



Annual Gala & Auction

June 3, 2023

**Supporting the youngest
members of our community
for 50 years!**

Tonight's Program

Presented by:



4:30 - Registration opens

4:30-6:00 - Cocktail "hour" and games

6:30 - Dinner

7:00 - Live auction program begins

8:00 - Dessert dash

9:00 - Thank you and goodnight!

WELCOME!

Thank you for coming tonight! We are celebrating our 50th anniversary. Fifty years of serving the youngest kids with disabilities and developmental delays across Whatcom County. Fifty years of supporting parents, caretakers, and families.

The 0-3 age range presents a unique window of opportunity for growth as 85% of brain development occurs in this period. Supports offered to young brains can create enormous positive benefits in a child's future.

In the short term, early support services help children achieve important developmental milestones. In the long term, such supports transform life-long health and economic outcomes. These positive impacts are especially vital for children and families who are vulnerable to the harms of racism, classism, heterosexism, xenophobia, and other forms of oppression and marginalization that target people of color, people experiencing financial poverty, English language learners, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

We are here tonight because you know that early support services are some of the wisest investments to make. I look forward to celebrating with you this evening, and into the next 50 years. Thank you for your support!



Sierra James
Sierra James
WCEL Executive Director

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to partner with families to provide high-quality, equitable, and comprehensive therapy and support services to children experiencing developmental delays and/or disabilities.



OUR VISION

Our vision is an equitable society where children with disabilities and their families thrive, experience meaningful connections, and have a deep understanding of their strengths and needs.



ANNE BROWN



Anne's youth was shaped both by her big, loving Jewish family and her childhood in Nazi Germany. Her family experienced harassment, discrimination, injury, death and displacement during Anne's childhood, and eventually fled to the United States. These foundational experiences taught her the importance of family and community care.

In 1956, Anne moved to Bellingham with her husband and children. She was hired by the Whatcom County Health Dept as a public health nurse, and when the 'Education for All' legislation passed in the early 1970s, Anne helped to create the special education preschool program in our local schools. Her work then turned to focus on children 0-3 years old with disabilities and developmental delays.

Anne's approach was to go into a family's home and sit with the children on the floor, talking with parents, listening to their experiences, and helping them to create strategies to build new skills. That philosophy still resonates in WCEL's programs today.

ANNE BROWN

Anne had a special place in her heart for parents. She saw the isolating, often overwhelming job of parenting a young child with additional needs in a world that was generally dismissive and unaccommodating. She wanted to be sure that, in addition to the core work of supporting children, WCEL was also supporting families and caretakers. This dual approach is still guiding WCEL's programs today.

Anne impacted the disability community in Whatcom County in many ways, by founding WCEL and mentoring many young parents who went on to careers in special education fields (including Amelia Bacon and Julee Johnson of WCEL, amongst others). Anne was a part of the fabric and success of WCEL until her death in summer of 2018, just before her 92nd birthday. Fifty years later, we continue to honor her legacy, remember her impact, and develop programs that build on her vision - and WCEL will continue to do so into the future, with your help!



STAFF

Our staff are passionate, skilled, and dedicated. They are the reason WCEL is able to impact so many children's lives. Thank you for all that you do!!!

EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM TEAM

Aki Yada

Bonnie Rose

Courtney Hunter

Mary Melloh

Mayumi Paluh

Michael Haycock

Susan Hemingson

Yolanda Calderon

EARLY SUPPORT PROGRAM TEAM

Alex Kypuros

Alis Tortorelli

Amelia Bacon

Ariel Soria

Becky Kendall

Beverly Pressey

Britta Hensley

Bryn Burge

Catherine Strong

Christine Wasserman

Chuan Kuzin

Coco Breen

Elizabeth González Soto

Elvira Mares

Emily McDonald

Jennifer Enger

Jennifer Kurtz

Julia Renner

Kris Buettner

Kristin Clements

Lauren Hiller

Lydia Southard

Madeline Hunt

Mattea Beeson

Megan Jefferies

Megan Stewart

Sarah Robinson Dudley

Tasha Farabee

STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Ann-Marie Sather
Don Strong
Cedar Maxfield
Imanat Kang
Ella Sherburne
Erin Malone

Heidi Sechrengost
Helena Schilling
Moani Nacion
Sierra James
Stephanie Schmitt



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andrea Scatena
Christine Biernacki
Darcie Donegan
Gabriela Montenegro
Jessica Staten
Joe Jarzembowski

Ken Bronstein
Matt Bilderback
Matt Hoogestraat
Stephany Copeland
Stevona Burks

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GAMES

Unlock the Box: Purchase a combo for one of our locked boxes (\$10 per combo) and if you pick the right one, you win all the gift cards inside! The value of each box is \$200+

Heads or Tails: Classic heads or tails game played during dinner service: for \$25 you get a chance to win \$500 CASH - if you are the last one standing!

