



Birthday Dreams

2025 Annual Report



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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

Dear friends and supporters:

Seventeen years ago, Shannon Avery and I started Birthday Dreams in my garage with a simple idea: **every child deserves to feel celebrated on their birthday.**

At the time, we could not have imagined the community that would grow around that idea.

This past year, we celebrated a milestone together — Birthday Dreams' Sweet 16. At our Gala of Dreams, we leaned into the theme with an 80s throwback celebration complete with "16 candles." It was a joyful evening, filled with laughter, music, and a little nostalgia. But what made the night truly meaningful was not the theme or the decorations. It was a reminder of what this community has built together.

Because of you — our donors, volunteers, and partners — Birthday Dreams reached an incredible milestone: 17,500 children served since our founding. Seventeen thousand five hundred birthdays.

Seventeen thousand five hundred moments when a child experiencing homelessness was reminded that they matter. Moments when a child was able to celebrate just like their classmates, even when their family was navigating one of the most difficult chapters of their lives.

And just as important, these celebrations restore something powerful for parents as well. When a family loses their home, so much is taken from them — stability, security, and often a sense of normalcy. Being able to celebrate their child's birthday again can be a small but meaningful step toward rebuilding hope and dignity.

None of this happens without you.

Behind every birthday celebration is a remarkable chain of generosity. Volunteers who shop for gifts, bake cakes, wrap presents, organize supplies, and deliver celebrations with care. Donors who provide the resources that make these moments possible. Community partners who open doors and amplify our mission.

Every celebration is a community effort.

And every time a child blows out birthday candles or opens a gift chosen just for them, it is your kindness that made that moment possible.

As we celebrated sixteen years of Birthday Dreams, I found myself reflecting not just on how far we've come, but on the compassion and generosity that made it possible. What started in a garage has grown into a powerful community dedicated to bringing joy, hope, and a sense of self-worth to children who need it most.

Thank you for believing in this mission. Thank you for showing families experiencing homelessness that they are not alone. And thank you for helping ensure that every child we serve feels celebrated on their birthday.



Sincerely,

Chris Spahn

Executive Director & Co-founder

Parent Testimonial

“My family has been going through a hard time, and we were staying at a shelter in Everett. I did not have enough money to give my daughter a birthday party. I asked Birthday Dreams for help because I wanted her to feel happy, loved, and special on her birthday. The team at Birthday Dreams was so engaged and helpful! When the day arrived, my daughter was so excited, she smiled a lot and talked about her party with her friends all day. She felt special and important. This was more than just a party for us, as it brought joy and happiness to my daughter and allowed her to forget our hard situation for a while. For me, it brought peace in knowing that my daughter had a beautiful birthday memory.

Thank you so much, Birthday Dreams for making my child’s birthday something special! This party brought joy, smiles, and hope to our family during a difficult time. May God bless everyone who made this possible!”

**W.T., Mother of a
15-Year-Old Girl**



A Message From Our Development Director

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

2025 was a year of setting records. We provided 1,944 birthday celebrations to homeless youth—the highest yearly number of birthday celebrations in our organizational history! In the spring, over 150 supporters walked, ran, and rolled to help us raise funds and awareness in our Miles for Smiles Activity Challenge event. In the fall, nearly 350 guests attended our totally awesome, 1980's-themed The Gala of Dreams and raised a record-breaking \$285,000 to help celebrate birthdays for families like Shlita Jackson, who gave moving testimony at the event. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Gala Steering Committee and all our supporters for making the gala a huge success!

But it's not all about the numbers. Another crucial goal for 2025 was to continue our efforts in raising awareness about Birthday Dreams in the community. We partnered with MOViN 92.5 FM, KIXI 880AM, Air1/KLOVE Radio, and other local media outlets to spread the word about our work. Birthday Dreams was featured in radio ads, staff member interviews featured in spotlight segments, and print ads and articles in local publications like GREET Magazine. Additionally, KING5 TV segments featuring Birthday Dreams were featured on both Weekend Mornings and New Day NW programs and 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 for 2026, but we are confident that we will be able to achieve them. With a strong Board of Directors and the continued support of donors and volunteers like you, the organization is well positioned to build on last year's positive momentum. For instance, we are presenting the first-annual Par-Tee Golf Tournament this year! I would like to invite our family of supporters who also enjoy golfing to consider being a part of this exciting and fun new event which will be held on Monday, June 15th at the Washington National Golf Course in Auburn!

