



*The Governor's  
2013  
Volunteer Service  
Awards*

*April 25, 2013  
11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.*

*Hosted by:*

*The Washington Commission for  
National and Community Service*

# *Volunteer Recognition Ceremony*



## *Welcome*

*Nicole Trimble, Chair*

*Washington Commission for National & Community Service  
Coinstar, Inc., Director of Corporate Social Responsibility*

## *Why We Serve and Volunteer*

*Bill Basl, Director of AmeriCorps State & National  
Corporation for National and Community Service*

## *Presentation of Awards*

*Jay Inslee, Governor*

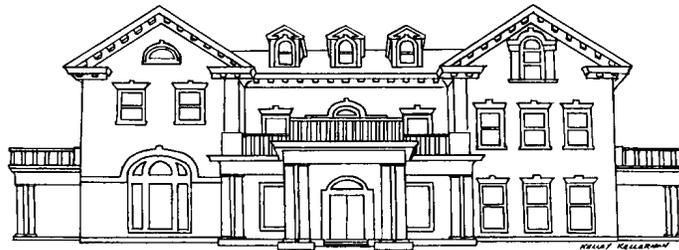
*and*

*Debbie Schuffenhauer, Acting Executive Director  
Washington Commission for National & Community Service*

## *Closing Remarks*

*Nicole Trimble, Chair*

*Washington Commission for National & Community Service*



*Executive Mansion*

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Susan Akamatsu**

**Tacoma**

*Washington Service Corps/Tacoma Community House-(TCH)  
AmeriCorps State*

Sue Akamatsu has been a volunteer tutor with the TCH Read2Me Program for over 21 years. She presently assists four students, individually, in Grades 1-3 once each week at Tacoma's McCarver Elementary to improve their basic reading skills. Sue consistently dedicates herself to multiple students each year, which is above and beyond the expectation of the program. Her length and frequency of service make Sue an invaluable volunteer. Scores of students have received one-on-one literacy development thanks to her time and return year after year. She has also been a wonderful recruiter of volunteers through word of mouth, which has aided the long-term vitality of Read2Me as well as its recent expansion to two new program sites.



**Rebecca Anderson**

**Tacoma**

*Tacoma Latter Day Saints CERT  
Citizen Corps*

Rebecca Anderson masters whatever is placed in front of her. Wise beyond her years, at 21 she demonstrates incredible competence and devotion to every task she is assigned. Her first year, Rebecca helped consolidate ten years of classes, efficiently organized the filing systems, labeled the storage/equipment room, and digitized all information of each graduated Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) student by creating spreadsheets with contact information, skill sets, certifications, and geographical region. The last three years, Rebecca prepared lesson equipment, began Incident Command System trainings, assisted with CERT instruction for 1-½ years, and is personally responsible for recruiting 10 new volunteers. Currently conducting a weekly HAM radio net reaching from Olympia-Tacoma-Kent area to the Peninsula, Rebecca shares her skills with CERT. Seven years ago, at age 14, she was the youngest Tacoma SafeStreets SuperStar Award recipient for humanitarian service. Rebecca understands community family starts with individual commitment.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Mary Atherton** **Ocean Park**  
*Pacific County Emergency Management Agency*  
*Citizen Corps*

Mary Atherton serves as a volunteer for the Pacific County Emergency Management Agency. Mary is involved at many levels including personal disaster preparedness, tsunami education, Map Your Neighborhood, and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. Preparing all her life, Mary's passion for preparedness wasn't realized until CERT training in February 2012. Since then Mary has become a certified trainer in Pacific County. Mary has taught several Pacific County citizens about tsunamis and personal disaster preparedness and is preparing to instruct a CERT course later in 2013. In addition, Mary serves as the secretary and webmaster for the Pacific County CERT Club. In a short time Mary has proven to be an asset to Pacific County and its citizens.



**Bryan Barnett** **Renton**  
*Habitat for Humanity Seattle-King County*  
*AmeriCorps State*

Bryan Barnett has devoted many hours of service to Habitat for Humanity Seattle-King County. Bryan helps regularly on site as a construction volunteer and has served in leadership roles for many years at the affiliate. Bryan has created a construction site manual to be used for volunteer construction job site trainings, led volunteer trainings, served as a project manager for the Habitat for Humanity House of the Immediate Future constructed in conjunction with the Seattle Center Fifty Year Anniversary Celebration, served as a site supervisor on a Habitat for Humanity construction site, and created/ designed/taught students basic carpentry skills at Cleveland High School. We depend heavily on Bryan's thoughtful and educated advice throughout the affiliate's many endeavors. No job is too small or too big, Bryan helps where the need is the greatest. Bryan is truly one of the best volunteers!

