

ANNUAL REPORT

20
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GHYC Junior Sail is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to providing a safe, fun and educational environment for youth. Our programs develop local sailors at all skill levels and challenge them to achieve confidence and independence on the water.



GHYC Junior Sail

2022

By the Numbers



\$11,800

awarded in scholarships

624

sail camp registrations

92

race team participants

\$135,700

raised in support

Above: Sailor Finn Deprez finished his Opti career at USODA Nationals and was the top Pacific Northwest Finisher at 77th/148 boats. **Cover top left & Middle:** Opti race team members Olivia Freeman and Callen Niebuhr joined the race program after having a blast at summer camp. **Cover top right:** c420 sailors Annalise Landy and Oona Lacey racing a c420 owned by Tacoma Yacht Club. Our partnership with TYC Junior Sail has allowed many new sailors to get on the water! **Cover bottom right:** Narrows race team sailors at Junior Olympics in August. We saw record numbers of sailors attending events this season. **Cover bottom left:** Laser sailor Nico Konyk executes a flawless role tack at Bellingham Youth Regatta in August.

Who We Are

GHYC Junior Sail aims to build lifelong skills for our campers, race team members and staff. Here, they build confidence, gain skills, and grow as individuals.

We were founded in 2010, by a group of dedicated volunteers who set out to run a small summer camp. Today, we serve over 600 area youth during 9 months of programming each year. We have a large independent volunteer board, as well as two full time staff members. In the summer months, we employ an experienced and enthusiastic group of 15-20 instructors. We love what we do.



Mission and Vision

We provide a safe, fun, and educational environment for youth. Our programs develop local sailors at all skill levels and challenge them to achieve confidence and independence on the water.

A competitive race team and robust family/adult program are natural extensions we desire. Giving back to the program by the sailors and their parents is a key to our success.

We strive to attain a permanent waterfront home in the harbor and to showcase our beautiful harbor by hosting regional events.

“My daughter has LOVED sailing camp so much! She had a really tough year. She was diagnosed with ADHD and it was really affecting her behavior and her confidence. Since doing sailing camp, I have seen such a massive improvement in her behavior and her confidence. She really enjoys it. We want to thank you SO much for the opportunity you have given her. We could not have done it without the scholarship.”
-Sail Camp Parent.

From the Program Director

GHYC Junior Sail is wrapping up its 13th year of inspiring youth to have a life-long dedication to and love of sailing! From our humble beginnings, we are now in firm financial standing, with a tremendous group of Instructors and Coaches, and a very hard-working Board.

In 2022, Sail Camp taught 600 students how to sail. This is 200 more students than we served in 2021! We also had 60 racers participating on Narrows Race Team and gave out over \$11,000 in scholarships to underserved youth. One parent wrote us saying, "I appreciate that the program is well-run and organized...and also appreciated the scholarship which made this experience possible for my son."

Our amazing 13 member Board, together with our tremendous program leadership team, Sailing Director Ashley Nelson, as well as Assistant Sailing Director, Niko Twilla, worked very hard to provide strong, positive experiences for youth, families, and staff. Again this year we implemented programming for Tacoma Yacht Club enabling us to use TYC's Wollochet Bay facility as well as GHYC Junior Sail's West Shore facility.

The one fundraiser we have each year that allows us to provide boats and equipment for all sailors is the Spaghetti Dinner Auction, an all-volunteer event with racers working hard all night. We set our goal high this year hoping to raise \$75,000. **Instead we raised \$117,800!** As one auction volunteer stated, "I support Junior Sail because there is no overhead—all donations go to the kids!"

GHYC Junior Sail would not exist were it not for the amazing support we receive from so many:

- Stan Stearns family for allowing GHYC Junior Sail to use West Shore Marina for Sail Camp and Narrows Race Team
- Pen Met Parks providing storage of boats and equipment at the old Peninsula Gardens greenhouse.
- Gig Harbor Yacht Club allowing us to use their facility for meetings and the annual Auction.

We are most grateful for the continuous commitment the Stearns family has given to us over the past 13 years, yet our Strategic Plan is to develop a permanent on-the-water facility. The Board has met with PenMet Parks and the City of Gig Harbor this past year to begin to make this dream a reality.

A HUGE thanks to you, our community, that provide tremendous support and shares in the joy, laughter and learning on the waters of Gig Harbor, "the maritime city" ...for the kids!



