

2024 Annual Report



BIRTHDAYDREAMS.ORG



Table of Contents

- 3 Vision and Mission
- 4 From the Executive Director
- 5 Parent Testimonial
- 6 From the Development Director
- 7 Children Served
- 8 Parties
- 9 Our Shelter Partners
- 10 Program Revenue
- 11 Volunteers
- 12 From the Board Chair
- 13 Board of Directors
- 14 Birthday Club
- 15 Birthday Club Donors
- 17 Community Events
- 18 How to Volunteer
- 19 Thank you!
- 20 Contact Us

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

Dear friends and donors:

It's hard to believe that just over 15 years ago, Shannon Avery and I started Birthday Dreams in my garage. Since then, we have reached so many milestones, not the least of which is serving over 16,000 homeless children. Let me take a moment to share how your support has made a difference in the lives of families experiencing homelessness. After all, that's why we're here. Birthday Dreams' stated mission is to bring hope, joy, and a sense of self worth to homeless children with the gift of a birthday party.

And yet, we also serve as a primary support system to parents during one of the hardest periods in their lives—when they can't celebrate their child's birthday because of a lack of resources. This is also an especially difficult time for the whole family after having lost so much. The added loss of a birthday party multiplies the deep sting of guilt felt by the parents, while their children feel the pain of being different from all their peers.

Birthday Dreams helps to change that.

As one mother said, "I have been through what seems like h*ll and back, but I am still standing. I have made some poor choices in my life and lost my career, but I am focusing on putting one foot in front of the other. My daughter was not expecting anything at all for her birthday, so she was super shocked and happy when Birthday Dreams stepped in. Their help gave me hope that it doesn't matter where I start in life, it is where I finish."

Another mom said, "Being able to provide this party made me feel like a normal parent/mom again. It helped give me back my self-esteem, and my son said it was the best birthday he ever had. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts." And here is what a mother said about being able to celebrate her daughter's very first birthday: "In November, it was Ella's 1st birthday. Ella may never remember her 1st birthday – but I always will. She had a princess-themed party and there were pink and purple wrapped gifts, along with all the princess tablecloths, plates, cups and decorations a little girl could ever imagine. Her big smile while eating her first birthday cake will forever be in my heart!"

This is the effect your donations have on these families; you really do change lives.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for being there for us, for the parents, but most of all for the children who need us most.

Last year, we celebrated our 15th anniversary bringing birthday parties to homeless children. Together, we hope to be here for at least another 15 years, helping to relieve some of the guilt and shame parents feel for becoming homeless, while celebrating the lives of their beautiful children who are trapped in the chaos that homelessness creates.

With your help, we're a force to be reckoned with. Thank you again.



Sincerely,

Chris Spahn

Executive Director & Co-founder

Parent Testimonial

“I am a single mom, working part-time, living at Hopelink shelter in Redmond, and my income barely covers basic living expenses. It was so amazing that Birthday Dreams delivered the full birthday party package directly to our place! I am thankful that we were able to make my son’s 5th birthday possible because of your help! All of the gifts matched his wish list and even the juice was his favorite. He was happy to give the small toys and goodies to his friends. He opened his gifts with joy and with each new one he was more and more thankful. My son was super excited and even cried. I felt like a good mom because I could celebrate my son’s birthday this year. My son felt valued, and he told me he was the same as other kids who are not poor. Thank you so much, Birthday Dreams for doing a great job!”

**T.K. - single mom of
a five-year-old boy**



A Message From Our Development Director

2024 was a record-setting year for Birthday Dreams. Not only did we commemorate our 15th year in operation, we provided an all-time high of over 1,700 birthday celebrations to homeless youth -and- hit the incredible milestone of our 15,000th birthday party since our founding in 2009! Last year had many highs, but as most of us felt, it was also a tough year financially for many, including our organization. Let's dive into what 2024 looked like.

