GREATER TACOMA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

STRATEGIC GAZETTE

NOW AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

VOL. IV

November 2026

THRIVING FUTURE STARTS TODAY!

PIERCE COUNTY BUILDS ITS OWN WAY FORWARD

- Everyone has health care that meets physical, mental, and social needs.
- Multigenerational services support the entire family.
- Guaranteed basic income.

These are a few of the visions local leaders see for our community thirty years from now. They shared these ideas through their participation in the Pierce County Resiliency Hub. The Hub brings together network and sector leaders to build and use shared, reliable, locally-owned data that can lead to new approaches for supporting Pierce County residents who are losing critical services due to federal funding, policy, and rule changes.

Those future scenarios are very different from what nonprofits and government agencies are seeing today, though. Work requirements for SNAP benefits, cuts to Medicaid coverage and the Affordable Care Act, and changes to immigration laws take away services that helped people stay active and involved in their families and community life.

Moving from the challenges of this moment to that future vision requires innovation, collaboration, and trust. “Pierce County has been through these kinds of challenges before and we’ve been able to rise again,” GTCF Chief Impact Officer Seth Kirby observed, “Even though some long-standing services are falling apart, the Hub is looking to what’s next – and starting to build it – rather than staying overwhelmed by the current losses.”

Through the monthly Resiliency Hub in-person meetings, leaders are bringing in ideas and problems from their networks. Leaders across healthcare, food access, education, and other sectors are then carrying back partnership opportunities, creative alternative approaches, and new connections from the Hub.

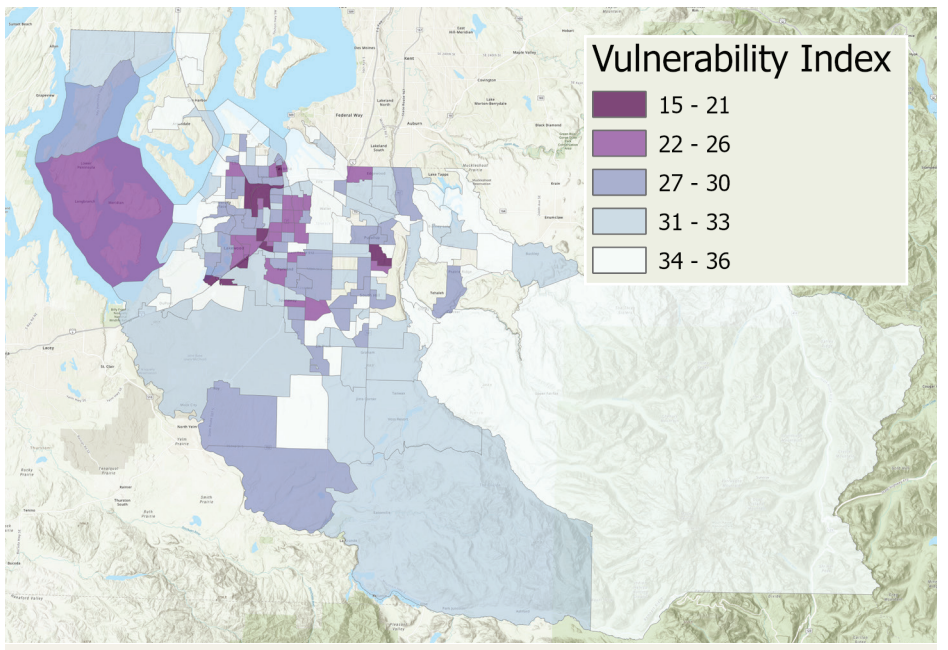
Those thirty-year visions will take time to build. One step Hub members are taking right now is using network grants from GTCF to grow and deepen the relationships that will help people while that thriving future is still coming online. That work includes increasing community engagement around meeting new requirements, raising awareness of policies that adversely affect food security, and new outreach to unhoused people in East Pierce County. With flexible resources and growing relationships, local leaders are laying the groundwork for a thriving future today.

Learn more at **https://www.gtcf.org/connect/pierce-county-resiliency-hub/**

Who Is Most Vulnerable?

SOME NEIGHBORHOODS FACE GREATER RISK

Changes to funding and policy affect many different programs that helped many different people. When the types of people losing those programs are identified through census data, however, a picture emerges. It's clear that some neighborhoods have significantly higher concentrations of people vulnerable to hunger, loss of healthcare, housing insecurity, and restriction of justice.



Credit: Data selection and methodology by Dr. Ali Modarres. Visualization and Mapping by Samantha Eilert.

FOR THE VULNERABILITY INDEX, LOWER NUMBERS INDICATE GREATER VULNERABILITY.

Eight indicators were selected for this analysis:

- Disability
- Non-Citizen Foreign Born Population
- Median Household Income
- Uninsured Population
- Medicaid Recipients
- Income Below Poverty Level
- Same-Sex Households
- SNAP Recipients

For each indicator, Pierce County census tracts were ranked statistically. Ranking from all indicators were summed up and applied to the map above.

Using a ZIP Code overlay, the following four were identified as most vulnerable to negative impacts from federal funding and policy changes:

- 98402 - Downtown Tacoma
- 98371 - Puyallup
- 98499 - Lakewood
- 98439 - Lakewood/JBLM Area

You're Not Alone

BUILDING A NETWORK OF PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT IMMIGRANTS

"You're here to see me? How did you even know I was in here?" That's what one person asked Aimee Khuu, Executive Director of Tacoma Community House, during a visit to the Tacoma Northwest Detention Center earlier this year.

