

### **HONORABLE MENTION VOLUNTEERS:**

Jodi Albright, WSU Pierce County Extension  
Betty Boushey, WSU Pierce County Extension  
Caitlin Brown-Gavina, Juvenile Court, CASA/GAL  
Diane Frey, WSU Pierce County Extension  
George Frey, WSU Pierce County Extension  
Bill Horn, WSU Pierce County Extension  
Barney Koenig, Juvenile Court, CASA/GAL  
Karen Larson, WSU Pierce County Extension  
Sally Jo McKean, Juvenile Court, CASAGAL  
Kimberly Neal, Juvenile Court, CASA/GAL  
Jan Pittman, WSU Pierce County Extension  
Diana Pressley-Rubel, Juvenile Court, CASA/GAL  
Irene Reed, WSU Pierce County Extension  
Consuelo Ruvalcaba, Dept. of Assigned Counsel  
Lloyd Tharp, WSU Pierce County Extension  
Alice Thomas, Juvenile Court, CASA/GAL

**OUTSTANDING YOUNG ADULTS - The following young adults volunteer on Juvenile Court Community Accountability Boards in the Diversion Program. These Boards review police reports, meet with and interview minor offenders, and decide what consequences offenders will have in lieu of prosecution.**

**Abby Garrett** continues to be one of the most reliable and consistent attendees on the University Place Board. She has established herself as a leader with very thought provoking questions and solutions for the clients. Her sensitivity and ability to readily establish rapport with the clients is extremely good.

**Rie Nordestgaard** has established herself as a council leader with excellent questions and solutions for the clients. She is extremely sensitive and has the ability to readily establish rapport with the clients. Rie's attendance at our diversion council meetings has been extremely important because of the small size of the University Place Diversion Board.

**Micah Park** continues to be one of the most reliable and consistent attendees at the University Place Board. He has established himself as a leader with very insightful questions and solutions for the clients. His sensitivity and ability to readily establish rapport with the clients is extremely good.

During her time with the Sumner Board, **Katia Pawlak** has learned well the skills to understand the burdens of and to have compassion for others. One of her many assets is her closeness in age to the clients that she interviews and how she meets the challenges of young people today. Katia is valued because she often relates those challenges to adult board members, which helps them to have more insight and understanding.

**Rianna Roehm** continues to be one of the most reliable and consistent attendees on the Tacoma Board. She has established herself as a leader with very thought provoking questions and solutions for the clients. Rianna is an outstanding student who will be attending college in the near future. She will be missed by her fellow board members because of her outgoing personality and frankness when dealing with the clients..

### **YOUNG ADULT OF THE YEAR**

**Christianna Friend** has contributed many hours as a Youth Leader in Washington State University Pierce County Extension 4-H Youth Development. She represents Pierce County on county, regional, and statewide committees and is a 4-H Ambassador, promoting the Pierce County 4-H program at all turns. Christianna exhibits a dedicated example of the 4-H motto – Making the Best Better – to everyone she meets, with patience and commitment to the learning process of 4-H.

## OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER GROUPS

The Sheriff's Cadets have enjoyed donating their time to assist the Sheriff's Deputies with their in-service training. They also have volunteered at the Pierce County Youth Law Forum, Sewing & Stitchery Expo, Zoobilee, Regional Hazmat training, and the Law Enforcement Memorial. Cadets have worked numerous parking and security details at different events throughout the community such as the Taste of Tacoma, Maris Farms, Renaissance Fair, and Community Relay Runs. They also have assisted in distributing information regarding criminal cases to the public, participated in Prescription Drug Take-back Day, and the Sheriff's Department Party Patrol. Cadets donated several hours at the Food and Toy Drives through Santa Cops and were involved with the delivery to those families in need. Accepting for the Sheriff's Cadets is Travis Lattin.

For their intern project, a group of three Master Gardeners with WSU Pierce County Extension found a serious need in their community and took on the job of rehabilitating the Gig Harbor Sand-spit. They planted native plants along the spit to the conditions required by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, including the removal of invasive plants. Part of the project included educating the community through signage. Accepting for the **Gig Harbor Sand-spit Rehabilitation Group** is Peggy Fox.

