



2017

Governor's

Volunteer Service

Awards

April 11, 2017
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Hosted by:
Serve Washington

Volunteer Recognition Ceremony



Welcome

Susan A. Weiss, Chair, Serve Washington

Changing Communities. Changing Lives.

*Debbie Schuffenhauer, Executive Director
Serve Washington*

Presentation of Awards

First Lady Trudi Inslee

Closing Remarks

Governor Jay Inslee



Executive Mansion

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients

INDIVIDUALS



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Bruce & Beth Cheshier Tacoma
German Shepard Search Dogs of
Washington State
Category: Citizen Corps/CERT

Bruce and Beth Cheshier, and their various search dogs, have been serving Washington state since the 1970's as longtime members of

German Shepherd Search Dogs.

In 2016, Bruce and Beth provided 871 hours and logged in around 5,000 miles on searches for missing people and evidence in ten different counties in Washington and Mount Rainier National Park. They returned at least four loved ones back home safely and saved various local jurisdictions over \$50,000 of staff time that would not otherwise have been available to conduct such searches. The Cheshier's also devote at least 288 hours each on training annually.

Pierce County Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement agencies have utilized Bruce and Beth in their crime scene investigations. Most recently, Bruce's expertise in cell phone/GPS data resulted in helping locate a homicide victim where the Cheshiers were also the canine handlers that found the victim. Bruce also contributes roughly 150 hours annually maintaining critical life-saving radio and lahar systems for Pierce County Department of Emergency Management. Bruce and his personal snowcat have been a crucial resource for hazards communications capabilities, and have played a critical role in the safety of the residents of Pierce County.

Bruce also volunteers his time helping other search and rescue units throughout the state with radio maintenance that would otherwise be costly to life-saving volunteer organizations. Bruce and Beth Cheshier are a team which are highly regarded in search and rescue, emergency management and law enforcement for their unwavering contributions, dedication and sense of community.

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Wayne Connell
*Snohomish County Dept. of
Emergency Management*
Category: Disaster/Emergency Response

Everett

Wayne Connell brings enthusiasm and a lifetime of skills to assist the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and the community. In 2016, Wayne donated over 800 hours to projects for Snohomish DEM and other agencies. These tasks can be as simple as providing transportation to events for other team members or as complex as working with the National Guard during the Vigilant Guard exercise to develop the capability to publish video from Snohomish, King, Pierce counties and Washington State Patrol aircraft to the military network - Geospatial Information Interoperability Exploitation - Portable (GIIEP). He participated in weekend fundraisers for the Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue and Fort Casey State Park.

Wayne is always ready when presented with a problem. He custom fabricated and installed network, telephone and audio/visual equipment in the Snohomish DEM Emergency Coordination Center. He identified a need with several large command and communications vehicles and immediately started creating documentation and training for them. Wayne participated in the statewide earthquake exercise, Cascadia Rising, and always has time to represent DEM and help recruit new volunteers at events like National Night Out Against Crime.

Wayne's largest contribution last year was to drive to completion a new communications vehicle for Snohomish DEM. Wayne has been responsible for much of the wiring, custom fabrication work and documentation of the vehicle. After more than a year of work, it was first deployed on a search and rescue mission in June 2016. This vehicle can be used during disasters, search and rescue missions, public events and any time additional communications capability is needed. Additionally, the Snohomish DEM radio room and communications vehicles have quite a few radios in a small space so when monitoring multiple radios, it is difficult to determine which one was just talking.

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Wayne designed a circuit and had boards fabricated that can be installed in speakers to light an LED with a delay so it's possible to see which radio was just talking. Even multimillion-dollar dispatch systems don't have this feature. Wayne also helped install new antennas and radios at the Emergency Operations Center for the city of Monroe and Cascade Valley Hospital in Arlington. He became a certified FCC Volunteer Examiner to administer Amateur Radio License exams. He has helped teach a class in Marysville and participated in several examination sessions to license new operators. These operators are then available to assist their agencies, their family and their community. These types of activities help create a more resilient community during times of disaster or other incidents and can't happen without the dedication of volunteers like Wayne.

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Liliana Fischer

Seattle

Rainier Valley Food Bank

Category: AmeriCorps VISTA

Lili Fischer spent two service terms providing care, enthusiasm and dedication to the Rainier Valley community through her work as the Community Outreach Coordinator at the Rainier Valley Food Bank (RVFB), the smallest and busiest food bank in the Seattle area, serving over 24,000 individuals a month. Lili has worn so many hats at the RVFB, constantly utilizing and enhancing community connections. Lili's service has been a consistent evolution of vibrancy that has created a strong community within the food bank building itself as well as outside creating connections to local schools, partnering organizations and restaurants.