Last Spring, over 200 supporters walked, ran, and rolled to help us surpass our fundraising goal in our Miles for Smiles 5K event, which raised over \$32,000! In the fall, more than 300 guests attended The Gala of Dreams and raised an impressive \$250,000 to help celebrate birthdays for families like the Pry family, who gave moving testimony at the event. Special thanks to the Gala Steering Committee and all our supporters for making the gala one of the top three events we've ever held.

But it's not all about the numbers. Another crucial goal for 2024 was continuing our campaign to raise awareness about Birthday Dreams in the community. We partnered with the Hubbard Radio Group that has stations like MOVIN 92.5 FM, KIXI 880AM, and KKNW 1150AM. With our Hubbard Radio partner, Birthday Dreams was featured in a week-long radio fundraiser that featured interviews with staff, board, volunteers, and client families. This "Radiothon" fundraiser raised over \$8,000 in funds and reached a new sector of supporters in the Puget Sound. Additionally, we had another popular KING5 TV segment featuring Birthday Dreams and our partner, The Randall Morris Foundation, was seen by thousands in our community. These marketing efforts helped shine a spotlight on Birthday Dreams and allowed us to connect with new supporters in the community.

That said, we did come up short on our fundraising goals last year both on the Gala and from individual and foundation support. The economy, the election year cycle, robust goal setting, and some unexpected facility maintenance created a perfect storm that made us have a rare year of revenue vs expense imbalance. But we certainly were not alone as many nonprofit organizations had a less-than-stellar 2024.

We have set achievable goals for 2025, and we are confident that we will be able to hit the mark. With a new and energetic Board of Directors and the continued support of donors and volunteers like you, the organization is well positioned to stimulate a new and vibrant momentum. Through all of our efforts to raise money and make connections, we remain committed to providing 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 this milestone year. Our staff, Board, volunteers, and thousands of financial supporters make Birthday Dreams a shining light of compassion and joy in our community.