Plinko: For \$25 per play, simply drop a disc into one of the slots... watch it bounce from peg to peg until it lands in a slot... then collect your prize. Everyone is a winner, every time.

Spin the Wine: For \$25, you spin the wheel and win a mystery bottle of white, red, sparkling, or rose wine valued between \$25-\$100+ dollars - everyone is a winner, every time!

Golden Ticket: Purchase a \$25 raffle ticket and enter it into one of our 5 raffles! Winners will be announced throughout dinner and program.

CHECKOUT INFO

- Guests may checkout at any time during the evening. Checkout is located at the same location as check-in.
- The following prizes and winning auction items will be located at checkout:
 - All wine from Plinko and Spin the Wine
 - Golden Ticket raffles
 - All live auction certificates
- All purchases will be made using the credit card associated with your bidder number unless otherwise agreed upon at check-in. Credit cards will be charged on Monday, June 5, 2023 by 5pm. Receipts will be sent at the same time.

LIVE AUCTION

- All items are sold "as-is" and all sales are final. Your bid constitutes a legal contract to buy.
- With the exception of gift cards, all live auction items will be available for deliver or pick up the week of June 13th.
- Need it sooner? Let us know by emailing events@wcel.net

#1 Free BBBs

Are you tired of deciding what to have lunch and dinner every day?

Don't worry, we've got you covered!

INCLUDES:

Free burgers for a year

Redeem 1 per month

Value: \$180

Free loaf of bread AND BLTs for a year

Redeem 1 of each per month

Value: \$176

Package Value: \$356

Donated By: Avenue Bread & the Filling Station

#2 Fairhaven Fun

Indulge in the best Fairhaven has to offer in this stay-cation without the travel headaches!

INCLUDES:

1-night stay in a Deluxe Full View King with 2 60 minute Swedish massages at the Chrysalis Inn & Spa

Valid: Tuesday-Thursday through 6/30/24

Value: \$500

Gato Verde Sunset Cruise for 2

Value: \$132

Package Value: \$632

Donated By: Chrysalis Inn & Spa and Gato Verde Adventure Sailing

#3 Signed Tim McGraw Guitar

Do you love country music? Or any of Taylor Sheridan's Yellowstone spin-offs? Or "watching your corn pop up in rows"? Well, you're in luck!

Now's your chance to own a beautiful, portable Taylor Mini Guitar, signed by Grammy-winning Country Music artist Tim McGraw!

Package Value: \$2,000

Donated By: McGrawFAN

#4 Sports Superfan Package

2 Tickets to UW, Seattle Seahawks, AND the Seattle Kraken games?!?

Cruise down to Seattle for a game with your very own "Porsche for the Weekend" courtesy of Roger Jobs.

Value: \$1,000

Need a place to stay after a game?
Book a room with any Seattle Hyatt Hotel with a \$250 Hyatt gift card!

DETAILS:

2 tickets to UW vs Boise St

Date: September 2, 2023

Section 215 w/ sideline passes

Includes 2 pre-game passes for field access, starting 90 minutes before kick-off

Value: \$300

2 Seattle Kraken Hockey Tickets

Seats 126, row Bar, #11-12

Valid: 2023-2024 Season

Value: \$400

2 Seattle Seahawks Tickets

Sections 211-248, seats 215-215

Valid: 2023-2024 Season

Value: \$200

Package Value: \$2,150

Donated By: UW Syee Club/Lee Grever, Hub International, Casey Porter, Vee and Kulia Gonzales, & Roger Jobs

#5 Bellingham Adventure

Line up some fun with your sweetie or your bestie!

Enjoy a relaxing sensory deprivation float, a Bellingham Symphony Orchestra show of your choosing, a 'creative, live-fire' dinner at Carnal, an overnight at the newly renovated Hotel Leo, and a toe-tapping show at the Mt Baker Theater, featuring the Postmodern Jukebox!