The **Lakewood Diversion Community Accountability Board** has an awesome attitude. When the number of volunteers for this CAB was very low, this group stayed the course and stuck with the Diversion Program with no complaints or gripes. They continued to give their best to the youth and families even if it meant staying longer than normal. Their service and commitment to their community is unsurpassed. Accepting for the Lakewood Community Accountability Board is Sharon Nelson.

**The Pierce County 4-H Leaders' Executive Committee** was created to support the over 1,500 members and leaders of the PC 4-H program. They oversee all 4-H project activities, sponsor several fund raisers each year to provide over \$5,000 in scholarships to members to attend county, regional, and statewide events; assist with coordinating the County Fair; conduct educational workshops for the 4-H'ers and the public; and support efforts to secure continued funding for the program. All members of the Executive committee are also club or project leaders and dedicate hundreds of hours to ensuring that the PC 4-H program offers the best service and assistance to the participating citizens of Pierce County. Accepting for the Pierce County 4-H Leaders' Executive Committee is Charlene Jarvis.

## OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

### ***Department of Assigned Counsel volunteer:***

As an Intern Investigator, **Joe Alvarez** investigates mostly misdemeanor cases and an occasional felony case. He interviews participants, serves subpoenas, photographs scenes, and assists the attorneys with anything else needed to get to trial. Once a trial is underway, he may have to testify as to how he performed on the case. If it weren't for Joe volunteering about 18 hours a week, cases would be sent to Panel Investigators and the County would be charged \$20 to \$35 per hour for the work. Besides doing a great job, without a doubt Joe Alvarez has saved the County a huge amount of money.

### ***Emergency Management volunteers:***

**Bill Hart** is block coordinator for his Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Team. As a Citizen Corps Council Board member, he developed a tracking system to track training and volunteer hours and other volunteer information. He leads training for Volunteer Reception Centers and works in the Emergency Operations Center at the liaison table to coordinate requests for volunteers. Bill's calm demeanor is a plus when dealing with people under stress.

**Karen Lebeter** joined first as a member of the Pierce County Animal Response Team. Now she is the lead! She is also the Treasurer for the Citizen Corps Council Board and helped them become a 501(c)3. She assists in the Emergency Operations Center to coordinate the opening of pet shelters in disasters and is an active Ham operator. Karen has worked very hard to expand various Emergency Preparedness projects.

**Ron Rich** is one of the Citizen Corps Council's best "go-to" volunteers for community fairs, hauling equipment, and talking to people. His heart is shown in his passion to help people recover from disasters. Ron works with the Volunteer Reception Center, is on the Liaison team in the Emergency Operations Center, and supports the efforts of the Disaster Survivors Advocacy Team, focused on assisting survivors in disaster recovery.

**Barbara ("Barbie") Warren** brings a calming, supportive nature to Citizen Corps activities. Whether working on issues with the Board, focusing on Care Team functions, or participating at the general meetings, Barbie helps remind us that throughout everything, there is a nurturing element that is crucial to all of the work. No doubt, Barbie will reflect that same manner when she help citizens who have just experienced a disaster.

***Juvenile Court Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program volunteers:***

**Sam Topel** takes care of case management and provides words of wisdom and support to the youth in the program. The program staff can always depend on Sam as their right hand man. Sam is very attentive to the needs of the youths in the program and is a great support to everyone in the program.

***Sheriff's Department volunteers:***

Since becoming certified as a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design evaluator, **Peggy Anderson** has provided home security audits to anyone in unincorporated Pierce County who requests the service from the Sheriff's Department. She provides a detailed report identifying those areas of compliance with the best practices of home crime prevention and emphasizes those areas where improvement is needed. Who knows how many homes have avoided a burglar because of Peggy's efforts. Even if it was only one, it was well worth the effort!

**Mary Anne Haines** has been with the Sheriff's Department since 2000 and began working in the Training/Background Unit in December of 2007. Her primary duties include data entry, data processing, and filing for the Background Unit. She also assists the recruiters with mailings. It's a bonus that Mary Anne's smiling face is the first thing anyone sees when they enter the office.

