We all identify where we were at when significant events impacted our lives. These moments in time soon are the past events grounding us in today’s actions and beliefs. Seeing the maiden flight of the first ever 747 take to the skies, or hearing that fateful news the evening the John Lennon was shot. These defining moments have a common denominator in my life: The Mukilteo Boys & Girls Club.

As a young person growing up in Mukilteo many memories arise from time invested at the Boy’s Club. To this day, I vividly remember two van loads of kids taking a field trip to the 1967 Seattle Supersonics home game against the visiting Los Angeles Lakers. If only we’d had a digital camera! All the neighborhood kids met Wilt Chamberlain, Jerry West, and Elgin Baylor and the rest of the team. Sonny Sikkilier hosted the Boys’ Club football awards banquet, shaking kids’ hands and doling out awards. And there are memories of the Husky alumni game with the likes of Ben Davidson and Hugh McElhenny at old Husky Stadium. By this time, we would time ourselves on how fast we could run or bicycle to the Club every day. These days had a big impact on us little people.

Burning calories just happened while being involved at the Club. Volunteer coaches and the director lead by example. We sold chocolates and booster tickets in the ferry line to benefit soccer. We learned how to be honorable in the Keystone Club. We bonded on field trips, learned interdependence in organized team sports, celebrated in other kids’ successes. We pursued arts and crafts, assisted in coaching, and carried out community service projects. The Club is just a great place to meet others that have common values and potential for lifelong friendships. As kids we recognized that the Parent’s Council volunteered their leadership. Collectively our parents initiated fund raisers almost $40,000 annually according to Chuck Davis, Director, and active youth growing up years ago at the Club. The Mukilteo Boys & Girls Club was where the Mukilteo Festival would originate in the first years. As kids we learn from leaders and have incorporated these lessons as fundamental core values.

As the season changed its baseball, football, basketball, floor hockey. We were fast becoming adults. Lessons learned at the Boy’s Club had a big impact on us kids and Mukilteo’s future. Soon, we youngsters became the coaches, directors, volunteers, and leaders in the community. We practice fair play in all walks of life and lead as our parents did before us. Future events that have not yet occurred will be witnessed and treasured by a new generation of children not yet born, in a new Boys & Girls Club that has not yet been built. In order for our community to continue to thrive, tools and support of our children is vital. It is our duty to do what we can to support the Mukilteo Boys & Girls Club.

Jim Pauley