

At CTK, we value authenticity, simplicity, empowerment, relationship, and caring about the community we live in. One key way we serve is by empowering small groups to make a difference through our local partners who address important issues for those in the hardest life circumstances. The opportunity below is a chance to tangibly demonstrate God's care, compassion, and love for those around us. As your church, we hope this makes it easy for you to put the Great Commandment to love your neighbor as yourself into action!

BLUE SKIES FOR CHILDREN – WINTER WARM UP

Who are we serving?
Local homeless, low-income and foster children ages six to eighteen in Whatcom County.
Who is helping connect us to their needs?
<p>Blue Skies mission is to raise hope and self-esteem by sponsoring enrichment programs and other essentials for children who are homeless, low income or in foster care. Blue Skies' primary program is called Little Wishes Enrichment Program, and covers the cost associated with sports, music lessons, dance, art, swimming lessons, martial arts, etc. They also grant one time little wishes for an individual need such as sports cleats, uniforms, summer camp or school trip fees.</p> <p>Additionally, Blue Skies offers three distribution programs: a shoe and sock program in April and May, a backpack program in August and the Winter Warm Up program giving warm coats, hats, gloves, scarves and blankets, in November & December.</p>
How are we serving?
<p>Blue Skies for Children serves approx. 700 children, who are ages 6 to 18 years, and live Whatcom County wide. During our Winter Warm Up Program, we provide a warm coat, hat, gloves, scarf and blanket to up to five children per family. Our greatest needs are typically for coats and fleece blankets. Bright colors and multi colored are great for both items...! In just the first 3 weeks of this year's distribution more than 400 coats have been given away and supplies are running low. Could your group pool money to purchase some new coats? Each bring a coat or two to your Christmas potluck? Ask friends and neighbors if they would like to join you in meeting this need?</p>
Who do you contact to commit to this opportunity and work out the details?
<p>Contact Executive Director, Julie Guay at Julie@blueskiesforchildren.org or call (360) 756-6710 to let her know you have items to drop off. Meet the staff and learn just a bit more about the way they are impacting local kids.</p>

If you need help in the process, Wendy at CTK is available (wendyp@ctk.church or 733-1337 ext 212
Please share your project with us by using the hashtag **#CTKserves** on social media!