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*Governor's
Volunteer Service
Awards*



April 9, 2018
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

HOSTED BY: SERVE WASHINGTON

Volunteer Recognition Ceremony



Welcome

Serve Washington

Changing Communities. Changing Lives.

Amber Martin-Jahn, Executive Director

Serve Washington

Presentation of Awards

Closing Remarks



Executive Mansion

INDIVIDUALS



Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Sahira Barajas
*WA Campus Compact –
Seattle Central College*
Category: AmeriCorps VISTA

Seattle

Sahira Barajas, has truly embraced the spirit of service serving her third AmeriCorps VISTA term. As the DREAMers Support Navigator Sahira has increased the capacity of Seattle Central College's DREAMers program by developing and implementing a comprehensive resource and support network for undocumented students in the Seattle-King County area.

Her service has expanded opportunities for undocumented students to continue their education and pursue a living wage career. Sahira's activities this past year has included a comprehensive scholarship guide for undocumented students, completion of an "Introductory Information Guide: Supporting Undocumented Students, Families & Communities," a handbook for Seattle Central College staff and faculty regarding Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and undocumented students. She has created and delivered seven DACA information workshops both on and off campus. She has also created professional development presentations for faculty and staff, as well as community members. Two presentations were part of the Conversations of Social Issues by the Seattle Central College Library and one, "UndocuAlly" training was facilitated by University of Washington's Leadership Without Borders team. Another presentation, "Dreamers & UndocuJoy" is part of Seattle Central's Noon Lecture Series.

Sahira's participation on Seattle Central's Undocumented/DREAMers Taskforce means that she is continually updating information and learning about new resources and new places to disseminate information. Sahira is so committed to this service she has decided to extend her service by several months so she can help launch this next phase of DACA support programming; the creation of a peer mentoring program for undocumented students, in conjunction with Seattle Central's Basic and Transitional Studies Department.

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Jim Buck

Clallam County

Emergency Management Division

Category: Disaster Preparedness & Response

Joyce

Jim Buck has rallied the community to become more self-reliant and prepared for a disaster for more than a decade. In recent years, his efforts have blossomed into a community organization known as Joyce Emergency Planning and Preparation (JEPP). In 2017, JEPP received the Individual and Community Preparedness (ICP) Award Honorable Mention by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for their efforts

The Joyce community, due to Jim's leadership, has a shipping container with floor to ceiling shelves, climate control, food to sustain three hundred people for a month and a water purification system to supply potable drinking water. Additionally, there are medical supplies, sanitation equipment and sleeping bags for all. The community has raised thousands of dollars from bake sales and grants to cover the expenses of this project.

Jim and his team have made over seventy presentations to the public, including three city councils and the Clallam County Board of Commissions. Jim and his team have built a portable show and tell booth with posters, video and handouts which appears at fairs and events throughout Clallam County.

Jim's presentations are legendary and draw standing room only crowds for topics such as "Camping in Your Home," "Building 30 Days of Supplies," and "Storing and Purifying Water." His message is clear, concise and determined. Plan for a worst case scenario, supply yourself and your family with thirty days of food and water, be prepared to shelter in your home indefinitely as relief efforts will be slow to arrive and you will have to manage without power.

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Nyaila Flight
Woodland Park Zoo
Category: Teen

Seattle

Nyaila Flight's journey with the zoo began in middle school as a participant in an after school program. Since her first day, Nyaila has demonstrated her devotion to the zoo's mission, inspiring others to make conservation a priority in their lives.

Nyaila joined the ZooCorps teen volunteer program in 2015 and has continued her involvement as a volunteer assistant. She has served over 500 hours of volunteer service to Woodland Park Zoo, the community, and wildlife conservation.

Nyaila's most significant impact is her mentorship to her ZooCrew middle school students. ZooCrew staff and volunteers meet students once per week at several public middle schools, inspiring students to be active conservationists. Since joining ZooCorps, Nyaila has made sure to stay a consistent volunteer at the middle school site where she once received similar mentorship. Her participation in the ZooCorps program has had tremendous impact on the community as she has interacted with thousands of zoo guests and hundreds of peers through the program. Nyaila's presence has helped build a strong community of passionate conservationists.

