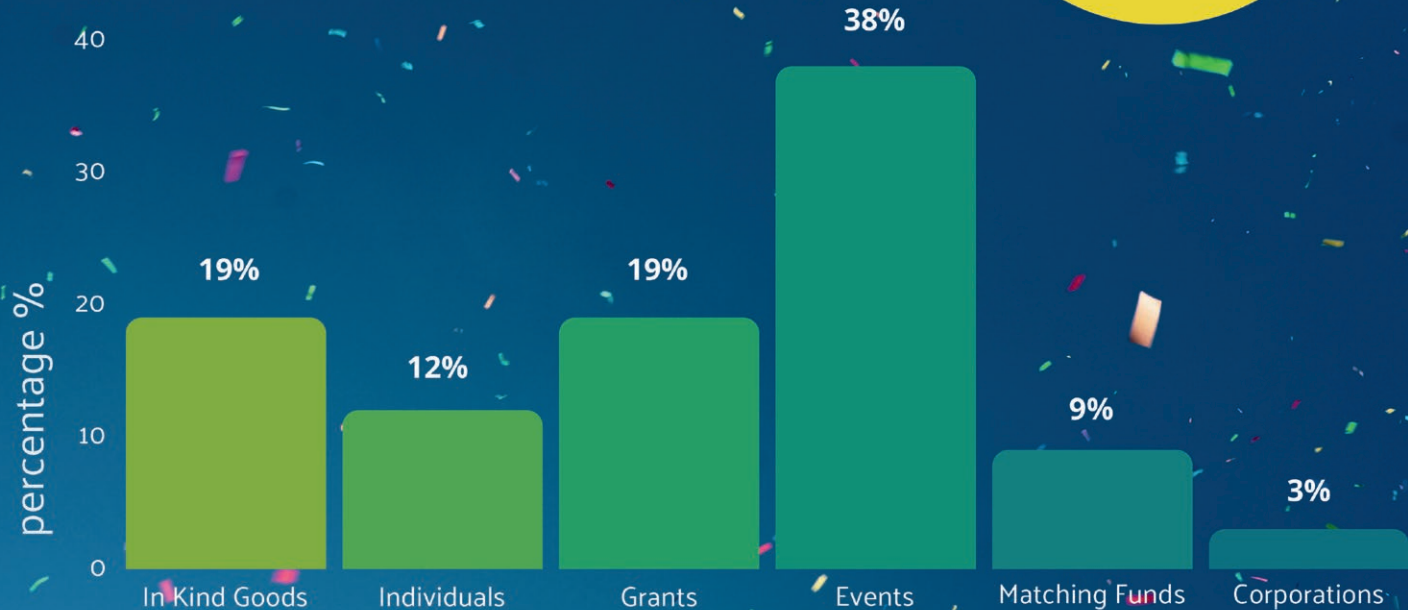
2023	77
2022	73
2021	78
2020	78
2019	75



Program Revenue

Total: \$751,350

For every \$150
donated,
another
birthday dream
comes true!



We couldn't do what we do without our amazing

Volunteers

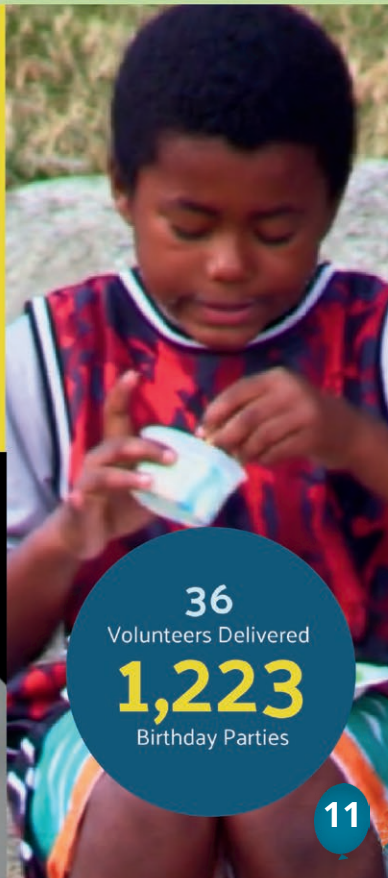
In 2023, we had 2,714 individuals that volunteered 6,852 hours!



208
People Donated
9,828
Amazing Birthday Gifts!



11,775
Gifts were given to
children



36
Volunteers Delivered
1,223
Birthday Parties



94
People Donated
726
Cakes



A Message From Our 2024 Board of Directors Chair

2024 is a new year and provides a refreshing opportunity for Birthday Dreams. We will continue to focus on our core service of providing birthday parties for homeless children. We look forward to achieving our primary goal of celebrating 1,600 children this year with the gift of a birthday party.

