

**33<sup>rd</sup> annual Pierce County Volunteer Recognition Brunch**  
**March 19, 2011**

**The following is a list of individuals and organizations that were honored during the 2011 ceremony.**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Jodi Albright, WSU Pierce County Extension  
Gayle Beard, Juvenile Court  
Carolyn Brand, WSU Pierce County Extension  
Phillip Clingan, Juvenile Court  
Lisa Collins, Juvenile Court  
Willow Eskridge, Juvenile Court  
Kelsi Finney, Juvenile Court  
Diane Frey, WSU Pierce County Extension  
George Frey, WSU Pierce County Extension  
Bill Gilpin, Superior Court  
Matthew E. Gray, Superior Court  
Mary Anne Haines, Sheriff's Department  
Denise Harvey, Juvenile Court  
Carol Heeren, WSU Pierce County Extension  
Andrea Helms, Alternative Detention Services  
Bill Horn, WSU Pierce County Extension  
Steve Johnson, WSU Pierce County Extension  
Art Larson, Superior Court  
Al Levin, Sheriff's Department  
Jan Pittman, WSU Pierce County Extension  
Joseph E. Peer, Superior Court  
Bill Rigby, WSU Pierce County Extension  
Donna Shuey, Sheriff's Department  
Diana Teeter, Juvenile Court  
Tim Williams, Juvenile Court

## **OUTSTANDING YOUNG ADULTS**

**The following young adults volunteer on the 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.**

**Justin Calderon** serves on the University Place Juvenile Court Diversion Board and has stepped into the position of Board Leader. He shows an understanding of the clients' problems and relates to them extremely well. He always asks thought-provoking questions and persists until he gets introspective answers from his clients.

**Tzveta Kirova** has shown leadership potential and reliability when attending the University Place Diversion Boards. Her sensitivity and ability to readily establish rapport with clients for her age shows rare perceptive qualities. Tzveta is a reliable attendee and has become a steadfast member of the board.

**The following young adults volunteer on behalf of 4-H Youth Development with Washington State University Pierce County Extension.**

**Nichole Bauer** is a member of the 4-H Horse Board which provides leadership to the horse project of Pierce County. She clearly states her ideas and contributes to the leadership of the project. She is a mentor to other 4-H youth and encourages them to get involved in the project beyond their club involvement. She is making the best better in the horse project.

**Zoe Stoy** works with the teen ambassadors and supports 4-H state events. She is an active supporter of the 4-H leader's council and manages their Facebook page. Zoe has made the transition smoothly from being a 4-H youth member to being an effective adult volunteer.

**Anna Wulfekule** is a youth member of 4-H who has stepped forward as a leader and member of the horse leaders board. She spent hours contributing at board meetings, horse leader meetings, shows, fairs, and more. She shares what she sees as the best course of action for the 4-H program. Anna is a role model for what a youth adult partnership program looks like.

**[Accepting for Anna is Marcus Wulfekule.]**

**The following young adults volunteer with Parks and Recreation.**

For his Eagle Scout project, **Levitt Castro** wanted to give more dignity to the Old Settlers Cemetery in Lakewood by replacing the old fence. He got approval from the appropriate City and County officials, rounded up volunteers to help, and secured donations of material. A new chain link fence now surrounds the cemetery, thanks to Levitt's efforts.

**Lisa Mansfield** does all those little chores that most people avoid like vacuuming, cleaning restrooms, and setting up rooms for meetings. And she does it all pleasantly, quickly and without fanfare. Lisa is a wonderful asset and will be great in whatever she chooses to do.

**OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER GROUPS**

**Hilltop Gardening Group**

These three residents of the Hilltop District are "in garden" consultants and assist other Hilltop residents with planning and planting gardens in their very own yards! They are all involved in Hilltop Urban Gardens. While spreading the seeds and love for gardening among the residents of their community, they have inspired young and old first time gardeners.

