

The following volunteers and volunteer groups are being given Honorable Mention for their work on behalf of Pierce County Government. At this time, we ask that the Honorees please stand as your name is called. Audience, please hold your applause until everyone has been acknowledged.

Community Connections/WSU Extension/Master Gardeners

Jodi Scott

Emergency Management

Karen Lebeter

Donna Pearson

Juvenile Court/CASA

Shay Allen

Shannon Childress

Gail Harman

Ann Kahr

Kristeen McKenzie

Haley Miller

Kaitlen Pifer

Gennifer Planetz

Juvenile Court/Diversion Program

Cindy Anderson

Antonio Thomas

Parks & Recreation

Josh Feinstein

Tammy Haywood

Earle McWright

PLU Men's Basketball Team

Rogers High School Key Club

Annette Swillie

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER GROUPS

The following Group worked on behalf of District Court/Superior Court/& Tacoma Municipal Court

County City Building Information Desk for many citizens entering the County City Building, especially those attending court or transacting other court business, this group of seven volunteers is critical to ensuring access to justice. They are tasked with being familiar with the entire facility and they take a great deal of pride in assisting visitors in locating specific departments. They have been described as the "face" of the Pierce County Departments and courts housed in the building. In 2014 they assisted over 16,400 citizens.

The following Group worked on behalf of Community Connections/WSU Extension/4-H

Just Kidding Around 4-H Pack Goat Project this group of five enthusiastic individuals invested countless hours in launching a new Pack Goat project for Pierce County 4-H. They provided hands-on instruction and training, procured pack equipment for members to borrow, built a trails obstacle course and had it ready in time for the Pierce County Fair, where (21) 4-H members participated. They invested creativity, time and finances to this project and plan to expand the opportunities for 4H members in the upcoming year.

The following Groups worked on behalf of Parks & Recreation

Friends of the Upper Nisqually for the past 20 years the members of FUN have volunteered countless hours to pursue a new park in Ashford by looking for potential funding sources and partners. In 2010 their efforts resulted in the dedication of the first phase of the 84 acre Ashford County Park. Phase two, which includes a large amphitheatre, will be dedicated in June of this year. This devoted group of volunteers continues to help out in the park with beautification projects, storm clean-up, and planning and participating in community events such as Rods to Rainier and Parks Appreciation Day.

Harrison Preparatory School students in grades 6 through 11 and their staff at the new Harrison Preparatory School in the Clover Park School District are credited by the Parks and Recreation Department for helping to make Seely Lake Park more inviting to the public. 61 students contributed over 420 hours removing large amounts of invasive plants, weeding flower beds, and distributing woodchips around the site. The new school is located within walking distance to the park and continued student support is planned in 2015.

Mt. Rainier Lutheran High School Environmental Science Class students and their teacher, Kurt Scarce, provided a much needed cleanup service within the Parkland Prairie Nature Preserve. Over a period of four months, the students pulled up many of the invasive Scotch Broom shrubs from the northeast corner of the property, allowing native plants the opportunity to repopulate the area. As they remove the invasive plants from the land, the students have been researching and learning about the South Puget Sound Prairie ecosystem, focusing on the plants and shrubs originally found in the area. They plan to propose a reintroduction of some of the plants to the Parkland Prairie Nature Preserve, including the Golden Paintbrush which is currently on a rapid decline and only found in a few locations in Washington. Their continued service at this site is much appreciated.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ADULTS

The following volunteers work on behalf of 4-H Youth Development with Washington State University Pierce County Extension.

The following Volunteers worked on behalf of Community Connections/ WSU Extension/4H

Caleb Campbell has shown outstanding leadership in his role as a youth representative on the Pierce County 4-H Council Executive Board and as a representative on the Pierce County Fair Board. Caleb has been in 4H for 8 years and was the President of his club for 2 of those years. He is a Teen Leader and an excellent role model and mentor to all club members. He volunteered 150 hours in 2014. Caleb is a pleasure to work with and a real asset to 4H programs.