We are extremely excited about maintaining our connections with our valued donors and building lasting relationships with new donors. We are busy preparing for our two significant fundraisers Miles for Smiles 5K which will run May 17th-31st, and The Gala of Dreams which will take place on Saturday September 28th. 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, like Terah Rios, our 2023 Volunteer of the Year. To see a video featuring our 2023 Volunteer of the Year, please scan this QR code.

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 talented and committed 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. I welcome the opportunity to meet you at our in-person events this coming year.



With Warmest Regards

Janet D. Barker

Chair, Board of Directors



2023 Board of Directors



JANET BARKER
Board Chair
Banner Bank



MAYA KAMATH
Treasurer
Microsoft



DELANI HANSEN
Mustard Seed Communications



BECKI CULBERT
Swift Group Marketing



CHRISTINE ZEZNICK
Vice Chair
Terex



AMY HARTMAN
Boeing



SAMARA CAPLAN
Microsoft



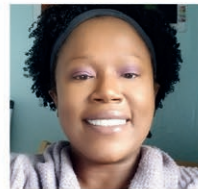
RJ JADHAV
Google, Inc



TERI KATZER
Secretary
Business Consultant



PRIYA PRIYADARSHINI
Microsoft



TIFFANY RICHARDSON
Amazon.com, Inc



KRISTI AULD
Compass Real Estate



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.

2023 Birthday Club Donors

Superheroes

(\$5,000 and up):

Ann Verbeck
Anwsha Banerjee and Abhijit Kundu
Arika Zwack Josephson & Brooks Josephson
Aven Foundation
Banner Bank
Chick-Fil-A
Edrington
Eric and Alicia Young
First Financial Northwest Foundation
Genie - A Terex Corporation
Glassybaby foundation
Google Matching Funds
Google's Fund Amazing
H.D. Fowler Company
Hani Saliba
Jerome & Janet Barker
Kelly Berschauer
KM Foundation
Mary Koontz
Melinda Lawrence
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
MJ Murdock Charitable Trust
Priya Priyadarshini and Kumar Rakesh
Randall Morris Foundation
Shannon Mitchell
The Janet Moore Fund
The KidStarter Project
The Norcliffe Foundation
Windows of Hope Foundation

Heroes

(\$1,000 - \$4,999):

Adient Foundation
Allan and Merry Avery
Ash Grove Charitable Foundation
Auld Properties - Compass Real Estate
Ayco Charitable Foundation
BECU - Landing Branch
Benjamin & Amy Hartman
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
BNBuilders
BNSF Railway Foundation
Boeing Company Gift Match
Charities Aid Foundation America
Cherie & Josh Barokas
Chris & Rachel L Hadden
Christina and Mark Jarvis
Christine and Kevin Zeznick
Cunningham Family Fund
Dani Brazzle
Dee Burris
Delani and Robert Hansen
Disney Matching Funds
Donna Cronk
Elderrock Financial, LLC
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
First Financial Northwest Bank
Garneau-Nicon Family Foundation
Gaurav Doshi
Glaser Foundation
Hazel Miller Foundation

Heidi MacDonald
HERZL-NER TAMID
Hubbard Family Foundation
Jadine Riley
Jeff & Jessica Roach
Jeremy & Tamara Paul
Joanna & Wayne Duran
John Min
Jonathan & Yana Harris
Kelsey Fowler
Ken & Karen Johnston
Kristoffer & Ilana Bergen
Lance Stevens
Laura Cameron
Leah and Mike Battin
Lisa M Pevey
Malina Wiesen
Marlatt Funeral Home
Mason Helms
Matthew Carson and Ashley Seffernick
Miter Foundation / Milgard Windows and Doors
Nettles Real Estate LLC
Patrick Kang
Paul and Jennifer Warrick
Rebecca Culbert
Rick and Teri Katzer
Robert Loudon
Ronnie & Kaci Clariza

Ruth Hubbard
Shaun Han
Sheila & Ryan Yokabina
Swift Group
Tacoma Rotary Fundraising
TEGNA Foundation
Terah Rios & Jeremy Grubaugh
The Gottfried & Mary Fuchs Foundation
The Tamara Paul Group
Tiffany Richardson
Tim & Denise Riefflin
Trea Diamant
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
Veena Bettgowda
Venkat Oruganti & Swetha Chitturi
Vinod & Reena Nair
YMCA Coal Creek



2023 Birthday Club Donors

Champions

(\$500 - \$999):