[**Accepting** for the Hilltop Gardening Group is **Steve Apling**]

**Information Desk Volunteers** staff the two information desks in the County-City Building every weekday from 8 AM to 3 PM. The program is a joint effort of the Pierce County Superior Court, District Court, and the Tacoma Municipal Court. They tirelessly answer questions and direct people, all with a smile and a lot of patience. The volunteers in this program have made 36,734 contacts and have volunteered 1,551 hours. They have managed to cut down the foot traffic to the offices closest to the entrance doors, which has been very much appreciated by all the entities of the building. [**Accepting** for the Information Desk Volunteers is **Lori Kruzich**.]

**The Pierce County Search & Rescue 4x4 Unit**, a 30-strong, all-volunteer team of men and women, is one of eight units of the Pierce County Emergency Management Department's Search and Rescue (SAR) Council. As a public service, they have played a valuable role in Search and Rescue activities throughout the county. Pierce County 4x4 Search and Rescue members believe in giving back to their community. When requested, they have always answered the call for assistance. They have a can-do attitude and will always find ways to get it done. They are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

[**Accepting** for the Pierce County Search & Rescue 4x4 Unit is **Aaron Markham**.]

## **OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS**

**The following volunteers work on behalf of the Community Connections Department.**

**Margaret “Meg” Battson** has been instrumental in planning, implementing, and funding decisions related to Aging and Long Term Care programs and services. She has been tireless in her desire to improve the quality of life for all county residents, especially vulnerable populations. Her outstanding leadership and guidance, coupled with her can-do attitude and volunteer work, are formidable.

**Rose Ehart** volunteers on a Citizens' Advisory Board (CAB). She is dedicated to helping those in need and raises her voice so that their needs are heard and met. In addition, she is very engaging and flexible with other members on the board. Her thoughtfulness and desire to help low-income and homeless families has made her an outstanding contributor to the CAB. Rose is also aware of the community needs in Pierce County and is able to engage members in conversation regarding where funds should be dispersed to help those with the greatest need.

**Margaret Hensler** has demonstrated exceptional leadership, devotion, and integrity while a member of the Aging and Long-Term Care Advisory Board. She has shown genuine concern for the welfare of county citizens and her work has directly and indirectly influenced the lives of many of them. Margaret epitomizes the county's goals of commitment and excellence.

**John Lee** volunteers as a Long-Term Care Ombudsman. He advocates on behalf of residents in a large skilled nursing facility that serves a challenging mix of younger adults and seniors. There is a very high turnover in the residents, with many leaving for home or for other long-term care settings, while new residents are arriving. John pays particular attention to the new residents during each of his visits, ensuring they are aware of the Ombudsman Program and his willingness to help resolve any issues that may arise during their stay.

**Alex Schauss** volunteers on the Allocation Advisory Committee for Prevention Programs (AAC). He is unique and outstanding due to his knowledge of the criminal justice system and how youth activities can help prevent and eliminate violent behavior. Alex takes his position on the AAC very seriously, he rarely misses a meeting, and he is fully engaged at each committee meeting. He is a definite leader for the AAC and helps ensure that funds are being put to excellent use in unincorporated Pierce County to help prevent and/or eliminate violence among youth.

**Robert Wellington** is a Long-Term Care Ombudsman who regularly visits a 120-bed skilled nursing facility. He makes a special effort to reach out to the most isolated residents. The facility's staff respects his ability to bridge communication gaps between them, the residents, and their families. Bob has played a key role in resolving differences at care conferences and works to ensure that residents' wishes are known. [**Accepting** for Robert is **Nellis Kim.**]

**The following individual volunteers for the Juvenile Court Improvement Program.**

**Shelley Antos** utilized her excellent take-charge, proactive work style to help organize the first National Reunification Day in Pierce County, an event celebrating those families that have been reunited with their dependent children. She also developed a process for gathering case statistical information showing the Court's compliance with State and Federal dependency timelines. Through Shelley's efforts, the Juvenile Court will be able to track these timelines and work toward improvement of the Court process for children in dependency actions.

