As I began writing this letter about the Mukilteo Boys & Girls Club, I can’t help but smile when remembering all of the wonderful experiences that my family had at the Club. My sons were active members from elementary school through high school. The lessons they learned about sportsmanship, and giving back to the community was carried into adulthood.

I still remember the fun I had coaching my son’s first grade basketball team. I had coached high school football and basketball and assumed the transition would be a piece of cake. As Jim Nabors’ lovable character Gomer Pyle would say: SURPRISE! SURPRISE! The first practice was an introduction to what I assumed was the “easiest” shot in basketball... the lay-in. Unfortunately even the side baskets with lower rims seemed as high as Mt. Rainier to my players. So you can imagine every shot was an air ball, yet every player jumped for joy and gave a high five to their teammate, as their shot was the closest to the backboard, forget about the rim. I can still see Chuck smiling and walking back to his office. I’m sure he was thinking, welcome to Boys & Girls Club basketball.

We are fortunate to have the Boys & Girls Club in the community. It’s a place where children of all ages are welcome, can make new friends, can participate in a myriad of activities, and can interact with a caring staff in a safe and positive environment.

In order to meet the needs of a growing population, a new Club will be built to provide more space, more activities while maintaining the high ideals the Club is noted for. Fundraising is underway so the children and families in Mukilteo can continue to create their own smile moments either as a spectator or coaching their children.

If it’s true that it takes a village to raise a child, then it’s time to invest in the children of Mukilteo by contacting the leadership at the Club and making your donation.

Frank Foster