Lili uses the organization's principles of Kaizen – continuously improving her working practices and personal efficiency. Her passion and commitment to better educate herself and others about the realities of food insecurity are crucial. Her personal values coincide directly with the great work and outreach that she puts forth every day through her service at RVFB.

Lili received a grant from a neighborhood matching fund for a community lunch program as a place to share ideas and interest about food bank services, learn more about social services, and discuss root causes of hunger in Seattle. She created this space where RVFB community, food guests, board members, staff, and AmeriCorps members could feel empowered to transform their thoughts and ideas into action plans for the food bank and community.

Lili has revitalized many existing events at the food bank. She organized an Urban Agriculture Bike Tour for the Rainier Valley community to ride to farms and gardens growing food security in Southeast Seattle, educating and creating important conversations along the way. Lili has regularly taken on events for fundraising and volunteer appreciation turning them into true experiences full of knowledge and love of food. In addition, Lili has created more

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community connections through a backpack program at a local high school, providing healthy food for students to bring home over the weekend. The compilation of Lili's efforts has continued to support and enhance Rainier Valley Food Bank in fulfilling its mission to provide healthy food for hungry neighbors with the vision of the future for a hunger-free Rainier Valley.

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Natalie Hartkopf
Reading Partners Seattle
Category: Education

Seattle

Through Reading Partners Seattle, Natalie Hartkopf provides one-on-one literacy tutoring twice per week to a first grade student who is reading behind grade-level at Madrona K-8 School. Natalie has demonstrated a strong commitment to volunteerism through her tutoring at this Title 1 public school. Despite the fact that she has a full-time job, she has taken her weekly tutoring commitment seriously and has rearranged her schedule on numerous occasions to ensure consistency for her student. She acts as an exemplar for others in the community, showing that volunteerism is feasible even while balancing a full-time work schedule. Furthermore, Natalie has also offered to substitute tutor for a number of additional sessions beyond her initial commitment.

Natalie has become an invaluable part of the Reading Partners team at Madrona because of the strong relationship she has formed with a student who often struggles with challenging behavior. Her student has made tremendous growth, both socio-emotionally and academically, because of Natalie's unwillingness to be deterred by setbacks or difficult days. Natalie consistently takes a proactive approach to supporting her student, often reaching out for more resources and ideas. She has collaborated with her Site Coordinator, Program Director, and several other support staff at Madrona. She continuously contributes additional time, effort, and energy beyond anything typically expected from volunteers. Natalie generously donated a significant number of brand new high-interest books for the Reading Center, expanding her impact to even more Madrona students.

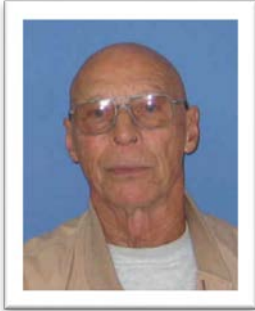
Natalie's mentorship to her student has been truly impressive. She is working with a student who has experienced significant trauma and often needs extra socio-emotional support. While many might have become discouraged, Natalie instead responds by asking what more she could do. Natalie has been helping to support not only the student's reading abilities, but also to improve the student's confidence and

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willingness to tackle difficult academic tasks. Her student has shown tremendous growth since the beginning of the year. His reading has not only improved greatly, but he is remaining calm, rather than frustrated, when challenged by reading, and his confidence is continuing to grow.

Studies consistently show that providing a student with strong foundational literacy skills can dramatically expand their opportunities for future success. Natalie contributes to a critical need by working with a student who is reading behind grade-level, and there is no doubt that her exceptional mentorship and tutoring skills are helping to expand his future opportunities. Her service has made a true impact for her student, for Reading Partners, for the school, and for the community. Reading Partners is deeply grateful for Natalie's extraordinary service.

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Glenn Hawley **Bellingham**
Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
Category: Social Services

Glenn Hawley is truly committed to the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office and mission statement, "Dedicated to making Whatcom County the safest in the state through excellence in public safety."

At age 86, Glenn dedicated 502 hours of volunteer time in 2016. Glenn joined the Sheriff's Office "Citizens On Patrol" (COP) program in 2007; he was a young man of 76 years and everyone was immediately impressed with his enthusiasm and eagerness to volunteer at the sheriff's office. The COP is a volunteer program primarily consisting of retired people who patrol Whatcom County in a marked vehicle with the responsibilities of checking homes when the owners are on vacation, conducting disabled parking violations, slowing speeders down in school zones, patrolling trail heads and park and rides to prevent vehicle prowls, checking for abandoned vehicles, and assisting with public safety displays.