**The following volunteers are Juvenile Court - Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardians ad Litem or better known as CASA/G-A-Ls.**

**Nick Adams** currently advocates for ten children whose ages range from 5 to 17. He has been advocating for one sibling group of five for about 2½ years! In that time, he has participated in more than 20 court hearings and has spent countless hours meeting with the children and the team of professionals associated with the case. The judge has relied heavily on his recommendations in making decisions at several hearings. Nick has truly been the eyes and ears of the court.

**Harmony Blancher** may have been a CASA for only one year, but she deserves the rookie of the year award. She has advocated for nine children throughout 2010. She dove into her cases and has excelled in all areas. She has been able to manage difficult situations with ease and professionalism. Harmony always puts the children's needs above all else in the complicated system involving Child Protective Services and the Juvenile Court.

**Linda Dyer** currently is advocating for six children and has advocated for a total of 14 over the last three years. She is an excellent CASA who can always be counted on to ensure that her work is done. She meets with relatives and family members and advocates to maintain a connection between the children and their families. She recognizes the importance of family and always ensures that each family has a fresh start to be successful.

**Joanne Gallasch** still teaches full-time so she has to be creative in finding time to see the children she advocates for and to attend all the meetings and staffing. She is reliable and always gets the job done, often by going beyond expectations. Once she called her CASA coordinator from a hospital bed to apologize for not being able to see a child in a foster home! Joanne is so passionate about her advocacy that she didn't even let a serious injury prevent her from completing a home visit. Now that's dedication!

**Tonda Hager** has had several challenging teenage girls on her caseload. In one case, the parents were not meeting the basic needs of the children, who were skipping school, using drugs, and hanging out with other troubled kids. Even though it was difficult, Tonda had to recommend the children be placed in foster care. She never gave up on helping the children transition into a better life.

**Barney Koenig** has accepted several cases that have been very complex. He makes all appointments, researches his cases thoroughly, and submits detailed reports to the court with appropriate recommendations. Barney is a great asset to the CASA program.

[Accepting for Barney is **Erik Jensen**.]

**Leslie Lipischak** stepped in two years ago to advocate for two children on a case that has been open for more than 3½ years! This case has had many twists and turns and has taken up a large amount of her time. Leslie is an amazing advocate who leaves no stone unturned when it comes to making sure the children have a voice in the process. She always goes above and beyond what is expected.

**Sally Jo McKean** has taken on several very difficult cases that require a lot of time investigating all the programs that the families are involved in. She monitors compliance and progress and submits an excellent detailed report to the court with recommendations for the best interests of the children.

**Mel Motycka** has been especially challenged this past year working with teens and their families. In one case, the mother has significant issues and one child on the run for the majority of the case. She has been working hard to keep the other child placed with the mother by advocating for in-home services. She is often the first to know when something isn't going well, and immediately brings it to everyone's attention so that the family's stability and needs can be assessed. [Mel is not able to be with us today.]

**Tiffany Shaw** has been a CASA for a relatively short period. However, she jumped in feet first, is on top of all her cases and does a great job working collaboratively with the social workers and families. What she does best is taking the time to develop a rapport with the kids for which she advocates, allowing for her to accurately relay to the court what is going on in the kids' lives and how they are being affected by the situation they are in. At some court hearings she has been the only person with the most up-to-date information.

**Maureen Sorenson** not only advocates for the kids assigned to her, she also agreed to supervise new volunteers as well. She has hosted CASA functions and also helps with planning CASA events. In addition, her CASA cases have been especially challenging. In one case, she and the social worker have not seen eye-to-eye and Maureen is often made to be the "bad guy." However, she has maintained her professionalism and has continued to put the safety of the children in the forefront of all her recommendations. (Accepting Maureen's award is Buffy Via)

**Barb Stoddard** has taken on some of the most hotly contested cases in G-A-L history. Barb monitors the cases for compliance and progress. Despite having to commute by ferry, she never misses an appointment, makes all court appearances, and writes an excellent report to the court. She is one of our most dependable volunteers.

**Faye Sullivan** isn't afraid to roll up her sleeves and go to battle for the five children for which she currently advocates. She is a consummate professional who takes advocating for children very seriously. Faye is a real asset to the CASA program who is always looking out for the children she represents.