Breann Hite is very helpful and patient while working with younger 4-H members. In 2014 she volunteered 150 hours and taught club members how to care for and show their cats at the Pierce County Fair and the Washington State Fair. Breann also lends her mild-mannered cat to members so they can practice and prepare for judging time. Breann has been described by her club co-members as “awesome.”

The following Volunteers worked on behalf of Parks & Recreation

Landon Knight has assisted the Parks and Recreation Department with a variety of different special events and programs over the past year including the No Sun Fun Run, Daddy/Daughter Dances, Companionship Prom, and park beautification at South Hill Park and Chambers Creek Regional Park. He is always eager to help, loves volunteering and makes sure things are running smoothly so anyone participating in an event is having a good time. Landon is willing to do any task and is kind, courteous and caring of others.

Hunter Shipman volunteered with Parks and Recreation’s Companionship Program, a fully inclusive recreational program that offers community events and activities for children of all abilities and their families and friends. Hunter goes out of his way to ensure that all of the program participants feel included and welcomed. He dances, talks and plays with everyone and encourages 100% participation in the activities. He eagerly follows any directions he is given and steps up to take on additional responsibilities without being asked. Hunter is a pleasure to work with.

OUTSTANDING ADULTS

The following Volunteer worked on behalf of Community Connections/Aging & Disability Resources

Jane Anne Allen has volunteered for eight years and is a passionate advocate for our county's senior citizens. She has served as the Chair of the Aging Resources and Disability Advisory Board and the Quality Improvement and Customer Service Committee. In these capacities she interacted with consumers, senior centers, and even accompanied home meal delivery drives to talk to clients. Jane Anne also introduced the File of Life to ADR, a tool that provides first responders with critical health information at the time of a crisis.

The following volunteers worked on behalf of Community Connections/WSU Extension/4-H

Doreen Barry has volunteered for 35 years in the 4-H program. She delivers the educational benefits of multiple projects as a leader and has served on committees to ensure that there are sufficient available resources for youth. Doreen always has a full 4-H club, partly due to her warmth and caring about children and animals. She interacts with the adult volunteers and parents with the same ease as with her club members.

Misti Hite volunteers as a club leader for a cat group. For six years she has graciously answered the many questions from new kitty owners, as well as the numerous phone calls from parents regarding the club. She was nominated by a parent, who pointed out that Misti's informal and open teaching style during stressful times, such as fairs and shows, has been wonderful.

For the past twenty years, **Connie Medeiros** has unselfishly given her time and knowledge to many programs, including working with children interested in horses, cats, and performing arts. She is the Pierce County Fair Superintendent for Performing Arts and the coordinator of the Horse Project Leaders' Handbook. Connie doesn't only assist her own club, she's willing to share her time and resources with any child that needs her, teaching leadership and computer skills as well as the other subjects.

Laura Mendoza has volunteered for the last eight years with the Graham Crackers 4-H Club, helping boys and girls throughout the county learn the art of sewing as well as helping them to develop confidence in their skills by encouraging them to enter the county and state fairs. She also volunteers at the fairs as Sewing Superintendent.

Jaydeen Nation is another long-term volunteer. For 28 years, she's worked with several projects as a leader and worked with youth and adults to ensure that the educational experiences impart life-long skills. Jaydeen especially loves to share her animals with the members, some of whom cannot keep animals at their own homes.

Susan Parr has volunteered for the Pierce County Extension and 4-H for the past 44 years. She is a patient, knowledgeable and welcoming person. Susan is willing to give time to monthly meetings and events, to work individually with members on additional nights separate from the meeting times. She is always available to help members and adults and logged 920 volunteer hours in 2014,

In the two years that **Heather Quirie** has volunteered as a 4-H leader, she has gradually increased the number of projects she oversees. In 2014 Heather took over the 4-H Dog Agility project, including creating practice arena on family property. She has breathed new life into an endangered program and is dedicated to the kids of Pierce County who are into the sport of dog agility and games.

