

NEWS FROM THE BLOCK

OUR COVID-19-RELIEF

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The pandemic in our world took us all aback. During the height of the pandemic Building Blocks 4 Kids took action to relieve some stress for those whose lives changed dramatically.

We donated games and other hands-on activities to some local police departments and schools to distribute to children needing a little extra support. We also purchased and received donated children's books and handed them out in the community.

These were only a few of the steps Building Blocks 4 Kids took to provide a little extra care for children during that time.

Despite the limitations, our mission did not change. We aim to better the lives of disadvantaged youth and foster children. Not even a pandemic could slow us down!



Book Give Away Events

These wonderful volunteers getting ready to pass out books.



Driving through to get a book.



Canby Fire Department was able to assist us with lighting and volunteers. Thank you for your help and wonderful service!

This years tournament is
on September 22.

SAVE THE DATE!!

GOLFING 4 KIDS

One of the limitations that many social workers face when helping children is resources. We are able to provide some of those needed resources thanks to events like the brainchild of one of our board members Kent Petterson.

With the help of other board members and volunteers, Kent has been organizing our annual golf tournament, Golfing 4 Kids, for five years.

This event includes golfing, a rented power cart, beverage samples, dinner, contests, prizes and fun.

The past two years the tournament has raised over \$50,000. Furthermore, Kent reports that the feedback from golfers is that "it was one of the best tournaments they have ever golfed in".

Not only has this event benefited BB4Kids' mission to serve disadvantaged children, but it also led to a thrilling and enjoyable time for the golfers.



This years event will take place on September, 22, 2022 at Stone Creek Golf Club. For more information do not hesitate to visit golfing4kids.com . It is with much gratitude that BB4Kids thanks the sponsors, volunteers and participants for helping us accomplish our mission.

We hope to catch some of you at this years event!





Getting ready to start a day of fun!

Silent Auction Fun.



Loved the matching clothes.





ADOPT-A-FAMILY



The holidays are a time to be with friends and family. A time to celebrate relationships. However, during Christmas, we may also know the financial and physical strain. Rushing from store to store trying to find the perfect gift only to find out they are out of stock. So, for a moment of happiness and joy it can be a little tiresome. Now imagine trying to celebrate the holidays with little to no income. Imagine parents wanting to gift their children something but cannot afford to do so.

The Adopt-a-Family program here at BB4Kids was created six years ago to give the kids a Christmas full of joy and to lessen the financial burden put on these already struggling parents during the holidays. This is where sponsors come in.

Sponsors can be an individual or a group of people who want to play Santa for Christmas to buy presents for a family. They can be companies, teams, multiple families/couples, a group of friends, etc. We receive referrals from places like schools and therapy centers all over for families that volunteers can sponsor.



The children get to create a “wish list for Santa” to help sponsors purchase items they may need or want. To bring even more joy and happiness sponsors sometimes choose to include presents for the parents.

In the end the goal is to help these families take a breather in a time that is meant to be spent relatively stress free enjoying loving relationships.

Last year we saw 57 families receive gifts from sponsors. Again, we would love to thank our sponsors from years past.

We look forward for this year’s event and want to thank the sponsors in advance!



Presents for the families all ready to go!

To all of the Volunteers that make this event possible, we thank you for your incentive and spirit of giving.



WISH TO REALITY



You may remember how wonderful it was being a child.

The amount of activities you could get involved in. Participating in these activities were not only fun but you probably learned so much! It's the fun and lessons that our program From Wish to Reality program is built on. This

“Building Blocks for Kids was started for the kids and is here for the kids.”

program provides funding so children can participate in extracurricular activities. We believe every child should have the opportunity to be involved in any way they desire. This can be in a variety of ways. For example, we help children participate in sports teams, learn a new skill, or in the case of Donnie, go to summer camp.

Donnie is a wonderful boy that has had his

share of difficulties. His mother puts it into perspective best when she mentions that he has trouble opening up and communicating with others. She comments that “he is a quiet and reserved kid.

But he is so sweet and kind.” Building Blocks 4 Kids committed to helping him strive to be involved in his community while having an absolute blast.

We partnered with Adventures Without Limits to help Donnie and a group of other children to experience outdoor activities .

This was Donnie's first time going someplace without his family and was a little nervous. At the camp he experienced new things like kayaking, paddle boarding, and canoeing. For his mother, it was heart-warming to have the camp counselors provide encouragement and the opportunity given to Donny to interact with other campers. Whenever someone fell off the paddleboard, they would encourage one another to get back on” mom recalled. When it was over Donnie mentioned that he was disappointed that it had



to end.

Overall, Donnie had an amazing time in a place that allowed him to meet people, experience outstanding activities, and foster social interaction. This event made a huge impression on him. He still talks about it to this day.

Donnie is just one example of BB4Kids' mission to help children reach their full potential.

It is our desire to help children have these experiences so they can build self-esteem and confidence while learning skills that will allow them to be a vital part of their communities.

BB4Kids will continue to serve our community in order to make these wonderful memories and together we can make our wish a reality.



Donnie at the lake with his group.



Donnie enjoying a day at the lake paddle boarding with fellow campers.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Karla has a long history of volunteering. It has been about 28 years since she started to do it regularly. From being on the PTA in her children's school to volunteering on Gladstone High School's Booster Club, she has helped our youth in so many ways. She remarks that she enjoys putting her energy into kids' programs.

Currently, she has been with Building Blocks since 2015. When asked what got her started, she responded with "I love BB4Kids' mission statement and how much they provide for the kids locally". Since, that time Karla has been instrumental in organizing our Golfing 4 Kids Tournament. In fact, that is Karla's favorite event to host because she enjoys "seeing the community come together, raising money for the kids".

Karla has put in countless hours as a volunteer, working wherever she is needed. She has

been involved in all of BB4Kids major events and has established valuable support for the organization. It is thanks to volunteers like Karla that the organization can reach so many children in need.

Karla wants everyone to know that "volunteering is about giving back to the community and the close friendships you make along the way!"



Karla enjoying one of her favorite past times, fishing.



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Building Blocks 4 Kids is so grateful for all the donations and sponsors we have had. Without their support non-profits like us can not grow and help the populations we serve. We would love to take some time now to thank our sponsor River City Environmental.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

This company was started by Steve and Sara McInnis with the environment and the community in mind. They provide 25+ services, 24 hours/ 7 days a week. They admit it is not an easy task. Nevertheless, they want to help the environment in a safe and convenient manor. You can find more information about their services here : <https://www.rivercityusa.com/> .

Sara recalls how River City Environmental got involved with our non-profit. She commented that "after Karla told us about the programs and mission. We wanted to support their mission and what they were doing." Since then, River City Environmental has been an inte-

gral part of every event. For instance, they have donated various items for our auctions, sponsored Golfing 4 Kids, and have participated in Adopt – A– Family each year.

To close Steve would like to add - "I want the kids to know that have been lost in the shuffle and delt a crummy hand that there are people that want to help them out. No matter what, there is always something someone can do for another. "

Here at BB4Kids we cannot express how grateful we are for Steve and Sara's involvement. Thank you for your help and support.



Steve and Sara McInnis

