



May 2010

Dear Bellevue Community;

Bellevue's 24 Hour Relay Challenge has been a wonderful program, bringing youth from throughout the city and adults together for an annual celebration in the Downtown Park.

Because of the tremendous need in the community in 2009, the Relay Directors opted to hold a food drive instead of the 24 Hour Event. The nearly 500 participants (youth and adults) collected 6,500 pounds of food for Hopelink, Overlake Service League and World Impact Network.

Due to the continuing financial need in the community, the Relay Directors voted this year to put the event on hiatus. "We feel the money required to produce the 24 Hour Relay Challenge needs to be spent on basic services for youth and family. This is just a hiatus and we will resume the event when funding is available." – Malia Radford

Since it began in 1999, the Relay Challenge has funded 24 youth projects, providing more than \$40,000 back to the Bellevue community. Over the years, more than 5,000 youth have participated. Nearly 3,500 adult volunteers have contributed time and talents. The teams have walked 33,921 miles. For the past ten years, the organizers of the Bellevue's 24 Hour Relay Challenge included over 400 youth and adult community advisors.

Teams of 10 youth and one adult chaperone spend 24 hours in the park. They set up tents in Relay Estates, shared three meals and limitless snacks, played games on the lawn, tackle a climbing wall, enjoy non-stop entertainment, and always have one team member walking around the track in the Downtown Park.

Community groups such as the Bellevue Kiwanis Club, Sisters on the Eastside and Eastside Pacific Islanders participated and helped prepare meals. World Impact Network, Jubilee REACH Center and other organizations set up informational tents. There were arts and crafts; 24 hours of entertainment; Police mentoring partnership; and opportunities for youth from different schools and backgrounds to meet and interact.

Thank you for your tremendous support for a decade of community building between youth and adults. Your generosity is truly characteristic of the wonderful city we love.

Sincerely – Bellevue's 24-Hour Relay Challenge Directors

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