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**David Belt**  
*Cowlitz AmeriCorps Network*  
*AmeriCorps State*

**Longview**

David Belt has become one of Cowlitz county's most reliable and dedicated volunteers. He exemplifies the mission of a volunteer by taking part in improving the health of our county and making positive change happen. David jumps at the chance to volunteer and has a gift for coordinating others to serve alongside of him. When he makes phone calls, volunteers show up. David has helped with several projects including: the Longview Housing Authority file relocation project, maintaining the Life Works garden, Cowlitz County Drug Court, helping the 1414 Club with Sponsor A Road cleanup, serving at the Highland Community Center, and downtown Longview cleanup projects. David also led the cleanup project for weed and debris removal and light maintenance for a Silver Lake disabled senior couple. When you give David a call for help, he will take the time!



**Philip Birkeland**  
*Washington Service Corps/Peace Community Center*  
*AmeriCorps State*

**Tacoma**

Four years ago, Phil Birkeland reached out to a young man named Daniel who began to show up at Peace Community Center's after school program for high school students. Daniel arrived with a tangle of problems ranging from severe learning disabilities to gang interests. Crossing barriers of age, race and social class, Phil met with Daniel four days a week after school. He interacted with Daniel's grandparents and visited Daniel's teachers to improve support. He helped change Daniel's choices, attitudes and ambitions. Daniel has a brighter future because of Phil's dedication. His reading and writing have gone up two grade levels in the past three months. Daniel recently wrote and delivered a sermon at church, with Phil sitting proudly in the front row. Phil is helping Daniel navigate through a vocational training program and in four months, Daniel will graduate from high school. He could not have done this without Phil.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Fern Blaylock**

**Coulee Dam**  
*Colville Tribal Foster Grandparent Program*  
*Foster Grandparent Program*

The best way to describe Fern Blaylock is one word "GRANDMA." She is currently volunteering at the elementary school not very far from the Colville Tribal Reservation. All the children love her. The first time you meet her, you will notice her beautiful smile. Fern is so kind and gentle she will remind you of all the grandmas in your life rolled into one. After all day with the children, Fern also coordinates and runs the local food bank and has for over 20 years. She helps children and families as a whole, the community, and the Tribe. She is not only the children's grandma but is everyone's Foster Grandma. Fern makes a positive difference in the lives of many children!



**Juliana Borges**

**Lake Stevens**  
*United Way of Snohomish County*  
*Volunteer Center*

As a volunteer with Snohomish County's Youth United program while in high school, Juliana Borges did everything from environmental clean-ups to serving food to the hungry. She was integral to increasing the capacity of the program, helping Youth United offer more volunteer projects for teens than ever before. She reached out to new volunteers, helped plan service projects, led volunteer teams at large projects, and supervised two projects as the sole United Way youth representative. Juliana also wrote a successful grant application that bought supplies for an afterschool program. Juliana has continued her outstanding record of service as a University of Washington student. She started a suicide prevention and awareness club, and they are hosting their second Out of the Darkness Walk this April. Juliana is caring, community-minded, compassionate, dependable, and has strong moral character. She is one of those rare individuals for whom volunteerism is part of her personal identity.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Darren Branum**

**Federal Way**  
*Seafair, Emergency Operation Center Volunteer Group  
Citizen Corps*

Darren Branum has volunteered with the Seafair Festival since 2010, as the founding member of the newly established Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In fact, in the beginning Darren was the only EOC staff member. Fast forward to 2012 and 15 volunteers staffed the EOC utilizing the Incident Command System, which is used by many well-run events across the country. Each year, Darren has further developed EOC expertise. His dedication to excellence has resulted in the EOC's integration into additional Seafair venues with greater cooperation from wide-ranging stakeholders. Because of Darren, Seafair is better organized to handle any potential incident and Seafair safety is a culture of continuous improvement.