Twenty-eight years ago, **Nancy Traversie** started a 4-H club in the middle of Tacoma in the Hilltop area. She began teaching arts and crafts and has gradually worked the focus of interest into a variety of subjects, including Public Presentations, Judging, and Fairs. Besides crafts, she's taught children to sew, participate in Fashion Revue as well as to cook and participate in kitchen activities at fairs and other venues. She has great patience and caring and is especially helpful in ceramics crafts. Nancy has also served on the Pierce County 4-H Council Executive Board.

The following Volunteers worked on behalf of Community Connections/WSU Extension/Master Gardeners

Dana Borland has volunteered for five years and was the Hospitality lead for the Master Gardener training in 2014. This involves inventorying and purchasing food and serving items and arriving at the classroom by 7 a.m. (two hours before the student) on class days. She then stays after and cleans up for the ten days of the class, not leaving until 5 p.m. Dana cooked large pots of soups, made dozens of baked potatoes and other lunch items for the classes.

A volunteer for just one year, **Linda Chandler** gave nearly 175 hours and natural talents to help the Children's Garden project. This involved making them a garden called "Pirates and Treasures of the Garden." She designed and planted the gardens and organized work parties and volunteers to build the pirate ship. Linda volunteers in plant clinics and community gardens and on decorating committees for events.

Cyndy Dillon is an amazing whirlwind and tireless volunteer for many environmental causes in Pierce County. She is co-leader of the Sehmel (Zaymull) Homestead Park Demonstration Garden where she leads and performs much of the heavy work in the heritage gardens including proper watering techniques, and removal of invasive plants, like ivy, holly and blackberries. She also works one shift a week at the main Master Gardener office in Tacoma.

Alice Dionne has been a Master Gardener for four years and volunteered more than 500 hours in 2014. During her tenure, the coordinator has observed that Alice can do any task given to her with ease and grace. In 2014 she singlehandedly managed the Master Gardener Speaker's Bureau, arranging for presentations to more than 100 Pierce County organizations. In addition, she serves on the Continuing Education Committee and volunteers at the office clinic.

Christopher Dobbins is a reliable volunteer who goes beyond normal expectation. Christopher helped with the 2014 plant sale fundraiser, contributes many hours at plant clinics, volunteers as a Master Gardener representative at the Hilltop Urban Gardens, and has been elected to serve on the board of directors of the Foundation.

Virginia Ferguson is a natural leader and in 2014 gave the Master Gardeners Program nearly 450 hours. She's on the Foundation's Board of Directors and is on its Audit Committee. She volunteers at the many events sponsored throughout the county, helping local gardeners with their horticulture questions.

Karen Larson's main Master Gardener contribution is at the Gig Harbor Demonstration Garden at the (Zaymull) Sehmel Homestead. She has been a Master Gardener for nine years and put in more than 200 hours in 2014 helping Pierce County citizens. She also serves on the Master Gardener's Foundation of Pierce County Board of Directors.

For the past five years, **Nancy Mantey** has been a ray of sunshine to the Master Gardener Program, brightening any room with her amazing sense of humor and good nature. She's the mainstay of the financial program for the book sales, volunteers as a mentor for new Master Gardeners, and is willing to lend a hand wherever she's needed.

Kathy Matthews contributed many hours to the program, and was instrumental in the Gig Harbor Community Garden's acquisition of a 2014 grant for garden repairs and maintenance. In 2014 she also served as secretary for the Master Gardener's Foundation and was a member of the Equity Awareness Network.

Irene Mills has worked for ten years, giving hundreds of hours to ensure that all of the people of Pierce County have access to this wonderful program. Irene chaired the financial assistance committee that worked towards this end. In addition, she is an expert landscape designer and presented to the trainees in the 2014 class.

Maureen Rinehardt was in the 2011 Master Gardener Trainee class. She's a kind soul who is always willing to lend a hand to help others, even taking a few of the older Master Gardeners under her wing by giving them rides to events and checking up on them during the week. She's been a mentor for new trainees and volunteers once a month at the Tacoma office clinic.

Dale Skrivanich co-planned the entire speaker list for the three-day 2014 Master Gardener State Conference that was held in Tacoma. She is currently planning a one-day continuing education event for 2015. She volunteers at the Gig Harbor Demo Garden and clinic and is always willing to help out wherever needed.

