

# SISU CHILDREN'S FUND

YOU CAN'T FIX THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS UNLESS YOU FIX THE PROBLEMS ON YOUR DOORSTEP

## HOW WE SPENT YOUR DONATIONS



**Melinda and her service dog Karl**

Melinda has been training her dog at Fur Life Dog Training in Lynden. This is a "Train your own service dog" program. Karl has completed obedience training and his public training classes. Right now Karl is able to attend high school with Melinda.

The final class is task training. The family has paid for the previous class, but now needs assistance for the last series. We have committed to help pay up to \$600 so Melinda will have her faithful Karl to help her in all of her needs.



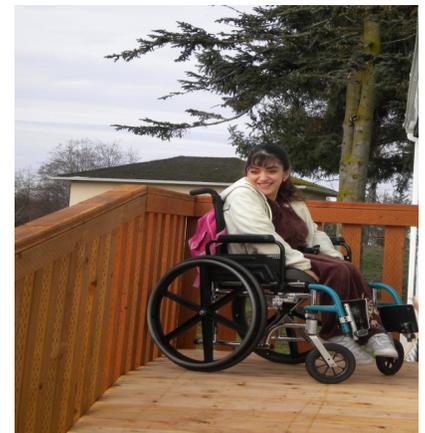
**Providing a new ramp into Susana's home**

Susana and her family were moving into a new residence that did not have wheelchair access. We were contacted by the Parent to Parent organization to see if we could help. After much legwork by Alina Zollfrank with Parent to Parent, Sisu Children's Fund purchased the materials needed for the new ramp. They found a volunteer who constructed the ramp.

This is an example of how Sisu Children's Fund can "fill the cracks". Not every need is medical treatment. There are many ways to make life better for children and young adults.

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We provided a GPS system for a family. It is placed on a child who has a problem with walking away from the home. The family lives in the county with a large wooded area and this helps to keep this child safe.



## THE FINAL TOUCH BY BRIAN FORSLOFF

Bryan Forsloff is the very talented guitarist who plays on Thursday evenings at Hotel Bellwether, Harborside Bistro. Bryan and other local jazz artists have produced a CD called "The Final Touch." The music is easy listening, but certainly never boring. Many are original compositions by Bryan, but there are a couple of Stevie Wonder's songs too. Scot Raney, Tom Anastasio, Mike Black, Mark Kelly, Bill McDonough and Paul Baron help to make this a great CD. **A portion of the proceeds are donated to Sisu Children's Fund and to date we have received \$550.00.**

This is a great stocking stuffer, but you will want one for yourself also.

To order a CD and help Sisu Children's Fund you can reach Bryan by the following:

Phone: 360 224-4363

Website: [bryanforsloff.com](http://bryanforsloff.com)

Email: [b4sloff@comcast.net](mailto:b4sloff@comcast.net)

## WWU SPEECH & HEARING

Through the years we have given financial assistance to a number of children going through the speech program at Western Washington University. Speech therapy is one area that insurances do not pay well and parents are faced trying to give their child the best opportunity, or cut back on services if they can not afford to pay. We are pleased to be able to help in this area.

We were invited to tour the new facility at WWU to see the latest in technology, and see the programs for speech and hearing. While there, Dr. Eva Baharav explained the program she has been developing. Through iPads with special programs and real time monitoring, the students and faculty at Western can set up a lesson for the parents to do with their child in their own home. The parents get feedback on the lesson with suggestions for improvement or reinforcement of the good job the parent is doing. The students use this as a learning platform and are able to use this information as a classroom and practicum. The best part is that the child is not dragged from the home for a one hour appointment, taking up most of the day to travel. Training the parent allows them to reinforce the lesson during the week until moving to the next session.

Sisu Children's Fund has purchased three iPads for use in the homes for the families that could not afford to purchase them.

As an additional note: We learned on this tour that even adults use WWU Speech and Hearing Department. If you need a hearing aid, or need to fine tune the one you have, you might check this out.

### GRANTS TO CHILDREN

100% OF  
YOUR  
DONATION IS  
USED TO HELP  
CHILDREN IN  
NEED OF  
SERVICES FOR  
MEDICAL OR  
PHYSICAL  
PROBLEMS

- Medical Evaluation
- Listening program for children needing to learn to focus
- HiLow chair
- Physical Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Vision Therapy
- Therapeutic Horseback Riding (3 children)
- GPS system
- iPads (3)
- Wheelchair ramp
- Service Dog training
- Braces for a 3 year old when their insurance would not pay for a second fitting in one year even though his foot had grown
- \$1,000 scholarship to Kristen Cook
- \$1,000 scholarship to Bellingham Technical College, with more funds available this school year.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year we offer a \$2,500 scholarship to a student at Bellingham Technical College. To qualify the student must have or had a medical problems or physical disability and under the age of 25. This year we have awarded \$1,000 to a student, and have available another \$1,500 for Winter or Spring Quarters. This is your opportunity to be our ambassador; if you know of a student who would qualify for our scholarship and they will be attending BTC, please have them contact us.