Over the last year, Nyaila has pushed herself to engage in new opportunities and ways to serve her community. One of those opportunities was serving as a Volunteer Trainer for an 8-week intensive leadership program where she gained and practiced the skills to train and mentor a new cohort of 50 volunteers. In those couple of months Nyaila developed as a leader, role model, and community builder – spreading her positive energy and joy for learning. As a result, she was invited by Woodland Park Zoo staff to help design and facilitate a professional workshop for youth development educators about integrating peer mentorship into youth programs for an annual conference hosted by School's Out Washington.

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Bonnie Gerken

Lynnwood

Sno-Isle Libraries – Lynnwood Library

Category: Education

Bonnie Gerken has been a volunteer with Sno-Isle Libraries since 2009. She joined the volunteer team at the Lynnwood Library after a 34-year career as a librarian. Her commitment to libraries and literacy simply runs deep.

Bonnie has been a member of the Retired and Senior Volunteer program (RSVP) through Catholic Community Services since 2010, where typically she volunteers over 140 hours a year, earning the Bronze Presidential Volunteer Service Award for the past six years. While Bonnie is well respected for her devoted service as a twice weekly volunteer, shelving media and tidying up the Library before the first customers arrive, she can also be counted on to help with children's Summer Reading and year round STEM programming.

Staff had this to say about Bonnie's 2017 contributions, "Whenever we ask for help, Bonnie is there, ready to actively engage with the kids. She shows up with her apron on and a beautiful smile on her face. Messy programs do not daunt her! She is really hands on and it shines through that she truly enjoys it." Considering her background, it is clear that supporting children's learning is core to who she is.

If that were not enough, Bonnie is best known for her beautiful display boards and cases in the Children and Teen sections of the Library that she adopted several years ago. She coordinates with the Children's and Teen Librarians months in advance to plan displays that are joyful, engaging, inventive, and align with the Library's current youth program themes and goals. Children and families stop in their tracks to look at and interact with the displays and dialogue with staff about the program themes, asking questions about current youth offerings. This often results in families signing up for Library programs they might not have otherwise known about that support literacy, math and science exploration, arts and creativity. Bonnie's humble service to the community and contributions to literacy, STEM, and libraries in general are truly an inspiration.

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Sonia Gomez-Armitage
City of Roy
Category: Public Safety

Roy

Since 2012 Sonia Gomez-Armitage has brought the expertise from her 22-year career with the El Paso Police Department to her volunteer role as a reserve police officer in the City of Roy.

Her volunteer activities have included researching and writing the Roy Police Department's (PD) updated manual of policies and procedures, acting as Roy Municipal Court's security officer, and patrolling and responding to calls for service. She has helped gather records to fulfill public disclosure requests, and every year she puts up holiday decorations around City Hall and the city's outdoors at her own expense. She purchases her own uniforms and gear. She has contributed unknown sums to cater lunches for Joint Base Lewis-McChord soldiers on Hometown Heroes Day, when they help with projects to spruce up the city. During 2017, the Roy PD had only one paid officer while a new officer went through Basic Law Enforcement Academy. Sonia volunteered at least one day a week, plus additional days during major events, putting in approximately 700 hours.

Following a local disaster when a silo collapsed and buried a worker, she recognized a need for the city to be involved with the Incident Management Team (IMT) of Pierce County. She completed IMT training and is now an active participant on the team. Her help was crucial to the safety of the public and other law enforcement personnel, especially during three events when hundreds of people converged on Roy: two Roy Pioneer Rodeo weekends, and the detour around the Amtrak derailment on I-5. Sonia's efforts enhance the safety of the public and the officers of the City of Roy. Her service on the IMT connects Roy to the resources of Pierce County and heightens the city's exposure and reputation in the larger community. Sonia's support boosts morale of all city employees. The impact on taxpayers, if the city paid for her services and if she had not issued approximately \$25,000 in infractions and citations, would have amounted to eight percent of the city's 2017 general fund budget.

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Sally Halela

Kent

Regional Animal Services of King County

Category: Animal Welfare

Sally Halela has been an incredible animal-welfare volunteer for over 30 years. A longtime volunteer for Regional Animal Services of King County (RASKC), and also a volunteer with MEOW Cat Rescue and Seattle Humane Society. Sally has been providing invaluable leadership and assistance to help the most vulnerable cats in distressed areas since she founded the all-volunteer South County Cats organization in 2006.