**Alice Thomas** has an enormous amount of pressure from her full-time supervisory job with the 787 *Dreamliner*, but she makes the time to be an excellent CASA and excels at all her duties. Alice monitors compliance and progress, and makes sure to include recommendations that are in the best interest of the children that she is appointed to represent when she submits her reports to the Court.

**Erika Thompson** is an asset to the CASA program and has advocated for three children this year. She has embraced her role as advocate and wants to ensure that she is meeting all of her children's needs all of the time. She takes every case to heart and wants things to go perfectly for the child's best interest. She is willing to question the system and push things to benefit the kids!

**Janie Vargus** has advocated for six children over the last two years. This year one of these children will turn 18. The young lady has been in foster care since she was a year old. Janie has been able to watch her blossom this last year after she finally found a home with her foster family. Janie was also the advocate for two girls who suffered horrific abuse. She has advocated for their needs to be met and has ensured that their rights were preserved throughout the entire process that concluded with a termination trial. The girls will now be adopted. [**Accepting** for Janie is **Buffy Via**]

**Sharon Waldo** has had a very difficult case involving the Court returning the children home after 2½ years in foster care. The transition was very difficult for the children as they had a significant bond with both the biological and the foster mother. To add to the stress, the biological mom lived three counties away. Sharon networked with a CASA program in the receiving county and was able to obtain help in monitoring the case. [**Sharon** is not able to be here today.]

**The following volunteers work in the Juvenile Court Diversion Program 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.**

**Jo Anne Brown** serves as a member of the Tacoma CAB and also is an active CASA. In addition, she assisted in the New Directions Program which addresses Domestic Violence issues with teens and their parents. She attended a full cycle of these sessions (32 hours in 8 weeks) in addition to her regular Diversion hours and her commitment to her CASA caseload. She is a very enthusiastic, caring, and committed individual and is a great asset to the Juvenile Court.

**Jim Edwards** has stepped into the position of University Place Board Leader. He has shown an understanding of the client's problems and relates to them extremely well. Jim always asks thought-provoking questions and persists until he gets introspective answers from his clients. He has always stepped forward to be a board leader with very introspective solutions for the clients. His sensitivity and ability to readily establish rapport with the clients is uncanny.

[**Accepting** for Jim is **Ray Smith**]

When **Mickey Kander** began his commitment to the Diversion Program, he advised that he would have to miss a number of Diversion Boards because of his business travel schedule. He kept the Board informed when he was unable to attend and provided extraordinarily high quality interventions when present. He is a very kind, compassionate, knowledgeable, and caring individual in addition to having a great sense of humor.

**The following volunteers work with Parks and Recreation.**

**Becky Hibbs** has served on the Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) for the past eight years, the last two as Vice Chair. When an issue is presented to the CAB, it is Becky who takes the lead in listening, gathering more data as needed, asking critical questions, engaging in a collective dialogue, and looking for compromises for controversial issues. Becky is a soft-spoken voice that carries with it years of wisdom and a passion for the Parks and Recreation profession.

**Sara Lamrouex**, along with 28 enthusiastic 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Kapowsin Elementary School, created the "Big Toy Team". She has developed a fundraising plan and rallied support from students, local businesses and community members in an attempt to raise \$200,000 to rebuild an inclusive playground at Frontier Park. She kicked off her campaign with a successful dinner/auction and has continued to host a variety of fundraising activities. Stay tuned for the grand opening announcements for this new playground!

**Dan Sutich** has been the Chair of the Pierce County Parks and Recreation Citizens Advisory Committee for the past two years. He truly believes that if employees are cared for and get what they need to do their jobs, then the public will receive the highest form of public service. He consistently compliments staff and praises them for a job well done.

**Larry Volland** and his family live adjacent to a Pierce County Parks property, known as Orangegate, in the Summit/Waller area. This undeveloped park site has literally been transformed by Larry's vigilance and organization of other members of this community. This transformation has been in the form of identifying meth labs, unwanted garbage dumping, motorized vehicles in the park, and in contacting the appropriate authorities to report these issues. Larry has a personal commitment to the community and has helped to create a safe, clean, and desirable park property for all to enjoy.