When a substation was established in a rural part of the county for the deputies to use there was no funding for janitorial service and sure enough, in addition to his COP responsibilities, Glenn stepped forward to volunteer as the janitor on a weekly basis. In appreciation, some deputies would take him out on patrol. Through his volunteering, Glenn has taken on responsibilities generally done by patrol deputies, freeing them up to be more proactive in the community. He is caring, unselfish, reliable, honest, hardworking, and a true team player.

Glenn made a statement recently that when he turns 90 he will hang it up and let someone else take his place. They will be big shoes to fill. He's a good friend and asset of the sheriff's office personnel and of Whatcom County. Glenn's volunteer service has made their difficult job just a little easier and Whatcom County a safer place to live.

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Jack Irby
Seattle Children's Hospital
Category: Healthcare

Seattle

Jack Irby cares and is committed to the children at Seattle Children's Hospital where he has been a volunteer since April 2007. Initially, Jack was a playroom volunteer offering play to children in the playroom or at bedside in their hospital room. In April of 2010, Jack became a floor volunteer, focusing on offering play and diversion from the medical aspects of the hospital to children in the inpatient Medical Unit. Jack is not only a pleasure to team with as a volunteer but he provides such a service to all patients and families. Often floor volunteers on this unit have focused solely on holding babies, but upon hearing the need of older children and those with special needs, Jack was the only volunteer to immediately step up to the task. Not only has he provided creative play and recreation to the older children and those with special needs but he has done it with such compassion and grace. With respect and thoughtfulness behind all of his interactions, the children can feel comfort in his presence.

Jack has spent a great deal of time with one particular little boy over the years; someone who benefits greatly from a consistent, supportive, male role model. This little boy is alone during his multiple hospitalizations and at times turns away other volunteers, but he has grown familiar with Mr. Irby. The first time the two met, they were found creating a fort in the hospital room. This little boy was so excited, it was a definite highlight of that hospital stay. Jack continues to spend time with this little boy and is currently encouraging him in his reading.

Not only has Jack been supporting patients, he has been a great support to staff and other volunteers. During recent years, Jack befriended and supported another floor volunteer through his illness and ultimately his passing. Jack continues to honor this gentleman's memory by holding babies, which is what this volunteer did. The whole team was impacted and Jack helped with everyone's grieving. He's not only a volunteer but part of the team. Jack is all heart and it shows in his interactions. He cares deeply for all those he meets and is very well respected.

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Ryan Lazo

Pullman

Center for Civic Engagement at WSU

Category: AmeriCorps Alum

In 2015, Ryan Lazo completed his second term of service as an AmeriCorps VISTA member coordinating the Palouse Fresh Food Project (PFFP) supported by Washington State University (WSU) Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) and Washington

Campus Compact. Ryan was then hired by the CCE as the Community Partnerships Coordinator to continue providing leadership and supervision to the PFFP. Outside of his work, Ryan is an exceptional individual who remains deeply involved with several organizations addressing food insecurity and environmental sustainability across the Palouse region.

Ryan doesn't serve just one community agency or organization; he volunteers his time serving on multiple boards and community collaborative efforts like the Council on Aging and Human Services, Palouse Cares, Whitman County Food Coalition, the Poverty Awareness Taskforce, and the Sustainability Committee for the local food co-op. He volunteers with several community organizations, whether it is serving crepes at a fundraising event for the Friends of the Clearwater, helping the local farmer's market conduct a waste audit, volunteering his time with Special Olympics, coordinating the region's largest food drive or teaching preschoolers how to compost with worms - he is always willing to jump in and meet the needs in his community. Ryan is a catalyst that brings organizations together. He has a tremendous ability to find connections, build bridges between organizations and align efforts to create a lasting impact in his community.

The increased food drive and recovery efforts, the newly formed Whitman County Food Coalition, and other efforts are tremendous accomplishments that are beginning to turn the tide on food insecurity in Whitman County. The region also has large food deserts in the more rural areas and in the urban center of Pullman. Through Ryan's efforts, he has helped to bring together several initiatives to reduce food insecurity and increase sustainability in the local community.

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Mary Patterson
Port Angeles Food Bank
Category: Human Services

Port Angeles

Mary Patterson has served the clients of the Port Angeles Food Bank over the last 12 years; she has personally assisted nearly 120,000 visits from households in need of food assistance.