In 2017, she led the way for South County Cats by fundraising to provide financial assistance for cat spay/neuter surgeries, arranging for foster care for under-socialized cats and kittens to increase their adoptability, assisting with the trap-neuter-return of feral cats in south King County, and educating the public about feral cats and how community members can help these outdoor cats coexist in the environment. Sally manages the daily operations of South County Cats, which includes coordinating more than 40 active volunteers, emails, phone calls, recordkeeping, networking, and providing increasing cat-care and cat-related transportation. Last year she transported hundreds of cats to spay/neuter appointments and then back to their caretakers. She also delivered cat food to house-bound caretakers in need. Sally has contributed over 2,000 hours to South County Cats in 2017. In fact, she has donated a comparable amount of time each year from 2006 to 2017. Her leadership last year resulted in spay/neuter surgeries for over 33 dogs and over 1,500 cats. Her work also resulted in over 100 animals receiving microchips, which provide essential data for lost cats being returned to their owners.

Sally has also been volunteering for RASKC at least twice a month from 2013 to 2017. In 2017, Sally donated an additional 166 hours as a foster volunteer. Sally advocates for services provided by RASKC. She was the catalyst for bringing Pasado Safe Haven's mobile spay station to south King County on a regular basis, as a partnership between RASKC, Pasado's, and South County Cats.

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Gregory L. Hope **Bellingham**
Whatcom County Sheriff's Office,
Division of Emergency Management
Category: Citizen Corps/CERT

Gregory L. Hope is dedicated to the growth and integrity of the Whatcom Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program and the individuals who participate.

As CERT Program Manager, Greg invests himself in the community and the world at large. He is a focused listener and a staunch encourager, always reachable and always available. He embraces the concept of “a role for everyone.”

Under Greg's leadership in 2017, ten basic CERT courses were held in nine Whatcom County communities, training 160 students. Another 400 people are on the waiting list for courses. They can expect to participate soon because Greg has accelerated the process of training new CERT instructors. Besides adding classes at all levels, he has involved CERT in Bellingham's twice yearly earthquake drills, law enforcement's “Active Shooter” exercises, the triennial airport crash disaster drill, and a joint U.S.-Canada volcanic lahar drill (CAUSE V). He has shepherded the formation of six new area CERT Teams in Whatcom County. Greg pays attention to those around him while looking for opportunities to advance the mission of CERT in the county. He is open to fresh ideas while remaining centered on the tried and true. He is liberal in his passion for emergency preparedness and conservative in his use of resources, being a good steward of the planet. He commutes to the office by bus or bike.

Greg traveled thousands of miles around Whatcom County in 2017, bringing CERT concepts and classes to communities. He initiated 54 training mission number applications for the year. In 2017 he gave nearly 1,400 official hours and untold hours of off-the-clock time. His awareness of community events around the county allowed CERT volunteers to staff information tables at 10 safety fairs and disaster preparedness expos, raising awareness to the need for preparedness training. He is laying groundwork for the first basic CERT course to be taught in Spanish. The efforts of Greg make a significant difference in CERT response in the Whatcom County community.

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Amy Howell

Marysville

Marysville Community Food Bank

Category: Human Services

Amy Howell has been a dedicated volunteer with the Marysville Community Food Bank for several years. As a volunteer who is involved with the Marysville community, Amy became aware of children coming to school hungry after the weekend and from that helped develop the Food For Thought Backpack Program. The goal of the program is to help relieve childhood hunger by providing nutritious weekend meals to students during the school year.

The Food For Thought Backpack Program has grown dramatically over the last year. Amy recruited volunteers and now has a crew of 20-25 who come faithfully on Thursday mornings to pack and deliver the bags to the schools. When first started, 20 children were being served. This year there have been about 520 bags of food delivered weekly to 11 schools in the Marysville area. Pantries have been set up in the junior high and high schools so those in need may select their own food. The Food For Thought program has developed caring conversations with the city, school districts, counselors and teachers. New relationships have been built thanks to Amy's dedication to the children. Food For Thought has been praised by teachers who see an improvement in their students' ability to pay attention and be more comfortable with their learning tasks come Monday mornings.