"I had never visited someone in detention there until one of our students was detained. I started visiting people there quite a bit, and every time I went in and heard someone's story, I started realizing that there was something they needed that they didn't know how to navigate."

Aimee has heard about many needs during her visits: finding a place for children whose parents or grandparents had been detained, rental help for spouses and children when the person detained was the family's only income, and rides when a family's only driver had been detained.

"As our organization got more involved with supporting families that had experienced separation, we realized that there wasn't a lot that was happening to protect and support families in the midst of this incredibly difficult hardship."



Immigrant Services Providers Coalition members identified needs and opportunities for ensuring immigrant families have the resources, advocacy, and support they need.

Aimee brought together a few partner organizations. Even within that small group, she found that "it wasn't clear how to do referrals between our organizations and what resources are available."

Aimee is part of the Pierce County Resiliency Hub. She shared the challenges she and her partners found at a meeting. Other Hub members talked about services their organizations offer that could help or might already be helping. Aimee saw the problem wasn't a lack of support; it was a lack of connection among the people offering it. In July, Aimee and her partners started the Immigrant Services Providers Coalition. More than 60 people from 45 Pierce County and Washington State organizations came to Tacoma Community House for the coalition's first meeting.

"I think what became really clear is people want to help, and they are doing things to support immigrant families at their various organizations, but we're not always very coordinated about it. It takes being together and making sure that people have time to be in the room and have real conversations, exchange contact information, and have each other's direct line."

Those connections are already working. Tacoma Community House brought on two AmeriCorps volunteers to support more detention visits, and the coalition is building a shared resource directory and referral system those volunteers will be able to use.

PLAY IS A PATHWAY TO THE FUTURE

New Card Deck Offers Insight, Vision, and Fun for Pierce County

At this year's GTCF Board retreat, members learned more about challenges local nonprofits are facing through a child's game. Go Fish has a lot in common with community building: you ask for what you need, share what you have, and count on the people across from you. A twist on the rules asked Board members to first write down and display the values that guide their work in community. Then, they attempted to play according to those values, rather than simply playing to win.

Over two more rounds of game play, Board members faced further rule changes. In one, they had to accumulate specific points, not just sets of equal value cards. In the second, the highest value face cards were removed, but players still had to accumulate the same number of points.

People laughed, they cried foul, and they got an experience that compares to the way nonprofits have to raise money and sustain services even as federal funding and policy changes disrupt long-standing systems. This kind of learning experience is at the heart of a new deck of playing cards GTCF designed to support philanthropy vision and action. It's called Foundations & Futures.

Foundations & Futures grew out of GTCF's positive experiences with image-based card decks used in philanthropic visioning, like 21/64's Picture Your Legacy deck. In this new deck, GTCF built on that legacy visioning by adding iconic Pierce County locations, images by four



GTCF Board members test-drive card play as a way to learn more about sustaining a nonprofit during funding changes.

local photographers, and values-guided exercises. The goal was to activate fun and play as tools for the hard work of building a thriving community. Megan Sukys, Chief Strategy & Communications Officer, shared how Foundations & Futures shifted the learning experience at this year's Board retreat, "When we play, we're more open, more generous, and often more honest than in formal meetings. Playing Go Fish gave us a lower-stakes way to explore the very high-stakes decisions nonprofits are facing at this time."

Go to **gtcf.org/foundationsandfutures** to read the story behind each card, learn more about the deck, and try a scavenger hunt to find all the locations.

Future-Proofing Philanthropy

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS EVOLVE ALONGSIDE COMMUNITY

This fall, Pierce County Resiliency Hub members received unrestricted $20K grants to activate their networks around new approaches for supporting Pierce County residents who are losing critical services due to federal funding and policy changes.

Endowed Field of Interest funds made these grants possible. Donors establish these funds for causes like women and girls, environment, and basic needs. Historically, GTCF held lengthy application processes and site visits to select grantees, with no guarantee of funding. Grants were often restricted to specific programs, ensuring funds were used for that purpose, but limiting the flexibility to meet greatest needs.

Since taking on the role of Chief Impact Officer in 2019, Seth Kirby developed a funding approach that aligned multiple funds to support many organizations, ensuring donor intent was fulfilled.

"Today's challenges are complex," Seth observed. "The environment requires many organizations to work in alignment. No single group owns any field of interest. By putting many funds to work together, we can catalyze resilient local responses that meet donor intent and stand the test of time."

This kind of change has been part of GTCF for decades. Cleve Redig, the Board Chair of GTCF in 1984, pointed out the need to evolve funding strategies, saying "certain and constant change takes place in our society and in our attitudes with respect to charity, and ... the problems of each generation can be solved better by the best minds of these generations than by those of the past."

The Fund for Women & Girls is an example of how GTCF ensures funds stay responsive. Former Board Chair Kathryn van Wagenen led the fund's creation, inspired by similar funds developed by and for women across the country in the late 1990s. At the inaugural fund breakfast in 2000, she said, "In the field of philanthropy, assets and distributions are quite limited compared with the issue they address... Since women overall are disproportionately affected by every economic trend, the opportunities for improving communities by targeting issues that impact women and girls are tremendous."

