



Kidzz Helping Kidzz

2 0 2 4

**Annual**

**R E P O R T**



# Letter from the Executive Director

## DEAR SUPPORTERS,

As we reflect on another year of growth, impact, and meaningful change, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible work that has been accomplished by Kidzz Helping Kidzz. From our beginnings, founded in 2016 by Zach Darner, this organization has grown into a dynamic, youth-driven force that touches the lives of children and families in our community.

What started as a simple wish by Zach, at just 7 years old, to bring comfort to children in the hospital has blossomed into a far-reaching initiative that now provides toys, food, and, most importantly, hope to those in need.

Our mission remains as clear as ever: to give hope and joy to children facing hardship, while inspiring a culture of kindness, empathy, and mutual support. In 2024, we reached another milestone, surpassing 53,000 toys donated to children at local Puget Sound area hospitals. These toys continue to provide comfort to young patients, helping them feel calmer and more at ease during medical treatments—gifts that make all the difference in the world during a stressful and uncertain time.

The growth of Kidzz Helping Kidzz is not only reflected in the scale of our toy drives but also in the leadership of our youth Advisory Board. Since its formation in 2018, this group of dedicated young people, aged 10 to 17, has led our programs and expanded our efforts, most notably through our focus on addressing food insecurity in our community.

In 2024, we hosted our first food drive. Our youth-led partnership with community businesses resulted in the donation of 2,107 non-perishable food items weighing 2,111 lbs – the equivalent of 1,759 meals for families in need. The overwhelming response from our community was a testament to the growing need we are striving to meet.

As we continue to grow, I am continually inspired by the resilience and compassion of our youth leaders. One member of our Advisory Board shared, “Being part of this organization has taught me the power of giving. It’s inspiring to see how much we can make a difference in the lives of other kids by simply sharing what we have.”

This sense of purpose, this commitment to giving back, is at the core of everything we do, and it is through the efforts of these young leaders that Kidzz Helping Kidzz continues to thrive.

The impact of our work is deeply felt in the stories we hear from families and hospital staff. From children finding comfort in their toys during medical procedures to parents expressing gratitude for the joy these small acts of kindness bring to their children, we are reminded every day of the importance of our mission. As we prepare for the year ahead, we are excited about the potential to do even more, to continue growing, and to extend our reach further into our community.

None of this would be possible without the support of our generous donors, volunteers, and partners. Your commitment to Kidzz Helping Kidzz enables us to carry out our mission and bring light to children during some of their most difficult moments. On behalf of our team, and especially our youth Advisory Board, thank you for your continued belief in our work. Together, we will continue to inspire hope, deliver comfort, and empower the next generation of leaders to create a better future for all.

*Beth Friedman Darner*

**Beth Friedman Darner,  
Executive Director  
Kidzz Helping Kidzz**





01

***Mission Statement & Values***

Bringing hope, comfort, and joy to children in need while inspiring kindness, empathy, and service in our communities.

**TOC**

02

***Program Highlights & Impact***

Bringing hope, comfort, and joy to children in challenging circumstances.

07

***Financial Overview***

Effectively managing finances to support our mission.

08

***Donor & Fundraising Recognition***

Our success was fueled by generous donors, funders, and volunteers.

11

***Challenges & Lessons Learned***

Growing tremendously through new opportunities and lessons.

12

***Looking Ahead & Goals for 2025***

Remaining dedicated to expanding our impact and strengthening programs as we grow.

13

***Acknowledgments & Thanks***

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Kidzz Helping Kidzz's successful year.


14

***Contact Information***

Connect with us!



# Mission Statement & Values



At Kidzz Helping Kidzz, our mission is to bring hope, comfort, and joy to children in need while inspiring a culture of kindness, empathy, and service within our communities. Founded on the belief that small acts of kindness can make a big difference, we are dedicated to supporting children facing medical challenges, food insecurity, and other hardships through our youth-led initiatives. By embodying these values, we will continue to build a brighter future for children, one act of kindness at a time.

**Empathy:** We strive to understand and share the feelings of others, motivating us to offer comfort and support.

**Inspiration:** We aim to inspire others to act with kindness and compassion, creating a ripple effect of positive change.

**Acceptance:** We embrace and celebrate the diversity of our community, ensuring that everyone is included and supported.

