**Donor Highlight**

**Donor Spotlight: Bill Rucker**

Club Alum, Coach, Parent, Board of Directors, Board Trustee, Capital Campaign Chair, Donor

When Bill Rucker first stepped into the Boys Club in Everett, he was a shy 11 year old boy embarrassed by the perception others might have of him due to the Rucker name. Over 60 years later, Bill is a successful business man in his own right. The longtime owner of H&L Sports and Soccer West, gives back to the Boys & Girls Club in part because of the Rucker name. There’s respect for his long family history in the community, an understanding of the impact the Club had on his life, and a belief that investing in kids is the right thing to do.

He grew up at the Club playing baseball, football and basketball. He walked to the Club from his nearby home. He continued in sports at Everett High and at the University of Washington. As a young man he coached youth football and Little League, and later coached both his kids and his grandchildren at the Mukilteo Club. With five children, three stepchildren (including Everett’s Chief of Police, Kathy Atwood), 17 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, he’s particularly sensitive to youth. “I like to invest in kids. Life can be terribly unfair to them, and there’s nothing they can do about it. Kids deserve the help.”

In deciding to take on the role as Campaign Chair for the Boys & Girls Clubs Capital Campaign, Bill said “I wanted to do something really meaningful – a legacy. I want to make a difference in the community where it really matters.” Bill will say again and again that he’s a lucky man. The Clubs and kids in Snohomish County are also lucky to have such an advocate.

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**In This Issue**

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- Badges for Baseball Camp
- Artist in Residence
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**"Operation Washington D.C."**

This summer, military connected Club kids, from the Arlington, Coupeville and Oak Harbor Clubs visited Washington D.C., as part of Leadership Mentoring Camp to get a better understanding of civic work. With support from the Close Up Foundation the program enabled local Club kids to develop skills and attitudes to become involved and engaged citizens. During the three-day visit to Washington D.C., “Participants learned and practiced the habits of active, effective citizenship, with an emphasis on how to articulate their own viewpoints and listen respectfully to those of others.” As part of the program all youth will develop a Community Action Plan to help address an issue in their own communities and set out strategies and goals of implementing their plans. Peg Fenstermaker, Unit Director from the Oak Harbor Club expressed, “I am so proud of the way our kids represented Snohomish County! They were polite, attentive, respectful, engaged, inquisitive, and the list goes on! From seeing them actively participate in a mock Congress, to asking well thought out questions of Rick Larsen, Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray – they were an impressive group indeed!”

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**Your Support in Action**

**BGSC Team up with the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation and the Everett Police Department for Badges for Baseball**

This summer more than 200 kids experienced our much anticipated camp, Badges for Baseball. With funding from the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation and support from the Everett Police Department, this four day camp was a hit! Girls and boys, ages eight to twelve worked at different skill stations to learn the many areas of the game of baseball. Kids were also introduced to the Healthy Habits, Healthy Children program, which teaches kids about staying active through sports and making good decisions about living a positive, productive and healthy lifestyle. Everett Police Officer Mark Carter explained, “The camp teaches kids sports skills, but also sneaks in lessons about life and growing up safe.” The camp was run by twenty-four police officers, and a number of coaches, staff members, ex-college players, professional players and high school seniors. Ed Gay, our staff member helping coordinate the camp summed it up best “It’s great to see kids running around doing positive things, while having fun.”

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**Arlington Seniors Set Great Example for Club Kids and Reflect on Their Time at the Club**

Kaylee, Ashlie and Jayme are three dedicated staff members and alums of the Arlington Boys & Girls Club, who “were hand picked to become club staff,” says Bill Kinney, Club Unit Director. The three girls each started out their time with the BGC at a young age and remained connected to the Club, Kaylee has been going to the Club for 10 years, Ashlie has been involved with the Club for 8 years and Jaime for 5 years. Now as they get ready to go off to college, they share how it all started.

All three girls have not only impacted their community through their help at the BGC, they have volunteered throughout the city. Combined, they have volunteered with the Stullagamish Senior Center, Northwest Psychiatric Clinic, Fire Department, Eagle Creek Elementary and Sea Mar Community Health Center.

Now all three girls are off to college this fall, Kaylee will be attending the University of Washington and doesn’t know exactly what she’ll be majoring in but is thinking pharmacetical. Ashlie is going to attend Washington State University and plans to study education and become teacher. And Jayme will be attending Eastern University in the fall to study law enforcement and plans to become a police officer. The girls talked about the impact the Boys & Girls Clubs can have on kids and even their own lives. The Club has something for everyone, even if you’re not into sports, there are art programs, technology and other fun activities to do at the Club. Also, when they tell their friends about their job they’re always jealous, Ashlie says, “we have such a fun job and get to go on field trips and play games with the kids, all while making a difference in club kid’s lives, what other job lets you do all that?”

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**Healthy Habits, Healthy Children**

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Club Events & Announcements

- We are excited to announce our new website! Come check out our new re-designed website. With featured stories from Club staff, a parent and a Club kid! Visit us at: www.bgcsc.org
- Like us on Facebook! Follow us on Twitter and Pinterest! Visit our page to learn and see the exciting things that happen in our Clubs everyday. Get involved with our organization in a fun and engaging way.
- September 18 - Youth of the Quarter 6:30 pm at Snohomish Boys & Girls Club showcased excellent Club Members throughout the county. Learn about the outstanding kids in the Clubs on Facebook.
- September 29 - 43rd Annual Mukilteo Luau and Silent Auction was a great success for the Mukilteo Boys & Girls Club.
- October 20 - Reach for the Stars Grand Gala held at the Comcast Arena in Everett, brought in over $300,000 to support our Clubs.

Meeting the Needs of Kids in Sultan:
42% of the children in Sultan’s elementary and middle schools qualify for free or reduced lunch. When school is closed for the summer, these kids have few options available when it comes to getting healthy, inexpensive food or free food. For some, Summer is a time of hunger. The Boys & Girls Clubs and Food Lifeline teamed up to help solve the problem. Before the Sultan Club opened its doors to Food Lifeline, the only free drop-in programs specifically for youth under the age of eighteen were offered in either Monroe or Index. In July, a new drop-in Summer Lunch Program funded by Food Lifeline and located at the Sultan Club began offering free lunches to all children in the community. The program was so well received, now that school is back in session the two organizations plan to continue their collaboration with a free drop-in after school snack program.

Artist in Residence
Micaiah Davis has been a member of The Boys and Girls Club of Oak Harbor for the past ten years. Micaiah is also a former 2011 Youth of the Year. She is now 18 and a senior at the Oak Harbor High School. Micaiah has been interested in drawing since she was 3 years old. Her mother would buy her notebooks for journals. Instead of practicing her numbers or letters, each page would be filled with drawings. Micaiah is extremely talented and is able to draw anything, but she prefers to draw portraits. Her favorite medium is pencil and water colors. Micaiah has received a $500 scholarship for her art piece “Koi Fish” and has been recognized in the fine arts program by The Boys and Girls Club of America where she obtained First Place in Regionals for her piece “Neviri.” Micaiah plans on attending Central Washington University and is hopeful to graduate with a Fine Arts Degree. Her dream of dreams is to one day own a gallery and studio, but Micaiah would content having a career in graphic design.

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