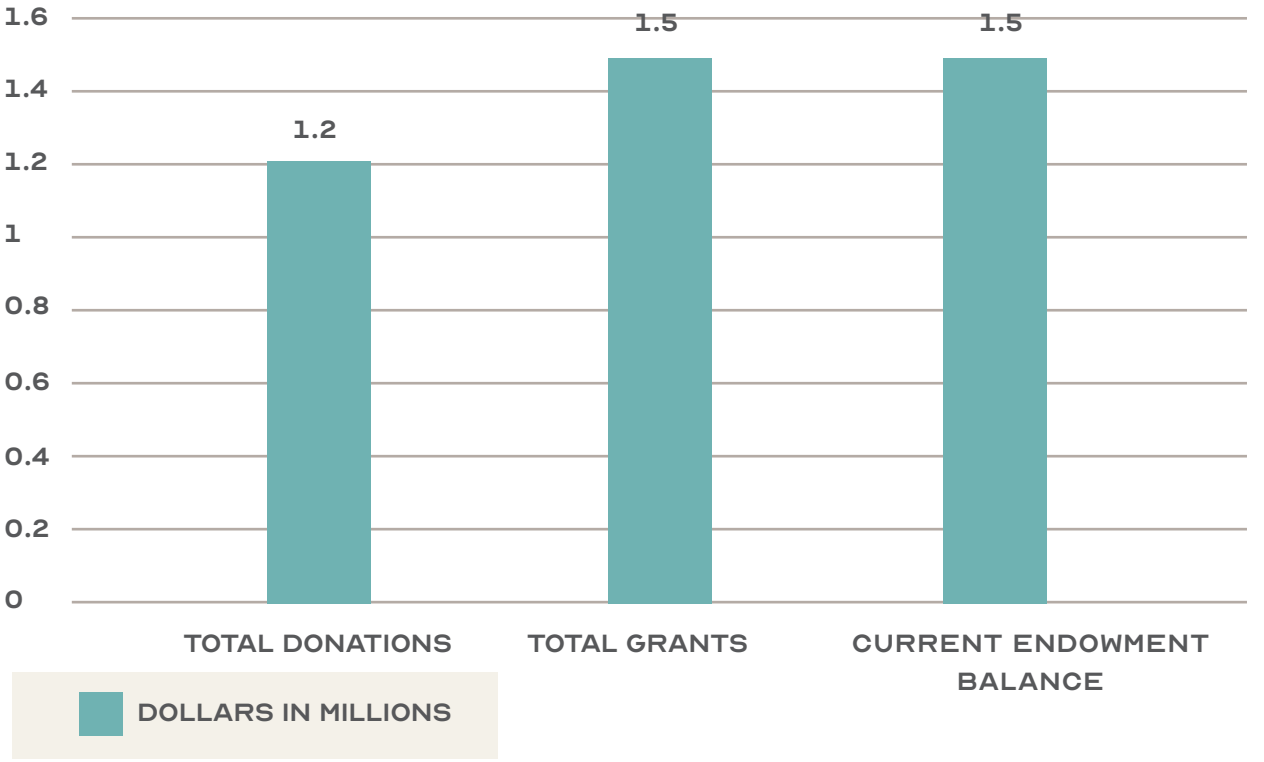
As hundreds of individuals donated to grow the fund, grants responded to needs surfaced by the community. From community conversations in 2009 to research into women's income in 2016, the Fund for Women and Girls supported different kinds of work that met community needs.

Over the past six years, the Fund for Women & Girls, aligned with other Field of Interest funds, resourced emergency day camps during the pandemic, catalyzed community support for immigrants and refugees, invested in women new to nonprofit leadership, and activated possibilities for small women-owned businesses.

GTCF's current funding strategy recognizes that deep relationships among and across many different organizations are fundamental to meeting the problems of today.

Now and For Generations to Come

THE ENDURING IMPACT OF THE FUND FOR WOMEN & GIRLS



Total Donors 2300+

Average Gift $163

Median Gift $50

Dedicated women leaders including former GTCF Executive Director Margy McGroarty, former Fund director Miriam Barnett, and a group known fondly as the "Founding Mothers" guided the fund's growth toward a goal of a $1M endowment. Funds were raised through an annual "Power of the Purse" luncheon and a giving circle known as the Dreamweavers.

The Dreamweavers donors gave dollars so that half went into the endowment, half went out as immediately grantable cash, closing the gap until the endowment could carry its own weight. It was an innovative response to fundraising that met the needs of the day while building for the future.

Thanks to contributions of nearly 1,200 individual donors, the Fund for Women and Girls reached its $1M goal by 2007. Thanks to the power of endowments, the Fund's grants have exceeded it establishing donations, and the Fund balance has grown to support continued grants for generations to come.