Mary arrives early for every distribution day (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) to help set up and stays until the end of the day, ensuring all who have come seeking help, receive the help they deserve. Mary is the first face they see and, with a smile and warm demeanor, she calms the fear and frustration that arises with coming to a food bank to ask for help. She gets to know each individual with compassion and dignity. The Port Angeles Food Bank and its clients are happier, healthier, and more at ease with Mary at the front desk.

Mary started volunteering at the food bank with her husband. He passed away four years ago, and in his memory, she continues on the volunteer service they started together. She has served every distribution day every week since the food bank has been open. She is dependable, and she truly feels it is her place, and her moral duty to be there to help those less fortunate.

Mary has helped train and recruit new volunteers, given valuable feedback on the proprietary system that holds confidential information regarding the clients, and personally gets to know each of the volunteers. She is woven into the fabric of the organization. As the largest food bank on the Olympic Peninsula, serving the most households, getting to know and serve each client with dignity is no small task. The work she does every week, day in and day out, is quite an accomplishment.

Mary's attention to detail serving clients and helping the organization craft programming that best serves and supports clients are two ways she has greatly impacted her community. She helps tackle the issue of hunger head-on with grace and dignity. Mary has impacted and helped nearly all 120,000 visitors that have walked through the doors since 2005.

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German Rosas

Walla Walla

Children's Home Society of Washington

Category: Social Services

German Rosas' passion, dedication, and commitment to helping his community are unmatched. Not only does German live and breathe the mission and vision of Children's Home Society of Washington, but he does so consistently, unselfishly, and often goes well above and beyond his volunteer role to assist

those in need. German has volunteered with the Academic Fun Club after-school tutoring program and with the Farm Labor Homes Summer Camp, a fun and safe place for children whose parents work in agriculture in Walla Walla. Programming available for children includes sports, art, free breakfast and lunch, and field trips. Reaching well over 1,000 volunteer hours, German has been integral to the success of both programs for the past 10 years. German is also a certified translator and provides Spanish-English translation for Children's Home Society of Washington – an incredibly valuable service to the agency allowing for more relevant, comprehensive, and inclusive communication for participants.

In German's own words, "Whatever they need, I am there." In a largely Hispanic community, many of the students' parents do not speak English. German routinely helps serve breakfast and lunch to participants during the Farm Labor Homes summer camp, but he also assists in helping children build and maintain their English language skills during the summer when school is out. He provides occasional English tutoring to parents as well and assists with teaching basic computer skills in Spanish. German's support over the years has been invaluable to the agency and the children and families. German helps to transport families who may have limited access to public transportation – providing them with a way to make doctor's appointments or other personal appointments in the area. German also led some students in a special Lego-robot building competition, focusing on computer coding and electronics-building. Not only does German's dedication make it possible to reach so many families in the Academic Fun Club and Farm Labor Homes programs, he is enabling families to take care of themselves and become more self-sustaining.

German is like family to the staff and participants and to the Walla Walla community. German has served the most volunteer service hours than any

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other Children's Home Society of Washington volunteer and was one of the first weekly male volunteers. German works so seamlessly with the staff and participants that most people don't realize that he's been volunteering his time – he is truly integral to the success and reputation of Children's Home Society of Washington programs.

German is able to relate to and provide services for participants in programs whom staff may not be able to relate to or impact quite as deeply. As a father figure to many of the children in the program, German is a unique volunteer. Not only does he assist with the tangible outcomes of the program, but he provides something that metrics can't capture: genuine love, advice, compassion and support.

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Chuck Sonner
United Way of Thurston County
Category: RSVP

Olympia

Chuck Sonner, formerly a driver for one of Lewis County's largest food drives, became the volunteer director of the Winlock-Vader Food Bank. Chuck and his crew of 13 volunteers support 35 percent of the population of Winlock-Vader; an average of 750 individuals.

When the food bank lost over \$5,000 in annual funding because of the closure of the local Sacred Heart Catholic Church, it was clear to Chuck that he needed new sources of revenue to cover the food bank's rent and utilities. The food bank was located in the basement on the corner of First & Fir, while the businesses above had been vacant for years. Chuck had the idea to revitalize a thrift store that was previously in one of the vacant spaces and have the proceeds fund the food bank to make up for the losses. Then he decided to include a deli that could serve as a central hub to the community. The board gave their okay and Chuck rolled up his sleeves. Chuck and a crew of volunteers worked tirelessly using repurposed materials and their own sweat equity to bring the Rowdy Rooster deli and the thrift store to fruition. Now a bustling homey hub, the Rowdy Rooster has a space for community meetings. They serve a simple menu for breakfast and lunch, and regulars come for their favorite specialties. The volunteers in the thrift store routinely rotate items and seasonal clothing. Rowdy Rooster is now a gathering place where community comes together.