The following Volunteers worked on behalf of Pierce County Clothing and Textile Advisors

For the past twelve years, **Lana Lueschow** has been traveling from her home in Maple Valley to Tacoma to volunteer in the sewing program. She helps every year at the weeklong children's sewing camp at Daffodil Elementary in Sumner, teaching boys and girls to make their own clothes. In 2014 she served as president of the CTA program. Lana helps every year to prepare the Pierce County Fair Home Arts Building and spends many hours as a judge or judge clerk for 4-H and Open Class sewing enthusiasts.

Shawna Pederson works weekly with the Threads for Life program at Meeker Elementary School in Puyallup, teaching fifth and sixth graders to sew their own garments. She assists with the end of the year fashion show. Shawna's contributions help to keep alive a useful art, sewing, as well as bolstering student's self-esteem with the production of their garments. This after-school program is provided at no cost with the volunteers providing everything.

Lessie Tompkins is a longtime volunteer with the CTA program. For 31 years she's worked tirelessly teaching people to sew garments to enrich their lives. She was instrumental in founding sewing sites at Salishan's Portland Avenue Community Center and the Tillicum Community Center, which is now the Manitou Community Center. After many years in a dual role of CTA Advisor Staff and volunteer, she now is a volunteer fulltime, donating nearly 300 hours in 2014 by teaching new CTAs, building a curriculum, teaching at the Portland Ave Center and the Graham Crackers 4-H group.

Jeri Worklan contributed much time and effort in 2014 towards sewing camps for children at Daffodil Elementary School and the Portland Avenue Community Center. In those camps, she taught 20 youngsters how to sew, knit and craft jewelry. In addition, she contributed time to prepare the Home Arts Building for the Pierce County Fair. She has been a volunteer for twelve years.

The following Volunteers worked on behalf of Community Connections/Long Term Care Ombudsman

Since July of 2010, **Miriam Carpmail** has been the assigned Long Term Care Ombudsman at an assisted living facility that serves as many as 55 individuals. She is an invaluable asset, meeting with them weekly, individually, or in group activities. She listens to their concerns and educates them as to their rights, ensuring that they have an advocate to support them.

Jessie Ogburn is the assigned certified Long-Term Care Ombudsman at an assisted living facility that houses up to 100 individuals. He visits regularly, meets with residents on a one-to-one basis, attends resident council meetings and consults with administrators and care staff. He's the direct advocate for residents to support their lawful rights and through more than twelve years to the program, he has provided necessary comfort and assistance for countless residents.

The following Volunteer worked on behalf of the Department of Emergency Management

For more than ten years, **John Hamilton** has proven to be invaluable to the Department of Emergency Management. He drops whatever he's doing for emergencies, supporting the deployment of the DEM mobile command vehicle. He is proficient on all aspects of this vehicle, and his additional skills and experience help everyone concerned with the program. In 2014 John volunteered 600 hours.

The following Volunteers worked on behalf of Juvenile Court/Extended Foster Care Pro Bono Program

Terri Farmer has advocated for five children in foster care for the past year and a half. She is a volunteer attorney for those children aging out of the foster care system. Terri currently represents two children, going above and beyond to track these teens down to inform them of their legal rights as they turn 18. This is a difficult time for all teens, but especially for those residing in foster care. Terry is dedicated to helping them.

Sara MacDuff volunteered 100 hours as an attorney for kids aging out of foster care. This position requires her to represent children by ensuring that they are aware of their rights when they turn 18. She is dedicated to making sure that all children under her guidance are prepared to make decisions that will enhance their successes in life.

Sandy Rovi-Shaffer was one of the first volunteers in the Extended Foster Care program that provides pro-bono legal services to children who are approaching their 18th birthdays. At this age, they may decide to stay in foster care or age out of the system and be on their own as adults. This year, Sandy had advocated for three youth with complicated issues: two are developmentally delayed and in need of additional supports to be successful as adults and the third is a refugee with completely different needs.