We have set achievable goals for 2026, 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 our efforts to raise money, raise awareness, 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.

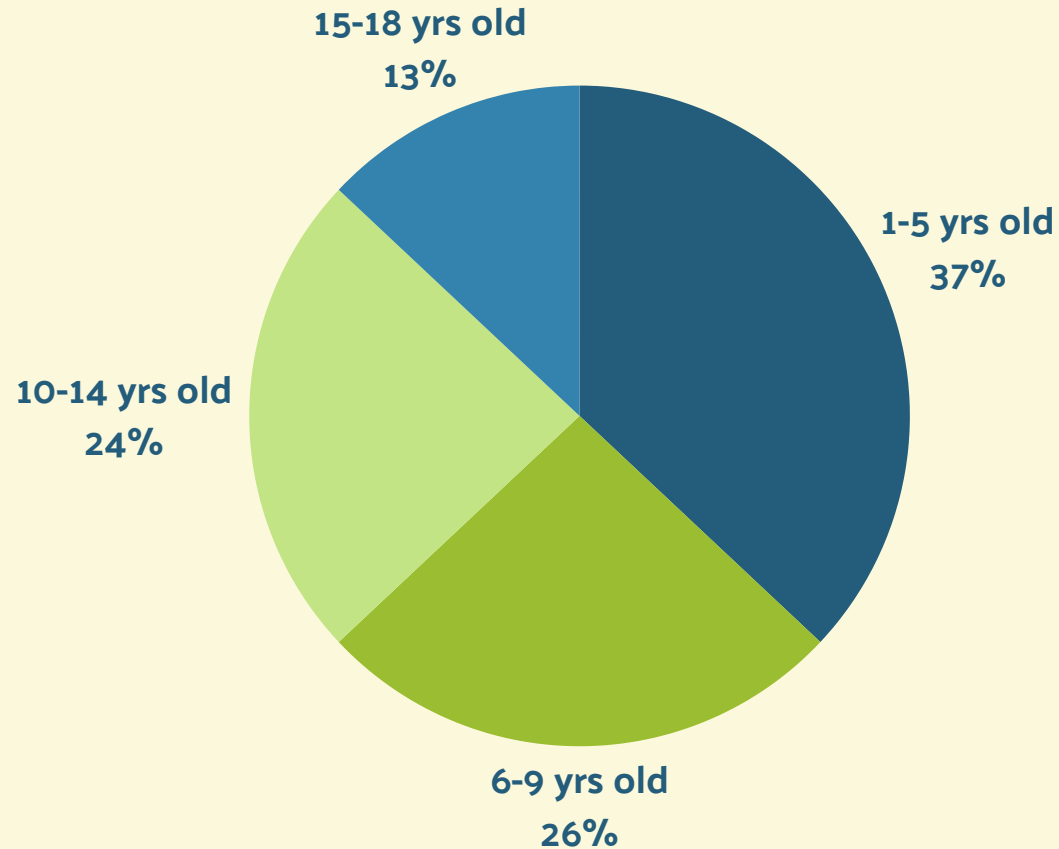
Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this milestone year! To our staff, Board, volunteers, and incredible family of financial supporters who make Birthday Dreams a shining light of hope and joy in our community – THANK YOU!