**Vera Brokenshire**

**Tacoma**  
*United Way of Pierce County  
Volunteer Center*

Vera Brokenshire is a very giving individual. Her passion to help others is apparent in everything she does. Through United Way seasonal programs Vera has supported multiple families during the holidays, and children with back-to-school needs through the Back to School program. Over the years, Vera's desire to support those less fortunate has only increased. In addition to supporting United Way programs, Vera started her own signature backpack project to support homeless teens, and provided leadership for the Feed the Need project to feed individuals at a local homeless shelter once a month. Anyone who knows Vera or has been privileged enough to work alongside her would not disagree, she is a driving force no matter what the cause or need - she takes it on.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Jan Bromberg**  
*Sammamish Citizen Corps Council*  
*Citizen Corps*

**Sammamish**

In 1994, Jan Bromberg joined her child's school as a PTSA volunteer. She quickly saw the need to share her emergency preparedness knowledge. Working with the Lake Washington School District PTSA and Tri-Awareness, she shared earthquake knowledge and the importance of school disaster supply readiness, and became the volunteer emergency preparedness council representative for 37 Lake Washington District schools. Jan helped create the District's standard for emergency preparation, receiving multiple Golden Acorn awards in recognition of her work. Jan co-founded Sammamish Citizen Corps in 2003, serving as President the first six years, and is currently Treasurer. In 2003, the first Sammamish Community Emergency Response Team training began under Jan's leadership; over 500 citizens have been trained since. Jan was honored as the 2006 Spirit of Sammamish Awardee. Since 2009, she has helped plan Northwest Citizen Corps Expo and served on the King County Citizen Corps Council. Jan regularly presents emergency preparedness to schools, churches, and senior groups, representing Sammamish Citizen Corps and King and Kitsap American Red Cross. Jan is a passionate volunteer and has spearheaded numerous community Safety Fairs, National Night Out, and Disaster Preparedness Seminars.



**Natalia "Natasha" Burns**  
*Washington Service Corps*  
*OneAmerica's Washington New Americans Program*  
*AmeriCorps State*

**Everett**

Natasha Burns serves as a volunteer for Citizenship Days in Seattle and Mount Vernon. She is the first to arrive at events and the last to leave. Natasha is a prime example of a model citizen and genuinely good person that inspires those around her with her unceasing positive attitude. She clearly feels a duty to her community. She started volunteering by driving others in her neighborhood to Citizenship Day to help them take the next steps. An example of her efforts include driving another volunteer home after an eight-hour clinic, adding an extra two hours to her already long commute. Upon passing her Citizenship test/interview Natasha wrote: "I passed a test and became a U.S. citizen yesterday! Already have registered to vote and applied for a U.S. passport. Celebrated today by donating blood. I donated blood before but today was extra special. I felt so indebted to my 'adoptive family' so trying to give back in any way possible was the right thing to do. I feel invincible!"

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Alfred Butler**

*Lutheran Community Services NW*  
*RSVP*

**Bremerton**

Al Butler has volunteered with RSVP since 1994 and has served 6,242 hours. Over the years he has been an escort for daily and overnight Senior Center trips, volunteers in the office, has been Treasurer of SUMS - a nonprofit that supports the Senior Center. Al is also manager and performer of the Spectapulars, a senior tap-dancing troupe which has had over 500 performances during the past 14 years. In addition, as a member of the Sunshine Singers, Al is responsible for several functions to support the singing group and was a member of Central Kitsap Kiwanis supporting the Salmon in the Classroom project. In his role as RSVP Advisory Council member, Al has filled in for the chair and assisted in a number of fundraisers. Al is always willing to assist with any project.



**David Chung**

*Lutheran Community Services*  
*Senior Companion Program*

**Lakewood**

David has been volunteering for Lutheran Community Services for over 13 years contributing more than 9,154 hours of volunteer time. He is an asset to the Korean community by speaking Korean and translating important documents for other volunteers. Seniors from all over the community come to David for resources, suggestions, and support regarding senior services and friendly contact. David is kind, patient and compassionate to all he meets.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Scott Currie**

**Auburn**  
*City of Auburn Office of Emergency Management  
Citizen Corps*

Scott Currie has proven himself to be an outstanding asset as a volunteer for the City of Auburn Office of Emergency Management, a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member, and Emergency Communication Team member. Scott performs as a credentialed volunteer and certified CERT trainer to further the program, safety and security of the city by spending his time training and recruiting new city volunteers and Amateur Radio enthusiasts. In addition to this, he spends a considerable amount of his personal time to ensure that the Emergency Communications for the city are at their peak performance at any given time and is always working to increase the capabilities of the office. He has made a direct impact in the overall capability to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to and recover from any disaster or event.