With Amy's encouragement on Facebook and in person, she has given a wonderful opportunity to community members who are looking for a program in which to volunteer. Volunteers go home happy that they have helped Amy get food to hungry children. In the process, the Marysville Community Food Bank has also gained some new volunteers. Food For Thought has been shared with other food banks and programs are developing in many new areas. Amy has advised them on grant writing, ordering, storage, efficiency in bagging the food and delivery to the schools. Much of her ordering is from local stores, which helps the local economy. Word gets out to local organizations and city councils who have in turn become involved. Amy's time, effort, and community involvement has developed an amazing program.

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Jayden Nelson

Mary Bridge Children's Hospital

Category: Youth

Pe Ell

Jayden Nelson is an eight year old with a caring heart and a giving sprit. In her second year at Pe Ell Elementary School she read *Change Makers* by Libby Martinez and this caring heart and giving spirit was turned outward to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital.

It all began by donating her birthday money to the Hospital in March, but this was just the start. Several lemonade stands later and with the help of her mom and the community, she raised over \$300, which she personally delivered to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital.

In August, Jayden gathered supplies to make craft bags for the patients and their families and was able to make over 100 bags. Within each bag was a note of inspiration letting them know why she wanted to help them and how she was encouraging everyone to be a change maker in their own way.

This gift of giving and sharing kept going. Jayden set her mind toward having a toy drive for the Christmas season; a gift for a child who would spend the holiday in the hospital. She put the word out to her community using Facebook and set up a drop off location at her mom's place of business. During the next few months, lemonade and cider stands were held, toys were donated, and over \$1,000 was collected toward the purchase of additional toys that were all delivered before the Christmas holiday. During this past year, Jayden demonstrated her true nature of giving to others and showed what one person can do to make a difference in someone else's life. With the help of her community and her family, this is just the start.

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Tom Nordlie

Poulsbo

Poulsbo Parks & Recreation

Category: Environment

Tom Nordlie contacted the Poulsbo Parks and Recreation director to inquire about what was being done with the new park property on the Liberty Bay estuary.

Since that phone call in 2003 Tom has been the lead volunteer, project manager, and cheerleader. Poulsbo's Fish Park is now a 43 acre nature park in the middle of a growing, urban city.

The Poulsbo Fish Park citizen's steering committee, lead by Tom, plans and markets ideas for projects and matching support. They have met monthly for 15 years and built the park up to 43 amazing acres; a wonderful place to walk and enjoy the wildlife on the Liberty Bay Estuary. Tom's legacy at the park is twofold: walking trails and the inclusion of public art. The 19 ton rock with a jumping fish carved into it is still the symbol of Poulsbo's Fish Park. Tom worked with another artist who created a driftwood fish that sits atop of the small mountain in the park. And the huge painted murals under the car-carrying Lindvig Bridge are there because Tom worked with the wandering artist and encouraged him to come up with artwork that will be a legacy to all that visit for years to come.

In 2017, two major projects occurred, and Tom's fingerprints were on both. A contiguous two plus acre parcel with a flooded house was added to the park because of Tom and others' efforts. The property was eventually purchased for \$1 after it was deemed that the flooding would never allow a building on the site again. This site includes Dogfish Creek, the most valuable creek in the watershed. Soon after, Tom was contacted by Senator Rolfes, and she encouraged the committee to apply for a capital appropriation to link the last parcel at Poulsbo's Fish Park and build a viewing station on the estuary. The appropriation was approved and the next phase of Fish Park will soon be underway. For 15 years Tom has been the go-to guy for the all-volunteer Poulsbo Fish Park Steering Committee, city staff, legislators, organizations, businesses, and individual volunteers. Poulsbo is very fortunate to have Tom's passion, dedication and commitment in this community.

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Mike Port
Seattle Children's Hospital
Category: Health Care

Seattle

Mike Port has been volunteering at Seattle Children's Hospital Emergency Department with the pediatric population for nine years. He is dedicated to the emergent environment, the patients, their families, and his fellow volunteers.