Amanda Howell
AmazonSmile
Amber and Torin Bainter
Andrew Sharpe
Angelina Minion
Becky Nickels
Bella's Cookie Co
Benjamin & Sydney Tyree
Bhrett & Melissa Monroe
Bill and Katie Morris
Cameron Stratton
CaSea John LLC
Chaz & Chris Spahn
Christine & Michael Dotson
Christine Barnes
Dawn and JayDee Dohrmann
Dean & Sheila Josephson
Dina Napoli-Goode
Doug and Shannon Luedtke
Dwayne & Scarlet Reinike
Fazlollah Arian
Four Generals Brewing LLC
Frank and Miriam Sloup
George and Sandra Moore
Inviso Corporation
Janine Chin
Jason and Sherry Schluter
Jeremiah & Natalie Flocchini
John Berkeley
Jon & Cindy Johnson
Karen and Gregg Middaugh
Karen Wilkinson
Kel Malaga
Kent Networkers - BNI
Kevin & Mia Anez
Kim Luu

Krivens Frohlich Family Fund
Lipman Family Farms
Liz Nettles
Mark & Vivian Blauman
Melrose Grill
Mounica Sirineni
Mr. Lawrence & Mrs. Kincaid-Lawrence
Rahul & Pradnya Jagtiani
Robyn & John Fischer
Roxana and Dragos Tanase
Salesforce
Sound Credit Union
South Sound Sea Hawks
Steve and Gail Kaneko
Stewart Title
Three60 Law Group PLLC
Tito's Handmade Vodka
Top of the Hill Quality Produce
Viktor Boykos
Vistex, Inc.
Vivek Kapoor



Friends

(\$250 - \$500):

Adam Hailey
Alexa Medhus
Altrusa Club of Lake
Washington East Foundation
Alyson Hyman
Amanda Medhaug
Andrew Raymund Almanza
Angel & Julisa Cordoba
AnLee Cox
Armondo and Angela Pavone
Ashley & Sarah Giles
Aubrey Larsen
Austin Hunter & Sarah Hawley
Barbara Downs
Becca Piel
BECU Gift Matching
Bob and Jaqueline Tacher
Brandon and Rachel Johnson
Brittany & Brandon Oswald
Cascademgt
Cathy Blankenship Harger
Cathy Sapiro
Charity Gift Certificates
Chris McConnell
Christi Ackerman
Christy Moreno
Congregation Beth Jacob &
Irving Levin Jewish Center
Cory & Danielle Carbay
Costco Wholesale Corp
Cyndi and Alex Malesis
Cyndi Sheldon
Dana Visser
David & Sharron Hartman
Dennis Mori
Eilon Lipton
Greg and Wende Wahl
Isaac & Melanie Barrett
Jeff & Lauren Morris
Jeff Buccellato
Jenn Bossom
Jennifer Yomoah
Jeremy Rife

Jessica Kirker
Jill & Paul Tyree
Jillaine Mae Paust
Jim and Carol Waugh
Julie Lumpkin
Karen Say-Valadez & David Valadez
Kari Hayden
Kathryn Guykema
Kathy Flores
Katie Trout
Kelli Hildebrand
King County Employee Giving
Program
Kristina Tomalesky
Kroger
Lanette Allen
Lauren Gage
Lee Spencer
Linda and John Middlebrooks
Lindsay Hasz
Lindsay Stewart
Lissa & Jeff Wax
Loya Brown
Lynne & William McField
Maragaret Grubaugh
Marcia Austin
Mary Morales
Mecham Bookkeeping LLC
Nick and Latisha Ellis
Niki Weiss
Nordstrom Employee Charitable
Match Program
Rachel Saimons
Ranveer Chandra
Remy Barker
Rj and Meena Jadhav
Sakuntala Reed
Scott and Aleana McMurray
Scott Averette
Shara & Will Sauve
Simon & Laura Miles
Sonia Siegel Vexler
Southwest Investment, Inc.
Stephanie & Jordan Bulckaert

Susan Weber
Tachere Family Fund
Tamar & Naaman Heyman
Taryn & Mike Hudgens
Teresa Kuzmer
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society
- Beta Delta Chapter
The Metalsmiths
Timothy Rupp
Trishah Bull
Tsend-Ayush Bayanmunkh
Tuyet Hoang
Vicki Kennerud
Wendy O Kirchner
Zach & Jena Domingues
Zachary Ahrens

Thank You!
to all of our
Birthday Club
Donors!

Community Events

- **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.

2,122 volunteers participated in 118 community events, many of these were remote. Our top supporters were Microsoft, Salesforce, Amazon 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](https://www.BirthdayDreams.org)



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