



# STEP UP TO THE PLATE

*for Bellevue Children!*

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This year Bellevue LifeSpring is kicking off the beginning of the spring season with our 21st annual Step Up to the Plate Benefit Luncheon, taking place on March 17 at Meydenbauer Center. For over 20 years the Step Up to the Plate Benefit Luncheon has brought together friends, neighbors, and philanthropists from the Points neighborhoods to build community and give support to local children in need.

Often people do not realize that poverty exists here in Bellevue. In fact, every school in the Bellevue School District has students who are enrolled in the federal free and reduced-price lunch program. Currently, there are 3,500 Bellevue children who are facing the threat of hunger each day.

Bellevue LifeSpring's Step Up to the Plate Benefit Luncheon is an inspiring event where hundreds of community leaders come together to take a stand in support of these very children. Guests will hear from local community leaders like Dr. Ivan Duran, the Bellevue School District Superintendent, who gives valuable insight to the challenges students living in poverty face every day. The Master of Ceremonies, Joyce Taylor, is a passionate community advocate from KING 5 and will inspire the audience.

Among these community leaders are sponsors and table captains, key players in the success of the event. Many of these strongest supporters are neighbors from the Points communities. Bringing their enthusiasm to the event, they invite guests to experience the positive impact of Bellevue LifeSpring and the chance to see the potential of their own influence in the community.

This year's luncheon chairs are Karen Dashen from Clyde Hill, Marilyn Herzberg from Hunts Point, and Maggie Vergien from Medina. These Points residents do whatever they can to support Bellevue LifeSpring, from raising funds to giving their time and expertise to the cause. They bring a depth of knowledge and community leadership to the table for this year's luncheon.

"I consider it a privilege to participate in a support system that addresses the needs for food, clothing, education, and emergency assistance for Bellevue's children," shared Chair and Board Member Maggie Vergien. "Providing assistance with their current challenges will enable them to be in a position to be successful adults and pay-it-forward."

This start to a new decade is a monumental time for Bellevue LifeSpring as it enters a bold, new chapter of service. With the help of Points community members, the organization is working to ensure all Bellevue students have the food, clothing, educational support, and emergency assistance they need to achieve and graduate at the same rate as their peers by 2025.

Guests at the event will enjoy complimentary wine, lunch, shopping at a pop-up Thrift Culture shop, networking with other guests, and moving stories of hope from Bellevue LifeSpring clients. From a student who doesn't know how they'll pay for college, to a child who doesn't know where their next meal will come from, to a family whose world has been turned upside down by an unexpected, tragic event – Points residents are a part of their story of hope and change.

Join us at the 2020 Step Up to the Plate Benefit Luncheon on March 17th and help us achieve our goal of reaching all 3,500 children living in poverty here in Bellevue. All community members are invited to participate in the luncheon as a table captain or guest – there's a place for everyone in Bellevue LifeSpring's mission.

Learn more and register today at [www.BellevueLifeSpring.org/luncheon](http://www.BellevueLifeSpring.org/luncheon).