Already volunteering four days a week, Mike offers to come in on his days off to be sure new volunteers are trained in a consistent manner. Mike is instrumental in helping others understand what is needed in the emergency room. This is incredibly helpful to the supervisors, but more importantly, it is impactful to fellow volunteers. Each volunteer consistently provides feedback that Mike's training was the most useful, informative, fun, and interesting part of volunteer orientation.

Mike makes an enormous impact on the patients' families. Mike is often observed checking on families to offer toys to patients and siblings to help normalize the hospital experience for children. One mom explained how stressful it is as a parent to help care for siblings of patients who are with them while the other parent is unable to be present, because she is so concerned for her child. Mike came in, provided snacks, and played board games with the patient and siblings so that she could have an in-depth discussion with the physicians. Mike is engaging, cheerful, and refreshing for stressed families and scared children.

In the emergency room, every day is new with different patient populations and needs. Mike is always sure to check what is the best possible way to help throughout that shift. This year alone, Mike has achieved his 1,000 hours milestone. He has helped train over 50 new volunteers and has committed to volunteering multiple shifts, including holidays such as Christmas. Mike was named "Volunteer of the Month" on multiple occasions. The emergency room would not function as smoothly without his dedication, organization, passion, and kindness.

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Myra Rintamaki

Heroe's Cafe

Category: Veteran

Lynnwood

Myra Rintamaki, a proud Marine Mom and Gold Star Mother has turned tragedy into healing through her dedication to veterans throughout Snohomish County. Myra has volunteered countless hours in support of the Lynnwood Veterans Initiative through her work with Heroes' Café, The Northwest Veterans Museum and the Edmonds Community College Veterans Resource Center.

As a member of the Heroes' Café Committee, Myra played a pivotal role in the monthly gathering which provides a place for veterans from throughout the region to meet other veterans, enjoy a wholesome meal and connect with a wide range of veterans' service providers. The Heroes' Café attracts over one hundred veterans to each of their monthly gatherings and has spread its good work to groups who are often marginalized such as veterans in assisted living facilities and veterans incarcerated in Monroe. Myra has been instrumental in the establishment and implementation of the Northwest Veterans Museum (NWVM), which is dedicated to preserving and passing on the rich history of veterans in Washington state. She is helping expand the museum beyond its physical space through the creation of the NWVM Speakers Bureau, an effort that will act as a service to help educators in the K-12 school system connect with veterans for classroom visits and assemblies.

Edmonds Community College's Veterans Program has benefitted greatly from Myra's dedication to veterans. She helped plan and carry out Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies. She helped the Student Veterans Association connect with the American Red Cross to offer CPR classes free of charge to veterans, as well as workshops such as stress management. Myra helps veterans from the college collect and distribute holiday cards for veterans written by children throughout the country. She also helped coordinate welcome back luncheons for student veterans at the beginning of academic quarters. Myra's enduring love for veterans and dedication to their every need make Myra Rintamaki the heart and soul of the veterans community in the region.

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Donna Saling
Bethel School District
Category: Social Services

Spanaway

Donna Saling's boundless energy and never-ending commitment to children, youth and families in South Pierce County impacts the lives of thousands of citizens each year. She has volunteered in the Bethel School District since 1972. In 2008, several unrelated tragedies struck families living in unincorporated Pierce County. Donna called several community and school leaders together to talk about how the community could lend support. Her leadership led to the creation of All Bethel Community (ABC) Day and the Mom and Pop Shop.

ABC Day is the product of Donna's idea to bring together as many community organizations, businesses, students and families as possible to create a spirit of community connectedness that would build a spirit of pride, support and caring for each other. In the first year, nearly 1,000 people came together to celebrate the Bethel community. Donna served as the coordinator of all vendors and exhibitors. By 2017, Donna had formed several committees to handle entertainment, food, business vendors and exhibitors, outside venues, publicity, logistics and security and over 7,000 visitors attended this one-day event. Family and community members look forward to ABC Day every year as it continues to grow and impact the cohesiveness of this community.

Donna also created the Mom and Pop Shop 10 years ago in an effort to alleviate stress for parents and families in the area who had to choose between paying rent and buying gifts for their children during the holidays. For the past 10 years, she has written grants and worked with Air National Guard personnel and the Bethel Transportation Department to hold massive toy drives and stuff the bus events to have enough toys and warm clothing for nearly 500 children each year. Last year she coordinated efforts with many Bethel students who wrapped presents and accompanied parents as they shopped. She also teamed up with faith leaders to provide 525 holiday meals and hundreds of articles of clothing for families in need.