**Al Levin** works 2 mornings a week as the Peninsula Detachment's Handicap Parking Enforcement Officer. He patrols local parking lots and successfully deals with the public in the correct use of these designated parking areas. Al is very friendly and non-threatening when dealing with the public. Many people are not aware of how their misuse of Handicap Parking areas affects others who truly need these spaces.

**Donna Shuey** has been a valuable volunteer for in the Peninsula Detachment office for many years. She answers phones and greets visitors to the office. She also helps with the "extra" jobs around the office. She has been a driving force in making "gift bags" for the Crystal Judson Center. Donna has a warm personality which makes everyone glad that she is around. Her efforts are appreciated by all the staff.

***Long-Term Care Ombudsmen volunteers on behalf of Aging & Disability Resources in the Community Connections Department:***

Several times a week, **Jean Coy** visits new and long-term residents at Alaska Gardens, a skilled nursing facility located in Tacoma. Over the past year, Jean has been a consistent and reassuring presence in her facility. The facility itself has undergone a great deal of change, but throughout this process, residents have known that they can turn to Jean for help or information whenever it was needed. Jean's years of experience and willingness to share her knowledge have also been tremendously valuable to the new volunteers who have joined the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

**Chuck Gilchrist** visits two Puyallup-area nursing homes three or four times each week. He truly puts the resident first in his volunteer work with the Ombudsman program. Whether a resident is struggling with the decision to leave the nursing home, fighting to maintain control over personal affairs, or just needs to know that someone is on their side, Chuck goes out of his way to spend time talking a resident through the pros and cons of a difficult choice, or sits with them through meetings with staff. He treats all residents with the respect and dignity that they deserve and fights against inequality when he sees it. Chuck embodies the values of a real resident advocate.

**Ed Lasky** regularly visits to check on the well-being of residents of a memory care facility in Gig Harbor and visits with residents in a large skilled nursing facility. He is a passionate advocate for the Ombudsman program and regularly contacts his local legislators to let them know of the program's accomplishments and of its importance to the members of their community. Ed also contributes to the training and mentoring of new volunteers, helping them understand what to expect when they start visiting facilities on their own and sharing strategies he has used to resolve issues.

***Juvenile Court CASA/GALs volunteers:***

In spite of **April Ahlstrand's** youth and relative "New CASA" status, she is already making waves in the system. She is not afraid to raise her voice on behalf of the children she represents, and has done a very good job of being the squeaky wheel for her kids. She advocated strongly for two siblings to be placed in a foster home together after they had been initially separated. She did not give up even though she met with resistance and stonewalling. The kids are now in the same home.

**Mary Bartley** currently advocates for 5 kids from two different families. She had her first case conclude this year when the child was reunited with his aunt. She is on top of all of her cases, making sure that the little things don't slip through the cracks. In one case where she was concerned that the child needed counseling, she made the court aware of this need and then followed up. Mary is the consummate professional.

**Gayle Beard** sees her children, writes reports, attends staffing, and makes a real connection with the teen kids on her caseload. Her experience as a teacher with the Peninsula School District Alternative Program makes her an invaluable CASA. She connects with the kids, they talk to her, and she is their voice in court.

2011 was a busy year for **Michael Chisholm's** CASA/GAL work. New siblings were born to families of children he had previously advocated for and he reconnected with these families. While he prefers to advocate for babies, this year he advocated for an older child. He also testified in a termination trial and has volunteered to work with Native American children and families. Michael never complains and takes all situations in stride and remains the stable force in his cases.

**Margaret Farrell** never misses a court date, home visit or meeting on behalf of the children for which she advocates. Her reports to the court are detailed and precise and despite being a busy business owner, Margaret always has time to work tirelessly for the children's best interests.

**Tory Gildred** has advocated for 22 children over the years. In 2011 she had a particularly challenging case when she was appointed as the CASA for a 17-year-old severely developmentally delayed young woman who was aging out of the system. Tory advocated strenuously for communication and cooperation between DSHS departments, attorneys, and private agencies in order to ensure that the teenager and her inheritance money were protected upon her entry into adulthood.