**The following individuals volunteer at the Pierce County Jail.**

**Dr. Archie Luck** served as a volunteer chaplain from 1987 until he was hired in 1999 as staff. In July 2010, he was laid off due to budget RIF needs, but has continued to voluntarily anchor the chaplaincy duties in the new jail full-time. Most people who experience termination would go elsewhere. Dr. Luck has shown exceptional dedication and loyalty to his peers and vocation.

**Steve Vanderlinda** has served the inmates of the Jail for more than 12 years, bringing a message of life and hope. His guitar playing and inspirational singing have made him a favorite of church attendees. His message of hope is critical in bringing about life transformation. Helping people to change destructive behavior contributes greatly to our community, including personal safety, security and financially.

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

**Dawn Bauer** has supported the Chuck Wagon project at 4-H events. For many 4-H youth, this is their first experience working in a business or running a cash register. This project provides youth with job skills and generates money for 4-H and the Pierce County Parks. Dawn stepped forward when needed and gave incredible amounts of time, business knowledge, energy, and a positive attitude to help keep the Chuck Wagon going.

**Michelle Benson** has contributed many years to the cat project as a leader and fair superintendent. She works with the youth and adults to make sure the cat project works well at all levels. Michelle brings caring and humor to what can be a stressful event and shows the youth that one can have fun even when under stress. No cat fights and only creative cat costumes when Michelle is in charge!

**Jessica Carr** has been a club leader and is the Horse Superintendent. She has been instrumental in educating youth and volunteers of the importance of 4-H as an education program. As superintendent, she works through most of the conflict that arises when you have a large project. Jessica serves as a role model to the adults and youth and epitomizes the 4-H theme of "Making the Best Better."

**Dr. Karen Comer** has supported the cat project with her time, energy, and her expertise as a veterinarian. She also shares her skills on the 4-H Leaders Council to help the educational events be successful and youth focused. [Accepting for Karen is **Zoe Stoy**.]

**Kathy Craig** works with the teen ambassadors program, supports her club, chaperones youth on trips, tries new activities with the youth, and volunteers for other projects. She has a great attitude and works well with the youth and adults. Respect and support are two gifts Kathy brings to the 4-H program.

**Judie Davis** has been a long-time volunteer for the horse project. She has been a board member and coordinates and sets up for the advanced medals program. Judie has been a constant supporter of the medals program and a strong leader on the horse board. She willingly shares her wisdom in all parts of the 4-H horse project.

**Rene DeRocher** stepped forward as a club leader, contributor to the horse leaders, and member of the record book committee. She has been there for the youth in her club, helping to support them in making good decisions, learn positive ways to question procedures, and work within the 4-H program. Rene cares about the youth and what life skills they gain in 4-H.

[Accepting for Rene is **Brian Brandt**]

**Jaki Dougherty** leads the record book committee, which reviews hundreds of record books for youth in the horse project. It is a huge task and focuses on giving feedback that supports youth in their record keeping skills. She spent an incredible number of hours judging record books and offering suggestions to help the youth improve their record keeping. Jaki focuses on how what we tell youth will help them in their future jobs and careers.

**Andrew Drake** has been instrumental in the development of the 4-H Archery Project for Pierce County. He has utilized his interest in archery and caring for youth development to build the archery project. The project has a strong sense of community and the members support each other while having an enjoyable learning experience. (Andrew is not able to be with us this morning)

**Diane Gilmore** contributes her positive energy and ideas to advise the direction of the 4-H program. She works with the horse project and supports the Super Saturday workshop day for youth and leaders in Pierce County 4-H. Diane brings positive energy, good ideas, and follow through on projects and works hard with the youth and adults in 4-H.

**Karen Greer** hires, coordinates, and prepares horse judges for the shows. With changes to the patterns, this year has been very busy; but Karen worked through it. She did a great job navigating changes in the program and completing her regular volunteer duties.

[Accepting for Karen is **Fred Greer**.]

**Charlene Jarvis** works to support educational events, the Leaders' Council and the 4-H Exchange program. She has provided opportunities for Pierce County families and youth to experience other cultures through the exchange program, and has worked on behalf of 4-H in many other ways.

