

AFK Youth Mentoring



Newsletter - March 2021



Mentor Chelsea and buddy

I joined the Athletes for Kids program my sophomore year. I am currently a senior and I have grown so much the last 2 years and that is thanks to my buddy. My passion for helping others has grown tremendously and I have learned so much from her. I have grown to be more patient and have had a complete change of perspective. We enjoy going to the zoo and the animal sanctuary together. We also spend some time in her backyard doing a craft, searching for bugs, or jumping on the trampoline. Hearing the happiness in her laugh when we jump on the trampoline or hearing how excited she gets when she sees me is why I joined Athletes for Kids. It's always a fun time when I see her, and I look forward to seeing her every week. The program has not only helped my buddy, but it has also helped me a lot too.

Our daughter has grown so much over her time with Chelsea! For the first 6 months, she would grab Chelsea's hand and lead her on hour-long explorations of the yard looking for bugs! Chelsea persisted through worms, slugs, and beetles and now we can do a variety of activities together. This Halloween, Chelsea organized her friends into a drive by trick or treat for our daughter and we invited the girls who live on either side. Not only did our daughter love the candy, but the other kids got to see her as the reason these cool teens were bringing candy for them, too! At her birthday last month, Chelsea was our non-family guest on our trip to our favorite local zoo. In this year where parties are restricted, it made the day special to have a friend. I can't believe Chelsea will graduate in a few months. We are excited to see what she does next, and we will miss her very much.

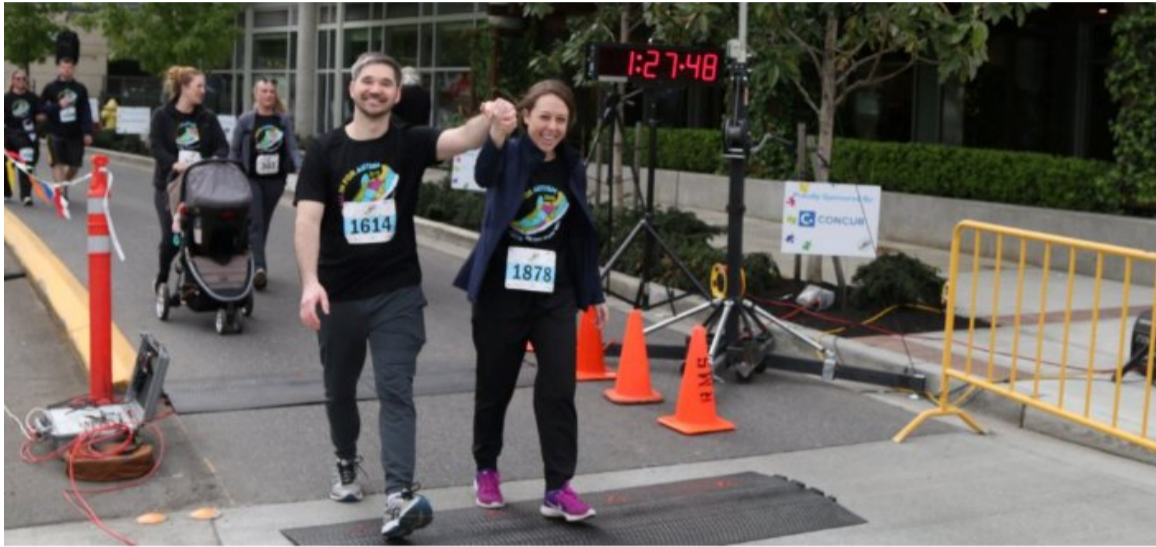
Upcoming Events

We are going to Disney!



Join us on Saturday, March 13th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm for a virtual experience at Disney! We will go on some rides, draw Disney characters and enjoy Disney trivia. Mentors, buddies, siblings and friends can all Zoom in for a great time!

[Click here to register](#)



April 25-June 17, 2021

Do it your way

5K, 10K or 54 miles

Register at

<https://allinforautism.org>

#doityourway

Brought to you by

Bellevue Breakfast

Rotary
Club



All in for Autism Virtual Run/Walk

Together, let's make a difference for children with autism and their families! [Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club](#) welcomes all Athletes for Kids mentors and buddies to sign up for the [All in for Autism 2021 Virtual Run/Walk](#). This year, All in for Autism is a virtual event so you can **do it your way**. There's no need to get up before the crack of dawn on a Sunday morning or even face the cold. You can do a 5K, 10K or 54 miles whenever and however you choose from April 25-June 17, which happens to be a 54-day period. We're big on 54 because according to the Centers for Disease Control, 1 in 54 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and we want to raise awareness about the prevalence of ASD in our society, which affects thousands of families. We're excited about the energy you will bring to our **#doityourway** social media campaign.

Do you match?



Do you Match?

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs to match charitable contributions made by their employees. There are 2 ways you can request a matching gift to double or triple your donation to AFK:

1. Make a personal donation and save the receipt. Many matching programs will allow for up to one year after you've made your donation to request a corporate match.
2. Contact your HR department directly to ask if they offer a matching gift program.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

With Gratitude



Thank you Frankie's Pizza

We are thankful for the support of our 2020 Auction Sponsor: Frankie's Pizza. Frankie's Pizza opened in 1988 and is owned by Jim and Frankie Westlake and Chris Garcia. Better traditional and gourmet pizza doesn't just happen, Frankie's goes the extra mile to ensure that its products are of the highest quality available. Frankie's adheres to strict quality procedures, like making all their dough fresh every day in each store, using no preservatives. You can contact one of their locations in Bonney Lake, Enumclaw, Issaquah, North Bend or Snoqualmie to find out for yourself why Frankie's really is the best!

Click [HERE](#) to visit their website.

AFK Moments



As we look back to a month of kind moments shared with friends, we welcome March and new memories made as we build stronger and more inclusive communities together.

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