**Respect:** We honor the dignity and worth of every individual, fostering an environment where everyone feels valued.

**Advocacy:** We stand up for children and families in need, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are met.

**Service:** We are committed to giving back to those in need, we prioritize actions that directly support children and families.

**Volunteerism:** We encourage and empower individuals, especially youth, to get involved, make a difference, and lead by example.

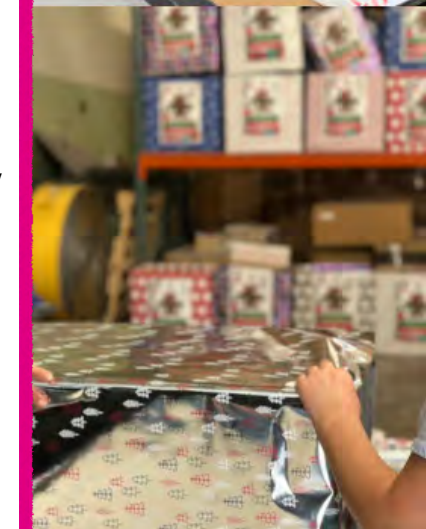
**Community Connections:** We build strong, lasting relationships within our communities to foster support, engagement, and collective action.

**Collaboration:** We work together with community partners, organizations, and volunteers to amplify our impact and reach more children and families.

**Stewardship:** We are dedicated to managing our resources responsibly and ensuring that every contribution has a meaningful impact.

**Innovation:** We embrace new ideas, approaches, and technologies to improve our programs and better serve those we support.

**Continuous Improvement:** We are committed to learning, growing, and adapting in order to increase our effectiveness and impact.





# Program Highlights & Impact

At Kidzz Helping Kidzz, our mission is to provide hope, comfort, and joy to children facing challenging circumstances. In 2024, we continued to make a significant impact through our key programs—our annual toy drive, food drives, and community partnerships—while inspiring youth to lead positive change in our communities. Here are some of the highlights and successes from this year:

## Annual Toy Drive:

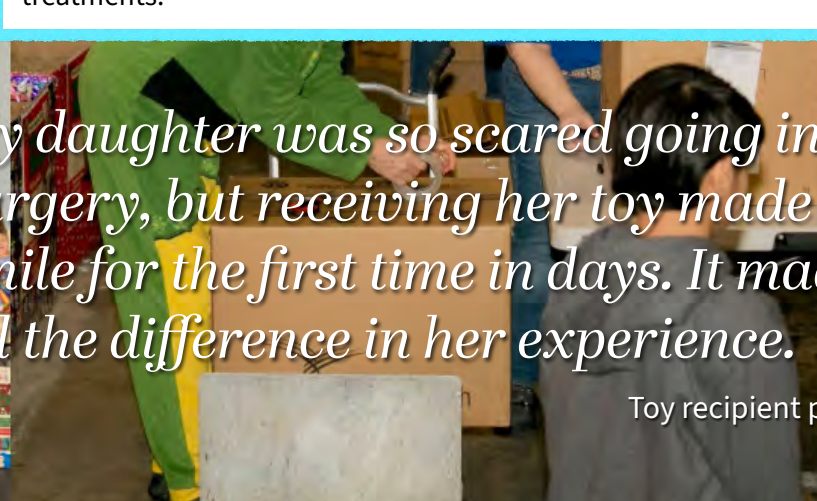
Our flagship initiative remains the annual toy drive, which serves children aged 2-17 in local hospitals. In 2024, Kidzz Helping Kidzz distributed 12,012 new, unused toys to children receiving care at St. Michael Medical Center, Seattle Children's Hospital, Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, Swedish Medical Center, and St. Anthony Hospital. These toys are delivered to children in the Emergency Department, inpatient units, and outpatient clinics, providing comfort and support during difficult times.

## **Impact:**

Over 53,000 toys donated since our first toy drive in 2016.

Hospital staff have reported that receiving toys helps children feel calmer during medical procedures, fostering trust and improving outcomes.

Feedback from medical professionals highlights that these toys alleviate emotional distress, promote healing, and make young patients feel special and supported during challenging medical treatments.