**Eileen Johnson** has contributed to the 4-H program as leadership in the horse department running the judging program. Eileen focuses most of her energy on teaching youth good decision-making skills by teaching horse judging workshops and classes. She coordinates all of the clinics and workshops for more than 300 youth attendees. Eileen gives incredible amounts of time to provide the best programming in order for the youth to get better at the life skill of good decision making.

**Wendy King** is a 4-H club leader and horse board member. She works with youth in her club and at shows to help them be successful and enjoy 4-H. As a board member, she is a leader and works with the superintendent with various tasks. Wendy has a great attitude and gets the job done. She supports youth during their challenges as well as during their successes. (Wendy will be unable to be with us today)

**Carl Mantegna** has long been a supporter of the dairy project. Fair cows are his specialty. Carl works with youth and adults to make sure dairy is represented at the county fair. Carl has a relaxed and supportive approach with youth and adults, and makes the dairy project an exciting place to visit.

**Ron Mayberry** has been a long-time supporter of 4-H with in a club, on the horse board, and on the Chuck Wagon. He has supported the efficient and youth-focused horse project. He has helped the Chuck Wagon generate funds for the project and for Pierce County Parks. Ron brings his knowledge of education and youth development into the many aspects of the horse project.

**Jill McNally** is a club leader in the horse project. She is also a catalyst for change. Jill has made proposals on ways to improve the 4-H program and has been involved in the horse leaders meetings. Jill has shown that to Make the Best Better, (the 4-H motto) you might have to offer your ideas, take a risk or ask how to make a project better. (Accepting her award is Jessica Carr)

**Connie Medeiros** has worked on outstanding projects in multiple horse, cats, and performing art programs to name only a few. She has helped with new curriculum and kept the focus on youth development. Connie has stepped forward and helped out where needed. This year she will become the Performing Arts Superintendent.

**Wendy Pettapiece** is the 4-H Leaders Council Treasurer. She also provides support to multiple horse projects, events, and shows. She has shared her gift of numbers to help the leader's council work smoothly and understand their finances. Wendy works well with the council and builds a strong rapport with the youth.

**Melanie Ross** is the financial backbone of the horse project. As a large project with multiple events and activities, there is a lot to manage as the treasurer. Melanie works hard to manage a complex program and goes out of her way to support the board and events.

[Accepting for Melanie is **Jane Waldron**.]

**Gail Russell** has stepped forward as the Superintendent of Public Presentations, which helps youth learn how to speak in public. She also volunteers in many other areas of 4-H. Gail has volunteered to support the office and to make public presentations run smoothly, staying focused on helping youth become strong public speakers.

**Shelly Selfors** is the show coach for horse shows. This requires supporting different show chairs each show and working to make the event a success for the youth, adults, and parents. Shelly also is a horse and fair board member. She does a great job of effectively bringing wisdom and support to different volunteers at every show. Shelly makes the show office a fun place to volunteer.

[Accepting for Shelly is **Brian Brandt**]

**Quentin Silbernagel** has stepped forward to co-manage the Chuck Wagon for the 4-H program. This project provides youth job skills and generates money for the 4-H and Pierce County Parks. Quentin gave incredible amounts of time, energy, and a positive attitude to help keep the chuck wagon going.

**Jeff and Karen Summers** are involved with 4-H year-round. Karen works with clubs, horse leader meetings, and shows. Her main contribution is coordinating the youth who go to the state fair, by working with parents and youth. Karen's personal life stops around state fair time, as she works with families and youth to make the state fair a fun and positive experience for all. Jeff keeps the equipment working for the horse shows while supporting the youth at the state fair.

**Marc Wulfekule** has supported the 4-H program for many years in various positions. He served on the horse board and started a 4-H club. He has contributed to making the shows and the fair run smoothly. Marc has a friendly and open manner, which has helped in the horse shows and when groups are debating changes. He maintains a positive approach and shows youth how to have fun in 4-H.