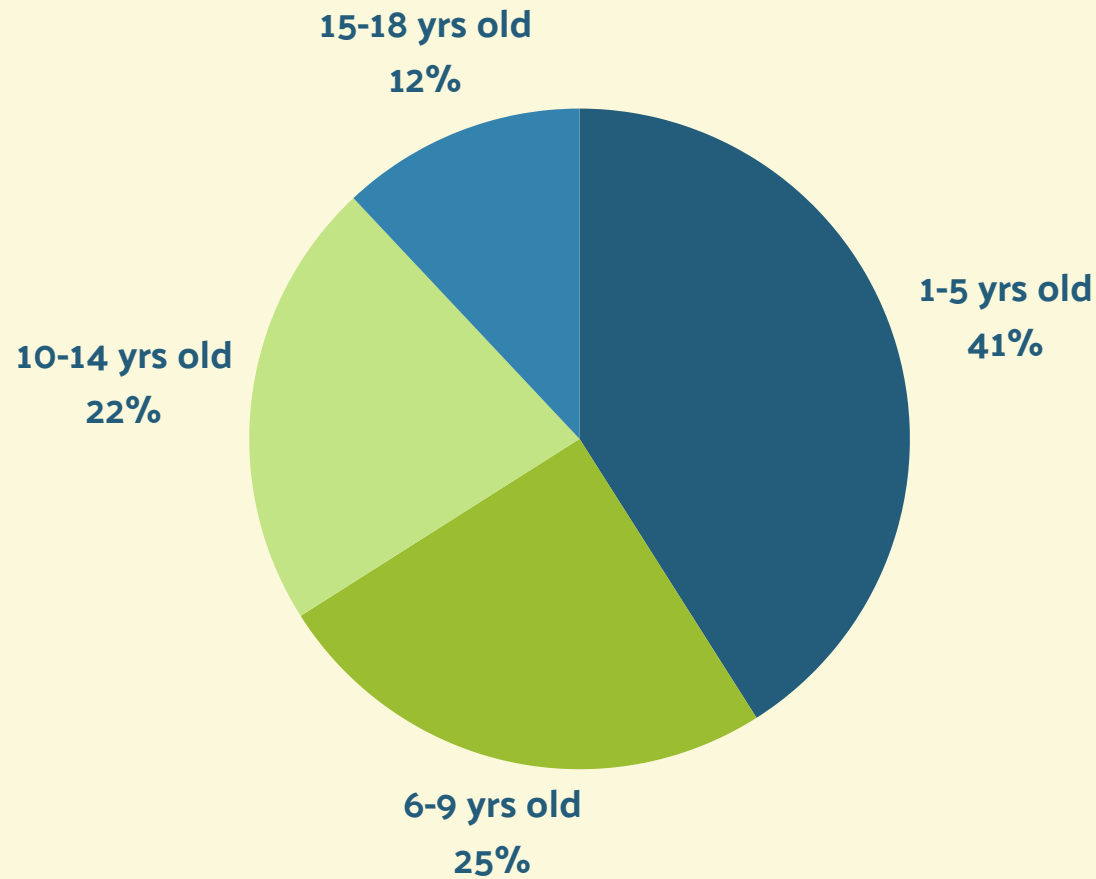


With Gratitude,

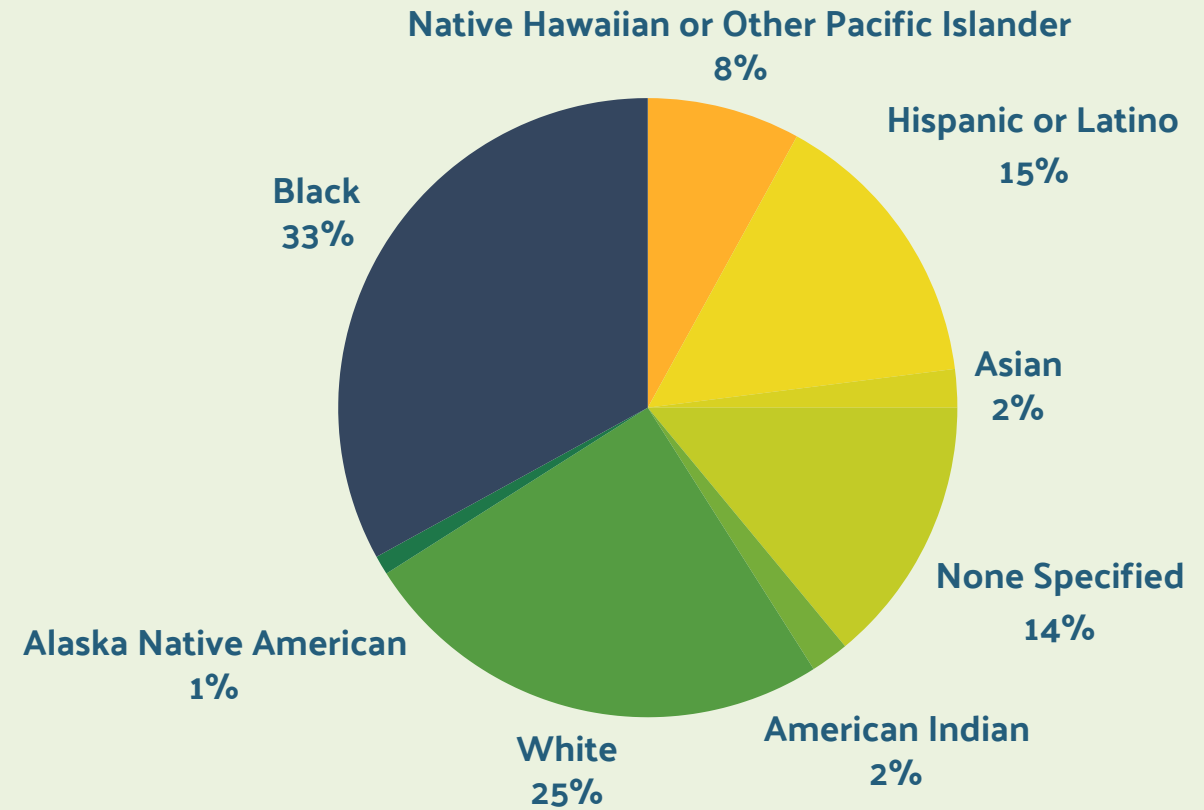
Jarod Drozdowski

Development Director

Age DISTRIBUTION



Ethnicity DISTRIBUTION



Children Served

Homelessness impacts families. 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.



1,728
Children
Celebrated

2000