During an interview, a man walked in and handed Chuck a drill. When Chuck asked how much he owed him, the man said, "happy birthday" and walked out. A woman came in looking for Chuck. She said her elderly neighbor who cares for her 18-year-old autistic grandson was out of firewood and needed some to get through the month. Chuck made a note and said he would have it delivered. While the food bank receives goods from Food Lifeline, Northwest Harvest, Walk and Knock and the Lewis County Food Bank Coalition, Chuck dreams for more. He envisions a resource center. This way, if someone loses everything in a fire, they have a place to go to get whatever they need, as well as hope during their hard time. His goal is to work with local

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faith-based organizations and civic groups to make this happen. Meanwhile, the new deli and thrift store proceeds are trending to exceed their annual expectations. To quote Chuck, "I've never had a need like some others do. If we don't take care of our community, who will?"

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Harold (Dick) Vlist **Bremerton**
Puget Sound Navy Museum
Category: Veteran

Dick Vlist's extraordinary dedication to the Puget Sound Navy Museum (PSNM) and the community of Bremerton, through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), has helped preserve U.S. Navy heritage, inspire future generations to learn about Navy history, and advance the well-being of the citizens of Bremerton.

In the past year, Dick has taken part in docent work at the front desk of the Museum, fundraising through the Kiwanis Club, donating books to the Retsil Veteran's retirement home, organizing a reunion for sailors who served on the USS Parche, and charity work with the Bremerton Elk's Club. Dick's dedication to volunteerism has cemented himself as a pillar of the community in Bremerton.

Dick's service in World War II and the Korean War instilled in him the drive to continue serving his country. On a weekly basis, Dick volunteers at PSNM's front desk where visitors have the opportunity to interact with one of the few remaining WWII and Korean War veterans. He is passionate about Navy history and enjoys educating visitors about the Navy's heritage. Furthermore, Dick is a member of PSNM's Board, where he has been instrumental in organizing community outreach and fundraising.

Dick single-handedly raised more than \$20,000 for PSNM's non-profit foundation which was used to provide transportation for local schools to PSNM's STEM Days activities. This has provided school children from low-income districts the opportunity to engage in STEM activities and has inspired future generations to learn about STEM-related careers. Over the course of last year, Dick has also dedicated 200 hours to staffing the front desk of the Museum. His volunteer service provides the manpower necessary to keep this Museum open and the inspiration for visitors to engage in Navy history.

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His dedication to organizing the USS Parche reunion allowed Navy veterans the opportunity to visit with old friends and to promote the history of the most decorated ship in the U.S. Navy. Dick's work with the Kiwanis has assisted with the maintenance of the parks in Bremerton. His consistent donations of books to the Retsil Veterans Retirement Home brought joy and entertainment to many fellow veterans. Most importantly, his hard work and dedication at the front desk of the Museum has been instrumental in the day-to-day operations of the Puget Sound Navy Museum.

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William (Bill) Weatherby Federal Way
Federal Way Public Schools
Category: AmeriCorps Member

Bill Weatherby's service ethic is demonstrated through his devotion to his community. Bill served in the U.S. Armed Forces, and has continued to serve the community ever since. Bill has been a volunteer in Federal Way and the surrounding community for most of his adult life.

He was first introduced to the AmeriCorps program because of his commitment to volunteerism. Bill was a volunteer tutor and he supported the Federal Way Public Schools AmeriCorps program in a number of ways. Bill decided to serve as an AmeriCorps member in the 2016-17 program year. Every day that he serves the students he does so with a smile on his face. Bill regularly volunteers time above and beyond his required service hours to ensure the children, schools and families feel supported.

Bill has been connected to the AmeriCorps program in Federal Way for over a decade. He has supported events, tutoring efforts, and initiatives in numerous ways. When schools need help running a STEM night or a multicultural event, Bill steps up and volunteers his time. When members need support, Bill is there to lend a hand. Bill has even contributed financially to the program to help buy students Christmas presents when a local church could no longer serve in this capacity.

Bill goes out of his way to show the students that he believes in them and that he will be there to support them in their goals. Numerous praises have been received about Bill's service from his site supervisor, his building principal, and the students that he serves. Students in Federal Way struggle to meet the standard in math and reading. They need support in building basic skills so that they can meet their goals and achieve their dreams. Bill serves over 100 students throughout the course of his service week. He never falters in his belief or in his support. He has endless energy for this program and his contributions do not go unrecognized. Bill is the embodiment of AmeriCorps and volunteer service and is an outstanding role model for students, staff and stakeholders.