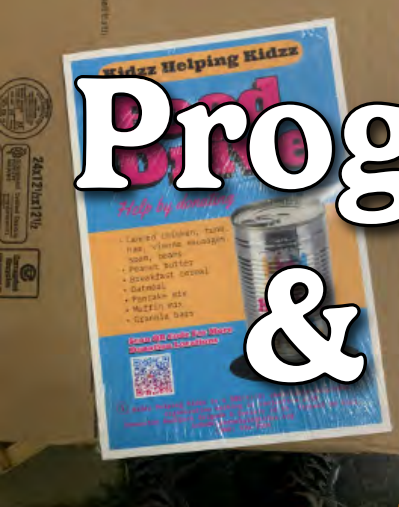


*My daughter was so scared going into surgery, but receiving her toy made her smile for the first time in days. It made all the difference in her experience.*

Toy recipient parent



# Program Highlights & Impact Cont.



## 2024 Food Drive Initiative:

In addition to our work with the Bremerton Backpack Brigade, Kidzz Helping Kidzz hosted our first-ever standalone food drive in 2024. The goal was to collect non-perishable food to support families facing food insecurity in our community.

Through this effort, we were able to collect over 2,100 lbs of non-perishable food items, which were distributed to local families in need. The success of this drive surpassed our expectations, thanks to the incredible support of volunteers, local businesses, and community members.

## **Impact:**

2,107 food items were collected, amounting to 2,111 lbs of food, providing the equivalent of 1,759 meals for local families.

A total of 31 food collection boxes were placed across local businesses and organizations, inviting the community to get involved.

The food collected helped alleviate hunger for children and families in our area, providing them with essential meals during times of need.

This year's food drive laid the foundation for future efforts, and we are already gearing up for an even larger drive in 2025, with the goal of collecting over 4,000 lbs of food for families in Bremerton and South Kitsap.





# Program Highlights & Impact Cont.

## Partnership with the Bremerton Backpack Brigade:

Kidzz Helping Kidzz has been proud to partner with the Bremerton Backpack Brigade since 2018. This nonprofit organization provides supplemental food for children in need throughout the eight Bremerton elementary schools. Food insecurity continues to rise in our community, and the need for resources to support these families is greater than ever. Currently, the Bremerton Backpack Brigade serves 235 families each week, providing them with backpacks filled with food for the weekend.

In 2024, our Advisory Board members were active participants in this program, packing food five separate times throughout the year. Each packing event involved filling backpacks with nutritious, kid-friendly meals, such as macaroni and cheese, canned chicken, fruit cups, granola bars, fresh fruits and vegetables, and shelf-stable milk and juice.

## **Impact:**

Kidzz Helping Kidzz packed over 1,500 lbs of food for the Bremerton Backpack Brigade in 2024.

During each packing event, Advisory Board members filled approximately 183 backpacks, ensuring that families in need received enough food for the weekend.

These backpacks were delivered to elementary schools and discreetly distributed to the children enrolled in the program. Each backpack contained enough food to sustain an entire family for the weekend.

Feedback from the Bremerton Backpack Brigade and school staff emphasizes how essential these donations are in helping children and families facing food insecurity.

*The impact we have on families is truly heartwarming. These backpacks not only provide food but also bring peace of mind to parents knowing their children will have meals over the weekend.*



# Program Highlights & Impact Cont.

## Youth Leadership and Empowerment:

One of the cornerstones of Kidzz Helping Kidzz is our Advisory Board, a group of 15 youth members aged 10-17, who lead our programs and initiatives. In 2024, the Advisory Board continued to drive the organization's mission forward, bringing fresh ideas and a sense of purpose to every project.

## **Impact:**

The Advisory Board has been instrumental in expanding our outreach and programs, including the toy and food drives, and in raising awareness about the needs of children facing illness and hunger.

Youth leaders shared that their involvement in Kidzz Helping Kidzz has taught them the power of giving.

The board continues to encourage peer involvement and lead by example, empowering youth to take ownership of causes they are passionate about and make a meaningful difference in our community.