1500

1000

500

0

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024



Group Birthdays



Birthday-in-a-Box

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



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.

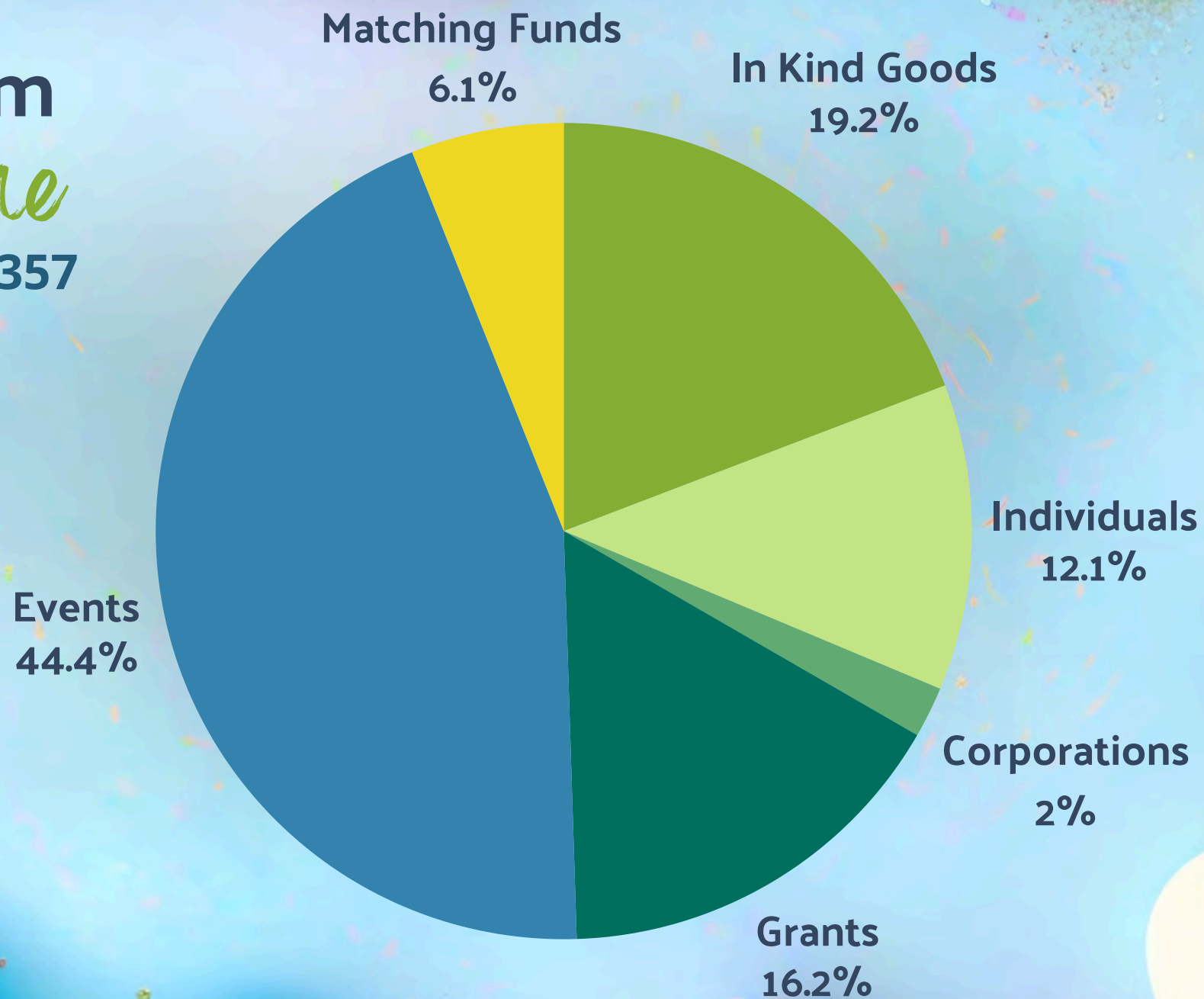
We currently have active agreements with 87 shelters.