**Denise Harvey** advocates for seven children, the majority of which are very challenging. Despite this high number of cases, Denise has an excellent record of producing quality reports to the court and never missing a meeting, court date, or home visit. She makes it a point to really *know* all of the children on her caseload..

**Kenney Hayes** has worked tirelessly on all her cases. On one particular case there has been a lot of conflict. Not only has she been professional, but she has made it clear to the parties that she is there for the best interests of the baby despite the many pressures she feels to align with one side or the other. Kenney has been patient and re-arranged her own schedule on a moment's notice to make sure she is aware of all that is going on in the case.

**Ken Kieffer** has been a CASA/GAL for 13 years and has advocated for 9 children. His work as a CASA/GAL was winding down in 2009 when he was asked by the program to be reappointed to a child that he had previously advocated for. He graciously agreed and the case continues to today. Ken is an asset to this child because he knows the history of the family and has been able to travel to Montana at his own expense to meet with the child. He continues to be a strong advocate and is passionate about ensuring that child's best interest is always the priority of the system! No matter how long it takes! Ken is unable to accept his award today.

**Jennifer Lee** dove into her case head first. She was challenged by a mother who was struggling with drug abuse and mental health issues. Her case has also been challenged by having an inexperienced social worker and a challenging family dynamic. She has maintained a professional demeanor despite the conflicts and has always kept the best interests of the child at the forefront of her advocacy. She also has not given up on the possibility that this family can be put back together.

**Elaine Morales** has been a CASA/GAL for 10 years and has advocated for 24 children. She always sees her cases to the end and is then willing to take on new cases. Elaine currently advocates for four children. She always makes sure that she attends court and turns in her court reports in a timely manner. Elaine knows the history of her children and families and is very level-headed in her recommendations. She strives to work as a team and seeks collective resolution to all situations. Accepting for Mary is Tracey Czar..

**Chelsea Muller** is a fairly new CASA working on her first case – a 3-year-old girl. Chelsea was concerned about the home this little girl was placed in and called a meeting of all the parties involved. After sharing information, Chelsea and the social worker agreed that the home was not a safe, nurturing place for this little girl. She is now in a better home and doing very well.

**Tressa Schofield** advocates for 3 brothers who are currently placed outside their home. She has had a number of challenges along the way, including having to work with a social worker who didn't work collaboratively and often undermined Tressa's role. Despite that, Tressa has hung in and continued to make sure that the boys have their voices heard in the process.

**Pam Sias** takes case after case as a CASA and works effectively with all of the people involved. Well-liked and respected by all parties on her cases, she is particularly adept at engaging parents and supporting their efforts to change. She has supported reuniting children with parents on some of her cases. In others, she has been a strong advocate for finding adoptive families. Pam recently was able to work toward having a young sibling placed in an adoptive home with his older sister.

***Juvenile Court Diversion Program - Volunteers who work on a Community Accountability Board. These boards meet with first-time juvenile offenders who have committed misdemeanors in order to provide an alternative to the formal court system. They hold youth accountable for their criminal behavior.***

**Genevieve Barwell** is a valuable member of the Sumner Diversion Board who consistently displays a high degree of professionalism and concern for her community. She continually seeks to better the community by turning lives around, assisting the youth offender to realize the importance of community responsibility and to aid in making families whole again. Genevieve cannot be here today.

**Lorraine Dinnel** serves as a member of the Tacoma Community Accountability Board as well as assists in case management activities in the Diversion Office. She approaches others in a friendly manner that exudes kindness, openness, and acceptance. Lorraine's presence in a group fosters cohesiveness and a collaborative sense of purpose. She epitomizes the definition of a positive mentor and role model that we like to present to the youths we serve.

**Donna DuVal** gave her heart and soul to Diversion for this past year by volunteering on a Community Accountability Board as well as regularly volunteering three half-days per week in the Diversion Office. She was always conscientious and punctual, very skillful in her job performance, humorous in conversation, and fashionable beyond compare.