Joan Storkman
GHYC Junior Sail
Program Director

A year of momentum

GHYC Junior Sail is blossoming as an organization! Our dedicated and passionate community of donors, board members, staff, sailors, and parents keep us moving forward. The program is poised to develop monumentally over the next 10 years.

We were incredibly fortunate to hire in another excellent staff of veterans to run summer camps and new enthusiastic hires ready to challenge themselves. In the coming year, we are excited to welcome a promising class of instructors who have already gained experience by volunteering their time in our Junior Instructor program.

As I wrap up my third year as the organization's full-time Sailing Director, I'm pleased to report that we are in a strong position to support a robust program moving forward. We've met our enrollment goals, solidified our partnerships, and established a firm financial footing. GHYC Junior Sail has shifted our focus to big picture long term planning, and program quality and development for 2023 and beyond.

I look forward to spending the next year solidifying our foundation, training and developing our new staff members, and supporting the growth and development of our young people. As always, thank you to our wonderful community for your support in this important work.

Ashley Nelson
GHYC Junior Sail
Sailing Director

2022 highlights

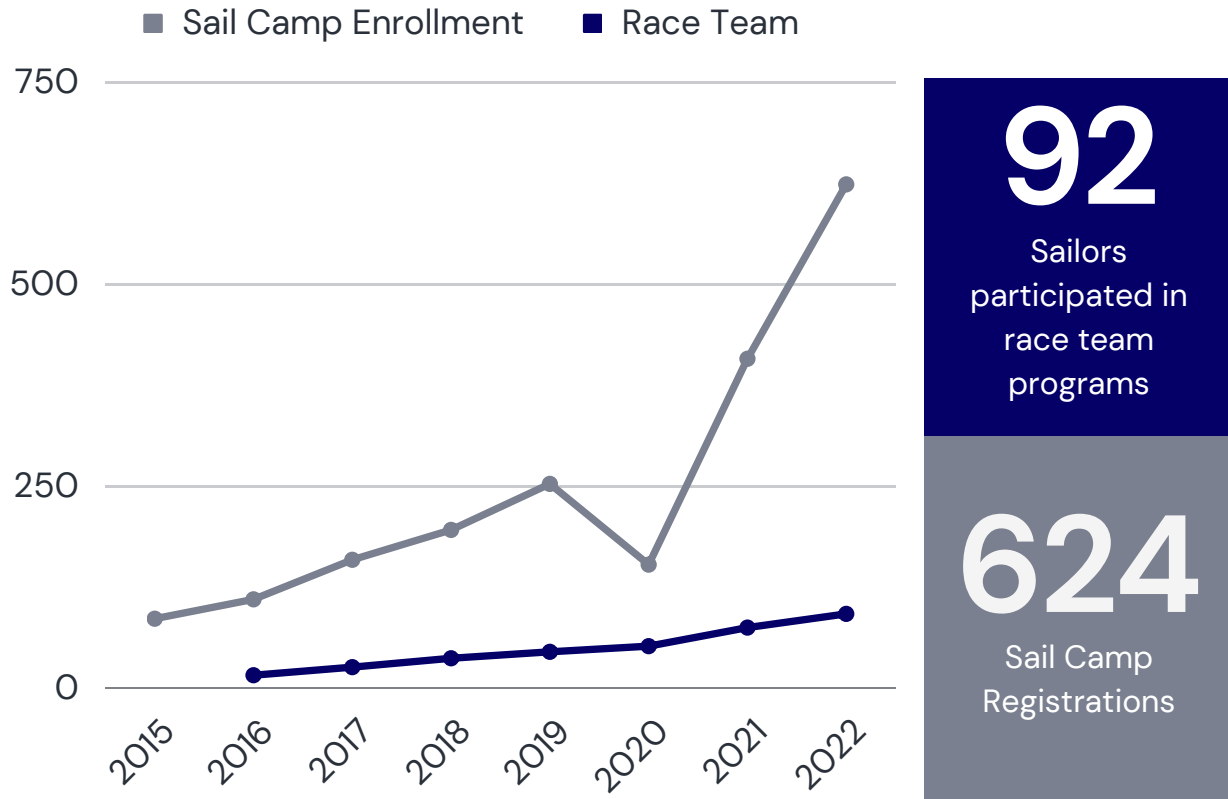
1 Built program momentum with record participation in regattas, race programs and camps.