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Riann Wishon
Seattle Area Feline Rescue
Category: Animal Welfare

Shoreline

Riann Wishon volunteers with the Seattle Area Feline Rescue, where volunteers are heavily relied upon to carry out the mission. Riann became a volunteer with the rescue shortly after adopting a cat in 2014. Since then, she has been an instrumental force in almost every aspect of daily operations. Riann has logged more than 650 hours in the relatively short two and a half years she has volunteered with the rescue. Riann is an expert at all things cat care – when she does a job, it is reliably done efficiently and done well.

To make the weekly appointment at the spay/neuter clinic, the transporter must be at the Rescue by 6:00 a.m. or earlier. Riann is eager to help when others would rather be fast asleep. Each month, Riann does this job twice, sometimes three times. There are frequent transport requests on very short notice for cats to come into the Rescue and Riann is always the first to help out.

Riann was instrumental during a special event held in November 2016. The Rescue was a flurry of adoptions and activity all weekend and reinforcements for volunteers were called in. Riann was present the entire time to clean enclosures, wash dishes, cycle laundry, and attend to the needs of cats. This event resulted in the most adoptions ever done in a single day, and it could not have happened without Riann.

Riann is also generous of her home, and of her heart. Many of the incoming cats aren't immediately ready for adoption and Riann is always among the most reliable foster homes. Frequently she is asked to take the cats that will be particularly difficult, both because she wants to do everything she can to help, but most importantly because she will do everything possible to help the cats in her care become adoptable.

Riann is integral to so many parts of the organization - from training new volunteers to posting weekly adoption updates, Riann is responsible for many of the important tasks that keep the rescue afloat and successful. No matter the task, Riann is happy to complete it. She is selflessly giving of her time to carry out the mission of the rescue and dedicated to the well-being of the cats.

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Roberta Woods **Olympia**
City of Olympia Parks, Arts, & Recreation -
Park Stewardship Program
Category: Environment

Roberta Woods has shown exemplary fortitude, selflessness, and dedication to the City of Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation - Park Stewardship program. Overall she has contributed over 140 hours towards Olympia Parks programs in 2016; as a garden and forest steward of Bigelow Park and Lions Park, as a member of the Woodland Trail Greenway Association, and during the City of Olympia's volunteer work parties and events.

Roberta's commitment to volunteerism is unmatched. She is timely, consistent and reliable. She will finish a soccer game on a Saturday morning, then head straight to a volunteer work party and work tirelessly until the end. She stays to clean and inventory tools, load vehicles of Himalayan blackberry or heavy wheelbarrows, and gives other stewards a ride to their bus stop.

Roberta's commitment to Olympia Parks is unwavering. She volunteers rain, shine, snow, heat, or extreme cold without complaint. She will regularly engage park users to jump in and join the volunteer work party or encourage people to volunteer with Olympia Parks.

Roberta's accomplishments are many but she never seeks acknowledgement. She is the only volunteer that has signed on to steward multiple parks. Roberta's impact on her community is immeasurable. She pulled English Ivy, holly, Himalayan Blackberry and other invasive plants. She has planted hundreds of native plants. She has restored miles of native habitat. When other volunteers have questions, she has a passionate and ready response. She consistently brings her knowledge of aquatic ecology to the younger volunteers and her enthusiasm to everyone she meets.

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Sophie Yasuda
Woodland Park Zoo
Category: Youth

Seattle

Sophie Yasuda stands out among 750 teen and adult volunteers at Woodland Park Zoo. Since 2014, she has exceedingly demonstrated the zoo's mission to save animals and their habitats through conservation leadership and engaging experiences, inspiring people to learn, care and act. Her commitment and contribution to the zoo has grown exponentially each year, thus making 2016 her most outstanding year to date.

Sophie joined the zoo's ZooCorps teen volunteer program as a freshman student from Nathan Hale High School and has served over 1,000 hours of service to Woodland Park Zoo and the community. The average number of hours among other teens in her position is 420 hours. It is rare to encounter a young teen so inspired by the value of volunteerism for their community and themselves.