**Marcie Kahler-Davis** is a true asset to the Sumner Diversion Board. She has uncanny insight into the lives of the young people she meets in Diversion. Her ability to seek out the root problem that a youth is having and to help them better understand their responsibilities is her real strength.

**Smaly Khong** regularly attends the meetings of the Tacoma Board despite having to drive from her full-time student activities at Renton Vocational Technical College. She has given us some insight to those individuals who share her Cambodian origin. She asks thought provoking questions and persists until she is able to obtain the required information from the clients.

**Jasmina Meskovic** commutes from Kent to attend the Tacoma Diversion Board meetings. She has extremely good leadership skills and relates well to the clients that appear before the accountability board. Jasmina has completed her four-year degree and will be attending law school in the very near future. Her inquisitive nature and reliability as a volunteer has aided in the stability of this Board.

**Diana Teeter** has always been a reliable attendee at the University Place Diversion board meetings. She has volunteered to be an Hispanic translator when it was discovered we did not have one present. Diana stands alone as a very capable and quick learning member of the University Place team.

***Parks and Recreation volunteers:***

**Chris Breer** has been a head coach in Outdoor Soccer, Indoor Soccer, Basketball, and Coach Pitch Baseball. Each season usually runs 7-8 weeks and there is a minimum of 3 hours dedicated each week for each sport. Chris is a key player in making sure all kids walk away feeling good about themselves. He is the reason why our youth will learn positive life skills for the future as well as just have plain FUN!

**Kiyoko "Kay" Bridges** coordinates the Drop-In Pickle Ball Program at the Lakewood Community Center. From the set up of the equipment to the collection of the drop in fee, Kay takes care of it all! She also tracks members who have purchased a six month or annual pass for the program. When Kay is not able to be present, she ensures there is a registered volunteer who can cover her important position. Community members were able to play pickle ball at a low cost because Kay volunteered 460 hours last year to support the program and not incur any staffing cost.

#### ***4-H Youth Development volunteers who work with Washington State University Pierce County Extension:***

**Susan Becker** is an extremely active 4-H volunteer, teaching young people about the agriculture industry and food groups through Dairy Goat projects, the Puyallup Fair School in the spring, and the Traveling Fair Farm which visits schools in fall. Susan has served on the Pierce County Fair Board and currently is an Assistant Superintendent of Dairy Goats for the Pierce County Fair.

**Carol Beckman** has been a dedicated Pierce County 4-H leader for 10 years. She raised her children in 4-H and is now guiding her grandchildren in the 4-H experience. Her heart is with the young ones and she opens her club to kindergarteners, as she believes that the providing the youngest one with the education experiences of 4-H will mold them well and provide them with the skills needed to grow into productive and giving adults. In addition, Carol coordinates the summer exchange program for youth of Japan and Pierce County.

Five years ago, **Misty Beckman** picked up on her mother's legacy as a volunteer 4-H leader. In addition to carrying on the family tradition, she extends herself to educating young 4-H'ers in the area of caring for and raising small animals – specifically cats. Misty also focuses on developing leadership skills in youngsters that will carry them through adulthood.

**Rich Carr** has contributed greatly to the Pierce County 4-H Program by spending much of his time building the website for the 4-H Horse Department. His efforts are greatly appreciated by hundreds of current leaders and members, as well as newcomers looking to join 4-H; communication has been greatly improved. Rich volunteers at many events and offers a myriad of any technology resources and support to the program.

**George Hansen** has shared his expertise by leading youth in the mechanics, safety, discipline, and all else that is involved with shooting sports. He is the type of leader who let the youth stretch into leadership roles in their shooting club and take it on as their own. It allowed George to move into a position of advisor rather than leader and he's enjoying watching the youth develop into responsible handlers of firearms.

An active project leader in Animal Science, Cats, and Shooting Sports for the past 4 years, **Misti Hite** has dedicated herself to sharing her expertise by teaching discipline and leadership to young people through her chosen project selections. Misti is experienced in dealing with youngsters with special needs – the physically disabled and mentally challenged – and uses this experience to offer life skills training to 4-H members with special needs.