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Barbara Tilly **Wenatchee**
RSVP of North Central Washington
Category: Senior Corps

Barbara “Barb” Tilly joined the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in 2013 as a Volunteer Coordinator and volunteer for the local Backpack Program.

Barb wanted to find a way to alleviate childhood hunger in the area during the weekends. She knew they would receive food Monday - Friday through free and reduced meals at school. The Backpack Program pilot started with her church taking on one school, collecting and distributing a bag of food to children on Fridays before the weekend.

There are now 24 churches and two service clubs serving over 700 children between Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Leavenworth. Barb and two of her colleagues write grants and fundraise for all sponsors involved. She serves with her husband at the local soup kitchen every month. Barb personally sews and adds materials together for feminine hygiene packets for young women in foreign countries, helps with blood drives and serves during emergencies in Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan counties. Barbara Tilly, at 82 years young, is an inspiraton for others.

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Mary Toews

Everett

Mari's Place for the Arts

Category: Arts & Culture

Mary Toews founded Mari's Place in 2011 and serves as the volunteer Executive Director. Mary volunteers at minimum 40 hours a week running Mari's Place.

Mari's Place, a nonprofit organization, provides arts and culture education for children and teens ages three to 17. Mary not only volunteers her time, she recruits other volunteers to Mari's Place. Volunteer artists teach classes, typically held six days a week for nine months per year. In the summer, Mary provides specialty sports education such as golf and soccer. Other volunteers help with office work. Mary's commitment to volunteerism is shown by her own actions and through utilizing volunteers in every aspect of Mari's Place. Over the last year, Mary has provided arts and culture classes to over 800 vulnerable youth including many immigrant families. She has added volunteers from Washington State University (Everett Branch) who are providing support to children and teens in math and English. Mary also implemented an outcome survey that demonstrates the power of the work Mary is making possible at Mari's Place: 89% increased confidence, 74% increased skills, 50% increased engagement in community and school, 58% improved grades in school.

Mary has given so much of herself to help hundreds of children and teens express themselves creatively. Mary is a mentor for these youth and a prime example of someone who has a passion in creating something that helps her community. She is a role model for children demonstrating they can achieve an education and be leaders in their community. Without Mary's devotion and tireless hours of volunteering, talents of children in Snohomish County would go unnoticed. Mary has changed the lives of hundreds of children and teens in her community.

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Ruby Vigo
College Access Now
Category: AmeriCorps Member

Seattle

Ruby Vigo has served as an AmeriCorps College Coach with College Access Now (CAN) for the past two years; first at Lindbergh High School and then Chief Sealth International High School.

From the first day at Lindbergh, Ruby was eager to learn and passionate about connecting with students. Ruby's dedication to their work and CAN's mission brought them to successfully overfill their cohort during the program's first year at Lindbergh. Ruby, being an alum of Chief Sealth, had been very interested in serving there. With an opening this school year, Ruby was given the opportunity to move to Chief Sealth from Lindbergh. This left a short window at Lindbergh, where there was no 12th grade coach. Ruby volunteered to split their time between the two schools until the position was filled. Ruby exemplifies the value of being student focused. Once the position at Lindbergh was filled, Ruby was able to fully support their students at Chief Sealth International. Ruby came in as a 12th Grade College Coach, taking over an already established cohort of 35 students. When this happened, many students wanted to join the program after meeting Ruby at events and they became past capacity with the number of students on their caseload. Ruby looked at the students they were serving and what students really needed their support. Ruby created a strategic plan to talk with all students and gauge their need for CAN's services and as a result was able to take on new students while simultaneously reducing their cohort size to 45 students, which is still above CAN's goal of 35 students.

Ruby was also able to build strong relationships with the Chief Sealth community and work with the Proyecto Saber program. This program is focused on supporting Hispanic students who might need extra emotional support or academic support. They have become a resource for the whole school.

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Isaac Wagnitz
South Sound Volunteers
Category: AmeriCorps Alum

Shelton

During Isaac's time as an AmeriCorps VISTA member at United Way of Thurston County, he was instrumental in the development and growth of South Sound Volunteer Coordinators and Volunteer Thurston.