We believe BTC offers the best opportunity for a young adult to receive training and obtain employment especially if they have limitations in their physical ability.

This year we were offered a tour of the school. I can only say we were impressed. We toured the nursing and dental programs, instrumentation and process control for the oil industry and several other departments. These programs are similar to the electrical students, most have jobs waiting for them when they graduate. The Culinary Department is excellent and if you have not had lunch in their dining room you are missing a great meal. If you wish to have lunch there call ahead for reservations. The school has expanded over the years and it remains an ideal place for young people and adults wanting to find their careers or change careers.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

We have an application for financial assistance for Justice, a six year old boy. Last August Justice had a Hemispherectomy which removed part of his brain to correct a seizure condition. Now he has recently had a successful surgery for Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy which will help with spastic triplegic cerebral palsy. Justice needs intensive physical therapy rehabilitation for this coming year.

On November 8th Justice will enter Children's Hospital Rehabilitation Unit for two to three weeks. Then he needs to have physical therapy 5 days a week for six months, followed by 3 days a week for six months. The parents health insurance will only cover 20 physical therapy visits per year, after their deductible.

The parents have many medical bills and need assistance for the portions that their insurance will not cover.

**We would like to help this child receive the needed physical therapy. The costs will be \$280 a week. This comes to over \$14,000 and is a major undertaking. The parents will partner with us on these charges and pay what they can and Sisu Children's Fund will help with the rest.**

**Please help us with your generous donations so we can provide the needed therapy for this child.**

## HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

This year our high school scholarship recipient is Kristin Cook. Kristin lives in La Conner and will be attending Western Washington University this fall.

Kristin was involved in an accident when a truck struck the car she was in and she sustained a traumatic brain injury. Kristin spent nine days at Harborview Hospital, and three weeks at Children's Hospital's Rehabilitation Unit. Prior to her accident Kristin was a high achieving student and athlete. Even though some academic material is harder now, Kristin still exhibits the high achieving attitude for her success. In reviewing Kristin's academic record it is obvious that she has not taken the easy way to finish high school.

Because of her experience and the rehabilitation she went through, Kristin would like to obtain a degree in the medical rehabilitation field. We wish her success in her schooling and know that with her positive attitude Kristin will achieve everything she wants.

## MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

We are pleased to announce the addition of Tom Callender, M. D. to our board. Dr. Callender is a retired anesthesiologist. Dr. Callender, along with Dr. Braun, our Medical Advisor, give us valuable information and insight to help those of us with a limited medical background.

We are also blessed with Elaine Maki, Speech Pathologist; Brend Hunt Holma, Special Education Specialist and Speech Pathologist; Gretchen Merris, employed previously in the insurance industry but now at St. Joseph Hospital; and Deidre Kent, CPA, teaches at Bellingham Technical College. We have three engineers: Jeff May, Ron Effa, and Frank Sanchez. Susan Sanchez works for the City of Seattle, and Marianne Story is a Kitchen Designer in Wenatchee. Linda Callender, Wendy Bevan and myself, Barbara Sanchez, are just plain bleeding hearts over the challenges children face with physical or medical problems.

There are available positions on our board if you would like to join us. Call: 671-8766 or talk with any board member about the responsibilities and obligations.

## **Sisu Children's Fund**

609 Briar Road

Bellingham, WA 98225

360-671-8766

Sisuchildrensfund@gmail.com

501(c)3 Public Charity

### **Board of Directors**

Frank Sanchez	Susan Sanchez
Marianne Story	Barbara Sanchez
Wendy Bevan	Linda Callender
Ron Effa	Tom Callender
Brend Hunt Holma	Deidre Kent
Elaine Maki	Jeff May
Gretchen Merris	

Medical Director: Frederic Braun,MD

**SERVING CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL  
AND PHYSICAL PROBLEMS**

## SAVE THE DATES

Friday, December 10th

Come join us at the 2nd Annual Give-a-thon sponsored by Whatcom County Association of Realtors. This will be held at O'Donnell's Bellingham Flea Market, 1522 Cornwall Avenue, from 12 noon to 8 p.m.