Although **Terry Jarvis** has not been a formal 4-H project leader for very long, he has supported the program in many ways for some time. After raising his daughter in 4-H, he became involved with the International Exchange between 4-H and Japan. Terry has been actively involved in Pierce County 4-H fund raising to support member scholarships and grants and is now a project leader in photography.

**Marianne Knowlton** became a 4-H volunteer 16 years ago. Although her projects are limited, her interests are many – from food & nutrition to swine, and much in between. She works with the youth planning public presentations, preparing record books and educational posters, and making the work fun as well as educational. Marianne works with her club's community service projects collecting food for food banks, special families' needs, our military members, and providing meals for the homeless.

In the 12 years that **Beth Mantegna** has been a volunteer 4-H leader in Pierce County, she has opened her club to youth interested in a myriad of projects. She teaches life skills, self-confidence, and leadership through Expressive Arts, Animal Science, and Entomology. She imparts the importance of fresh, homegrown foods through the Plants & Soils projects, leading to healthier eating habits at a young age. Beth is also Assistant Superintendent for Dairy Cows at the Pierce County Fair.

**Lori Markeson** works with youth in 4-H to delivering educational benefits by leading youth in life-skills projects such as leadership development & mentoring, food & nutrition, creative arts, and shooting sports. Lillian Nagy will accept her award.

**Lillian Nagy** is described by her fellow leaders as a volunteer, excelling above and beyond the usual. She is always willing to help wherever possible, and she puts in a great deal of time helping get dormant projects up and running again. Lil unselfishly comes up with great ideas and works diligently with members and leaders.

**Gaylen Russell** is an Animal Science project leader, teaching youth about South African Boars. Because of his passion for the preservation and management of our natural resources, he has assumed the responsibility of Superintendent of 4-H Environmental Stewardship, leading him to teach our youth to treat our environment with respect. Gaylen is also the Assistant Superintendent of Public Presentations and a past president of the Pierce County 4-H Leaders' Council Executive Committee.

**Jerome "Jerry" Vos** is a new club leader. He took over a club rather than let it die out when another leader had to step down. He has contributed a lot of ideas and always offers to help. He is not afraid to put his ideas out there (particularly fund raising ideas) and is very open to questions without taking it as an insult. People can count on Jerry to help wherever needed or he finds a club member or leader to help – he is a real resource developer.

**Jeff Watts** delivers educational benefits by leading youth in life-skills projects such as the training, care, and health of horses through veterinary sciences. He is a current Horse Club leader. Jeff has strong ideas and convictions about the 4-H program and willingly shares them.

***Master Gardener volunteers with WSU Pierce County Extension:***

**Joan Benderson** was instrumental in helping the Curran Apple Orchard get grant money for interpretive signage. She also provides support for the University Place Community Garden. Joan is now in the pilot phase of helping to evaluate the Master Gardener Program.

**Don Campbell** has worked very hard on the speakers' bureau for the Master Gardener Program, providing structure and content to this vital part of the volunteer program. He works with the other 35 volunteers who are a part of the speakers' bureau to offer support and guidance and has eagerly taken a leadership role.

**Mary Ann Carlson** is one of those volunteers who is diverse enough to help in many areas. She is a mentor to new trainees and is one of the very best. She was at all 13 full days of training last year and offered real support to her mentees. Mary Ann is someone who will say, "sure" when asked to lend a helping hand. She goes above and beyond, all the while maintaining her friendly and easy-going demeanor.

**Alice Dionne** has been co-leader of the Speakers' Bureau since becoming a Master Gardener last year, demonstrating her go-getter spirit and effective yet flexible leadership. She has increased the number of requests for talks fulfilled to 90 percent. Alice has also provided support to the new University Place Community Garden.

**Victoria Farnsworth** has excellent gardening knowledge. She has written articles for magazines and single-handedly developed a butterfly garden at the Puyallup Demonstration Garden. She also took on the leadership role for a clinic near her home. Victoria gives presentations to civic groups on behalf of the Master Gardener Program, mentored the 2011 training class, and is always happy to work a clinic.