Sophie has continued to challenge herself each year to develop into the strongest leader she can be in wildlife conservation and environmental advocacy. Aside from the daily responsibilities of educating and engaging with zoo guests, Sophie has taken the initiative to participate in additional opportunities at the zoo to expand her personal and collective impact on the Seattle community. She has been an avid contributor to the Amphibian Monitoring citizen science project hosted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Woodland Park Zoo. She serves on a team of teens who piloted and continues to lead the Seattle Youth Climate Action Network. Sophie is also one of the original members of the zoo's Conservation Art Team, developing and implementing sustainable arts and crafts for zoo-wide and community outreach events. Finally, this past year, Sophie graduated from the first Portal to the Public training program at the zoo – a program funded in collaboration with the Seattle Pacific Science Center.

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One of Sophie's greatest accomplishments is her work with the Amphibian Monitoring citizen science project. This year will be her second year leading a team of teens out into the field to monitor amphibian populations at a local pond. With her enthusiasm, leadership, and devotion to this conservation project, she increased the size of her team, inspiring more young environmentalists to take action. This year, she and her team will be responsible for monitoring a wetland at the University of Washington Arboretum.

Sophie's work piloting and carrying out the Seattle Youth Climate Action Network (SYCAN) deserves the most attention in regards to impact on the critical needs of her community. Initiated in 2014, Sophie served on a team of teens from Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle Aquarium and Seattle Pacific Science Center to engage teens from all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds in climate action. In two years, SYCAN nearly doubled their outreach to the youth community to 272 teens from the greater Seattle area through climate action events, campaigns, and the annual Seattle Youth Climate Action Summit.

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GROUPS



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EMPLOYER-BASED PROGRAM



Concur *Seattle*

Concur's sweeping social responsibility goals include partnering with nonprofits to build, develop and strengthen the community by providing assistance in areas of need that affect daily lives. Concur has a well-established culture of service that is promoted by their senior leadership and resonates throughout the organization.

Providing more than 5,000 employees with 32 hours of paid volunteer time each year, Concur regularly collaborates with the United Way of King County to send teams of their volunteers to address the many needs in King County. Concur volunteers are proactive and schedule projects throughout the year that foster an ongoing spirit of philanthropy and participation. Concur volunteers are always willing to roll up their sleeves to serve in any capacity that will bring value to the community.

Concur is committed to providing time and talent to strengthen communities where employees live and work. United Way provides

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meaningful service opportunities that create a direct impact in the community and align well with Concur's goals for community service. Concur is a valued partner in United Way of King County's mission to bring caring people together to give, volunteer, and take action to help people in need and solve the community's toughest challenges.

Concur has recently empowered their employees to fulfill a commitment of 10 volunteer projects that have benefited local schools and youth programs, supported neighborhood food banks and skills training programs, and applied Concur employee talents through the design and construction of unique bikes for foster kids. In addition, Concur employees were among the 13,660 volunteers who participated in United Way's Day of Caring, the biggest volunteer event in the state that supports agencies all over King County.

Concur's volunteer service has provided people on the margins with job and life skills. Their volunteerism at local food banks supports individuals and families through a time of need and gives those who are struggling a hand up. They volunteered to benefit local schools and youth programs to provide kids an equal chance for a promising future. Concur employees created unique bikes for foster kids providing them with the opportunity to get outside, have fun, and enjoy the fresh air and exercise that all kids deserve. Concur volunteers serve with enthusiasm and big smiles – knowing that they are making a difference in their community.

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients

SERVICE GROUP



Sound Generations Volunteer Transportation *Seattle*

The volunteers of Sound Generations' Volunteer Transportation program go to remarkable lengths every day to help older adults access medical care and stay active within their communities. Without this dedicated and caring team of over 300 volunteer drivers, countless seniors would have little to no access to their important medical appointments. Braving heavy traffic, unfamiliar roads, and complicated medical facilities, the volunteers go the distance to ensure seniors in their community aren't forgotten. As one client put it, "When you are desperate, it is the kindness of strangers that makes life worth living."

The team of volunteer drivers not only provides much needed transportation, they offer a compassionate ear for listening and friendly companionship throughout the ride. Many of the seniors served by the program live alone in their homes, rarely getting out into the community. Going to the doctor becomes a major social event. The volunteers understand this and regularly are praised by clients for being "above-and-beyond helpful, kind, personable and day-brightening." They keep a watchful eye for safety in the home and help connect the seniors to other services when concerns arise. Without the outstanding commitment from Sound Generations volunteers, many seniors using the program would not be able to stay living in their own homes.

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients

The volunteer drivers have shown incredible commitment to the Volunteer Transportation program. Even during times of changing staff and the uncertainty that comes in the non-profit world, these loyal volunteers never falter in their commitment to the mission of the organization.