**Will Zeober** has been a 4-H club leader and volunteers in the archery project, which is developing in Pierce County and the State. He has been a strong supporter of developing the archery project as a safe and fun place to learn archery and life skills. The program would not be as big as it is without Will's commitment and dedication to work with other volunteers and youth.

[Will was not able to be here today.]

**The following volunteers are Master Gardeners with WSU Pierce County Extension.**

**Jack Babcock** works at an elementary school. In the Master Gardener Intern Project, he worked with the kids at his elementary school to install vegetable gardens and to teach them how to maintain the garden. He said many of them had never planted a seed before or harvested a vegetable! While the experience was at times chaotic, he's taken it upon himself to help the kids and teachers build more gardens for educational purposes.

**Walt Bosch** provides incredible program support by scheduling the volunteers who work at the extension office's plant diagnostic clinic. He calls every one of them and then makes sure they have what they need to perform their duties while answering the public's questions. Every month, he supplies the program coordinator with the schedule for the following two months and keeps all the volunteers organized and on track. He keeps great records and plays a huge role in administratively supporting the program.

**Betty Boushey** has taken the initiative to become involved as a key contributor in a wide variety of activities within the Master Gardner Program. She is the co-chair for the Children's Garden & Youth Education Program. She has participated in the Puyallup Fair project, audio visual services for classes, and book sales. Betty also works in the office clinic and is a mentor for new trainees.

**Cyndy Dillon** has served on the Foundation Board for four years as Secretary. She is a leader with the Sehmel Homestead demonstration garden development and work parties in which she participates almost weekly. She also coordinates the Gig Harbor Ace Hardware Community Clinic and works in the Master Gardener office clinic.

[Cyndy was not able to be here today.]

Every week, **Ron Fields** comes into the volunteer office to enter volunteer hours into the new on-line database. He also makes sure contact information gets updated in the in-house database--not

an easy chore for 385 volunteers! He coordinates the speakers' bureau and sends out nearly 50 different speakers for speaking engagements. Ron is an instrumental volunteer in administrative support for the program.

**Brian Fleck** is active with the Puyallup Demonstration Garden and the book sale team. He has been a team leader for the Fair project and is on the Foundation Board. He is quick to volunteer to help wherever needed. Brian is a real asset to the program. [**Accepting** for Brian is **Betty Boushey**.]

**Darlene Kerwin** works in the Puyallup Demonstration Garden every Tuesday, all year long. When the weather is bad she cleans inside the buildings. She is good at working with the new trainees when they come down to the garden to volunteer. A key volunteer for the plant sale, Darlene spends many hours helping pot plants and working at the sale. She has made a significant contribution and time commitment to the program. Darlene is dedicated to helping improve the program and keep it growing through fundraising activities. [**Accepting** for Darlene is **Diane Frey**.]

**Karen Larson** has been one of the driving forces behind the development of the Sehmel Homestead garden. She has spent countless hours working to get the garden started. Since the garden has opened, she has worked diligently to get the area cleared and ready for a grand opening next year.

**Hal Meng** has been helping community gardeners to grow vegetables and fruit trees in small spaces. He has installed a demonstration hay bed-enabling garden, a full community garden for the Ruston Senior Center participants and teaches classes there. He also works with the youth of Life Christian Church, as well as that church's assisted-living seniors to bring about cross-generational interaction and learning. [**Accepting** for Hal is **Carol Heeren**.]

**Karen Ramsey** assists every year with recruiting new volunteers into the Master Gardener Program. She comes to every orientation session, collects applications, organizes them, and makes sure everyone is aware of the process. She then organizes the trainees throughout the training. Karen is incredibly reliable and has taken on this huge responsibility with grace for many years. Karen is very welcoming to new trainees, organizes their interviews, and then greets them as they arrive. Her contributions are steady and her commitment to attend all 12 Friday trainings of every year is greatly appreciated! [**Accepting** for Karen is **Walt Bosch**.]