**Virginia Ferguson** demonstrated initiative in finding a community need and doing something about it. She has been working with a Boys and Girls Club in Tacoma's south end to develop and plant a vegetable garden. She has been instrumental in ensuring the success of the garden with the youth and has introduced them to vegetable gardening and nutrition through her project. Virginia also serves on the Pierce County Master Gardener Foundation.

**Jason Fumasi** is an avid vegetable gardener and works in the landscape industry. He took on the leadership role at a middle school, helping them design and implement their own vegetable garden. Jason also works diagnostic clinics on a regular basis.

**Janice Kampbell** has been working in collaboration with 4-H with the Guadalupe Land Trust, helping them develop their youth gardening programs. She has a real knack with kids and has been gracious in guiding the community garden leads in working with the kids. She has dedicated a huge amount of time to the project and has been instrumental in its success.

**Jennifer Redfern** has been very active as a first-year Master Gardener. More than 100 of her volunteer hours were spent working in the Vegetable Garden, and she has agreed to be the lead for the Intern project in this area in 2012. All of the produce raised in 2011 was donated to the Puyallup Food Bank. Jennifer is quick to volunteer to help with other activities like the Puyallup Fair.

**Patric Shearer** has done many different things to help the program. He was a mentor for the 2011 training and helped out with administrative duties around the office. He constantly asks how he can help. Patric stays in touch with other Master Gardeners to see how he can help on their projects as well. When he sees a need in the program, he wants to fill it.

**LONGEVITY AWARDS - *The following volunteers are recognized not only for their work but for their longevity as volunteers on behalf of Pierce County Government. They are all part of the WSU 4-H Youth Development Program and have dedicated their lives to help make the best better by mentoring our youth.***

**Doreen Barry** has been a 4-H Leader for 33 years. She has been an established part of the dog and horse projects for longer than anyone can remember. Many of the youth she mentored now have kids of their own in 4-H--probably some grandkids, too. She works tirelessly supporting the county program and state fair and is known for helping the youth with a caring attitude.

**Dianna Carlson** has been in multiple leadership positions over the past 22 years. When her daughter was in 4-H, she realized the kids had no program in which to show their performing arts skills and set about to create that program which has been replicated in other counties. Her dedication to have the performing arts as a place for fun and building up confidence has helped many young people become today's leaders.

**Sharon Fisk** has been a 4-H Leader for 20 years. She has worked tirelessly supporting the dog club and is now preparing grandkids for the adventure. She has held many leadership positions and is currently the treasurer for the Leaders' Council. Yes, the treasurer--that says a lot about a volunteer.

**Cindy Iversen's** two daughters drew her into 4-H leadership 22 years ago. For many years she has been the lead chaperone for the Pierce County delegation to the *Know Your Government* conference in Olympia. Many youth are civically involved due to her efforts. Cindy also has been an outstanding adult working with the 4-H Teen Ambassadors. The youth know she is supportive, will let them learn from their mistakes, and that she specializes in having fun the whole time.

**Jaydeen Nation** has been a 4-H leader for 26 years. She has been a dog and horse project supporter who works tirelessly with youth to be prepared for shows and events. Many youth have developed great confidence as a result of her support. Jaydeen also volunteers to bring animals to petting zoos at various fairs and events, including the Special Olympics

**Barbara and “Chip” Taylor** have been 4-H Leaders for 35+ years. They are known as the *Dynamic Duo Taylor team*. Both have been in a variety of leadership roles. Barb is known as a wonderful person to have around youth because of her encouragement. Her great knowledge of the dog project has many youth seeking her out. At shows, she makes sure everything runs smoothly so the youth have a great experience. Chip is in the State 4-H Hall of Fame, has judged Public Presentations at County and State Fair as well as taught a Leader Clinic on judging Public Presentations. He was instrumental in introducing Dog Agility to State 4-H and forming a State 4-H Dog Leaders Committee for which he served as Chairman for 3 years. Pierce County 4-H is fortunate to have Barb and Chip Taylor as volunteers.