The following Volunteers worked on behalf Juvenile Court/CASA

Phillip Appling has been a CASA for three children since April 2013. He consistently visited the children and anyone else connected to the case and has effectively advocated for these children to return to their father, who has turned his life around to be able to keep them. Phillip is also helping the father to secure appropriate housing to assist the process of getting his kids back.

Clare Brown is a super CASA advocate who knows her kids and the families inside and out. She doesn't make recommendations without securing knowledge, being thoughtful and having appropriate expectations. Her report writing is beyond thorough: she is extremely articulate, professional, and resourceful. If the supervisor cannot find a resource, Clare will hunt one down and follow up with providing the CASA program with that information. She brings in donated items for the kids and makes the supervisor's job much easier.

Debra Carter has only volunteered for ten months and in that time volunteered 250 hours towards the CASA program: she dived in feet first to help out. Her cases have gone through multiple social workers, and because of that, she is often the most accurate historian of the case. She has been the one professional that the parties will consistently talk with and share their concerns, which allows her to effectively advocate for the best interests of her kids. She even added an International calling plan to her cell phone so she can easily maintain contact with one of her kids who was recently reunited with her parents in American Samoa.

Sharon Eggers has been advocating as a CASA for five siblings since August 2012. She pays attention to every detail on the case and knows every facet of the parents and children's lives. She makes detailed reports and is present at nearly all of the court hearings.

Willow Eskridge entered the CASA program 13 years ago. Most CASA cases take approximately two years to complete: in 2014 Willow completed one case that lasted 13 years until the child aged out of foster care. Willow was the one constant in this child's life for 13 years. Thank you, Willow, for your dedication to this child.

Denise Grieser has volunteered for four years and is an advocate for two children. This case has gone through four social workers, and Denise has been a valuable asset for the child as she updates new caseworkers and the court concerning the children.

Marlene King has been charged with two challenging cases. In both of them the children have significant behavior problems which have resulted in very restrictive placements. She makes certain their needs are met, and in the case of one child over 18, she is doing everything she can to ensure that he will have a forever home. She is the one constant in his life.

Kelsey Kovach has gone above and beyond for the four kids for whom she advocates. One child needs a relative placement, which Kelsey had to argue to keep. She ensures that all kids' needs are being met in their placements. She is fair and fact driven and has done so well that the mother's attorney has written a letter of praise to the department.

The following Volunteers worked on behalf of Juvenile Court/Diversion Program

Edward & Suzin Veney This husband and wife team has been able to bring many of their own life experiences in raising their children to their clients as examples. The Veneys grew up in an area that lent itself to easily taking the wrong path in life, and they can cite as examples how the lives of friends were adversely affected by wrong decisions, ending up in incarceration. Their experiences in raising five daughters and examples of past friends' wrongs have helped them to help others in similar situations.

The following Volunteer worked on behalf of Parks & Recreation

Kiyoko "Kay" Bridges volunteered over 460 hours with the Parks & Recreation department to ensure that the drop-in pickle ball program at the Lakewood Community Center was a success this past year. She provides strong leadership in her role as a volunteer program coordinator three mornings per week in the gymnasium. Her enthusiasm, positive attitude and love for the game helps 40+ participants each day feel welcomed and allows for a very enjoyable experience. Kay is also an accomplished pickle ball player herself. Her dedication to the growth of the program over the years has been invaluable.

The following Volunteers worked on behalf of the Pierce County Sheriff

Since 2007, **Mary Anne Haines** has been working in the Training/Background Unit. From 2000 to 2007 she worked for the Lakewood Precinct of the Sheriff's Department. Putting in nearly 500 hours in 2014, Mary Anne does anything and everything for the unit. She always has a smile on her face and is very dedicated to helping her community. We're lucky to have her in our volunteer workforce.

Bob Ihler is on call 24/7. He gets called out at all hours of the day and night to natural deaths, homicides, suicides and traffic fatalities to deal with the traumatized citizens and emergency responders. He also does death notifications and helps people navigate through the following hours after a traumatic event. He helps them with immediate decisions, notifying other family members, crime scene cleanup, and finding a funeral home. He remains with families until their loved ones are removed. Bob has uncommon compassion and caring.