PAUL BENDER

1981-1987

SETTING THE FUTURE IN MOTION

1981-2026: GTCF Celebrates 45 Years and Four Inspiring Leaders

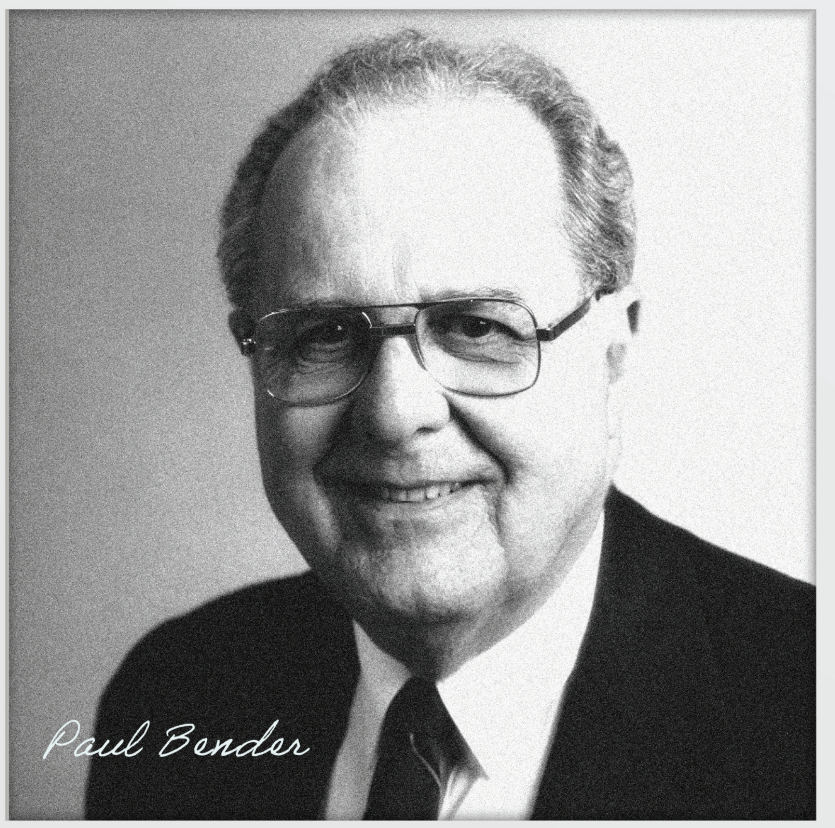
the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation

EXECUTIVE BIO

- In 1977, Ann Wiborg walked into Arleigh Jones's bank office and asked what he knew about community foundations. He said he didn't know anything — but he could find out. That curiosity, shared by Byron Johnston and Lawrence Ross, became a founding board of nine people and a search for the right person to lead the new organization.

- That person was Paul Bender. A 24-year military veteran and former chief of staff for Governor Dixy Lee Ray, Paul was hired part-time in 1981. But Arleigh Jones observed, "Paul never worked part-time. He always worked his job full time and more."

- Paul got GTCF moving with only $10,000 in assets and the support of a community belief that Pierce County deserved an organization that could pool the generosity of many to meet the needs of all.



"He was just an organizational genius."

— Margy McGroarty shared with the Seattle Times in Paul's obituary, 2001

"The economic structure of Tacoma was changing. There was a growing middle class and we needed to tap their economic clout for the growth of Tacoma."

— Ann Wiborg, Co-Founder, 1981



GTCF's Founding Trustees, The First Annual Report of the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, 1982



Emergency Food Network at Opening of Tacoma Dome, 1982

ASSET GROWTH

1981: $10,000
1987: $3.7 million

GRANTS BY YEAR

YEAR	GRANTS
1982	$12,833
1983	$707,722
1984	$827,995
1985	$774,721
1986	$57,076
1987	$139,420
Total	**$2,489,767**

MILESTONES

1977 Ann Wiborg, Arleigh Jones, Byron Johnston, and Lawrence Ross incorporated Greater Tacoma Community Foundation

1981 June 1, GTCF was officially operative with $10,000 in assets and a commitment from a local private foundation to cover first-year administrative costs of $36,000.

1982 Pierce County Emergency Food Network (EFN) created March 1, known as the "Food Banks' Food Bank."

- Launched with support from FISH Food Banks, Salvation Army, Tacoma Rescue Mission and others to meet surging demand "by a new group of people in need of assistance because they were out of work, and by those who could no longer depend on traditional sources because of revised federal guidelines and reduced governmental spending."
- In its first year, EFN received $517,237 in donations and served 33 providers across Pierce County.
- EFN was initially viewed as a temporary augmentation to traditional emergency food resources.

1982 Educational program launched for high school dropouts; fund established to support the Committee for Tacoma's Future. First Annual Report published. GTCF described as "the ideal organization to pool gifts from many sources to meet large local needs."

1985 EFN transferred to Associated Ministries as an independent program, the first of many enduring community efforts catalyzed through the support of GTCF's resources, connections, and long-term vision.

1985 GTCF appointed successor trustee to 11 charitable trusts worth $1.2

1986 One of GTCF's earliest grants went to the Fort Nisqually Museum in Point Defiance Park. Supporting a series of upgrades to the exhibit, GTCF granted $500 to furnish the worker's dwelling/living house on June 16.

