

# SISU CHILDREN'S FUND

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

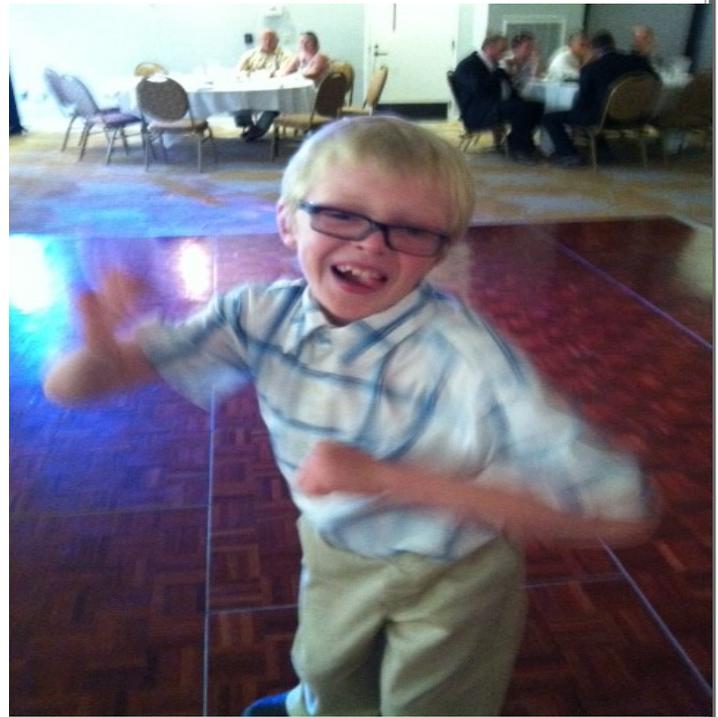
## HOW YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

When Justice was seven months old he was rushed to Children's Hospital for a CAT Scan on his brain because of concern of excessive fluid on his brain. Over the next several days and weeks of testing, we learned that Justice had suffered a stroke during the first trimester of my pregnancy with no known cause and the majority of the left side of his brain failed to develop. The neurologists gently explained that Justice had Spastic Triplegic Cerebral Palsy and followed up with a laundry list of delays and challenges mentally and physically that he could potentially face. At seven months old, Justice began physical, occupational, speech and cognitive therapy as well as his first set of glasses and a 24 hour a day helmet to correct the external malformation of the left side of his head.

He learned to walk with a walker at age 3, but with little endurance, only 5 minutes at a time. Every growth spurt shortened his muscles as they could not keep up with the bone growth. Justice has physical therapy twice a week, along with home exercises and night braces, but he was steadily regressing.

We refused to accept the reality and began searching for options, which led to Dr. Park at St. Louis Children's Hospital. There we learned of a somewhat controversial surgery called "Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy" where the nerves to the lower extremities that cause the spasticity are severed. We traveled to Stanford in California to determine if Justice was a candidate for this surgery, and it was a go. However the doctors at Children's in Seattle and Stanford felt it might reduce his function as he wouldn't have the ability to build strength absent the tone. Every part of my being believed that we needed to go forward with this surgery to allow Justice greater ease of movement and quality of life even if it meant he still couldn't walk. Justice had the Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy in October 2010, and with the help of Sisu he did physical therapy and occupational therapy five days a week for over a year. We went back to St. Louis May of 2011 for tendon lengthening in his gastrocs and hamstrings on both legs to correct contractures that had occurred from the spasticity.

Justice's progress and confidence soared in early June. He declared his first personal goal of walking 70



**Justice dancing the night away at a family wedding**

steps independently by the end of the summer. I promised a walking party when he met the goal. In early July Justice walked 80 steps and the party planning began. He has continued to build strength and coordination through weekly physical and occupational therapy visits. He is working on half kneel to stand, starting and stopping, heel to toe gait pattern and jumping. He hopes to join the Kids Crossfit gym, skiing and running. Justice's determination and persistence are awe inspiring. Throughout this journey he has radiated a positive and encouraging spirit, bringing joy and hope to all in his path.

Our family is filled with boundless appreciation and gratitude for the selfless gift of Sisu to invest in the life of a child and family to overcome the impossible and have given a child the opportunity to reach his fullest potential.

Thank you, Jodi Carkner

# SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, November 28th

## Pajama Game

We are doing our theatre night fund raising at Bellingham Theatre Guild with the play “**Pajama Game.**” This is a fun musical with a great director.