**Mikki Woodard** has been a 4-H Leader for 21 years, delivering the educational benefits of 4-H dog projects: she works with special needs kids as well. Mikki has served as Dog Superintendent for the Pierce County Fair and helps conduct the Dog Bowl at the State Fair. This job includes conducting judging contests every year, training kids and leaders of other clubs on how to conduct the judging contest, and representing Pierce County as Superintendent of the state judging contest.

***SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS - The following volunteers are recognized for their very special achievements on behalf of Pierce County Government.***

**Elizabeth “Liz” Cable** has been a volunteer with the Sheriff’s Department since 1993. For the last 5 years, Liz has been the sole verifier of current warrants for the Warrant Unit. It is her responsibility to determine if a warrant is still valid before the deputies go into the field to apprehend the offender. Prior to this assignment, Liz was part of the unit identifying those people who pumped gas, but drove off without paying for it. She has recently taken over a work load from our Sex Offender Reporting Unit. Liz has saved the county approximately \$15,000 in the last year and more than \$187,000 in her 18 years of service. She ensures that the deputies are arresting those people in violation and that the warrant is valid. Currently, she is also involved in tracking and identifying the location of some of the most dangerous people to our community, the sex offender. Her dedication and commitment to the community of Pierce County makes our county a safer place to live.

**Christine Coulter** is a Tacoma Police Department Detective with a Master’s Degree in Counseling Psychology who volunteers with the Sheriff’s Department Mental Health Services. She has made a significant impact in the lives of many female offenders and has offered them an opportunity to reassess their choices, explore what has contributed to their arrests and increased their motivation to live healthy and productive lives. She has given many female offenders hope and the strength to make difficult but positive changes in their lives. At the beginning of each group, Chris identifies herself as a police officer as well as a mental health counselor volunteer. In many cases she has changed the negative perceptions of female offenders toward law enforcement and increased their sense of self-worth through the time and commitment Chris has dedicated to this population. Inmates have expressed the positive changes they see in themselves, and how their perceptions of themselves have changed for the better due to Chris’s interventions. Inmates have stated that they now view themselves with an increased sense of self-worth and expressed the desire to continue with counseling and self improvement once released from jail.

**Greg Martin** is the primary call-out driver/operator for the Mobile Operations Command Center (MOCC), a part of Emergency Management. This first responder vehicle requires a Chauffeur Drivers License. All the equipment onboard requires technical skills and specialized training. With a value of almost one million dollars, Greg is one of only three personnel who have been entrusted in deploying the MOCC. He has made himself available 24/7 whenever there has been a request for MOCC resources and support. He has time

and time again put his personal life aside to support the needs of Emergency Management, the Sheriff's Department, and community events. Examples of deployments include missing person searches, gang emphasis, SWAT missions, training, and homicide investigations. Greg's involvement is one of the key reasons the program is so successful.

### **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

**Cathy Swenson** has been a 4-H leader in the clothing project for 43+ years. Her smile and can-do attitude are a constant in the 4-H Youth Development program. Cathy's total involvement in 4-H is rumored to be over 50 years, since she herself joined 4-H as a youth! She has been an active Pierce County Fair Board member for more than 14 years and involved with the 4-H WA State Fashion Revue for 22 years. She also taught clothing construction to high-risk youth at the Tacoma Alternative School. As a member of the Home & Community Educators, Cathy taught fabric-related classes to the public, including how to effectively do one's laundry. Sounds almost trite, but a lot of Pierce County citizens have whiter, brighter, and cleaner laundry thanks to Cathy's teachings. Although challenged by health issues, Cathy continues to teach sewing classes in a room at her home built especially for this outreach. One of her students recently won all the regional *Make It with Wool* levels and competed in the national contest in Arizona. Cathy flew there to support her. The next time you attend the Pierce County Fair, look for the bench in front of the Home Economics building with Cathy's name on it. That's just a symbol of love given in her honor for all her volunteer work that has benefitted the citizens of Pierce County.