FUNDING MILESTONES ACTION MILESTONES

MARGY MCGROARTY
1987–2004
BUILDING COMMUNITY MOMENTUM

1981-2026: GTCF Celebrates 45 Years and Four Inspiring Leaders

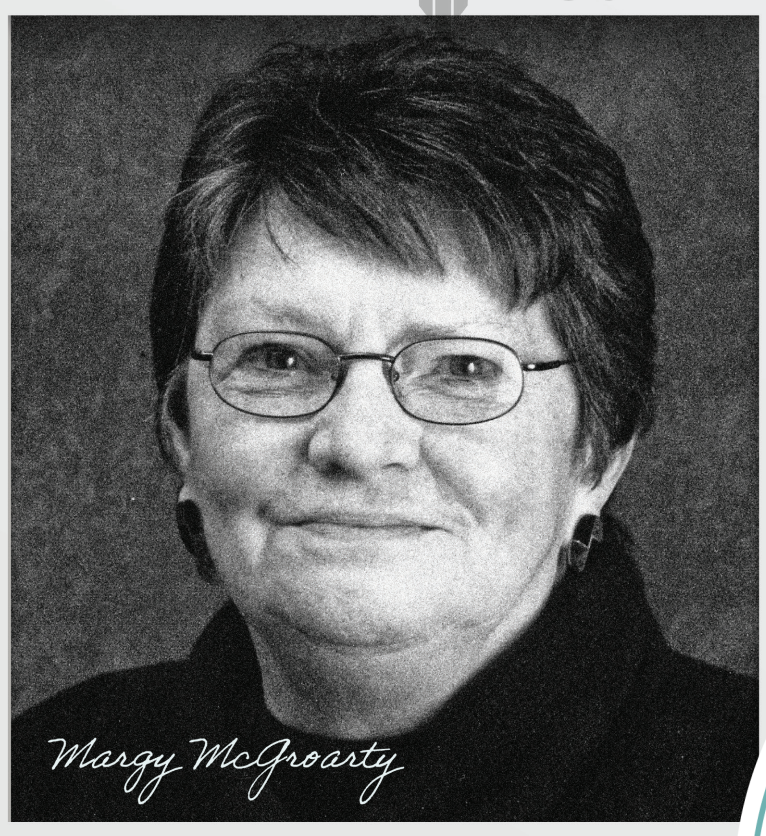
The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation

EXECUTIVE BIO

- Margy McGroarty joined GTCF in 1983 as Director of Development and was promoted to Executive Director in 1987. Over 17 years of leadership, she led a promising young organization into a recognized civic institution.

- Margy had a gift for seeing what a community needed before it knew it needed it. During her tenure, GTCF helped feed people during a recession, formed a Task Force to revitalize downtown Tacoma through a $14 million theater project, supported the American Leadership Forum locally, commissioned landmark research on arts and cultural facilities, launched the Fund for Women & Girls, and helped the Tacoma School of the Arts get started.

- One of her favorite memories from the Theatre District project was the discovery that one of the balcony pillars in the Rialto had been supported by empty liquor bottles from years ago.



"When I joined The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation in 1983, I already believed in the concept of a Community Foundation for Tacoma/Pierce County. The original members of the Board and Staff understood its potential because it allows people of any means to be philanthropists."

— Margy McGroarty

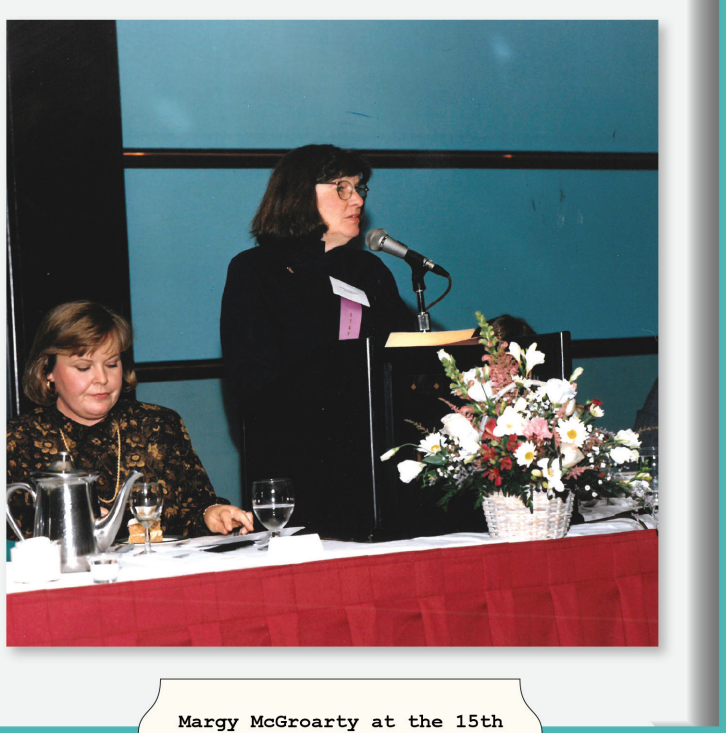


"I am confident that, during its second decade, The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation will continue to respond to the charitable needs of Tacoma/Pierce County... to protect and to nurture this area's uniqueness and diversity, to improve the quality of life and to strengthen human dignity."

— Ottie Ladd, Board Chair, 1992



American Leadership Forum
Tacoma Pierce County
Class I, 1990



Margy McGroarty at the 15th Anniversary of GTCF, 1996

ASSET GROWTH

1988: $6.1M
2003: $41.8 million

GRANTS BY YEAR

YEAR	GRANTS
1988	$626,643
1989	$521,654
1990	$1,955,902
1991	$572,072
1992	$2,678,359
1993	$1,127,230
1994	$8,445,198
1995	$1,402,151
1996	$751,802
1997	$1,279,253
1998	$2,002,709
1999	$2,024,624
2000	$2,718,779
2001	$15,970,957
2002	$14,046,081
2003	$2,431,596
2004	$2,011,439
Total	**$60,566,449**

MILESTONES

1988 Largest single gift to date: $1.5 million Baker Family Fund; assets reached $7.2 million; Planned Giving Program established

1988 Broadway Theater District project launched. One anonymous donation to renovate the Rialto Theater grew into a five-year, $14 million public-private partnership: Tacoma's first major downtown revitalization project.

1989 GTCF helped launch American Leadership Forum Pierce County Chapter and in 2026, ALF will launch Class XXXII. GTCF profiled in An Agile Servant as one of eight community foundations of note nationally.

1991 Assets reached $17.6 million; first decade celebrated with Alex Haley as keynote speaker; Rialto Theater renovation completed.