**Levi and Obadiah DeWeber**

**Regional Service Corps**  
*AmeriCorps State*

**Connell**

The father/son duo of Obadiah and Levi DeWeber has been a musical dynamo, volunteering their shared talents in the greater Tri-Cities area for the last few years. They bring their guitar and fiddle to community events such as Go Wild for Reading, Warm Up With Cool Books, and Summer Safety Fun fairs. As a school administrator, Obadiah also served as an AmeriCorps Site Supervisor for four years and helped at Pasco School District Family Involvement Nights. Levi also volunteered to play at nursing homes with his father. Their engaging chemistry has drawn new youth to events that otherwise wouldn't have come. Much like Pied Pipers, students would often find out they were performing and then make the trek to wherever they were. Their love of music to help promote literacy events contributes to a vibrant community and encourages kids to love music as well as to pick up a book and read.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Norma-Erin Espinosa**  
*Seattle Works*  
*Volunteer Center*

**Seattle**

Erin Espinosa has been volunteering with Seattle Works for four years and quickly stepped up as a leader soon after her first interaction! Currently, Erin is a dedicated captain of her Team Works team, which includes recruiting volunteers, coordinating logistics with the project host and planning fun outings for her team to interact with one another. She encourages her team and works alongside them sharing her infectious positive attitude and showing the volunteers they are a part of something bigger. Erin's teams look up to her, because she isn't just the epitome of a great Team Captain – she is also a great leader. Erin takes initiative with many things, such as giving feedback to Seattle Works staff about events, activities and serving on the Seattle Works Day committee, helping to plan the largest day of service engaging over 1,000 volunteers for one day. Her thoughtful advice and generous support are unmatched!



**Dardnell (Dick) Fale**  
*Catholic Community Services*  
*RSVP*

**Everett**

Dick Fale is an important part of the success of RSVP. For the last several years, he has been vital to a major fundraising project by unselfishly volunteering his time and expertise. He keeps his commitments and can be relied on to pitch in whenever asked. Dick has been a driver with the Volunteer Transportation Program at Catholic Community Services for 14 years. His sense of humor is always in play, making him a pleasure to work with. Dick is a disabled Vietnam Vet and his empathy with other vets makes him a valuable part of the transportation program. Dick said, "I volunteer because the people need our service. It would be a very long day if they had to depend on public transportation. If we weren't there for them, they wouldn't be able to get out and about. The need is there and somebody needs to do it." Dick has volunteered over 3,000 hours in service to Catholic Community Services programs.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Lauren Gaylord**  
*College Access Now*  
*AmeriCorps State*

**Seattle**

Lauren Gaylord is such a powerful volunteer because of the qualities she shares with the students she serves: hard working, a thirst of knowledge, and unyielding persistence. Outside of her twice weekly support in two separate schools, Lauren has spent many hours tirelessly working with students to perfect their college applications and personal statements outside of sessions. In Lauren's three years volunteering with College Access Now she has consistently confronted challenges without solicitation. She saw a need for better resources for volunteers so she researched and wrote a comprehensive volunteer manual. Lauren is always the first to find an answer to a tricky question or a thought provoking article related to the work. Most of all, Lauren's volunteering has been that of holistic and genuine dedication to the students and their success, with the incomparable ability to care for and patiently build relationships with any student.



**Elaine Gualtieri**  
*Citizen Corps Council of Pierce County*  
*Citizen Corps*

**Tacoma**

Elaine Gualtieri burst onto the Citizen Corps scene in 2008, initially as a representative for Central Pierce Fire & Rescue volunteers. Her enthusiasm quickly spread to the greater vision of establishing a solid Citizen Corps Council for Pierce County (CCCPC). The first CCC board president, Elaine saw the board through the lengthy process of becoming a 501c3 in 2010. She consistently makes herself available to serve in the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center as a Citizen Corps liaison whenever requested. Her personal charm has paved the way in engaging others in the CCCPC mission. This past year, she took time off her job working with the Social Security Administration to travel with Pierce County government representatives to the Emergency Management Institute in Maryland. There, along with another CCC volunteer, she provided a strong voice (with a southern twang) to the value of volunteers working side-by-side with the professional first responders.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Dori Gustafson**  
*United Way of King County*  
*Volunteer Center*