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

King County	59
Pierce County	16
Snohomish County	12

Program Revenue

Total: \$663,357



We couldn't do what we do without our amazing

Volunteers

In 2024, we had 2,497 individuals that volunteered 6,164 hours!

214

People Donated

11,734

Amazing Birthday Gifts!



13,850

Gifts were given to
children

Visit our cake
gallery to see the
amazing work of
our volunteer
bakers!



102

People Donated

655

Cakes



60

Volunteers Delivered

993

Birthday Parties

A Message From Our 2024 Board of Directors Chair

I have been honored to serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors for Birthday Dreams over the past two years. As I reflect on the work that the board, staff and volunteers accomplished, I am filled with pride and appreciation. Together, we accomplished milestones that we will never forget. In 2024, Birthday Dreams celebrated its 15th anniversary and surpassed the incredible mark of providing 15,000 children with the gift of a birthday celebration. These are just two of many incredible achievements that I was honored to be a part of.

As my tenure as Board Chair has come to an end, I am excited to see what the future holds for Birthday Dreams. I am confident that the incoming leadership will continue to focus on our core service of providing birthday parties for homeless children.

The new board members, our amazing staff and volunteers will continue to put forth two excellent fundraisers this year - the Miles for Smiles 5K which will run May 16th-May 30th, and The Gala of Dreams which will take place on Saturday, September 27th. I hope that everyone reading this message will support these important fundraisers.

Our incredible volunteers are the foundation upon which Birthday Dreams thrives. It would be impossible to do what Birthday Dreams does without our team of volunteers. I would like to thank everyone who has assisted the mission and want to take time to personally thank Leah Battin who was our

who was our 2024 Volunteer of the Year. Leah is an amazing advocate for Birthday Dreams. Thank you, Leah, for all the work that you have done for Birthday Dreams over the years. We appreciate you!

To see a video featuring our 2024 Volunteer of the Year, please scan the QR code below.

In closing, it was an honor to serve alongside a wonderfully talented and committed Board of Directors these past two years. The dedicated leaders poured their efforts into Birthday Dreams and Birthday Dreams is better because of their leadership.

Together with our incredible family of supporters, I am certain that 2025 will be a fantastic year filled with smiles and dreams fulfilled for over 1,700 children who will receive a birthday celebration.



With Warmest Regards

Janet Barker

Chair, Board of Directors



2024 Board of Directors



JANET BARKER
Board Chair
Banner Bank



CHRISTINE ZEZNICK
Vice Chair
Terex



MAYA KAMATH
Treasurer
Microsoft



KRISTI AULD
Secretary
Compass Real Estate



AMY HARTMAN
Boeing



BECKI CULBERT
Swift Group Marketing



HANNAH FELLER
EY-Parthenon



SYDNEY SIEGMETH
Siegmeth Consulting



CHUN LU
Microsoft



TERI KATZER
Emeritus
Business Consultant



PRIYA PRIYADARSHINI
Emeritus
Microsoft



RJ JADHAV
Emeritus
Lumen Technologies



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.