1993 B.E.S.T. (Bethel Education Scholarship Team) launched. Employees donated one day's pay. By 2005 more than 150 students per year received scholarships. In 2026, employees are still donating.

1994 GTCF sponsored **Symposium on Diversity, Multicultural Inclusion**. Ten cultural organizations convened at Slovenian Hall. Key finding: *"Inclusion is most effective when the relationships are reciprocal and both parties get something out of the interaction."*

1995-1996 GTCF sponsored **Tacoma 2010: A Community Dialogue on Cultural Facilities.** More than 200 representatives convened; Tacoma City Council adopted recommendations. Research and planning identified as the "early money" barrier for nonprofit capital projects.

1997 GTCF sponsored **Study Commission on the Arts in the 21st Century**. Thirty cultural organizations assessed; $35.1 million in local economic activity documented. Vision for 2020: Pierce County as an arts destination. (That vision came true.)

1998-1999 Fund for Women & Girls founded by Board Chair Kathryn Van Wagenen.

2000 Fund for Women & Girls officially launched, 320 attendees, Betsy Brenner keynote; $235,000 raised in first year

2004 Margy retired after 21 years.

FUNDING MILESTONES ACTION MILESTONES

ROSE LINCOLN
2004-2015
SPARKING IMPACT

1981-2026: GTCF Celebrates 45 Years and Four Inspiring Leaders

EXECUTIVE BIO

- Rose Lincoln came to GTCF from Safeco, where she managed a program to strengthen neighborliness and community connection. She brought experience across government, private business, and nonprofit sectors plus a clear philosophy: "Small acts can make big things happen."

- Under Rose's leadership, GTCF more than doubled its assets, introduced Vibrant Community grantmaking, weathered the 2008 financial crisis without reducing its commitment to the community, launched Be the Spark with Bishop Desmond Tutu, and received the largest gift in GTCF's history. She was, as she put it in her final years, building on the past and setting the stage for the future.



"Each day at the Community Foundation, we invite people with a vision and passion for community to create something greater together. Greater opportunity. Greater empowerment. Greater impact. Greater hope. Greater generosity."

— Rose Lincoln, 2013

"Our goal was to create an active movement - with a continuous flow of financial support and information around civic activity. The more people that you can help get involved, the more things you can do. Doing something is wonderful but reaching out is important - you can employ so much more from your reach than by just doing it yourself.

— Ann Wiborg, GTCF Co-Founder, 2012

THE GREATER TACOMA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

"DO YOUR LITTLE BIT OF GOOD WHERE YOU ARE; IT'S THOSE LITTLE BITS OF GOOD PUT TOGETHER THAT OVERWHELM THE WORLD."

— Archbishop Desmond Tutu, quoted in Be the Spark program, 2011



Bishop Desmond Tutu and Rose Lincoln, 2011



Student Youth Dialogues, 2010

FUNDING MILESTONES

2004 Fund for Women & Girls 4th annual event raiseds $60,000+; assets approach $500,000

2006 GTCF became first Washington community foundation to earn National Standards Seal from the Council on Foundations, one of only 250 nationwide confirmed in compliance with the highest standards for operational quality, integrity, and accountability.

2007 Ryan Hade Endowment Fund founded. Seven-year-old Ryan Hade was attacked in a Tacoma neighborhood in 1989. Nearly a million dollars raised by the public. Ryan legally affirmed his wish that upon his death those funds would go to GTCF *"for the benefit of other abused or disfigured children, in perpetuity." "He was always helping others."*
— Betty Foote, Ryan's grandmother

2008 Financial crisis hit. Rose Lincoln: *"The effects of the current economic slowdown and financial uncertainty will only encourage us to be more innovative and collaborative."* GTCF maintained grantmaking; Community Grants cycle increased. Vibrant Community grantmaking framework launched, addressing root causes and systemic challenges.

2008 Youth Violence Committee convened. Foundation of Art Award established.

2009 Vibrant Community grant to Oasis Youth Center. Oasis Director Seth Kirby: *"The mission of our program is three-fold: to save the lives of youth who need assistance; to help the youth build their community; and through these youth to go out and change the world."* (Seth Kirby is now GTCF's Chief Impact Officer.)

2011 Largest-ever bequest: $15 million from Donald R. and Mary E. Williams

2011 Be the Spark. Bishop Desmond Tutu came to Tacoma. *"Tonight is just the beginning — the spark of something greater."* — Rose Lincoln. Youth Philanthropy Board inaugurated.

2012 Foundation for Tacoma Schools collaboration launched.

2013 Spark Grants launched: micro-grants empowering everyday people to create change in their neighborhoods. Impact investing program introduced.

2014 Pacific Bonsai Museum and Lakewold Gardens supported as GTCF partner organizations.

FUNDING MILESTONES ACTION MILESTONES

KATHI LITTMANN

2015-PRESENT

CATALYZING A THRIVING PIERCE COUNTY

1981-2026: GTCF Celebrates 45 Years and Four Inspiring Leaders

GREATER TACOMA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Kathi Littmann, 2019



> There isn't anything in Pierce County that we don't touch in some way, shape or form, just because of the passions of the people who are partnered with us.
>
> *— Kathi Littmann, 2015*



GTCF's Thanks for A Greater Community Event, 2017

> The simplest way of doing the most good with my legacy gift is through GTCF because I know they will leverage and amplify my intent. GTCF shares my values. They understand my intent. They will take my gift and do more with it than I could do alone.
>
> *— Wayne Williams, Board Chair Emeritus, 2019*