Volunteer Transportation's volunteer drivers commit thousands of hours of their time to the program and the older adults in their community. In 2016, the volunteers collectively spent 36,481 hours driving seniors to their medical appointments, equating to roughly \$1.06 million of labor (based on the Independent Sector rate for volunteer labor in Washington state). They drove 345,258 miles, taking seniors from their homes to destinations throughout King County and beyond, helping a total of 1,791 seniors throughout the year. It is a truly outstanding contribution to the community. When volunteers first join the program, they truly give it their all.

One of the paramount concerns for older adults is access to safe and reliable transportation. When driving becomes too unsafe due to changing health conditions, the options can be very limited. Family may live far away or be too busy with work commitments, taxis come with prohibitive costs, and for those lucky to have bus service in the area, waiting for and navigating the public transportation system can be a challenge. The volunteer drivers fill that gap, helping older adults get to their important and life-sustaining medical appointments. Having this need filled allows seniors to stay living in their own homes and communities longer, and provides for healthier longer lives. From quick chiropractic adjustments to life-saving chemotherapy appointments, the volunteers improve the lives of seniors every day. In the words of one customer of the program, "I am grateful for the volunteer drivers. Without them, I'd be completely isolated."

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients

VOLUNTEER FAMILY



The Ramirez Family plus a family friend - taken at a community event they helped put on.

The Ramirez Family *Centralia Police Department*

In 2014, Officer Ruben Ramirez, his wife Teresa, and their two children, Austin “Bo” and Leticia, took over the Centralia Police Department’s “Night out with Santa” program and expanded it. Similar to a traditional “Shop with a Cop” program, children in the community are provided toys and some clothing. However, as a direct result of Officer Ramirez and his family’s efforts, this program now invites families not just from the city, but from throughout Lewis County, to attend. Many of these families are ones that their jurisdiction were not able to include in their “Shop with a Cop” program due to limited funding.

The program invites the entire family to eat a meal with the officers, watch holiday movies, receive gifts and clothing for all siblings, have their picture taken with Santa Claus, as well as receive a voucher for a holiday meal from a local grocer. While this program is sponsored by

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients

the department and the Police Officers Association, the entire program is funded solely through donations.

Officer Ramirez and his family work endless hours throughout the year to fundraise, set-up, coordinate shopping for the families, and even provide rides for families who do not have access to transportation. All of this is done on their own time; including the Ramirez children returning from college to assist.

What Officer Ramirez and his family have done with this program is truly amazing. The families that are able to attend are living either at or below poverty level. As a result, the probability of the kids receiving the gifts they do is unlikely. But what is most impressive is the relationships that are created by the positive interaction between the families and police department staff. Officer Ramirez and his family unselfishly volunteer their time without fanfare. Since streamlining the program, well over 300 children throughout Lewis County have had a brighter Christmas. This is a program that Officer Ramirez and his family plan throughout the year; securing funding and sponsorship to ensure as many families as possible can be included.

Law enforcement and numerous families throughout Lewis County have all benefited from the tireless work the Ramirez family have put into this program. While there are others who assist, the Ramirez family is the driving force behind this project, doing all of this in relative anonymity, receiving nothing more than the satisfaction that they are giving back to others in their time of need.

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, since the early days of our nation, volunteers have played a vital role in our greatest challenges and triumphs — from patriots who fought for our founding principles, to men and women who support our country in times of war and peace, to neighbors who come to the aid of their neighbors, to individuals who contribute to civic organizations, schools and places of worship; and

WHEREAS, volunteer service is integral in addressing national and local issues, and is an effective strategy to help unite communities while addressing critical unmet needs; and

WHEREAS, Washington's 1.6 million volunteers demonstrated their commitment to improving their communities by serving more than 198 million total hours in 2015 valued at \$5 billion, according to the Volunteering and Civic Life in America report; and

WHEREAS, engaged community members are improving the lives of our state's residents by preserving the environment, helping students improve their academic performance, supporting veterans and military families, and contributing to public safety by responding to disasters; and

WHEREAS, it is important to honor those who give of themselves for the betterment of their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 11, 2017, as

Washington Volunteer Appreciation Day

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in recognizing and supporting those who volunteer and serve.



Signed this 27th day of March, 2017

Governor Jay Inslee

Celebrate Service

National Volunteer Week

Special Thanks:

*Frances Munez Carter, Executive Residence Director
Cuan Hoang, Mansion Chef*



Washington Association
of Retired and Senior
Volunteer Program Directors
www.rsvp-wa.org



Serve Washington
Changing Communities. Changing Lives.