Over the past year, Isaac has continued to develop and grow his passion for volunteerism by obtaining his Certification in Volunteer Management and stepping into new volunteer roles as the coordinator for the Volunteer Centers of Washington and South Sound Volunteer Coordinators. He is also leading an effort to establish a new volunteer center in Thurston County, Volunteer South Sound. This organization will provide a valuable service in the education and support of volunteer professionals and connecting community members with volunteer opportunities; connecting people through service. Without Isaac, these valuable professional networking and educational resources would have ceased to exist. Isaac's work impacts the community every day by broadening the roles of volunteers and volunteer professionals and is essential to the growth and development of volunteerism in our community.

GROUPS



Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients

EMPLOYER-BASED PROGRAM



Brighton Jones **Compassion in Action** *Seattle*

The Brighton Jones Compassion in Action program is built on the belief that giving back improves the quality of life for everyone involved. The company invests heavily in promoting compassion and putting it into action through philanthropic giving and volunteering. As a sign of this commitment, the company has challenged all 125 of its employees to commit to volunteering at least two hours per month, and they have accepted the challenge. Some key components of the Compassion in Action program that support employees in their volunteering include: The company offers unlimited time off for volunteering; in addition, donated hours volunteered are matched at \$25/hour up to 40 hours per year.

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To make volunteering easy and fun, the company has a committee whose focus is to identify and organize service projects that Brighton Jones employees can do in small groups throughout the year. In 2017, the company had 29 small group service engagements with local nonprofits. To encourage volunteering and help maintain motivation, everyone in the company is part of a Compassion Pod, a small group that meets regularly to inspire each other with ideas and share stories about volunteering. The company has created a full-time position, Director of Compassion, to promote compassion and challenge everyone at Brighton Jones to dedicate more time to volunteering and doing things for others. In addition, they have just hired a Community Giving Manager to build giving-centered communities with and among their clients. Many employees are actively involved in nonprofit leadership positions on boards for their schools, churches, youth sports, and various other local community organizations. These commitments represented more than 1,400 volunteer hours in 2017.

Lastly, the entire company spends two full days a year volunteering through its Day of Service initiative. When all of the employees of the company converge on Seattle for their biannual Team Week meeting, they take one day to engage in a local service project, and they invite their clients. For example, in November of 2017, 115 volunteers – Brighton Jones employees and 10 clients – donated 430 hours of labor to Elk Run Farm, saving the nonprofit organization over 57 days of work. Because of these efforts and a culture of volunteering that has existed since Brighton Jones was founded nearly two decades ago, the company estimates its employees (roughly 120 in 2017) have volunteered 4,600 hours with over 75 different organizations in 2017.

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SERVICE GROUP



Pullman Schools Food Pantry Committee *Pullman*

The Pullman Schools Food Pantry (PSFP) Committee developed and executed the Pullman Schools Food Pantry program to support the health of food insecure children and families within the school district. The PSFP Committee consists of Linhda Sagan, Meg Gollnick, and Kirstin Lightfoot.

The committee aims to meet the growing need of supplemental food for young students in Pullman and to prepare students for success in school. In order to accomplish this task on a weekly basis, these three women volunteer daily and work nonstop to provide supplemental healthy and nutrient dense foods for the students to take home on Fridays for the weekend. Bags are packed, distributed to classrooms, and confidentially placed in the students' backpacks every Friday. Also included in the bags is educational information regarding nutrition for the children and families. Without their dedicated service to the program, the PSFP would not be able to exist. The volunteer committee dedicate countless hours to outreach, securing resources through seeking donations and grant writing, stocking the pantry, packing the bags, shopping for low cost

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food, organizing volunteers, gathering supplies, marketing, gleaning trees and gardens for fresh fruit and vegetables, among a variety of other behind-the-scenes tasks. Teachers also have access to the pantry during the school day to support the students' success in the classroom.