The "Fab Four" Nonprofit Executives: Helen McGovern Pilant, Liz Dunbar, Maureen Fife, Miriam Barnett at a GTCF panel on leadership, 2025



Michelle Douglas in the new EFN warehouse, 2023

GRANTS BY YEAR

YEAR	GRANTS
2016	$8,057,820
2017	$6,559,591
2018	$5,872,469
2019	$8,082,358
2020	$15,663,208
2021	$10,468,766
2022	$8,452,078
2023	$11,162,281
2024	$18,966,072
2025	$18,569,557
Total	**$111,854,200**

> Back in 1981, George Davis couldn't have imagined all the ways his belief in this community would help shape the future. That's exactly the point — and exactly why unrestricted gifts like his and Kit's continue to make a difference.
>
> *— George Davis, one of GTCF's founders, and his daughter, Kit Severson, recognized in Strategic Gazette Vol. III, 2026*

The Future is a Two-Way Street



Kathi Littmann, President & CEO

When I first joined GTCF in 2015, a Board member asked me how I would feel if the results of my work wouldn't be seen for decades, maybe even when I was no longer here. I joked that I was okay with it if the Board was. But, more than a decade later, I understand what that question meant. Community Foundations are built on a belief that there will be a future, and we are able to shape it through decisions we make now. It takes a long time to build community, sometimes longer than our lifetime. Or, at least, longer than our tenure at GTCF.

In 1981, when we started with just $10,000, early leaders like Ann Wiborg and Paul Bender looked past those modest assets to the outsized impact GTCF would make for generations to come. That optimism inspired people to make gifts that would outlast their lives. And because of them, we're able to respond to today's needs in ways those early visionaries could never imagine.

I've seen incredible achievements over the past eleven years. I've seen nonprofits, businesses, and agencies work together to extend childcare benefits for working parents. I've seen the community work together, leveraging nearly $8M in philanthropy investments to build out of school opportunities for youth across Tacoma. I've seen donors connect through dollars and service to deliver $7.9M during the pandemic. I've seen nearly $5M in state dollars support local businesses, community healing, and homeownership in partnership with GTCF.

And now, as we face huge shifts in federal funding and policy, I am watching as networks lean into new ways of partnering and problem solving, finding a path forward for Pierce County where other avenues have shut down.

I'll be transitioning leadership by the end of 2027. I won't see all the great outcomes from this work that is happening today. But I know great things will happen. And when they do, I'll recognize that the future is the other end of the road from right now. That's what keeps my fire burning to get as much started right now as we possibly can.

GTCF Assets Fuel A Thriving Community

GIFTS AND GRANTS TO DATE (AS OF 6/30/2026)

Total Assets - $222,883,997
Total Grants - $230,262,019

TYPES OF FUNDS $(AS OF 6/30/26)

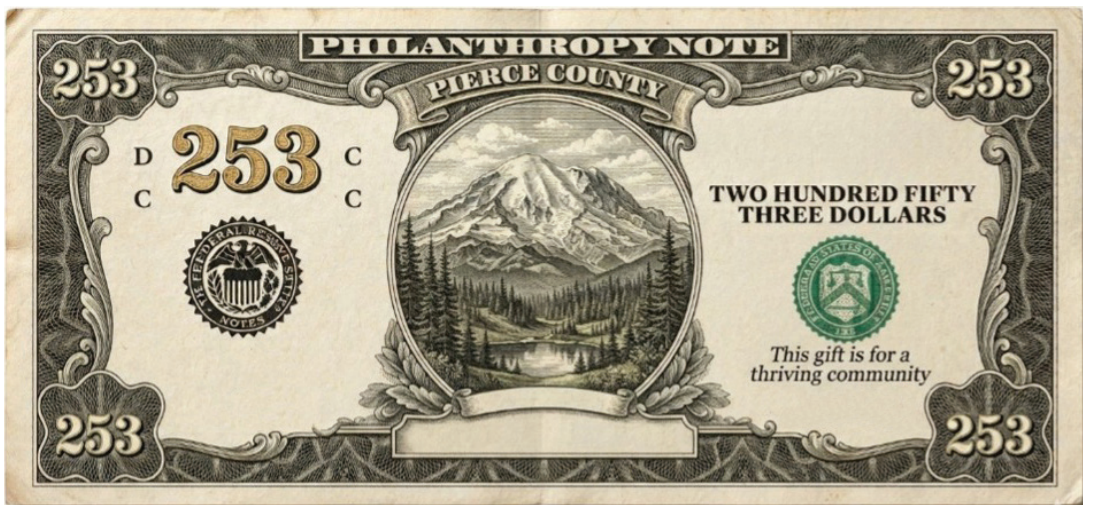
Fund Type	Total Assets	# of Funds
Designated	$75,521,889	232
Donor-Advised	$70,320,449	120
Field of Interest	$23,345,039	28
Unrestricted	$20,243,749	44
Agency	$20,449,998	117
Other Comm. Foundations	$6,997,045	59
Community Leadership	$3,180,160	4
CRUTS and CGAs	$1,985,314	19
Intermediary Funds	$840,364	3
Total:	**$222,883,997**	**626**

ENDOWED VS NON-ENDOWED$(AS OF 6/30/26)

Fund Type	Total Assets	# of Funds
Endowed Funds	$135,300,843	364
Non-Endowed	$87,583,154	262

$253 IS THE NEW $100

A Meaningful, Manageable Gift



The number 253 isn't just an area code; it's a symbol of local pride around Tacoma and Pierce County. It's used on clothing, stickers, in the names of businesses and organizations, and it holds a special significance for nonprofits.