2024 Birthday Club Donors

Superheroes

(\$5,000 and up):

Banner Bank
Chick-Fil-A of Puget Sound
Chris & Rachel L Hadden
Chuck & Melody Lynch
Damu & Jackie Maples
Elijah List Ministries
Eric and Alicia Young
First Financial Northwest Foundation
Genie - A Terex Corporation
Greg Anderson
H.D. Fowler Company
Impact Foundation
Jesse & Lauren Banks
Ken & Karen Johnston
Laurel and John Tomchick
Liz Nettles
Mary Koontz
Mary Michael Charap
Matt & Alicia Fox
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Miter Foundation / Milgard Windows and Doors
Patrick & Jaime Kang
Randall Morris Foundation
Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation
The KidStarter Project
The Norcliffe Foundation
Windows of Hope Foundation

Heroes

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

Amazon Grants
Arika Zwack Josephson & Brooks Josephson
Auld Properties - Compass Real Estate
Austin Miller
Autodesk
BECU - Landing Branch
Benjamin & Amy Hartman
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Boeing Company Gift Match
Cherie & Josh Barokas
Christina and Mark Jarvis
Christine and Kevin Zeznick
Christopher Wells
Chun Lu
Crane Charitable Funds
Danny House
David & Jessie Kirker
David & Mrs Kassiss
Debbie Lervick
Dee Burris
Donna Cronk
Elderrock Financial, LLC
Enterprise/Taylor Charitable Entities
Fairwood Womens Division
First Financial Northwest Bank
Franz Bakery Foundation
Fred and Gretel Biel Charitable Trust
Glaser Foundation

Goutham & Sri Garimella
Greg and Wende Wahl
Hazel Miller Foundation
Heidi MacDonald
Herzl-Ner Tamid's Conservative
Congregation/Social Action Committee
Jason and Sherry Schluter
Jeff & Jessica Roach
Jerelyn Hampton
Jerome & Janet Barker
Jolene Bolton
Kari Hayden
Kenny Macdougall & Sylvia Hawthorne
Kevin & Maria Olson
Kristina Tomalesky
Lance Stevens
Lanette Allen
Laura Cameron
Leah and Mike Battin
Loya Brown
Mark & Ann Roach
Mark & Vivian Blauman
Matthew Carson and Ashley Seffernick
Mike & Kimberly Sheehy
Modesto Garcia
Perkins Coie Foundation
Puyallup Tribe of Indians (Donor 4213)
Renton Rotary Caper, Inc.
Rick & Teri Katzer

Robert Loudon
Ruth Hubbard
Ryan and Tamara Berndt
Samantha Jensen
Soroptimist International of Renton
Starbucks Corporate
Stifel
Swift Group
Sydney Siegmeth
The White Family Charitable Fund
Top of the Hill Quality Produce
Whole Foods
William Huber
Windermere Foundation
YMCA of Greater Seattle



2024 Birthday Club Donors

Champions

(\$500 - \$999):

1630 Hair Artisans LLC
Alberto Cerriteno
Alexa Medhus
Amanda Howell
American Energy Systems
Andrea and Marcus Bates
Andrew Sharpe
Angel Almeida
Angie & Jimm Elliott
Belinda Morrison
Benjamin & Sydney Tyree
Bob Akers
Cameron Stratton
Chris & Aileen McConnell
Christine & Michael Dotson
Christy Brogan
Clark and Liz Mounsey
Clay & Kari Perkins
Dani Brazzle
Dawn and JayDee Dohrmann
Doug and Shannon Luedtke
Dwayne Reinike
Elton and Emily Smith
Eric Wright
Erik Crema
Fazlollah Arian
Four Generals Brewing LLC
George and Sandra Moore
Girl Scouts of Western WA
Troop 42702 Service Unit 412
Haleigh Whitehead
Hannah Feller
Jamie Gibson
Janine Chin
Jay & Katie Cleveland
Jeremy Rife