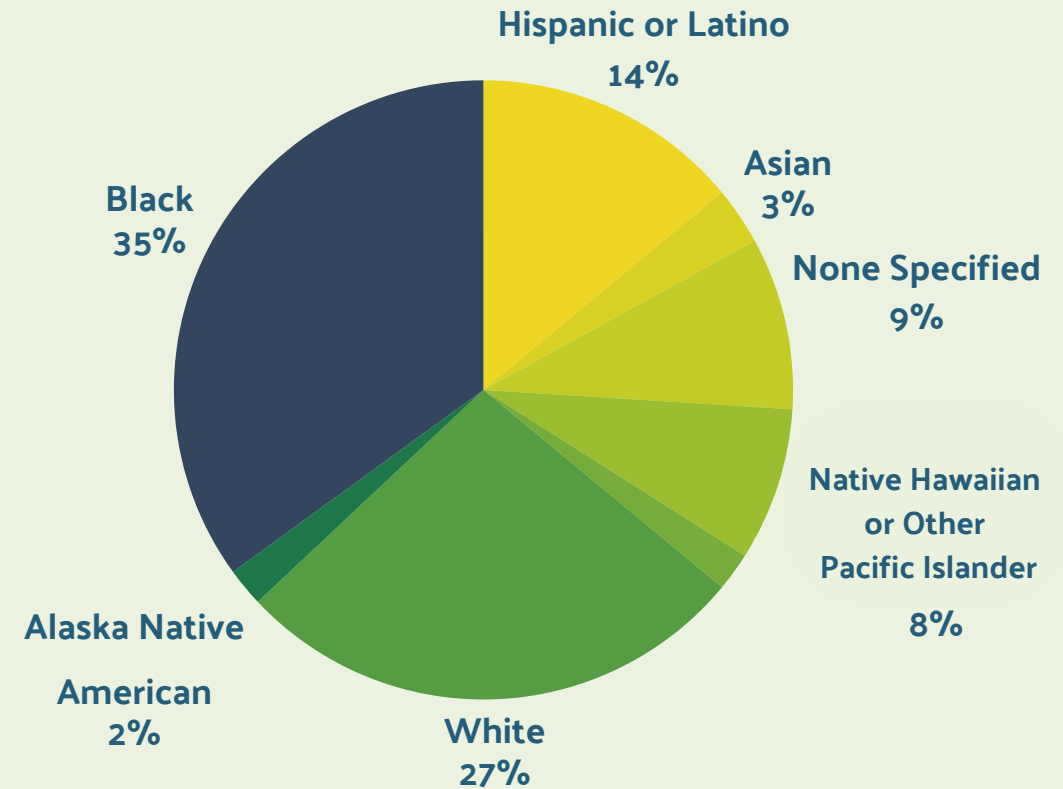
With Gratitude,

Jared 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.



