Day on the Hill for MLK Day

Clubs around Snohomish and Island Counties participated in MLK Day on January 21st with inspired events and activities. The Arlington and Cascade Clubs held day camps honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy through activities focused on civil rights.

The Marysville and Monroe Clubs packed two vans full of Club kids and headed down to Olympia to participate in the 3rd annual Boys & Girls Clubs of Washington Day on the Hill. The day began with an opportunity for the kids to explore the Capital by participating in a fun-filled scavenger hunt. They then met and interviewed Washington State leaders.

Club members asked thought provoking questions about their job duties and what called them into service for their communities. One Club kid got into a discussion on standardized testing with Rep. John McCoy. The field trip gave the kids the opportunity to learn about the importance of elected representation and the impact individuals can have at the state level, a lesson Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would approve of!

Donor Highlight: Tracey Elfstrom

Community partnerships are a vital part of the success of our organization. A great example is support from Qualstar Credit Union and Tracey Elfstrom, Vice President of Member Relations. Tracey is an active volunteer and has been one of the driving forces behind the BGCSC’s partnership with Qualstar Credit Union.

She is involved with the Clubs both personally and professionally. She and her family have volunteered in the Clubs, and she has found creative ways to involve Qualstar employees and Board Members with the Clubs. During the holidays the Qualstar Board Members usually receive a “tower of treats” as thanks for their service; this year Qualstar took a new approach. They asked Everett Club members to provide a list of items they needed in the Club. These items were donated by Qualstar in honor of Qualstar’s Board Members.

Tracey has been pleased with the positive and supportive relationship she has with Club staff. “They really help create leaders and people who are going to be important members of society later.”

“Working with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Snohomish County has been such a positive experience for me both personally and professionally. If there is one thing I could share with others about my experience volunteering is that every BGCSC employee I have come in contact with has been so positive and passionate about what they do. People who haven’t visited a Club before would be amazed at all of the programs they provide kids in our communities.” –Tracey Elfstrom, Vice President of Qualstar Credit Union
A New Kind of Learning: LEGO® Robotics

The Lego Robotics Program is designed to show kids how exciting science, technology, and engineering can be, while teaching them valuable employment and life skills. The program teams up kids, ages of 9-14, with volunteers to build and program an autonomous robot, creating an innovative solution to a problem. They learn teamwork, professionalism, cooperation, problem solving, and real-world applications of science and math concepts.

Our Snohomish Club piloted the program with volunteer Tom Newton from Boeing. “FIRST, as a whole, is a program that not only helps build our future engineers, scientists, innovators, CEOs and educators. It also fills a gap that wasn’t there when I was kid. I was a geek, not athletic at all. The programs give kids of all ages an opportunity to compete in a regional competition and be part of a team event that they otherwise wouldn’t.” The Alderwood Club has partnered with a team of Lynnwood High School seniors, who coached and ran two Robotics-specific camps this past summer. Thanks to the generosity of the Nysether Foundation three more Clubs will be offering the program in 2013, allowing us to serve more kids and engage community volunteers.

Celebrating Artists in the Clubs

Colorful drawings, paintings and photos were displayed from tables lining a corridor of the Everett Mall on January 26th. Over 50 pieces were submitted to be judged by Kelly DuByne, Rebecca DeFrang and Gary and Karen Wolfe in the County’s Fine Arts Exhibit. Twenty pieces were selected to move on to the BGCA Regional Exhibit in May. The Exhibit is the culmination of the National Fine Arts Program held at Clubs around the country. This program enhances young artists skills and teaches new artists creative outlets.

Club Kids Discover Healthy Habits

Club kids at Edmonds are learning how to develop healthy lifestyles in fun and engaging ways. With a generous grant from the Verdant Health Commission, the staff at Edmonds BGC is able to be more innovative in their approach to teaching kids how to lead healthy and active lifestyles.

Over winter break Club members discovered how to make healthy meals through an interactive game. Pictures of food were hidden around the Club. The kids were challenged to find the healthy foods and make a balanced meal. The kids also enjoyed learning about the five food groups by creating a fun video available for viewing on www.bgcsc.org. Throughout the year Club members learn the importance of team-building and healthy relationships through sports. Some of the sports offered are: Lacrosse, Flag Rugby and Cross Country.

Your support in action

Thanks to programs like Junior Staff, which teach kids about community service, Mukilteo Club member Jose received the President’s Volunteer Service Award. South Everett/Mukilteo Club members enjoy a special visit from Santa arranged by Pepsi Beverages Company. Monroe Club teens concentrating on a game of Word Jumble in the Project Learn Program.
Coupeville’s Jai’Lysa Hoskins is BGCSC’s 2012 Youth of the Year

Every year one youth is selected from each of our Clubs to represent their Club as their Youth of the Year. Each teen has demonstrated excellent commitment to others through leadership and volunteerism. These kids complete a lengthy portfolio, including essays, recommendations, transcripts and list of extra-curricular activities. The portfolio is submitted to a panel of community volunteers for review. After the judges have read the background information the kids spend the day in panel interviews with the committee. At the end of the day the judges announce their decision at a dinner with kids, staff and family members. This year Jai’Lysa Hoskins, from the Coupeville Club, was selected as Snohomish County’s Youth of the Year.

Jai’Lysa was chosen from a pool of 13 exceptional young people because of her outstanding contributions to the Club and her community. She is an exceptional leader among her peers. She will go on to compete in the state Youth of the Year event. Youths are then chosen to represent the state move on to the regional event. Ultimately one teen will be chosen as the National Youth of the Year with the potential to win a $50,000 scholarship and the opportunity to meet the President of the United States.

Special thanks to Kandace Harvey Stiffler, Harv Jubie, Bev Micallef, Kathie Morino, and Rock Peterson for generously donating their time to select our Youth of the Year and to Anthony’s Homeport in Edmonds for hosting the event.

A Night of Giving at the 2012 Reach for the Stars Grand Gala Auction

More than 400 community members came together on October 20th to raise over $350,000 to support Club members and enable them to reach their full potential. Club parent, Andrew Urie shared a touching story of how the BGC has helped his family. A special thanks to Title Sponsor Union Bank and K & H Integrated Print Solutions and the Jay Ackley family for their Raise-the-Paddle Challenge Match.

Get ready for our next Reach for the Stars Grand Gala Auction on November 16th, 2013! It will be held at the Lynnwood Convention Center and will be a night full of excitement!
Our Mission
To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Clubs
Alderwood   Mukilteo
Arlington   North Kitsap
Cascade     Oak Harbor
Coupeville  Snohomish
Edmonds     South Everett/Mukilteo
Everett     Sultan
Lake Stevens Trailside
Marysville  Tulalip
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Visit us at www.bgcse.org

Brooklyn, Everett Club Member, Age 7

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