2 Exceeded our fundraising goals, and met our budget, allowing us to focus on the future.

3 Hired Assistant Sailing Director Niko Twilla, allowing us to offer consistent coaching and expand community outreach.

Participation

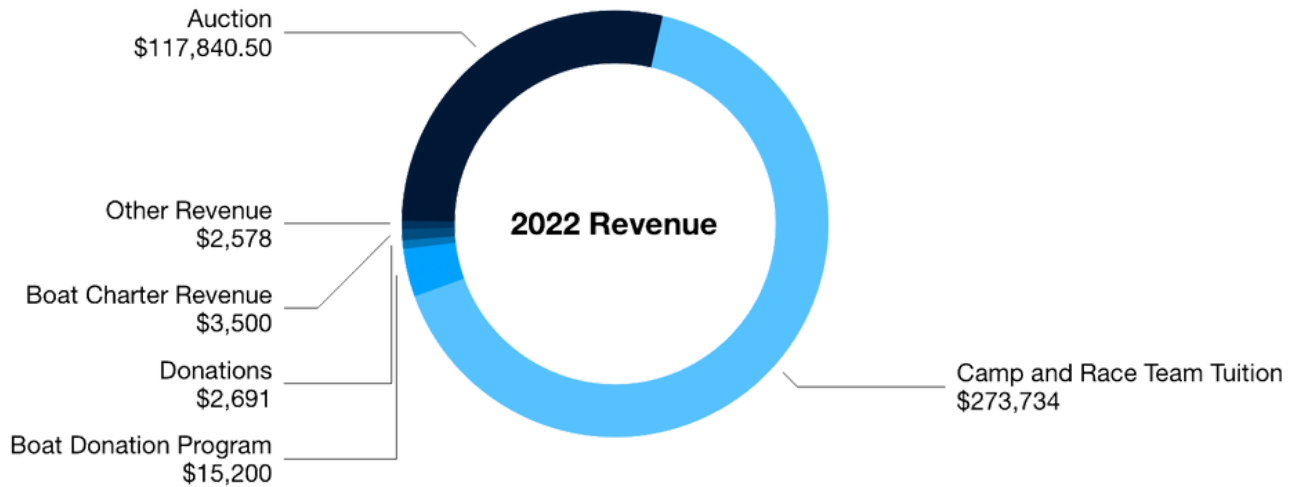
Steady growth in 2023 has supported programming costs and solidified our financial position.



- We saw a high level of interest in our returning Jellyfish program for youth ages 6–7 and a steady demand for our continued programming for ages 8–18.
- Growth numbers include both the GHYC Junior Sail and TYC Junior Sail participation. Our three year agreement with Tacoma Yacht Club has allowed for us to focus on growth and development of programming. By integrating our staff, programming, registration, and scholarship funds we have been able to better serve the Gig Harbor and Tacoma community.
- Our High School race team has returned to pre-pandemic numbers. In 2023 we will work to recruit and solidify participation in our Opti Race team and Junior Varsity Race Team numbers.
- In 2023 we hope to maintain these numbers and focus on staff and program development. This will be through consistent review of survey data and feedback from our participants.