*It's inspiring to see how much we can make a difference in the lives of other kids by simply lending a hand.*

Kidzz Helping Kidzz Advisory Board Member



# Program Highlights & Impact Cont.

## *Looking Ahead*

As we continue to grow and expand our efforts, Kidzz Helping Kidzz remains focused on addressing the immediate needs of children in our community, with an eye toward long-term change. In 2025, we will build on the successes of our toy drive and food drive programs by increasing our toy distribution to brighten the lives of over 10,000 ill children in Puget Sound area hospitals, and by organizing our largest food drive yet. We aim to collect over 4,000 lbs of food to support families in Bremerton and South Kitsap.

Through these programs, we are not only meeting the immediate needs of children in our community but also creating a ripple effect of kindness and compassion that empowers youth to lead and inspires others to give back.

As always, we are deeply grateful to our donors, volunteers, community partners, and supporters for helping us make a difference in the lives of children and families in need. Your continued support allows us to bring comfort, joy, and hope to those who need it most.



# Financial Overview

## Revenue

**Program Income:** \$31,270.00 (Budgeted: \$30,268.49)  
**Individual Contributions:** \$93,262.71 (Budgeted: \$66,310.00)  
**Total Revenue:** \$124,532.71 (Budgeted: \$96,578.49)

Our actual revenue exceeded our projections, primarily due to an increase in individual contributions, reflecting strong community support for our mission.

## Expenses

Total expenses for 2024 amounted to \$87,226.41, exceeding the budgeted amount of \$82,264.00. Below is a breakdown of key expense categories:

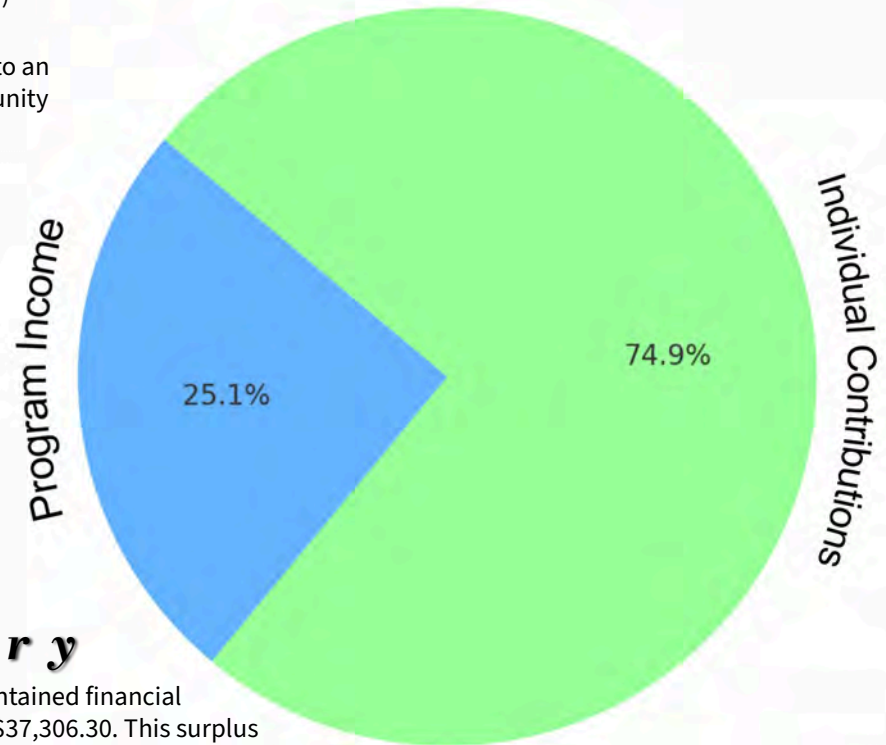
**Program Costs:** Funding was allocated to our Toy Drive and Food Drive initiatives, with expenditures covering essential items such as collection boxes, U-Haul rentals, and equipment to transport the toy and food donations.

**Operational Expenses:** These included website maintenance, accounting services, social media outreach and payroll to support our dedicated team.