1,944
Children
Celebrated





Our Shelter Partners

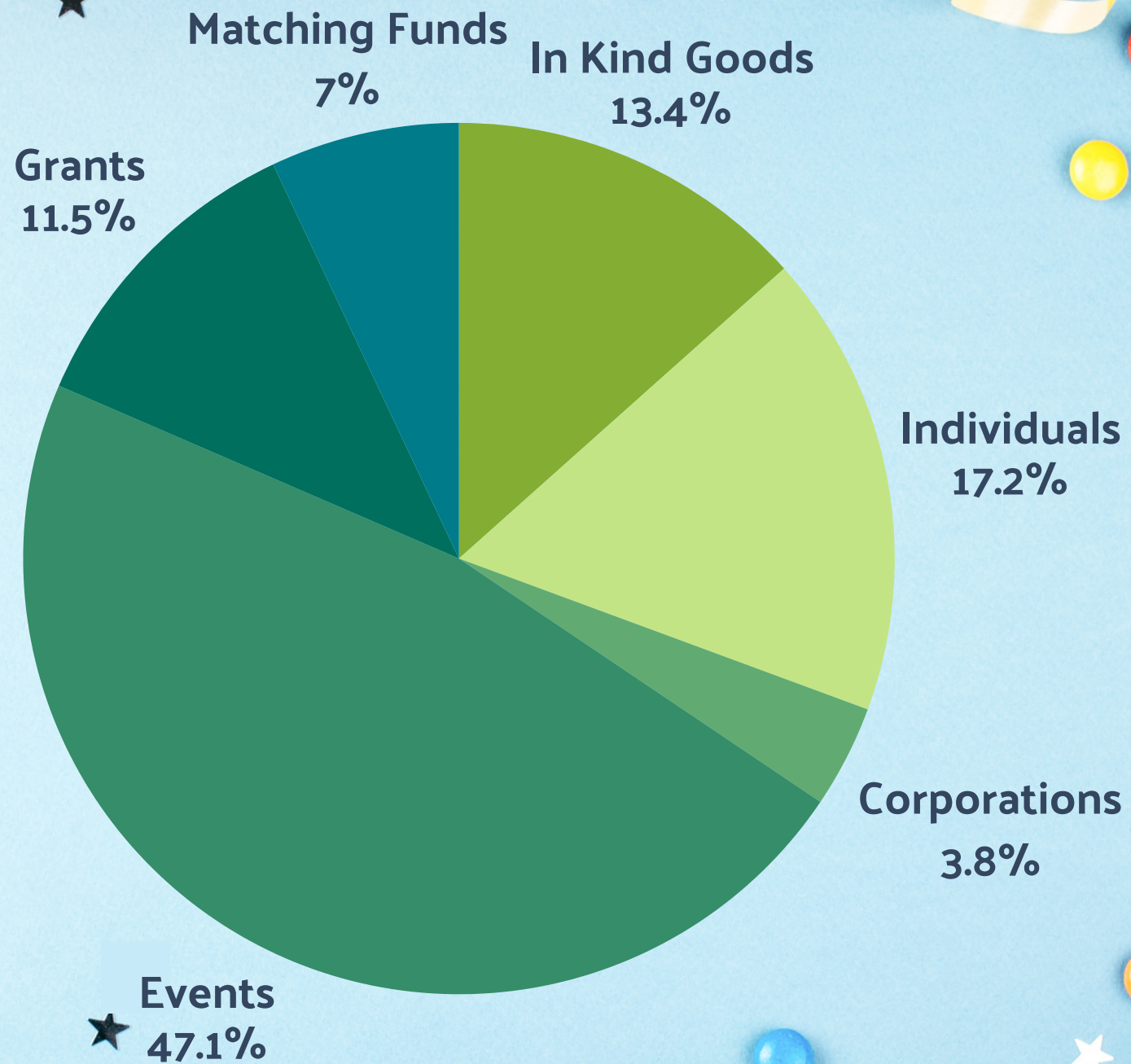
The primary way in which parents learn about our services is through our partnerships with local shelters and non-profits that assist with housing.

We currently have active agreements with 76 shelters.