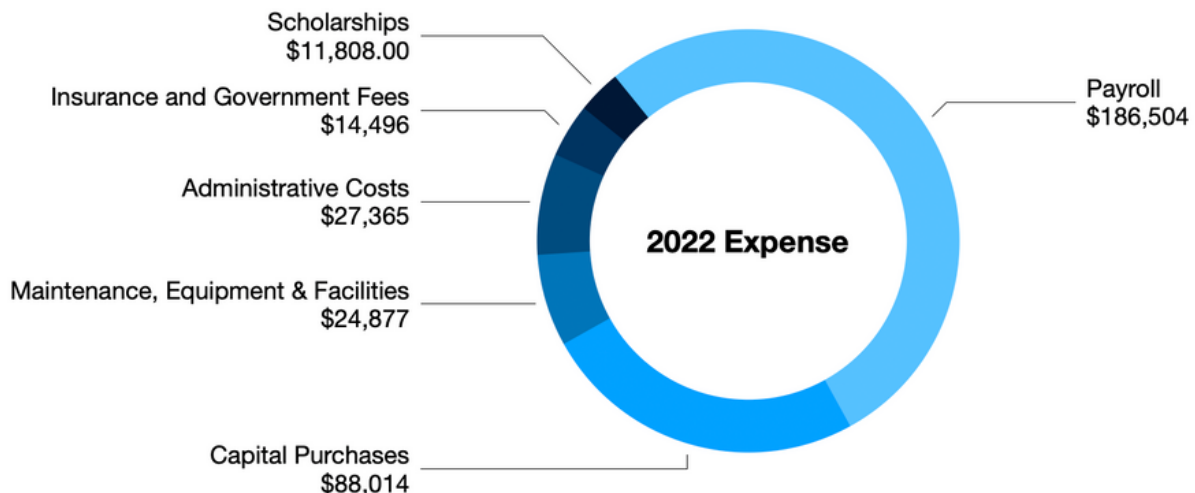
2022 Revenue

2022 was a record year for fundraising and program revenue. 2022 Auction total includes a \$11,825 c420 donation paid directly to the vendor. \$4,220 of bulk gear purchases have been removed from revenue and expenses.



2022 Expenses

Inflation rates and wage increases elevated 2022 expense. We have adjusted tuition revenue targets for 2023 to mitigate this added cost. Capital Purchases included: three c420s, three cFJs, c420 and Opti dollies, Opti trailers, and an outboard engine.



Looking forward

GHYC Junior Sail organizational goals for 2023 and beyond

Pursue the development of a long term waterfront facility

In the next 10 years, GHYC Junior Sail hopes to acquire waterfront property and establish a permanent sailing center. Our vision is that this facility becomes a centerpiece of the community and serves hundreds of youth each year. Furthermore, a permanent location ensures the long-term stability of our program. We have been incredibly fortunate to have facilities provided by the Stearns Family, Pen Met Parks, and Tacoma Yacht Club to run programming for kids and are excited to take this next step.

Right: Facilities provided by the Stearns family at West Shore Marina have helped us get thousands of kids sailing over the last decade out of our trusty trailer.



Expand scholarship programs to reach more underserved youth

GHYC Junior Sail has raised \$21,765 for scholarships in 2023. This is almost double 2022 funding, and will help us to get more underserved youth on the water. Our goal for this year is to allocate all of these funds to families who qualify for financial aid through our scholarship application. To achieve this, we will work with community partners to reach more families who would otherwise not have access to sailing and include our scholarship program in all advertising efforts.

Right: Sailors enjoy our Jellyfish program for 6-7 year olds on Wollochet Bay. Scholarships make days like this possible for all kids. Donations support scholarships at both GHYC Junior Sail and our partner program TYC Junior Sail.



Increase skill and performance of race team programs

Our race teams have been steadily growing and developing and are poised to take the next step in terms of competition and performance. In 2023 our goal is to improve our regional standings in both the Northwest Interscholastic Sailing Association (high school sailing) and the Northwest Youth Racing Circuit. We will strive to do this through consistent coaching in fall and spring for all teams, summer coach recruitment, clinic opportunities, and out of area regatta participation.



It is not an exaggeration to say that this program has saved my daughter's mental health coming out of the COVID pandemic.

After a year at home, she was scared to leave the house and re-engage with the world. We nudged her to try sailing camp last summer — the thought of it terrified her, but she managed to do it with a lot of encouragement. It turned out that she loved it, and she has joined the sail racing team. In a world where tweens and teens struggle to find their identities, she has found a community of like-minded kids who are outside the mainstream — while learning a ton about teamwork, physics, and the environment.

-Narrows Race Team Parent

Hire and develop new staff members

The COVID-19 pandemic has left us with a gap in our staff development pipeline. We recognize that we will need to focus on staff development in the next year to better serve our community and provide quality programming. We are working to train and recruit our post-pandemic staff. In 2023, we have committed to funding staff development through additional training and participation in clinics, coach mentorship opportunities, and US Sailing courses.

2023 Goals

Meet our Racers

The Narrows Race Team began in 2016 as a joint effort between GHYC Junior Sail and TYC Junior Sail. Through the shared use of facilities, coaching, and equipment, we have been able to provide more opportunities for kids in our community. Sailors compete from March through November each year and programs range from age 8 to high school graduation



Record regatta participation, growth in the C420 and Opti Champ fleets, and an intense competitive drive emerged this year.