John Berkeley
Joseph Garcia-Powell
Judy Lewicki
Julie Lumpkin
Kathy Silvernale
Katie Trout
Kel Malaga
Kiwanis Club of Issaquah
Kristen Saint Clair
Kroger
Laurel Jamison
Laurie Knott
Lipman Family Farms
Lynn Erskine
Marlatt Funeral Home
Marsha Lake
Mary Odegard
Melrose Grill
Mounica Sirineni
Movement Foundation
Nagender Parimi
Ranveer Chandra
Saybr Contractors Inc.
Seng Thor
Shannon Van Duzer
Shirlene Evans
Sooji Hartzell & Tim Large
Steve and Gail Kaneko
Subhash Chandra
Teresa Kuzmer
TJ Michael
T-Mobile Foundation
Verizon
Wendy Larkin
Whistle Stop Ale House

Friends

(\$250 - \$500):

Adam Hailey
Amanda Medhaug
Anett Meininger
Angel & Julisa Cordoba
Angela Ault
Angelina Minion
Arena Sports Issaquah LLC
Armondo and Angela Pavone
Bank of America Charitable
Gift Fund
Barbara Del Beccaro
Barbara Petersen
Becky Nickels
Bindy Naimdii
BNBuilders
Brandon & Amanda Lundy
Carla Schippers
Carolyn Stalter
Catalent Pharma Corporate
Matching
Cedar River Cellars LLC
Chaz & Chris Spahn
Christine Barnes
Dan & Emily Sundstrom
Danielle Smith
David Feller
Dennis Mori
Derek & Karol Jamison
Eilon Lipton
Emily Holm
Eric Peterson
Erica Limon-Trefielo
Felicia McDanel
Gates Family Office Corp.
(Donor 4719)
Gina Colucci
Hans & Holly Rikhof
Harrison Jenkins
Heath & Tonya Milne
Heidi and Tony Leavitt
Ian McClendon

IJapun Bhavsar
Jeff and Melinda Lawrence
Jennifer Snow-Boscolo
Jessica Nasset
Jill & Paul Tyree
Joe & Michaelle Sievers
John & Susie Shepard
Josh Lee
Joshua & Sarah Gould
Joshua Barokas
Julia Cox
Kari Day
Katherine Baker
Kathleen Sesnon
Kathryn Guykema
Keith Carter
Kerri Shigo
Kevin & Erin Hancock
Kristen Christie
Kyle & Haley Koccek
Leslie Feller
Linda and John Middlebrooks
Lyla Smith
Marcia Austin
Matt & Anne Purkey
Matthew Tracy
Mecham Bookkeeping LLC
Mechelle Lange
Melinda Lawrence
Melissa Fattore & Josh Bain
Mr. Lawrence &
Mrs. Kincaid-Lawrence
Niki Weiss
Nisha Rikhi
Oliver Meier
Rachel Brittany Saimons
Ramsay Ringo
Rebecca Daum
Richard Mannion
Sakuntala Reed
Scott and Aleana McMurray
Scott Sievers
Southwest Investment, Inc.

St Andrew Presbyterian Church
Stefanie Niesz
Sylvia Hawthorne
Tacher Family Fund
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society
T-Mobile USA Inc
Vicki Kennerud
Viktor Boykos
Vistex, Inc.
Warren Diaz &
Eleazar Juarez-Diaz

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.
- **Assemble Friendship Bracelets** Friends are forever and we have the bracelets to prove it! Help us put together friendship bracelets kits. Choose a word, gather decorative and letter beads, then put them all together for kids to assemble and wear at the birthday parties.
- **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.

2,140 volunteers participated in 110 community events, many of these were remote. Our top supporters were Microsoft, Salesforce, Amazon, Sheraton, Gates Venture, Edgewater Hotel, BECU, various churches, school groups and scout troops.



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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