In support of the Master Gardener, Program **Les and Ursula Stomsvik** work hard at selling the largest collection of horticulture books this side of the Mississippi. The sale of horticulture books is

a large part of the fundraising for the Master Gardener Foundation. Les and Ursula co-lead this effort. They ensure that volunteers get scheduled to sell the books as well as set-up and take-down at each event. Afterwards, Les ensures that the money is counted and deposited into the bank. It's a tireless job, but this couple does it with smiles on their faces.

[**Accepting** for Les and Ursula Stomsvik is **Angie Clark.**]

**Lloyd Tharp** is a tremendous resource for the program. He works in the office clinic weekly and is a mentor for the training program. He regularly volunteers to work clinics at the Tacoma Home Shows and the Puyallup Fair. He makes presentations to the public at free Saturday garden talks and other venues. He is an expert gardener. Lloyd enjoys sharing his knowledge with others and he never passes up an opportunity to participate in helping train or educate others.

### **LONGEVITY AWARD**

**The following volunteers are recognized not only for their work but for their longevity as volunteers on behalf of Pierce County Government.**

For more than 32 years it has been an honor to have the 1976 Olympic Gold Medal Winner **Leo Randolph** as a mentor to the youth in detention at Remann Hall, as well as offering his hair cutting skills. Leo says that boxing provided him with opportunities and opened doors that otherwise would not have been available. He offers his encouragement to the youth and reminds them that hard work can open the same doors for them. He has made a difference in many young lives.

A volunteer for 33 years, **Pat Wells** has dedicated more than 20,000 hours of volunteer service to 4-H. She has been a strong club leader in the dog project and served five years as the 4-H Dog Project Superintendent. She has also represented Pierce County 4-H by donating her time at the Western Washington State Fair in Puyallup, serving on several local youth development planning committees, and representing Pierce County at Washington State 4-H meetings. Pat has a friendly manner with the youth, and you can see her heart is in making the fair experience great for all youth. She puts an emphasis on working with special needs youth, who have greatly benefitted from her guidance, tutelage, and moral support.

**SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: The following volunteers are recognized for their special achievements on behalf of Pierce County Government.**

**Robert Baltzell** has contributed approximately 2500 hours on six County Commissions, Boards, and Task Force's for almost 24 years. He has volunteered his skills broadly across the county with participation in the arts, tourism, conservation, transportation, and criminal justice. Bob is unique in the breadth and depth of his volunteer work. The multiple groups he has served on in a leadership position touch all citizens of Pierce County. Bob is the consummate diplomat and is frequently looked to as the final voice of reason.

**Alison Lilley** is a WSU Master Gardener who works every Tuesday in the Puyallup Demonstration Garden doing whatever is necessary. She is very active with the plant sale and is one of the leaders. She puts in many hours helping to prepare for the sale and working at it. She works regularly in the office clinic and is an excellent diagnostician. Her efforts have been a significant factor in the improvements in the Puyallup Demonstration Garden. She is always looking for opportunities to demonstrate good gardening practices. [Alison was not able to attend today.]

**Irene Reed** has been an invaluable volunteer in the WSU Master Gardener Program for 22 years. She has an awesome sense of humor and always manages to keep things light and fun. Irene is instrumental in a variety of Master Gardener programs. She handles all of the community clinics in Pierce County, is essential to the coordination and implementation of the plant sale, and plans and coordinates the topics for the free Saturday Garden Talks. She also does all of the scheduling for clinics at the Tacoma Home shows and the Puyallup Fall and Spring Fairs. Without Irene's efforts, we would not be able to provide all of the outside clinic services that the public enjoys.

## **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

**Ken Butler** has been in a leadership role for the Pierce County Sheriff's Department Posse for more than 20 years. He was Captain for many years until poor health made him resign that position. As Captain, Ken was responsible for organizing events such as the Children's Rodeo, National Night Out events, parades, trail rides, and competitions--as well as finding the funding for insurance, equipment, transportation, housing, food, feed and other incidentals for each of the official functions that the Posse attended. Despite his health problems, Ken continues to be the invisible force behind the accomplishments of the Posse. While some of us fret and strain at having to get up in the morning, Ken Butler never shows the pain he suffers daily. Ken is truly a brave and courageous gentleman and an example for us all.