The PSFP is unique because it does not qualify for U.S. Department of Agriculture grant assistance. Therefore, the pantry is funded completely by food donations and small community grants which are sought after by the committee. The PSFP committee members have dedicated countless amounts of energy into developing this program. When the program began one year ago, it was supporting 33 children at Franklin Elementary and 65 at Jefferson Elementary. One year later, the Pantry is serving 65 children at Franklin and over 100 at Jefferson. In January 2018, a third pantry opened at Lincoln Middle School and served 25 students in the first week. In the Fall of 2019, another pantry will open in the new elementary school, and discussions are in progress for opening a pantry in Pullman High School.

The committee has developed strong relationships with Washington State University and Backyard Harvest over the past year. The impacts of the PSFP committee's service on the community is immeasurable. Food insecure children and families benefit directly, but the ultimate impact of this program is the widespread support for the overall development, health, and welfare of these young community members. The program is on track to build a sustainable solution to minimize childhood hunger, empower children, and educate families on the importance of selecting affordable and nutrient dense foods for their children. By providing children and families the food today, it enables them to be successful learners and community members tomorrow.

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VOLUNTEER FAMILY



The Scheidt Family *Metro Parks Tacoma* *Tacoma*

The Scheidt family: Larry, Lynnette, Tara, Lauren, and Gabriella, give of their heart and souls to their community and change everything in the process. They see an issue and their team will fix it with tenacity. Their local 27-acre park was abandoned and homelessness and drug abuse took over. They learned to become advocates for those without shelter. They rolled up their sleeves to get those that were struggling in their community safe shelter and worked thousands of hours to reclaim their park. The park is amazing and people are moving to the neighborhood to take advantage of this once neglected space. This is what they had dreamed of.

They noticed their local business district was neglected and unused so they coordinated a Depave project to replace 10,000 square feet of asphalt with 6,000 new trees and plants. The neighborhood was lifted up from a concrete wasteland to the heart of a village. Residents were once afraid and now the avenue is filled with families enjoying the sweet smell of lavender. The greenspaces in the area were not maintained so the

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients

Scheidt family stepped up to keep them clear of illegal dumping and provided outreach to those they found struggling to maintain shelter.

Their goal is to engage the youth with seniors in the area. To push the athletic as well as the people who might have a disability. Everyone is important. They made sure the community was involved and that language or culture were not barriers to work together. They went extraordinarily out of their way to include every age range, every ethnicity, and especially every physical ability on every project. The Scheidt's loved to celebrate these successes with their neighborhood but there wasn't anything in the area. They coproduced the McKinley Street Fair where they partnered with a local church to give out 1,200 free stuffed backpacks to youth K-12th grade. Food trucks and street vendors flocked to be part of the fun in East Tacoma.

They are a special spark in the Pacific Northwest and have ensured that those that follow are just as enthusiastic to make things better than they found it. Since Larry has been diagnosed with Alzheimers disease, the community work is more meaningful to all. After all, he has led the way this far and his motto has always been "A team is a family of volunteers who decide to put their hands into the dirt and make something better for everyone." Lynnette is a bright star as a role model for all of the future leaders she takes under her wing. The goal is to teach community to find issues and be resourceful in progress. Before projects, the crowd is rallied with a Sherman quote saying, "We're all we got, we're all we need!" It sums up the hard work and the devotion to their community. A grim diagnoses of Alzheimers disease won't stop this family.

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 local and national issues, and is an effective strategy to unite communities while meeting critical needs; and

WHEREAS, the volunteer hours of Washingtonians demonstrate a strong commitment to public service and represent an astounding annual investment of approximately \$5 billion; and

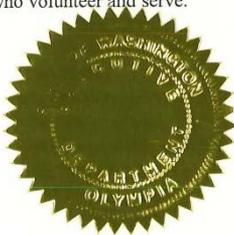
WHEREAS, engaged community members are improving the lives of many of our state's residents by helping students improve their academic performance, preserving the environment, supporting veterans and military families, and contributing to public safety by responding to disasters; and

WHEREAS, it is important to honor those who give their time, talent, and resources for the betterment of their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2018, as

Volunteer Appreciation Day

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



Signed this 29th day of March, 2018

Governor Jay Inslee



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
Celebrate Service
April 15-21, 2018 | Powered by Points of Light

Special Thanks:

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



Washington Association
of Retired and Senior
Volunteer Program Directors
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Serve Washington

Changing Communities. Changing Lives.