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

King County	53
Pierce County	12
Snohomish County	11

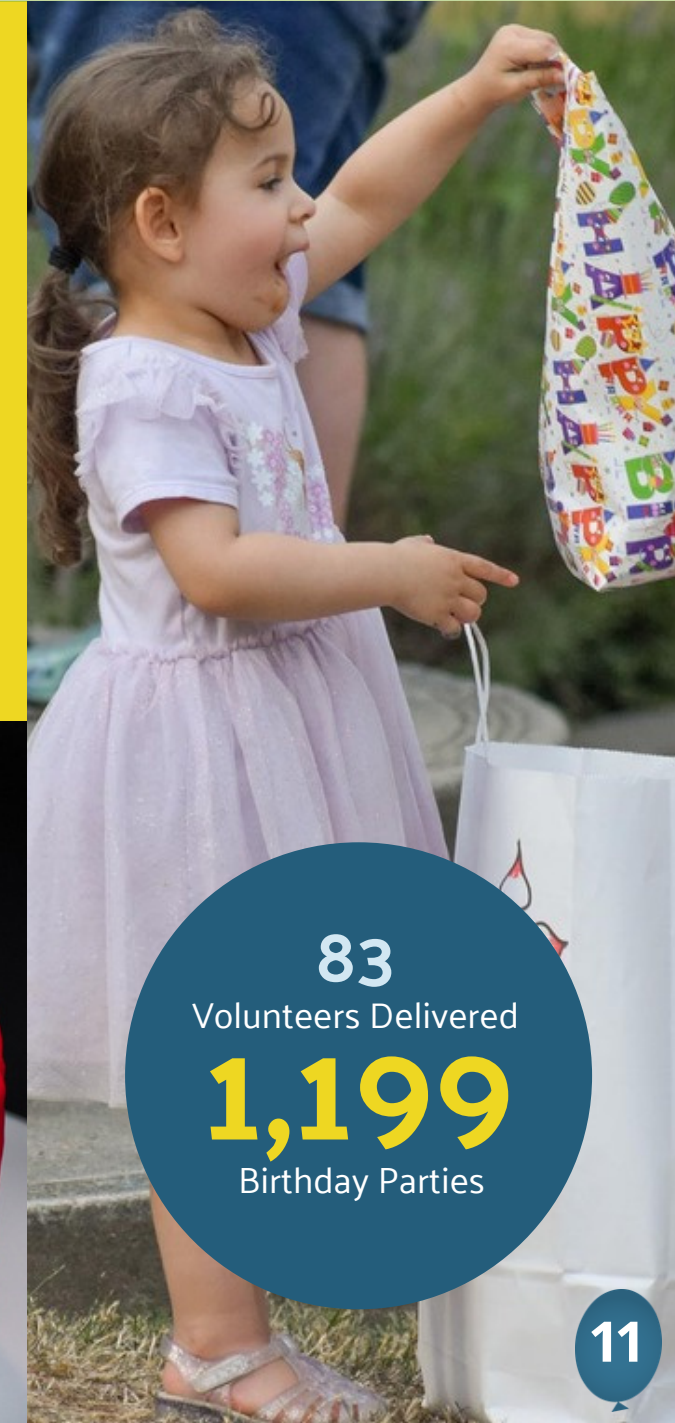
Program
Revenue
Total:
\$705,500.88



We couldn't do what we do without our amazing

Volunteers

In 2025, we had 2,801 individuals that volunteered 6,358 hours!



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



97
People Donated
760
Cakes



Thank You to All Our Gala Donors and Attendees!



2025 Board of Directors



PAM BRUMLOW
Board Chair
Microsoft



JEN WARRICK
Vice Chair
Tre Sorelle Salon



PAUL WARRICK
Secretary
Kitsap Credit Union



LOYA BROWN
Treasurer
Microsoft



KIM THUNEN
Retired



JAIME KING
Premier Professional
Management Group



ANDREA BATES
Hargis Engineers, Inc.



ANN VERBECK
Retired



BRANDI MARTINEZ
People & Culture
Consultant



TERI KATZER
Emeritus
Business Consultant



ANDREW LOSSING
First Interstate Bank



CHRISTINA OAKLEY
The Partners Group



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.

2025 Birthday Club Donors

Superheroes

(\$5,000 and up):

Amanda & Keith Klein
Arika & Brooks Josephson
Aven Foundation
BECU Seattle
Chris & Rachel L Hadden
First Financial Northwest Foundation
Garneau-Nicon Family Foundation
Greg & Tiffany Anderson
Gulbadan Randhawa & Princy Rekhi
H.D. Fowler Company
Hani Saliba
Highland Dental Center
Hyeon & Marla Kang
Jan Campbell
Jeremy & Tamara Paul
Keegan Lynch & Hayley Griffin
Kim Thunen
Laura Cameron
Loya Brown
Mary Koontz
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Mike & Alene Moore
Miter Foundation / Milgard Windows and Doors
Movement Foundation
Patrick & Jaime Kang
Randall Morris Foundation
Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation
The KidStarter Project
T-Mobile Foundation
Windows of Hope Foundation