**Seattle**

A passionate ally to hard working but low-income families in King County, Dori Gustafson has been a highly dedicated volunteer in two of United Way of King County's major volunteer programs. As a six-year volunteer with United Way's Free Tax campaign, Dori says her heart went out especially to two groups of people she prepared taxes for in SeaTac: struggling single parents who benefitted so greatly from their tax returns, and new immigrants to the United States working to overcome linguistic barriers and provide for their families. When United Way launched Bridge to Basics program a couple years ago, Dori jumped at the opportunity to connect those same hardworking families to life-changing public benefits like basic food and healthcare programs. When asked what's kept her coming back for the past eight years, Dori smiled and said, "I just love the people." And it shows.



**Grace C. Hanson**  
*Solid Ground*  
*King County RSVP*

**Renton**

Grace Hanson has shown great dedication and commitment to her volunteer service over the past 12 years. She is 93 years young with over 12,500 hours of service and shows no sign of stopping. Grace demonstrates her passion for serving others by volunteering six hours a day at Renton Senior Activity Center. She supports the Senior Services nutrition program which provides congregate meals to seniors in the community. Additionally, she serves up caffeine and a warm smile in the coffee bar. Grace is well loved at the center and exemplifies a healthy and active senior both in her volunteering and walking to and from the center every day. Even with all the volunteer hours she puts in each week, she still feels she could be doing more to serve her community and give back. It comes as no surprise that Grace is described as a "One in a Million" volunteer.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Brian & Shannon Higdon Ravensdale**  
*Maple Valley Community Emergency Response Team  
Citizen Corps*

Since taking the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and joining the team, Brian and Shannon Higdon have quickly become a critical part of the program. Both assist with hands-on instruction during classes and Brian has completed the Train-the-Trainer class. They have outfitted the team equipment trailer with shelving and have organized all supplies by functionality into bins, neatly labeled and inventoried. Always willing to help, Brian and Shannon have helped design, setup, and cleanup after practice drills, have provided First Aid services to the local community at the annual Emergency Preparedness Fair, Fishing Derby, and Maple Valley Days - a two-day community event with a carnival and many vendors. Both are ham radio operators, becoming skilled in the art of emergency communications. Additionally, Brian and Shannon have helped pack over 2300 CERT backpack kits for the greater Seattle area. Shannon has also accepted some record-keeping responsibilities for the team. Brian and Shannon exemplify what it means to volunteer for the betterment of their community.

**Michael "Scott" Hope**  
*Vet Corps  
AmeriCorps State*

**Redmond**

Scott Hope has become an invaluable asset at Cascadia Community College. Scott is an honorary member of the Vet Corps and from day one he has been helping new students enroll and directing Veterans to campus services purely because it had to be done. Scott works tirelessly in the Vet Center developing relationships with the campus leadership and President of the Vet Club. His activities bring positive attention to the club and Veterans. He spends 30 hours of his time outside of class and family driving Veteran interests. Scott is an invaluable honorary member of the Vet Corps team.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Scott James**

**Bainbridge Island**

*Kitsap County Emergency Management  
Citizen Corps*

Scott James has been an advocate for Island preparedness! He is one of the founders of Sustainable Bainbridge (<http://www.sustainablebainbridge.org/>), of which one part is Prepared Neighborhoods, helping neighborhoods get ready for catastrophe. Recovers.org is a project he is funding and promoting for the Island residents for preparedness and recovery. He is a Community Emergency Response Team member and sustainability expert. His team of advocates sponsors open houses/town meetings for preparedness and works with Island schools and businesses to get their support as shelters or warming stations when necessary. Some of Scott's ideas are being adapted throughout the county.



**Jerry Johnson**

**Seattle**

*Communities In Schools of Seattle  
AmeriCorps State*

For the past five years, Jerry Johnson has played an integral part in the Stuff the Bus campaign that collects over 50,000 school supplies each summer for students in need in Seattle Public Schools. Jerry enthusiastically donates his time to drive the bus across Seattle and pick up supplies from collection sites and to collection events. All the while, Jerry maintains an enormous amount of energy and support that enlivens the entire team.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Angie Kelly**  
*Washington Service Corps*  
*GRuB's Kitchen Garden Project*  
*AmeriCorps State*

**Olympia**

Angie Kelly began volunteering with Garden Raised Bounty in the fall and immediately joined the Kitchen Garden Project Leadership Team. From her first meeting, she has provided the Kitchen Garden Project with invaluable insight and a healthy dose of constructive criticism. Angie did more than talk about big changes. She joined two sub-committees - the Mentorship Committee and the Application and Selection Committee. As a result, Angie has had a major influence in developing a Gardner Mentorship program, as well as in evolving the gardener application and selection process. In every meeting Angie brings her own experience as a Backyard Gardens recipient and low-income single mother, and has passionately worked to ensure the processes are accessible and empowering to low income people. Angie is a great mentor and a steadfast supporter of AmeriCorps service.



