

# Endeavors

*Creating opportunities for academic and cultural equality*

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 2015



## Inside this issue:

Our Vision	2
Get Involved!	3
Who We Are	4
Contact Info	4

## The Foundation for Academic Endeavors

We're excited to introduce to you our recently established non-profit organization, **The Foundation for Academic Endeavors!** FAE is an Episcopal-Lutheran ecumenical board of educators, clergy, lay people, Latino community members and parents with a vision for the Skagit Valley in Northwest Washington.

FAE's purpose is to create opportunities for academic growth for low-income and at-risk families from all language groups, all ages, all religions who would benefit from academic companionship, including but not limited to the following: enrichment opportunities, academic programs for children, adult education, and ministry partnerships.

In August of this year we put on a Drama & Arts Camp at *El Camino de Emaús* Lutheran Church in Burlington. In January 2016, in conjunction with Skagit Valley College, we will begin an after school tutoring and enrichment program for children, along with English classes for parents. Our partnership with Skagit Valley College will extend to a four week education and enrichment camp in the summer of 2016. We hope to serve over 100 children and their families.

At-risk youth are the least-likely to succeed in school. In Mount Vernon, *one out of every two Latino students do not graduate from High School.* We serve to further connect at-risk youth with the academic and individual help they need with a particular focus on family empowerment.

Please take a moment to read our Vision Statement on page two, and consider getting involved in this vital ministry opportunity. By supporting the Foundation financially, by volunteering, by spreading the word about this vital ministry, we can work together to empower the lives of under-served people for a lifetime.

**Find us online at [Skagitfae.org](http://Skagitfae.org)**

# Our Vision

The Foundation for Academic Endeavors has committed to working together with the Latino community, and has set its vision ***“to create opportunities for academic growth for low-income families from all language groups, all ages, all religions who would benefit from academic companionship, including but not limited to the following: Enrichment Opportunities, Academic programs for children, Adult Education, and Ministry Partnerships.”***

In 2012 statistics showed that 55% of the children in the Mt. Vernon school district are Latinos but only ***one in two Latinos*** go on to graduate from high school.

In speaking with parents and family members in the Latino community of Skagit Valley, the key to keeping at-risk youth in school is to invest in something broader than just child tutoring. Parents of these students strongly desire to be an advocate for their children’s education, but often find themselves hindered by language and education barriers. By providing ESL classes for adults, parents are better equipped to interact in area of their child’s academics. Partnering with Skagit Valley College will promote awareness of Adult-Ed opportunities available to the community. FAE will function as a liaison for parents and students in the forum of education.

The Foundation desires to build cultural competency: The awareness of one’s own cultural identity and views about difference, and the ability to learn and build on the varying cultural and community norms of students and their families. *Integration*, not *assimilation* allows cultures to be empowered for success.

At the very core of the Foundation’s efforts is the desire to walk side by side with the Skagit Valley community and hold their struggles and triumphs with a heart of compassion. Coming alongside this community and understanding that our own future is bound to the success and empowerment of our brothers and sisters in the Skagit Valley, we will work to make the difference. We invite you to join us in this effort.



**In 2012 statistics showed that 55% of the children in the Mt. Vernon school district are Latinos but 50% of those do not graduate**

*“If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound up in mine, then let us work together.”*

*--Australian Aboriginal Woman*

## Partner with the Foundation for Academic Endeavors

Volunteer your time and talents— Support us financially— Get the word out

The FAE is made up of folks like you who have a heartfelt desire to see at-risk and under-served members of the Skagit Valley community empowered to personal achievement.

In August 2015 the Foundation for Academic Endeavors (FAE), still in its infancy, presented a week-long **Drama & Arts Camp** at *El Camino de Emaús* Lutheran Church in Burlington. Thirty Latino children and their families participated in a drama class led by acting teacher, Matthew Riggins. The youth, ages four through 16 also enjoyed costume-making, music, and an interactive literacy program. The children then participated in a local production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.' The program was a great success, thanks to the volunteer teachers and aides.

In 2016 the FAE plans to offer a four-week **Summer Camp** July 20th-August 13th. Participating youth, pre-K through high school, will receive academic help, as well as music, field trips, outdoor activities, and meals each day. Computer literacy, individual tutoring, and an emphasis on realizing personal goals will allow students to stay connected with academics during the summer break. This program is funded by grants and donations from our supporters. We also invite adult and youth volunteers from all over the state to come be a part of this day camp program.

For more information and to download the volunteer registration form, go online at

**skagitfae.org.**

In January 2016 the FAE will begin an **After-school Program** to further connect at-risk youth with the academic and individual help they may need in their community. While there are several after-school programs available to students in the Skagit Valley, FAE's program will put a strong emphasis on empowering families through cultural competency, adult education for parents, and parent/student enrichment activities. Combining multi-cultural leadership with a parental board will help ensure that the program maintains a close and relevant connection with the needs of the community.

### Support the Foundation financially!

Your tax-deductible donation is an investment that will help empower the under-served in the Skagit Valley communities for a lifetime.

"FAE will begin an afterschool program to further connect at-risk youth with the academic & individual help they need in their community"





Foundation for Academic Endeavors (FAE)  
134 East Victoria Avenue  
Burlington, WA 98233  
FoundationForAcademicEndeavors@gmail.com

Find us on the Web!  
[Skagitfae.org](http://Skagitfae.org)

## ***The Foundation for Academic Endeavors***

*exists to create opportunities for academic growth for low-income families from all language groups, all ages, all religions who would benefit from academic companion-*

*ship, with special focus*

*on the following:*

*Enrichment Opportunities,*

*Academic Programs for Children,*

*Adult Education, and*

*Ministry Partnerships.*

### **The Board of FAE:**

The Foundation for Academic Endeavors strives to promote an ecumenical, multi-cultural, and inclusive identity. Working together to affect change in our communities, we share a love for the vision to which we believe God has called us.

**Rosario Aguilar**, *El Camino de Emaús Lutheran Church*

**Emilio Benitez**, *El Camino de Emaús Lutheran Church*

**Mark Blindheim**, *Emmanuel Episcopal Church*

**Marlene Kurtz**, *Representative of Latino community*

**Kären Larson**, *St. James Episcopal Church*

**Bill McGlenn**, *Redeemer Episcopal Church*

**Robin Ringland**, *El Camino de Emaús Lutheran Church*

**Carol Rodin**, *Christ Episcopal Church*

**Deanna Scott**, *Representative of Family Promise*

**Kate Scott**, *St. Augustine's in the Woods Episcopal Church*

**Julie Spangler**, *St. Augustine's in the Woods Episcopal Church*

**Esmerelda Martinez**, *Spanish/English Interpreter*



In July 2015 the Foundation of Academic Endeavors put on a Drama & Arts Camp at *El Camino de Emaús Lutheran Church* in Burlington. Children participated in a local production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.