DETAILS:

1-night stay for two in modern wing at the Hotel Leo

Valid: Sun-Thurs expires 5/31/24

Subject to blackout dates

Value: \$300

2 tickets to the Bellingham Symphony Orchestra

Valid: 2023-2024 season show

Value: \$90

Carnal gift card

Value: \$120

2 60-minute Sensory Deprivation Floats

Value: \$150

2 tickets to "Postmodern Jukebox"

Valid: June 9, 2023

Value: \$120

Package Value: \$780

Donated By: Hotel Leo, Carnal, Mount Baker Theatre, Bellingham Symphony Orchestra, and Still Life Float and Massage

#6 Marie Kondo, is that you?

Organize your playroom, pantry, or closet!

Includes an initial one-hour consultation to take specific measurements and understand your home aesthetic.

All materials (containers, labels, and any other physical products for the project) are included, with an additional three hours of labor - and an outcome that would make Marie Kondo proud!

Package Value: \$750

Donated By: Stephany Copeland

#7 Rainbow of Possibilities WCEL Classroom Art Project

A collaboration between the children in WCEL's programs and our Executive Director, Sierra! This one-of-a-kind acrylic on canvas art piece is sure to brighten any room or office - bring home this soft, colorful piece and imagine the Rainbow of Possibilities!

Package Value: Priceless

Donated by: WCEL

#8 Luxury Mexico

Choose from a luxury collection of beachfront resorts in Cancun, Neuvo Vallarta, Aapulco, Puerto Panasco or Puerto Vallarta!

Enjoy the most beautiful beaches in Mexico, luxurious accommodations, endless pools, world-class restaurants, activities for all ages, and staff that caters to your every need. Sun, surf, adventure, and umbrella drinks by the pool - can you imagine?!?

DETAILS:

7-night stay in Master Room at a Vidanta Resort

The Master Room features a king-size bed, one bathroom with a Jacuzzi tub, a TV, and a private terrace with a view. Enjoy views of the ocean and pools from your private balcony

2-4 people allowed per room, 2 adults and 2 children (12 and younger)

RESTRICTIONS:

Blackout dates are within one week of major US Holidays

Good for 2 years from date of purchase

Package Value: \$2700

Donated by: Friends of WCEL

FUND THEIR FUTURE



\$5,000

because you believe in providing high-quality in-home visiting and care coordination for all young children and families in need in our community

\$2,500

because you believe parents and caretakers should have access to family support sessions and mental health resources

\$1,000

because you believe in providing outreach to migrant farm workers, Ukrainian refugees, black indigenous people of color, and rural families who live below the poverty line

\$500

because you believe in never turning a child away because their family cannot afford to pay therapy co-pays or classroom fees

\$100

because you believe our classroom program should have books and materials that reflect the variety of languages spoken and cultures represented in our community

\$50

because you want children to experience summer field trips and park playdates

#9 Haggen Gift Card

What is there to say about this one?!? Everyone can use a grocery boost from your local Haggens! Get fruit and veggie trays for the upcoming end-of-school and graduation parties, stock up on snacks for your summer road trip or backyard BBQ - and don't forget the best donuts in town (at least we think so!)

Package Value: \$250

Donated By: Haggen

#10 Can you Belize it?

Fly to beautiful, sunny Belize and spend three nights in the Caribbean, enjoying the beach, the turquoise water, tropical dishes, and regional delights! This package is completed with a \$1,000 of VISA gift card to book a flight on the airline of your choice.

Three night stay for two in a queen room at Jan's Hotel in beautiful, Caye Caulker, Belize!

Valid: May 1, 2023-May 1, 2024

2 weeks notice required before booking

Package Value: \$1360

Donated By: Moises & Janine Gonzales

#11 Ben Mann Personalized Painting

Ben's unique perspective on our local landscape!

This 36"x48" original acrylic on canvas arrives almost finished, and then is ready to customize to the wishes of the winning bidder. He includes one additional Mann Hour for personalizing the composition back in his Fairhaven studio - add your friends and family, or a favorite pet or landmark!

Package Value: \$1200

Donated By: Ben Mann

#12 Get Your Move On!

For the athletes in the audience - or for those of you who might still be committed to your New Year goals (2023 isn't over yet).

This package has a little bit of everything: hot yoga, indoor rock climbing, a gym membership, and a personal trainer to keep you motivated!

There's even a massage to work those sore muscles...