**Ray Kusumi**  
*City of Renton Emergency Management*  
*Citizen Corps*

**Renton**

Ray Kusumi is an outstanding volunteer with the City of Renton Emergency Management Division. He is the current Team Leader for the Renton Emergency Communication Service, a Fire Corps Amateur Radio team which provides communication support to the city. Under Ray's leadership, this dynamic group has greatly improved back-up communication capabilities for the city. Ray also volunteers with the city's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, recently helping to start the first Teen CERT program at Hazen High School. Ray also volunteers as a staff member in the city's emergency operation center during activations. These are only a few of the many volunteer activities Ray Kusumi participates in. He is well known in his community for his many acts of service. The City of Renton is proud of Ray's commitment to volunteerism and grateful for his service.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Isle Lindall**

**Mount Vernon**  
*Skagit Co. Department of Emergency Management  
Citizen Corps*

Isle Lindall has walked thousands of miles to help others in need. Isle has been an active member of the Skagit County Explorer Search and Rescue group for 35 years. Her passion for helping, mentoring, and educating others has truly made a difference for thousands who have hiked the North Cascades, and within Skagit County. During a disaster event of any kind time is of the essence, and Isle has always been there to act quickly and respond in a professional and caring fashion. It takes a special person to continue to volunteer with the same organization for as long as Isle has with Search and Rescue. Skagit County Search and Rescue volunteers go above and beyond to help citizens in trouble. No county would exist without its volunteers, they are quite literally the backbone of our society, and a priceless asset.



**Mark Lium**

**Tukwila**  
*City of Tukwila, Office of Emergency Management  
Citizen Corps*

Outside of his full time-job, Mark Lium is the President of Tukwila's Emergency Communications Team. Mark was instrumental in forming the team. He did mass mailings and advertising in the community and the team now has over 30 active members. He has guided the team in operation readiness with thousands of hours of training, hands on drills, and the writing of policies and procedures. He has built two state-of-the-art radio repeaters that can talk to anywhere in the world on a portable radio or computer. The team ensures over 75 radios are operational and helps support the City of Tukwila and all of its citizens with emergency communications. Mark is truly dedicated to helping his community anyway he can.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Judith Miller**  
*Bellevue Police Department*  
*Citizen Corps*

**Bellevue**

Judi Miller has been a volunteer with the Bellevue Police Department for six years and has served almost 1700 hours. Her primary assignment is working at the Factoria Community Station assisting citizens who call or visit the station needing police services. Judi is also the lead trainer for new station volunteers and helps the Station Officer plan and coordinate various community outreach events each year, including their biggest event, National Night Out Against Crime. But Judi does not limit her role to just her primary assignment. She steps forward for many special projects throughout the year. She took a key role in a renewed initiative to contact businesses and residential complexes in the City to encourage compliance with disabled parking signage laws. She helps with the Police Foundation fundraising breakfast each year. Judi's positive attitude and commitment to the Department's mission makes her an outstanding volunteer.



**Lisa Parsons**  
*EarthCorps*  
*AmeriCorps State*

**Seattle**

Lisa Parson's official involvement with EarthCorps began in 2011, when she responded to an inquiry about hosting an international corps member. She and her husband have hosted two international women, one from Kenya and one from Bolivia. Beyond hosting, which is a huge commitment, she has had a profound influence as a mentor, friend, outdoor teacher, and coach to many of EarthCorps' young female corps members (international and AmeriCorps). Lisa's dedication and insight has helped to strengthen the overall program by creating an external net that supports the physical and emotional maturing of participants and encourages them to challenge themselves in new ways. Lisa is also an amazing photographer and has provided a source of wonderful images that capture people in the program. As an environmental leader in her own right, EarthCorps is grateful and fortunate to have Lisa as a volunteer within the organization.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Crystal Pate**

*Community Youth Services - Youth In Service Program  
AmeriCorps State*

Crystal Pate has been an invaluable volunteer at Olympia High School for over a year. Crystal shows up every day as reliably as a staff member, even when there is an alternate schedule due to testing or assemblies, despite having a steady job elsewhere. Her demeanor works very well with all kids (she is sometimes mistaken for a student!), but she is especially successful with kids who lack motivation and/or academic success. Crystal has been an incredible volunteer for the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) classes as well as a 9th grade English class. Moreover, Crystal's service has helped her see her future in education, and she has been accepted to the Masters in Teaching program at The Evergreen State College for the coming fall.