The following Volunteers worked on behalf of Public Works & Utilities/Surface Water Management

Jacob Cimmer has served for four years on the Pierce County Surface Water Management Citizen's Advisory Board, providing insight and guidance on a broad range of issues including annual budgets, capital facilities plans, regulatory changes, development standards, flood loss reduction strategies and more. Jacob is a valued member of the Board.

Richard Thurston is also a valued member of the Pierce County Surface Water Management Citizen's Advisory Board and contributes his time, knowledge and insight to a wide range of issues including capital facilities plans, annual budgets, regulatory changes, development standards, and flood loss reduction strategies to name a few. Richard's service to the Board is greatly appreciated.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

In the 1980's, **Rick Adams** came to the realization that what makes a cohesive community is a park, a place people could gather and enjoy outdoor activities. He noticed that many small towns in Eastern Washington had a park, but not Ashford. In addition, he was gravely concerned about the many children riding bikes and scooters along SR 706. Working tirelessly through the 1980's & 90's, Rick was able to generate enthusiasm for the project among his neighbors and they formed the Friends of the Upper Nisqually (FUN). With the help of this advocacy group the momentum grew for the park project.

After gathering information and advice and spending much time in Olympia he was able to approach a land owner who was willing to donate land for a park, but he still needed a public partner who knew something about parks. He approached Pierce County Parks and Recreation in the mid 1990's about taking on the Ashford park project. They agreed to be involved and the property was donated to Pierce County Parks and Recreation. In 2010 phase I of the park was constructed and dedicated, including an elaborate playground, restrooms, trails and parking; Phase II of the now 84 acre park will be dedicated in 2015, including additional restrooms, parking, and an amphitheatre.

Ashford County Park is not Rick's only public service. Rick has been integral on the Lodging Tax Advisory Board, even helping Ashford Park get a grant to build part of Phase II. Rick was also a member of the Pierce County Parks and Recreation Citizens Advisory Board for 8 years. But it is his commitment to the Friends of the Upper Nisqually and Ashford County Park that is his crowning achievement. After nearly thirty years of effort, children in the Ashford-Elbe community have a playground to play in, trails to explore and somewhere to ride their bikes and scooters away from traffic. He has made a difference in his community and given his neighbors a place to gather for events, picnics and celebrations. Thank you, Rick, for your persistence and dedicated service to the Ashford community and for making a difference in Pierce County.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:

For over 25 years **Alan Hughes** has shown himself to be an outstanding, reliable volunteer with search and rescue and emergency support operations in Pierce County. Working in several different capacities, he logged in approximately 60,000 hours, with over 2,000 alone in 2014.

Currently, one of his primary activities is as the lead for River Watch—a group of volunteers trained and willing to go out in a storm to keep an eye on the river levels, alerting the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) for flooding as well as hazards that could create future problems. In storm season the team drives a 104 mile loop, even going to water's edge, looking for trouble spots. This is cold, wet, and tiresome work—but essential. Even though there are river gauges in place, real “eyes on the river” give first responders more accurate information about what the rivers are doing and can avert serious loss of life. River Watch reports back to Emergency Management with information to share with Pierce County Public Works & Utilities and local fire and police departments.

Alan began his volunteer “career” for Pierce County with the Motorcycle Search and Rescue team. (It appears Alan has outlasted that team.) Around the same time he became involved with, and is still part of, ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) as a ham operator. He helps in the Emergency Management's Mobile Operations Command

Vehicle (the MOCC) when it is needed—any time day or night—to provide communication support in remote areas. His volunteer service with ARES also includes working in the MOCC with large community events such as when The Tall Ships came to town. In addition, Alan participates with the 4X4 Search and Rescue Team (including the ATV unit). One of the people who nominated him said “Alan is one of the most dedicated volunteers I have ever seen. And all with a smile and a positive attitude! Thank you, Alan, for all that you do to make a difference for the citizens of Pierce County.