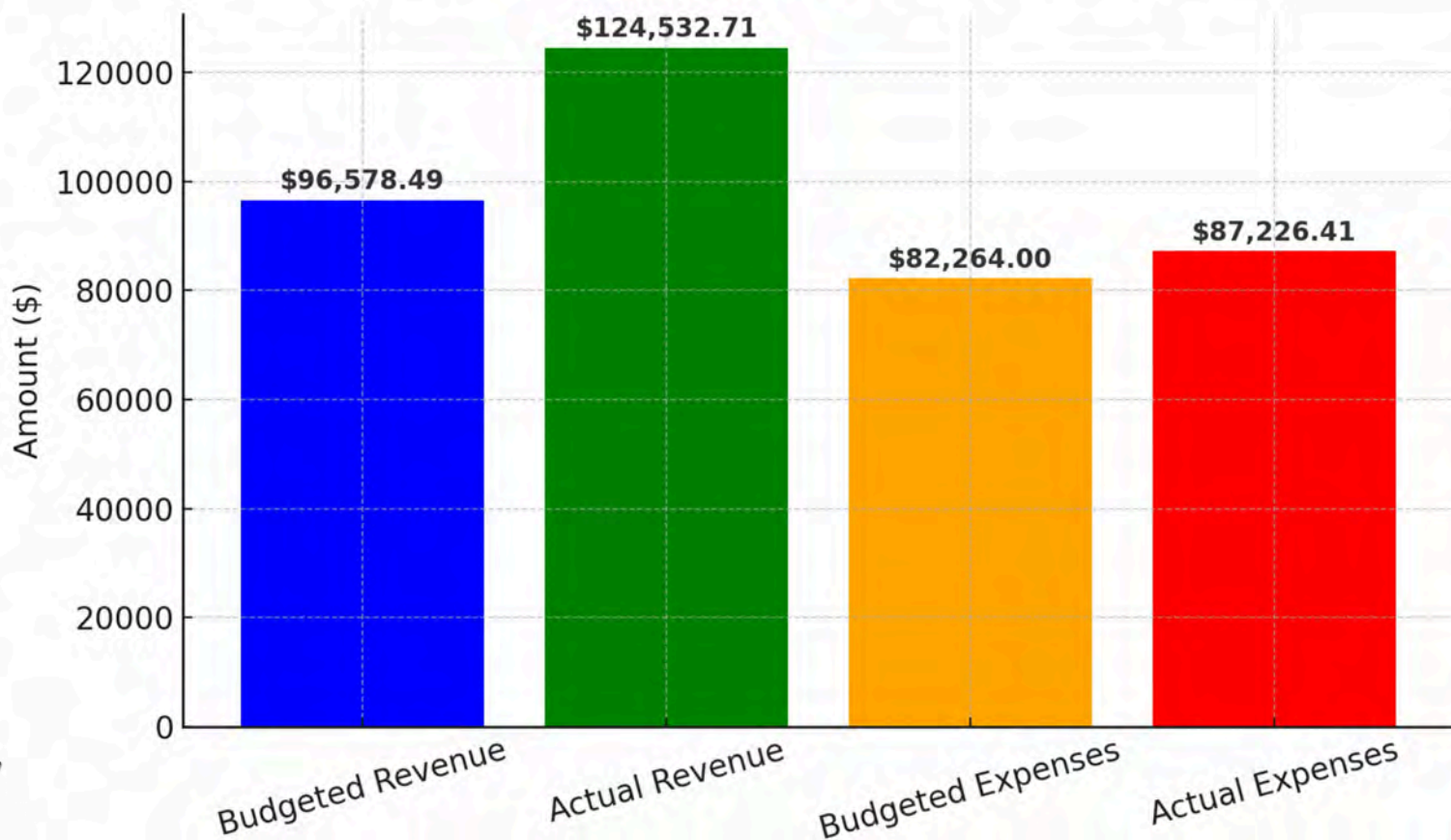
## Financial Summary

Despite exceeding budgeted expenses, our organization maintained financial stability, closing the year with a positive revenue balance of \$37,306.30. This surplus will allow us to expand our programs in 2025.

In 2024, Kidzz Helping Kidzz successfully managed its financial resources to support our mission. Below is a summary of our revenue and expenses for the year.



## Budgeted vs. Actual Revenue and Expenses





# Donor & Fundraising Recognition

The success of Kidzz Helping Kidzz in 2024 was made possible through the generosity of [our donors, grant funders](#), and dedicated volunteers. Their unwavering support has empowered us to expand our programs and make a lasting impact on underserved youth in our community.