Package Value: \$582

Donated By: Training Grounds, JD Elite, Elements Hot Yoga, & Vital Climbing

#13 Whatcom Golf Tour

HOW TO PLAY GOLF:

- Step 1: Put a ball on the tee
- Step 2: Practice swinging 20 times
- Step 3: Hit the ball
- Step 4: Swear
- Step 5: Look for ball

Repeat steps 1-5 for 4-6 hours in the hot burning sun!

Fore! It's the season to be out on the green, and this package gives you a chance to tour some of the best our county has to offer.

Package Value: \$640

Donated By: Bellingham Golf & Country Club, North Bellingham Golf Course, and Sudden Valley Golf Course

#14 Mini Fridge with Local Beer

This compact mini-fridge has many features you'll love: cool 1950's retro styling, classic black color, adjustable thermostat, slide-out shelves, ice trays, even a bottle opener... but let's be honest. The best part is that it's literally full and overflowing with a variety of our beers from our favorite local breweries. It even has a few gift cards thrown in, for when you need to re-stock!

Package Value: \$450

Donated By: Ethos West, Kulshan Brewing, Wander Brewing, Menace Brewing, and Hub International

Thank You!

EVENT DONORS

AB Crepes

Avenue Bread

Babygreens

Back East BBQ

Bellingham Bells

Bellingham Blazers

Bellingham Golf & Country Club

Bellingham Symphony Orchestra

Ben Mann

Birch Bay Burns

Brandywine Kitchen

Cafe Rhumba

Carnal

Casey Porter

Cheryll and David Blair &

Dunham Cellars

Christine Biernacki

Chrysalis Inn and Spa

Cute by Crazy Socks

Elements Hot Yoga

Eleventh Street Goods

Elizabeth Station

Ethos West

Fairhaven Runners

Fairhaven Toy Garden

Faithful Tattoo

Filling Station

Flow Motion

Four Points by Sheraton

Gato Verde

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Good Earth Pottery

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Hotel Leo

JD Elite Fitness

Ken and Francie Gass

Larry Anderson

Kulshan Brewing Company

Thank You!

EVENT DONORS

McGovern's Organics

McGrawFAN

Mount Baker Theatre

Moises and Janine Gonzales

North Fork Brewery

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& Heidi Sechrengost

Roger Jobs

SieArts

Sirena Gelato

Sojourn

Stephany Copeland

Still Life Massage and Float

Storia Cucina & Bar Cicotti

Sudden Valley Golf Course

Sue Blackadar

Summit Adventure Park

Sundara West Bed & Breakfast

The Body Mechanic

The Community Food Co-Op

The Estates Group/Mike Ewing

The Silvery Moon

Third Planet

Tony's Coffee

Training Grounds

Upfront Theater

Vee and Kulia Gonzalez

Veritas Massage

Village Books

VITAL Climbing Club

Volli

Wander Brewery/Roam Coffee

Willowbrook Manor

Thank You!

DESSERT DASH DONORS

Annie Sorich

Barb's Pies

Cassandra Reid

Christine Biernacki

Community Food Co-Op

Emily McDonald

Ethos West

Four Points by Sheraton

Haggens

Iron Rooster

It's the Sweet Things

Janell Sutherland

Katie Langston

Jo Jo's Donuts

Joel Hiltner

New Whatcom Pastries

Paul James

Pure Bliss

Rhiannon Raaka

Saltadena

Sean Borrell

Sue Blackadar

Sweet Bellingham

Tutti Freshchi

Yeah Baby Boards

Thank You!

EVENT SUPPORT

Amber Icaay-Creelman

Anna Nieuwendorp

Ashtin Carnahan

Becky Kendall

Catherine Strong

Cedar Maxfield

Don Strong

Ella Sherburne

Elliott Sherburne

Erin Malone

Four Points by Sheraton

Gabi Creelman

Imanat Kang

Jason Taylor

Jennifer Enger

Jessa Farr

John Dunne

Kristin Clements

Lauren Hiller

Lisa Regehr

Lydia Southard

Manca Vallum

Mark Knittel

Michael Haycock

Michaela Regehr

Mike Plenkovich

Nadia Bartrand

Paul Grey

Peter Theisen

Sawyer Moss

Shauna Naf

Steve Ban

Sue Blackadar

Ward Naf

Whatcom Sound

WWU AKPsi



*Thanks for celebrating
with us tonight!*

Drive safe!