In spring, our Opti, Junior Varsity and High School race teams continued to build skills and momentum. Sailors put in the hours at practice, regattas and clinics to poise them for a competitive summer.

Many sailors began cracking the top of competitive summer fleets. The team is poised to blossom in the coming years as sailors take on new challenges, pursue opportunities, and push each other to grow. Notable summer finishes include Northwest Youth Racing Circuit (NWYRC) series placements by Bailey Rainbolt and Aspen Merrill (C420), Reagan Starke and West Rainbolt (Opti White Fleet). Top finishers in the competitive ILCA 6 fleet were Camryn Lee (7th overall) and Nico Konyak (12th overall).

Finn Deprez capped off his Opti career with USODA Opti Nationals hosted by Columbia Gorge Racing Association and The Sailing Foundation. Finn was the highest placing finisher from the Pacific Northwest at 77th of 148 boats. Green Fleet participants Reagan Starke and Claire Valiani were inspired after witnessing top level Opti sailors from around the country.

Top Left: Opti Sailors West Rainbolt, Claire Valiani, and Reagan Starke swept White Fleet at Junior Olympics hosted by Seattle Yacht Club this August. **Top Middle:** c420 sailors Corrinne Harrison and Hannah Welch earned their 2nd trophy blanket at the Johnny Adams Memorial Regatta hosted by Port Madison Yacht Club. **Top Right:** ILCA 6 sailor Camryn Lee competed at the US Junior Women's Championship in Marina Del Ray. **Below:** c420 sailors Bailey Rainbolt and Aspen Merrill put their skills to the test at the Cascade Locks in July.



This fall, Varsity sailors balanced onboarding new High School sailors with a competitive push. New sailors brought enthusiasm and hit the ground running attending regattas and building skills quickly. Gig Harbor High School capped off the season placing 5th at Fall Championships to earn a space at Fleet Race Districts this spring. Bellarmine had a strong showing at 9th and Charles Wright placed 12th of 21 teams.

A big thanks to all of our coaches: Ashley Nelson, Niko Twilla, Jake Tiedeman, Thomas Pentimonti, Connor Hoeksema, and Ben Sprenger.

Meet our Supporters

Each year, donors fund major capital purchases for GHYC Junior Sail. This allows us to keep kids safe, provide appropriate equipment for all skill levels, and focus our revenue toward getting more kids on the water. Thank you donors!

2022 Auction Supporters

Thank you so much to all those who supported our 2022 auction. We were able to raise over \$117,000 to support our growing program!

The Stearns Family

Longtime supporters, Stan and Judy Stearns, continued to help us thrive this year through the use of West Shore Marina and generous donations. Their contributions to the program have helped immensely.

A Special Thanks To:

Steve Kienle
The Severson Family Foundation
Mario and Anne Lee
Paul Thorpe
Erik & Kathleen Carlson
Peninsula Yacht Basin
Tom & Cyndee Gray
Multicare
Gayle Kibbs
Doug Peterson
Affinity Ventures NW
John & Nancy Sass
Bidida Adams
Greg & Mary Theo Hoeksema



Above: Long time supporter Stan Stearns meets staff member Dalton Lovett. Each year Stan shares how he was unable to attend sailing classes as a child because they were too expensive. Dalton shared how his experiences as a sailor and coach were made possible through the support of our scholarship program. "Full Circle" moments like this are made possible by our wonderful donors and supporters. **Below:** Sailors ready to serve up some world famous spaghetti.



I like to think of her as reborn in a new boat for the young sailors.

-Alisa Spector, donor of Roughwater 33 "Enchantment"

Boat Donation Program

Our Boat Donation Program continues to help us fund projects and get kids sailing. Thanks to Dale Reiman for helping to raise \$15,200 this year! We have also added three of these boats to our fleet to help facilitate youth programs.

Thanks to 2022 Donors

Ira & Alisa Spector - Roughwater 33
Tricia & John Mulligan - Martin 244
Joel Brazle - Open Skiff
Gail Howe - Rumba Sailboat
Mario & Anne Lee - Laser Sailboat

Meet our Volunteers

Board of Directors

Our board of talented and dedicated volunteers does so much to keep operating smoothly and moving forward. Board members work tirelessly to ensure the security and progress of our organization. Our board is actively involved with the program and does everything from overseeing budgets, hiring, and operations, to meeting with local partners, and making strategic plans for the future. Thank you to all those who currently serve, and have served, on our Board of Directors.