Heroes

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

Amazon Grants
American Energy Systems
Andrea Bates
Banner Bank
BECU - Landing Branch
Boeing Company Gift Match
Brad & Claudia Barton
Brian & Cathy Hayes
Brian & Sarah Utter
Camerer Real Estate
Chandra-Sinha Family Fund
Charles & Susan Allison
Christina & Mark Jarvis
Christina & Yung Lee
Coal Creek Family YMCA
Corbin & Katrina Bohart Family Fund
Core Scientific
Craig & Kari Hayden
Dealers Auto Auction of Idaho
Dee Burris
Derek & Karol Jamison
Diana Thronsen
Dickson Harding
Donna Cronk
Doug & Shannon Luedtke
Elderrock Financial, LLC
Elizabeth Holleman & Paul Robaidek
Enterprise Mobility Foundation
Erin Medved Burnham

First Interstate Bank
Four Generals Brewing LLC
Franco & Jamie Phillips
Gates Foundation
Genie - A Terex Corporation
Glaser Foundation
Greg & Wende Wahl
Heidi MacDonald
Jackson Main Architecture, P.S.
Jason & Sherry Schluter
Jazmine Cabral
Jeffrey Caffee
Jen Staker
Jerelyn Hampton
Jill & Andy McGovern
John Berkeley
Jordan & Kristin Chester
Julie & Robert Dreyfoos
Julie Hamm
Ken & Karen Johnston
Kent School District
415- National Honor Society
Kitsap Credit Union
Kurt Weber
Leah Battin
Lisa & Richard Stirgus
Lumen Matching Funds
Mary Reeder
McConkey Auction Group

Mel Carson & Ashley Seffernick
Melrose Grill
Pam Brumlow
Rick & Teri Katzer
RJ & Meena Jadhav
Rob Sides
Robert Loudon
Rong Choy
Ruth Hubbard
Salesforce
Shelley Whelan
Starbucks Foundation
Stifel
The CLOROX Company
The Florence B. Kilworth Foundation
The Tamara Paul Group
The Tee Box
The White Family Charitable Fund
T-Mobile USA Inc
Tre Sorelle Salon
Vin Yarnmunilert
Windermere Foundation
Wynne Mentink



2025 Birthday Club Donors

Champions

(\$500 - \$999):

Adele Anderson
American Family Mutual
Insurance Matching Funds
Angie & Jimm Elliott
Anshika Ahuja
Armondo & Angela Pavone
Avnit Chand
Becky Nickels
Belur & Rama Shivashankara
Bill Ozuna Sr & Jane Ozuna
Cameron Stratton
Carmen Meeks
Chris & Rebecca Sheldon
Chris Brewer
Christine Barnes
Christy & Sean Brogan
Cindy Kruse
Clare & Sebastian Pedersen
Clint Weber

Colleen Macaulay
Cristina Cupp
Dani Brazze
Darcy Exley
Dario Machleidt
Dave Seymour
Dawn & JayDee Dohrmann
Debbie Cray
Diane Lee & Jas Walia
Emma Yin
Eric Barone
Family Dentistry PLLC
Fazlollah Arian
Girl Scout Troop 41385
Greg Scott Jones
Guy Roberts & Sherry Ernst
Haleigh Whitehead
Hansen Lee
Heather Cartwright
Janine Chin
Jeffrey & Sarah Derstadt
Jen Larsen
Jennifer Dressing
Jenny Moran
Jeremy Rife
Jim & Carol Waugh
Jodi & Terry Mecham
Joe & Michelle Sievers
Julie Sanborn
Karen & Gregg Middaugh
Karina Kawaguchi
Kathy & Neil McDonald
Kathy Bantle
Kel Malaga
Kelly Souza
Kenny Macdougall &
Sylvia Hawthorne
Knights of Columbus
Kroger
Lance Stevens