## 2024 Donors

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the individuals and organizations whose contributions played a vital role in advancing our mission:

Pierce Forcier Memorial Hockey Scholarship  
Kevin & Chelsea Hill  
Kris Giese  
Robert Richards  
Debra Thompson  
Johnathon Pavey  
Wendy Kile  
Richard Loso  
Conrad Eaton  
Roger Sahn  
Jamie Newell  
Tami Close  
Harry James  
Marcus Boos  
Willey Sampley

## Grants Received

We are honored to have received generous funding from the following organizations in 2024. These grants have been instrumental in supporting our programs and expanding our outreach:

First Federal Community Foundation  
Virginia Mason Franciscan Health  
The Norcliffe Foundation  
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe  
Walmart Foundation  
Kingston-North Kitsap Rotary Club  
Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island  
Rotary Club of Port Orchard  
Rotary Club of Silverdale  
Rotary Club of Bremerton  
Rotary Club of East Bremerton

With their support, we have been able to provide critical resources to children in need, ensuring they have access to food, toys, and essential services. We look forward to continuing these valued partnerships and fostering new collaborations in the years to come.



# Donor & Fundraising Recognition Cont.

## Volunteer Recognition

At the heart of Kidzz Helping Kidzz is a dedicated community of volunteers who give their time, energy, and compassion to make our mission a reality. We are incredibly grateful to the individuals who have contributed their efforts to ensure the success of our programs.

## Volunteer U-Haul Drivers

Our deepest thanks to the following individuals who assisted with transportation logistics, ensuring donations reached those in need:

Jen and Adam Wiren  
Dave Marquis  
Katie Walz  
Rhandel Darner



## Toy Pickup Volunteers

These volunteers generously coordinated toy pickups across multiple locations:

Bremerton – Pam & Larry Keller  
Port Orchard – Aaliyah Chandler & Amber Nash  
Silverdale – Debbie Slaton  
Poulsbo & Bainbridge Island – Becky Lober & Cheryl Bradley  
Kingston – Clint Boxman

## Toy Delivery Day Team of Drivers

We sincerely appreciate our volunteers for assisting our Advisory Board members in delivering 12,012 toys to children at five hospitals across the Puget Sound area.

Jeannette Forster  
Stephanie Devey  
Ashley Kirk  
Kristin Guy  
Kelly Eastman  
Adrienne Runyan  
Rhandel Darner





# Donor & Fundraising Recognition Cont.



## Advisory Board of Youth

The leadership and dedication of our Youth Advisory Board members continue to inspire us. Their passion for service helps shape our programs and outreach efforts:

Zachary D. (15)  
Paige D. (16)  
Makayla D. (18)  
Everette C. (16)  
Leighton H. (15)  
Logan H. (13)  
Arianna G. (16)  
Selah G. (13)  
Matthew M. (16)  
Jameson N. (16)  
Jack D. (12)  
Lucie C. (16)  
Hannah S. (16)  
Liana K. (16)  
Noah D. (9)  
Micah G. (9)

## **Looking Ahead**

As we reflect on 2024, we are immensely grateful for the generosity and commitment of our donors, funders, and volunteers. Their collective efforts have enabled us to expand our impact and bring hope to countless children. We look forward to building upon this foundation in 2025, continuing to uplift and empower youth in our community.



# Challenges & Lessons Learned

In 2024, Kidzz Helping Kidzz experienced tremendous growth, bringing both new opportunities and valuable lessons. As demand for our programs increased, we remained committed to meeting the needs of our community through careful planning, collaboration, and adaptability.

## Challenges

**Rising Demand for Support** – The need for holiday gifts exceeded previous years. Through strategic planning and strong community partnerships, we successfully met this growing demand, ensuring that no request went unfulfilled.

**Sustaining Financial Growth** – While we exceeded our fundraising goals, securing sustainable funding remains a priority. As grant opportunities become more competitive, we recognize the need to further diversify our funding sources to maintain and expand our programs.

**Volunteer Coordination** – With an expanding network of dedicated volunteers, streamlining communication and scheduling became increasingly important. Enhancing our volunteer management processes will help us maximize efficiency moving forward.

**Logistical Challenges** – Managing large-scale initiatives like our Toy Drive and Food Drive required careful coordination, particularly in transportation and distribution. Rising costs for U-Haul rentals and fuel added to these complexities.