There will be 45 charities giving you information about their wonderful works. You will also be entertained by local musicians and choirs, have coffee and cookies, plus there is a raffle for door prizes.

Non-profits will be accepting donations on that day, so we invite you to drop by and visit with us and leave your donation for Sisu Children's Fund. Northwest Therapeutic Riding Center will be there showing the wonderful program they have. We do scholarships at the riding center for children and at the present time we have been helping three children.

Thursday, June 2nd

*Your gift of the iPads will help so many finally be given a voice in the world.*

*Georgetta Lilley  
M.Ed.CCC-SLP*

*"Up until the iPads, augmentative communication devices were so terribly expensive, boring and cumbersome. With the iPads they can have communication at their fingertips."*

*Tetry Sacks, Clinic  
Director, Speech Language Clinic, WWU*

### Get your tickets early

Mark your calendars for our biannual fund raising event **"Damn Yankees"** at the Bellingham Theatre Guild.

Again we will have a fun evening of wine, food, silent auction and an excellent theatrical performance. What a fun way to help children with medical problems.

Tickets are \$30.00, and includes your food and wine. Tickets will be available in March. The previous times we have had sell outs so be sure to get your tickets early. Call any board member or call 671-8766.

### Would you like to donate?

Any of our board members will accept donations of silent auction articles. This can be a single item that can be combined with others to make up a basket or you can make up your own basket. All businesses donating any item will be recognized in our ad and program.

Food and wine for the auction or for consumption that night are always great items to donate.

If you would like to help call Barbara Sanchez at 671-8766 or any board member.

You can also email us at:  
sisuchildrensfund@gmail.com

### Business Sponsors

We need business sponsors for this event. This could be the least expensive advertising you can do all year, along with helping children in need.

If you would like to be a sponsor, please call Barbara Sanchez at 671-8766, or email

sisuchildrensfund@gmail.com.

Sponsors will receive publicity prior to the event, listing in our program the night of the event, and a thank you ad placed in Entertainment News NW after the event.

Businesses contributing \$500 or more will receive additional recognition.

## Thank you to our donors

Madeline and David Baines	Jeff May
Anita Bjork and Jim Anziano	Gretchen Merris
Julia & Mike Bozzo	Marilyn & Bob Monahan
Lynda & Bob Brillowsky	Gail Snabb Morgan
Linda and Tom Callender	Elizabeth O'Brien
Yolanda and Ron Effa	Sandra & Corbett Potter
Linnea Eliason	Stephanie & Jay Potter
Andrea & Brian Forsloff	Carolyn & William Presley
Margie Goetz	Ronni Rajagopal
Jeanne & Oren Key	Betty & Wayne Robertson
Charles Kleeberg	Lourdes Sanchez
Dorrit & Bernhard Lov	Debi & John Schmidt
Elizabeth & Patrick Matson	Jeanne & Alan Yanco

## Thank you to the business and organizations who support us

Bayport Financials	Northwest Eye Clinic
Bayside Engineering	Regence Blue Shield
Independent Order of Foresters, Branch 606	State of Washington Combined Fund
Mighty Maxwell Guild	William Mathews VFW, Auxiliary 1585
Network for Good (Evan Needham)	The Aussie Connection (Herbertsons)

## Special Remembrances

### In Memory of:

Travis Goodman	Bayside Financials
	Lynn & Timothy Nishimura
Mary Kane	Shirley & Barry Potter
Jesse Schuette	Karen Reitz
Joseph Nuckolls	Mary & Russ Nuckolls
Estafanita Sanchez	Barbara & Frank Sanchez
Robert Pedroncelli	Barbara & Frank Sanchez
Liz Garcia	Lupe & Joseph Sanchez
Barbara Chavez	Lupe & Joseph Sanchez
Jenny Sanchez	Lupe & Joseph Sanchez
Jolene Sanchez	Trudie & Fred Goodman

### In Honor of:

Laura Ibsen	Vicky & Ken Marshall
Alec & Connor Forsloff	D. & C. Goheen
Evan Storrs	Sarah K. Storrs

### Special Honors:

Linnea Eliason's 90th Birthday

All operating expenses are paid by Frank and Barbara Sanchez so 100% of your donation is used to assist children and young adults

**Of Special note:** Estafanita Sanchez, or Aunt Steve as her family called her, died recently at the age of 94. She was a very loving and generous person. From the beginning of our charity whenever we sent a newsletter one of the first donations to come in was from Aunt Steve.