Auction Committee & Volunteers

Auction Committee members work throughout the year to plan our annual fundraiser. We had our largest ever group of volunteers this year, and so appreciate the work of this group to plan the event, organize donations, and advocate for us within the community.

Narrows Race Team

Leadership Committee

Race team families help support the program through membership on the Narrows Race Team Leadership Committee. This group helps plan and adjust programs, hire coaching staff, and maintain healthy relationships with our school partners.

Maintenance Team

Volunteers, led by Fleet Manager Greg Olsen, meet weekly to work on boats, build facilities, and keep everything running smoothly. We could not do it without them!



Left: Long time board members Joan Storkman and Mary Theo Hoeksema enjoy our first in person auction in three years. **Above:** Fleet Manager, Greg Olson, participates in an auction game facilitated by sailor Charlie Christ. **Below:** Board member and auction MC Greg Hoeksema gets everyone excited for bidding. **Bottom Left:** Marti Anderson and her team cook up their famous auction spaghetti.



I choose to invest my time, energy, and resources into this program because I believe in the good it does for our children—I witness it every day in the responsibility, joy, confidence, grit, friendship, bravery, and skill that these kids bring off the water and into our community. We have a profoundly positive effect on the hundreds of kids we serve each year, but also on everything and everyone those kids touch. This is how we change the world, one little sailor at a time.

—Rachel Rainbolt

GHYC Junior Sail Board Member
& Narrows Race Team Parent

Community Partners

Gig Harbor Yacht Club
West Shore Marina
Pen Met Parks
Tacoma Yacht Club
The Sailing Foundation,
Northwest Interscholastic
Sailing Association
Charles Wright Academy
Bellarmine Preparatory School
Gig Harbor High School

Board of Directors

Joan Storkman
Kathleen Carlson
Dale Reiman
Don Bernard
Greg Olsen
Greg Hoeksema
Mary Godwin-Austen
Mary Theo Hoeksema
Rachel Rainbolt
Pete Clement
Tom Mitchell

Thanks to retiring board members Alina Messersmith, and Chris Myers for your contributions to the program.

Narrows Race Team Leadership Committee

Joan Storkman
Joe Guizzetti
Rachel Rainbolt
Jennifur Newhouse
Michelle Valiani
Elizabeth Embick
Melissa Deprez
Mario Lee
Tanya Starke
Nathalie Op de Beeck

Maintenance Team

Greg Olsen
Dick Strand
Jon Freeman
Dale Reiman
Jim Drake
Dalton Lovett
Mark Lindeman

Staff Members

Anna Sherry
Ashley Nelson
Camryn Lee
Carlos Rivas
Corinne Harrison
Dalton Lovett
Emily Smith
Jaden Unruh
Julia Sherry
Jake Tiedeman
Kel Cowart
Matt Embick
Nico Konyk
Niko Twilla
Peter Ryalls
Reed Kregenow
Sky Rainbolt
Thomas Pentimonti

Junior Instructors

Aspen Merrill
Annalise Landy
Bailey Rainbolt
Brent Hu
Charlie Christ
Chloe Hedge Pollock
Elijah Dekker
Finn Deprez
Hannah Welch
Logan Bugenig
Nex Noland
Oona Lacey
Will Embick

Auction Committee

Anne Hankins
Kerrie Clos
Jon Freeman
Michelle Valiani
Jennifer Hedge
Jennifur Newhouse
Jill Bernard
John Landy
Jay Zeigler

Auction Volunteers

Lisa Embick
Christine Konyk
Sara Christ
Fiona Glass
Helen Sun
Suzanne Palmason
Meg Estep Woolf
Linh Duong
Kelly and Greg Merrill
Ute Brindl
Linda Strand
Frank Hankins
Vicky Alsaker and Ed Nadler
Diana Logan
Rhonda Hauter
John Lavin
Carrie Phinzy
Marti & Mark Anderson
Angela Cochran
Peggy Butler
Alisa Anderson
Val Heckart
Yong Delano
Mike Tunny

And the many other parents, sailors, businesses and community members who supported our event

Thank You

To all those working to make all of
this possible....for the kids!