## Lessons Learned

**The Strength of Strategic Planning** – Thoughtful preparation and coordination were key to ensuring we could meet the increased demand for our services. By proactively addressing challenges, we successfully expanded our impact without compromising quality.

**Flexibility and Innovation Drive Solutions** – When faced with unexpected challenges, we embraced creative problem-solving and consulted with experts to develop effective solutions. This approach allowed us to adapt quickly and continue serving our community efficiently.

**Building Long-Term Sustainability** – As our programs grow, we recognize the importance of long-term planning. Strengthening relationships with donors, pursuing multi-year funding commitments, and refining our operational strategies will be essential in ensuring our continued success.

Despite challenges, 2024 was a year of remarkable impact and progress. Each lesson we learned will help us refine our approach and strengthen our mission in 2025 and beyond.



# Looking Ahead & Goals for 2025

As Kidzz Helping Kidzz continues to grow, we remain dedicated to expanding our impact and strengthening our programs to better serve youth in need. In 2025, we aim to build on our successes while implementing new initiatives that will enhance our sustainability and outreach.

## Key Goals and Priorities

**Expand the Food Drive Program** – Building on the success of 2024, we plan to increase the number of collection boxes from 31 to 70 and collect at least 4,000 lbs of food to support low-income children in the Bremerton and South Kitsap School Districts. Strengthening partnerships with local businesses and community groups will be critical in achieving this goal.

**Increase Community Engagement** – We will focus on growing our volunteer base and fostering deeper connections with donors and partners. This includes hosting community events, increasing youth participation, and enhancing outreach efforts through social media and local collaborations.

**Diversify Funding Sources** – To ensure long-term sustainability, we plan to expand our grant-seeking efforts and cultivate more corporate sponsorships. Additionally, we will explore opportunities for recurring donor programs and fundraising campaigns to maintain financial stability.

**Enhance Youth Leadership Development** – As a youth-led nonprofit, empowering young leaders remains a priority. We will provide leadership opportunities, hands-on experience for youth volunteers, ensuring they gain valuable skills while making a difference.

**Strengthen Logistics and Operations** – With the continued growth of our programs, we aim to improve operational efficiencies and increase our volunteer base. By refining internal processes we will continue to streamline our efforts.

As we work toward these ambitious goals, we invite our supporters to join us in making 2025 even more impactful. Whether through donations, volunteering, corporate partnerships, or community advocacy, your support is vital to our success.



# Acknowledgments & Thanks



As we close out another impactful year, we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has played a role in the success of Kidzz Helping Kidzz. Our achievements in 2024 would not have been possible without the dedication, passion, and generosity of our board members, staff, volunteers, community partners, and supporters.

## **Board of Directors**

Our board members provide invaluable leadership and guidance, ensuring that our mission remains strong and our programs continue to grow. Their commitment to our vision has been instrumental in expanding our impact and reaching more youth in need.

## **Staff**

To our hardworking staff—thank you for your tireless efforts in coordinating programs, managing operations, and ensuring that every initiative runs smoothly. Your passion for serving the community is the driving force behind everything we do.

## **Volunteers**

Kidzz Helping Kidzz thrives because of the kindness and generosity of our volunteers. Whether driving Uhaul trucks, transporting food or toys, or offering support behind the scenes, your selfless contributions make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families.

## **Community Partners & Donors**

We are incredibly grateful to our community partners, grant funders, and donors who have provided the resources necessary to sustain and expand our programs. Your generosity has helped us bring hope and support to countless children, and we look forward to continuing these valued collaborations in the future.

## **Looking Forward**

With the unwavering support of our community, we are excited to build upon this year's successes and continue making a lasting impact in 2025. Thank you for standing with us in our mission to empower youth and create a brighter future for all.



# Contact Information

We welcome community members, partners, and supporters to connect with us. Whether you have questions, would like to get involved, or are interested in collaborating, we'd love to hear from you!

## Mailing Address

10855 Silverdale Way # 2224,  
Silverdale, WA 98383

## Phone

360-536-7559

## Email

[info@kidzzhelpingkidzz.org](mailto:info@kidzzhelpingkidzz.org)

## Website

[www.kidzzhelpingkidzz.org](http://www.kidzzhelpingkidzz.org)

## Social Media

[@kidzzhelpingkidzz](https://www.instagram.com/kidzzhelpingkidzz)