**Clarence Pittack**

*Grays Harbor/Pacific/Thurston Senior Companion Program  
Senior Companion Program*

Clarence Pittack has been involved with the Senior Companion Program since its beginning - May 1978. Clarence was one of 15 community members asked to participate on the program's newly formed advisory council. His interest and commitment was so evident, that he was elected the council's chairperson in July 1978. He encouraged the council to pursue their nonprofit status and tax exemption process in 1980. His dedication to the program's standing in the community, the Senior Companion volunteers, program recipients and for his fellow board members has earned him the on-going position of chairperson for the past 35 years. Clarence has also dedicated many volunteer hours to support other community services and organizations such as Grays Harbor Salvation Army, Hoquiam YMCA Board of Directors, Hoquiam Kiwanis Club and Hoquiam Little League.

**Hoquiam**

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Alison Robbins**

**Olympia**  
*Washington Service Corps/Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation Administration - Region 3 Mentor Program , DSHS AmeriCorps VISTA*

Alison Robbins is a wonderful example of the fine quality of people that live, work and volunteer in this great state. Alison has been a mentor with the Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation Mentor Program since September 2010. She is matched with a young woman who was in Echo Glen Children's Center in Snoqualmie. Later, upon her release, the young woman moved to Vancouver, Washington. Alison has never wavered in maintaining contact and meeting in person with the young woman, all at her own expense. The bond the two share is strong. Alison is an exemplary volunteer and an asset to the Mentor Program and to the state of Washington.



**George Robertson**

**Longview**  
*Lower Columbia Community Action Program  
RSVP*

George Robertson has volunteered in Longview since retiring as a chemist in 1991. His volunteer activities include being a Project Read math tutor for adults earning their GED. George is also a volunteer Food Scheduler for FISH of Cowlitz County, a local organization of 17 churches that provides a food distribution program. That program feeds an average of 110 people a day, and George enters every adult client's name into a database; he's done that task since 2007. George volunteers at Community House, Longview's homeless shelter, and serves on the Housing First Coalition Board, which strives to house the homeless in a cost-effective way to help them find work. George worked on a "connect" event in January that drew more than 400 homeless people. They learned about help available to them and received clothing, toiletries and food. FISH board members acknowledge George as their most caring member whose focus is not funding or rules, but people in need.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Mesganaw Sissay**

**Seattle**

*Washington Service Corps/Neighborhood House  
AmeriCorps State*

Mesganaw Sissay, a high school student who attends Chief Sealth International High School, spends his free time dedicating hours to serve patrons in the High Point Neighborhood House Technology Center. Mesganaw juggles school and volunteering in his last year as a Senior with many obligations like senior projects, research papers, and keeping up a 3.5 GPA. Mesganaw comes from an East African background and it is blissful to see him giving back to the community at a time when some his age would rather spend their days engaged in less productive activities. Mesganaw offers a great sense of humor and innocence to the environment and those he serves alongside have enjoyed watching the transformation he has gone through with his technology skills. Mesganaw hopes to one day run a nonprofit just like Neighborhood House.



**Hollie Smith**

**Olympia**

*Thurston County Emergency Management  
Citizen Corps*

Hollie Smith began volunteering with Thurston County Emergency Management in July 2012. Hollie came with a wide variety of skills and experience with animals and originally volunteered to assist in developing a county-wide pet shelter plan. This expanded into the creation of a county-wide Thurston County Animal Response Coalition bringing together several animal non-profit groups to coordinate, communicate and work together in disaster planning and response. Hollie is also writing an updated Emergency Support Function 11 for the County Emergency Management Plan. Hollie is a great public speaker and presented animal preparedness at the county-wide Emergency Preparedness Expo last October to several community members. Hollie has pursued the planning ventures with great passion, is a positive person and works well with others.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Stephen Vradenburg** **Bothell**  
*Volunteers of America Western Washington*  
*Senior Companion Program*

Steve Vradenburg has been a volunteer for the Senior Companion and Respite Program since July 2009. Steve serves clients who are reaching the end of their lives and provides support to the surviving spouses. Two of Steve's clients have passed away and he was there until the end. He attended both funerals, and was a pallbearer at another. His spirit is upbeat and positive and he is loved by those he serves. Steve is a veteran with a purple heart as a medic in the military.