Laurel & John Tomchick
Laurel Jamison
Lipman Family Farms
Lisa Elner
Marcus McFarland & Courtney
O'Brien-McFarland
Mark A McClure & Janet B McClure
Mecham Bookkeeping LLC
Mechelle Lange
Merck Matching Funds
Mike Garrett & Tanya Franzen-Garrett
Mounica Sirineni
Nicole & Paul Lowe
Nike Matching Funds
Noel Acab
Payward Ventures Inc. ("Kraken")
Charitable Gift Program
Quota International of Kent Valley
Rachel Brittany Saimons
Randall & Amanda Morris
Renee Knick
Rhonda Laumann
Sakuntala Reed
Sandra & Douglas Nalley
Sarah Dorscht
Sarah Rockwell
Sarah Smith
Saybr Contractors Inc.
Simon Powley
Sooji Hartzell & Tim Large
Stephanie Monger
Steve & Gail Kaneko
Sundee Scouta
Susan Barham
Tamara Paul
Tapco Credit Union
Tasha Irvine
Torin & Amber Bainter
Vistex, Inc.
Vlad Moskalenko

Friends

(\$250 - \$500):

Alexa Medhus
All Saints LWML
Allison Broder
Amanda Medhaug
Amelia Winslow
Amer Ramovic
Amir Taherazer
Anna Weber
Barbara Del Beccaro
Benjamin & Sydney Tyree
Bill & Kate Morris
Binderiya Naimdii
Brandi & Gabriel Martinez
Brandon & Maggie Au
Bryan White
Carla Schippers
Cathy & Milt Footer
Cathy Miller
Chau Klies
Christine & Kevin Zeznick
Cindy Tsend-Ayush
Bayanmunkh
Costco Wholesale Corp
Dale Rolf
Dana Visser
Dean & Sheila Josephson
Derek & Kathryn Sciba
Dharmesh Chauhan
Diane Tien
Donald Lewicki
Eddie & Holly Jezek
Ellie & Mark Glazer
Emma C Philbrook
Erinann Childress
Francesca Ho
Gail Clark
Hannah Knick
Harrison Jenkins
Innspace Matching Funds
Jamie Mark
Janea Stark
Jason & Stephanie Azarcon
Jen Olson

Jennifer Sutton
Jennine Ellis
Jesse Hatch & Camille Adair-Hatch
Jessica Nasset
Jim & Pauline Proulx
Joe Wolf
John & Susie Shepard
John Neeleman
Josh & Katie Kavulla
Karen Koon
Karen Rodriguez La Paz
Kateri Gilliland
Kathy Smith
Katie Trout
Keith & Lindsay McManus
Kenneth & Ruby Elwood
Linda Floyd
Marc & Sarah Oommen
Marsha Lake
Marshall Kaiser
Mary Fischer
Mary Morales
Mary Wittman
Mike Dalton
Morgan Charnley
Mr. Lawrence & Mrs. Kincaid-
Lawrence
Nintendo of America
Paul & Jennifer Warrick
Rick & Patty Hanson
Robert Akers
Robert Grey
Roger Murphy
Ryan & Tamara Berndt
Sandy Gregory
Sherry & William Weber
Steve & Donna Wong
Sylvia Hawthorne
Tacher Family Fund
Teresa Kuzmer
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society
The Pinnacle Family Fund
Thrivent
Tudor Didilescu
Veritiv Corporation Matching Fund
Whole Foods

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.



2,563 volunteers participated in community events, many of these were remote. Our top supporters were Microsoft, Salesforce, Hasbro, Junior League of Seattle, T-Mobile, Gates Venture, BECU, various churches, school groups and scout troops.



How to Volunteer



VISIT: birthdaydreams.org/WaysToGive/Volunteer

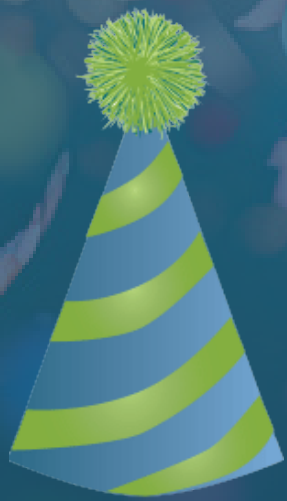
Volunteer Categories NEEDED:

- 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](https://www.BirthdayDreams.org)



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Renton, WA 98056



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