It will be a evening of food, beverages, silent auction and the play all for the small price of \$30.00, and your opportunity to have some fun and help our local children with their medical and physical needs. We may even have some auction items to complete your gift giving list.

Our event begins at 6:00 p.m., with the play starting at 7:30 p.m. , which is a new time that will allow you to get home a little earlier.

## Tickets

Our board members are all selling tickets and the tickets are available now.

Or, you can go to our website at [www.sisuchildrensfund.org](http://www.sisuchildrensfund.org) and use PayPal to order and pay for your tickets.

If you use PayPal, email [sisuchidrensfund@gmail.com](mailto:sisuchidrensfund@gmail.com) with your name and address and I will mail the tickets to you. Or if you wish, we can hold your tickets until the night of the event.

Call 671-8766 for additional information.

Tickets are \$30.00

## MARK, HIS STRUGGLES AND SUCCESS

When Mark was ten years old, he and another boy dealing with cerebral palsy needed to exercise their muscles to support their growth. We were able to give each boy a special bike that was according to their therapists specifications.

Since then Mark has become a freshman in high school. It hasn't all been easy though as he has had more medical problems. He contacted spinal meningitis, and had four hospitalizations last year, one being the Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy as described on page one. Mark's surgery was successful and he is now able to walk with the help of two small crutches, but carrying a backpack and a heavy laptop was much too difficult for him so Sisu Children's Fund purchased his new iPad so he can download his text books and do research. Mark is planning on going to Running Start and when he finishes that program and wants to continue his education he can apply for our scholarship.



## Two scholarship awarded this year

This school year we were able to give out two scholarships.

**Garrett Lathrop** Attended Ferndale High School and despite needing help with note taking he has finished his high school years with a 4.0 GPA, including Running Start at Whatcom Community College. As a student with a substantial disability of joint and muscle disease, he has the drive to do things for himself and the vision of what he can do in the future. Garrett will be continuing at Whatcom Community College to get his A.A. d degree.

**Bilal Khan** Attended Meridian High School. Bilal was born legally blind, but despite limited vision he has learned to ride a bike and participates in trail hiking in the woods. Bilal will be attending Bellingham Technical College to study computer networking. He is another student with a disability that does not use it as an excuse not to achieve, instead

## THANK YOU TO OUR CARING DONORS

Deidre & Robert Kent Emily & Solomon Padilla Yolanda & Ron Effa John Williams Sylvia Fragner Karen & Robert Gilda Anita Bjork and Jim Anziano Marilyn & Bob Monahan Jeanne Yanco Lourdes Sanchez Christine Allen Elizabeth O'Brien Natarjan Junarthanam & Ponni Rejaopgopal	Daphne Thomas Carol & Bill Henshaw Sandy L. Chase Jeff May Harriette & Frank Wojciechowski Louella Wilson Gail Morgan Margaret Grant Paton Barbara & Edward Goebel Kathy Lovdahl Dorothy Young Betty Cribbs The Women's Golf Club at Sudden Valley
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## Thank you to the business and organizations who support us

State of Washington Combined Fund	Bayside Engineering
Truist Corporation	Atrisco Heritage Foundation

## Special Remembrances

### Donation In Memory of:

Joseph & Lupe Sanchez  Lynn & Timothy Nishimura Jan & Jeff Sanchez  Anastasia Pedroncelli  Kathryn Langei	Barbara Chavez Jenny & Liz Liz Travis Goodman Frank Sanchez Petrita Sanchez Darlyne Sanchez Robert Pedroncelli Sylvia Raymond	Linda & Tom Callender Kelli Miles Susan Sanchez Sarah & Jeremy Storrs Barbara & Frank Sanchez  Jolene Sanchez Jolene Sanchez Jolene Sanchez Evan Storrs Teri Padilla David Snabb Bob Chamberlain Skip Christian Allan Yanco Jim Langei Sterling Taylor
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\*\*All operating expenses are paid by Frank and Barbara Sanchez so 100% of your donation is used to assist children and young adults with their medical and physical needs.

### HOW WE SPENT YOUR DONATIONS

SCHOLARSHIPS	\$ 3,500.00	Operating expenses:	
EQUIPMENT	6,220.28	Newsletter	\$280.90
SPEECH THERAPY	1,008.20	Printing	136.74
PHYSICAL THERAPY	1,752.56	Website/office	81.03
		Meeting	351.83
<b>TOTAL AWARDS</b>	<b>\$12,481.04</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$701.76**</b>

**Serving children with medical prob-  
lems or physical disabilities**

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