**Steve Wainwright** **Seattle**  
*International Rescue Committee*  
*AmeriCorps VISTA*

For three years, Steve Wainwright has served as one of the International Rescue Committee's most dedicated and thoughtful volunteers. As a Family Mentor, Steve has worked long-term with two newly arrived refugee families, helping them adapt to a new home and new culture in the U.S. Steve consistently meets with his mentees each week and serves as an invaluable source of guidance and friendship. He helps newcomers become familiar with new systems, customs and norms; access services and resources in the community; and, ultimately, supports refugees on their paths toward becoming independent and involved members of the community. After one year of mentoring, Steve took on a leadership role as a Master Mentor and now also facilitates introductions between new mentors and their mentees. By sharing his knowledge and experience with new volunteers and preparing them to be great mentors, Steve has impacted the lives of countless refugees in his community.

## *Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients*



**Jerry "Nick" Warden**      **University Place**  
*Rebuilding Together South Sound*  
*AmeriCorps National Direct*

Nick Warden is a dedicated and passionate volunteer for Rebuilding Together South Sound. He has been vital in helping provide free home repairs to low-income homeowners. He has served at 15 homes in 18 months. One homeowner affectionately named Nick and his two friends, Dale and Dave, the “three wise men.” He is a retired electrician with many skills and talents. If he had a choice, he would be doing a project each week. Nick is knowledgeable, reliable and amiable and loves spending time with the homeowners. When he is not volunteering with Rebuilding Together South Sound, he is volunteering in other places around the community. Nick has a huge heart for service and his community and makes a difference in people’s lives.



**Amy Woodfin**      **Ferndale**  
*Whatcom County CERT*  
*Citizen Corps*

Amy Woodfin has been involved with the Whatcom County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program for 10 years. She is an integral part of the CERT management team and is an active instructor/coordinator. She even organized and taught a remote class on Lummi Island. However, it is her expertise in moulage that makes her invaluable. Since becoming involved with CERT, Amy has done moulage for almost all of the county exercises. The triannual airport exercise last September required 65 victims. Realism is important in making an exercise a success and Amy's makeup skills greatly enhanced this. She has done moulage for almost all Whatcom County's CERT class finals and she even got up at 6:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning last fall to do moulage at a field exercise for the Civil Air Patrol.

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, since the early days of our nation, volunteers have helped us through our greatest challenges and triumphs – patriots fighting for our founding ideals, and ordinary citizens coming to the aid of neighbors in need; and

**WHEREAS**, while our nation continues on the road to economic recovery, volunteer service plays a vital role in addressing national and local challenges, and is an effective strategy to help unite communities while addressing critical unmet needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington's volunteers demonstrated their commitment to improving their communities and ranked 9th among the 50 states, according to the Volunteering and Civic Life in America report. In 2012, 1.83 million Washingtonians served more than 223 million total hours valued at \$4.6 billion.

**WHEREAS**, engaged citizens, many recruited by AmeriCorps; VISTA; Senior Corps participants; Citizen Corps; and the Volunteer Centers of Washington, are improving the lives of our state's most vulnerable citizens by helping students improve their academic performance, preserving the environment, supporting veterans and military families, and contributing to our public safety by responding to disasters; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 21-27, 2013, as

### ***Washington Volunteer Appreciation Week***

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing and supporting those who volunteer and serve.



Signed this 8th day of April, 2013

Governor Jay Inslee

# CelebrateService

National Volunteer Week  
April 21 - 27, 2013



## *Special Thanks*

*Frances Munez Carter*

*Mansion Coordinator*

*Quan Hoang*

*Mansion Chef*

*Nicole Trimble*

*Chair, WCNCS*

*in partnership with:*



Washington Association  
of Retired and Senior  
Volunteer Program Directors  
[www.wasvp.org](http://www.wasvp.org)



Volunteer  
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Washington 

