



Embrace
Washington



Foster Santa Breakfast

“Blessing the lives of
children in foster care, one
child at a time.”



Meet Our Team



About Embrace WA

Why we chose Embrace WA

The Inland Northwest has a large population of children in foster care, with many lacking the long-term security and attention so necessary for a healthy upbringing.

Embrace Washington's sole focus is on these foster kids. They support children with care and connection to organizations that support their growth, as well as assisting foster care parents by reducing roadblocks that could prevent the kids from having positive childhood experiences.



What is the Embrace WA Santa Breakfast?



Embrace WA invites over 500 local foster children and their families to its fantastic Santa Breakfast event each year.

This event provides hope, love, and plenty of smiles in the form of food, gifts, caroling, a visit with Santa, and so much more.



Project Timeline

2023



October

Collaboration and Planning with Embrace Washington and Whiz Kids



November

Fundraising & Toy Drive Stuffed Animal Collection



December 10th

Santa Breakfast



February

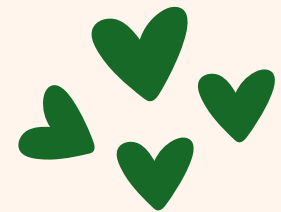
Rita led the way in gathering items and creating a Valentine's Day Basket for Embrace WA employees.



May

Art Scan Team incorporated cards that will be included in duffel bags into Arts Day.

2022



A Note From Embrace Washington:



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Since 1982, Leadership Spokane has served as a premier leadership training course for established and emerging community leaders. We were so grateful when they dropped off a Valentine's Day basket full of gifts for our staff and children in foster care. Thank you, Leadership Spokane.

The Initial Need

Event Volunteers +

100

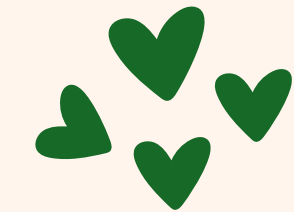
Stuffed Animals
(Stuffies)

The Numbers

\$4K+

**Funds Raised in
First Week!**

Total donations exceeded original ask.
We were able to fund additional toys,
pajamas and books!



25+

**Local Businesses and
Private Donors**

100+

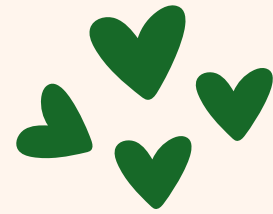
**Stuffies Purchased From
Whiz Kids Toys- Spokane**

200+

Books Donated



Self-Reflections



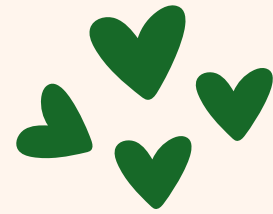
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Two boys at my table were obsessed with Spiderman and bid on the Spiderman birthday basket. While I was helping one of them build the gift they received, their number was called for the Spiderman basket. It was so special for me to witness their shock, excitement and joy. Making them the star of the show even if in such a small way, was a gift.



Mackenzie DeGon

Self-Reflections



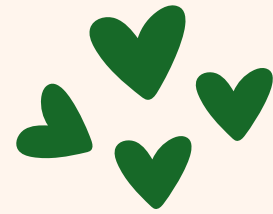
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I was lucky enough to be in the room while kids picked out gifts and then escort them back to the main hall. The excitement they had telling me about what they had picked out and who it was for was one of the best parts of my year.

Kennet Bertelsen



Self-Reflections



“

When I checked in I was asked to switch to being a table leader. Interacting and working with kids isn't in my wheelhouse, and put me outside my comfort zone. Having an opportunity to play and talk with the kids, and take care of the families at my table was an honor. It was impactful to learn more about the work the families do, and am grateful they're part of our community.

Heather Brandt

Self-Reflections

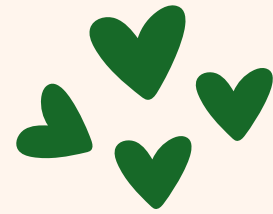
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This really pushed me as a leader, as I'm very uncomfortable with fundraising activities. Growing us is what Leadership Spokane is all about. I definitely grew from this event.

Tony Proctor



Self-Reflections



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I could tell that the older siblings were there out of obligation and not a desire to be there, but as the morning went on it was wonderful to see their engagement and excitement grow. They all took turns taking the younger kids around to pick out presents, or books, or stuffies. They would come back to the table so happy and so proud. The joy the whole family had was contagious!

Anne-Marie Brown

Self-Reflections



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I got all the kids lined up with their families to have a wonderful Santa picture. The pathway there was up the treacherous stairs...I'm proud to say nobody fell off the stage and I only played teddy bear football with one boy to keep him engaged.

Kathleen Jeffs



Self-Reflections

“During the event, I had the unforgettable experience of helping children select free books that sparked their interest. When a parent asked about a book for his foster child with vision impairment, I told him I’d keep an eye out and was fortunate to later discover an option tucked away in one of the boxes. I’ll always remember the joy of fulfilling that wish, relief of the foster parent, and most importantly, joyful expression on the child’s face.

Rita Koefod



Self-Reflections

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Easing the burden on these families was a palpable lesson in sharing vulnerability.

David "Fitz" Maurice



Self-Reflections

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Thinking back to the day of the event, two things stick with me. The first was the focus on others from the kids themselves. I helped navigate the gift line where it was incredible watching the older siblings take care of their younger brother or sister, to make sure they had something to gift a loved one. The second is how excited the kids were over items that many of us probably take for granted. There was magic in being reminded of the joy that comes from giving to others and thinking less of ourselves.

Ryan Keogh



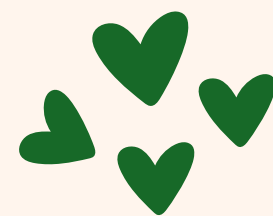
Self-Reflections

“ One girl proceeded to grab as many presents as she could carry. When we asked her what she was doing, she said she was grabbing gifts for her whole family. We didn't quite have the heart to tell her those weren't quite the rules because of the look of sheer excitement on her face.

Dylan Schumacher



How to Get Involved



YOU can make a big impact in the lives of children in foster care by volunteering just a few short hours a week.

Sign Up to Volunteer @

<https://embracewa.org/involved>

Santa Breakfast

Flannel Ball - Annual Fundraising Event





Join us for Santa Breakfast 2023