At fundraisers, many nonprofits offer $253 as one of of the special giving levels during the "Raise the Paddle". Katy Evans, Deputy Director of Hilltop Artists shared the response they see to the $253 giving level, "Choosing what level to give is as much about your heart as your head. When people are all together, feeling the impact of our work, seeing others who believe in the mission, the $253 level pulls together generosity and civic love. It can help people think of giving a little more."

In 2015, YWCA Pierce County launched a 253 Club as a way to engage young donors. Jodie Fortune, Fund Development Manager for the YWCA shared, "One of the things we learned is that people can often give more through a monthly commitment than they realize. Giving $21.08 a month felt much more achievable than making a single larger gift, yet over a year it added up to $253." The 253 Club spirit lives on through their new Healthy Love Club of dedicated monthly donors who believe everyone deserves healthy, safe relationships.

Recognizing the energy of 253, GTCF Chief Philanthropy Officer Stacey Guadnola decided to suggest $253 as a minimum organizational level of giving, "For the past decade, GTCF gave $100 when our staff attended a nonprofit breakfast or luncheon. When we looked closely at that number, we realized its value had shrunk. Every year, that same $100 bought less for the nonprofits we care about. We had been giving less without meaning to. Catching up to inflation was the minimum. We wanted to go further, and $253 was the obvious choice for GTCF: it's the number our nonprofits already rally around."

Consistent donors, at any level, are the lifeblood of local nonprofits. Over time, dedicated donors should review their giving level. This can help the nonprofits they love stay strong on their mission. Donors whose giving has been evergreen at the same level for many years might consider joining the pride of Pierce County by giving $253, or a version of that number that matches their giving potential.

Making Sure Legacies Live

Washington Nonprofits Work for Timely IRA Distributions

When a donor names a nonprofit as the beneficiary of an IRA, the financial firm holding the account (Fidelity, Vanguard, Ameriprise, and others) isn't legally required to tell the nonprofit when the donor dies. Charities that find out on their own may be asked for Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, and even background checks on their CEO, CFO, and board members. Meanwhile, account fees can chip away at the gift. A National Association of Charitable Gift Planners survey found 43% of nonprofits had trouble collecting IRA beneficiary proceeds.



Doug Page and GTCF Chief Philanthropy Officer, Stacey Guadnola, at a summer event in 2026.

GTCF Senior Legacy Fellow Doug Page found that fact troubling, "When I work with donors to set up their legacy, they are planning a gift that can change lives. The last thing they expect is that the gift will be delayed or possibly never delivered."

RIFT, which stands for Release IRA Funds Timely, is working to change that. In 2026, nonprofit leaders, including Doug, worked with state Representatives to introduce House Bill 2500 and Senate Bill 5887. The bills would have required firms to notify charities within 10 days of an owner's death, release the funds within a reasonable time, and accept a simple affidavit as proof of the charity's identity. The House Civil Rights and Judiciary Committee heard the bill, and it did not advance.

Seven states have passed similar laws: Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Nebraska, Tennessee, Colorado, and California. Doug and a growing group of charity leaders from across Washington are applying what they learned from the first attempt to prepare new legislation for early 2027. If it passes, a donor's IRA gift will reach the charity they chose without unnecessary delay.

SUPPORT GTCF DIRECTLY

GTCF Legacy Society As of 09.15.2026

FUTURE LEGACY FUNDS

Al and Sachiko Abbott
Tony and Linda Anderson
Julie L. Anderson and David K. Bates Fund
Lea Armstong
T.E. Batey, Jr. Family Fund
John and Regina Becque
Karen Bellamy
Dr. David and Linda* BeMiller
Wendy Bergman
Neil Beirmann & Jane Gingrich
Carolyn Blasdel
James and Ann Brown
Susan Brown Hays
Rick and Francie Carr
Dean Owen Carrell
Mark Cockerill and Marie Kennedy
Bob* and Kathryn Dalton
Ann and Peter* Darling
Jo Davies
John C. Delo
Ralph and Linda Drews
Rick and Betsy Ellingson
Joe & Sandra Gordon
Grogan Family
Thomas A. Hackstadt and Laura T. Hackstadt
William and Noel Hagens
Dr. C. Stevens and Cynthia E. Hammer
Mary W. Hammond
Mike and Nancy Harris
John and Carole Holmaas
Edward Hudson
Bill Jenks & Cindy Craig
Neil Jerstad
Marc & Marilyn* Jorgenson
J. Thomas Kuebler
John and Evelyn La Fond
Janice Y. Larson
James Law
Anthony S. and Bernice M. Lazar
Amy and David* Lewis
Kathi L. Littmann
Patricia Davison Mail
Joe and Gloria Mayer
Jean McCord
David and Jeanne McGoldrick
Sue Barrett and Rick Meeder
Joann Merrill and Wally Croshaw
Michael E. Mowat and Janet K. Runbeck
Bob Myrick
Susan and Darron* Nelson
Todd Newman & Erica Williams
Jacquelyn Ostrom
Katherine Oswalt
Sharon Oswalt
Pan Family
Gayle Peach
George and Jo Marie Pessemier
Oscar* and Virginia Peterson
Redford Family
Kit and Gary* Severson
Cindy A. Smith
Sharon Snuffin
James and Myrna Sparks
Shelby Clayson & Elaine Stafford
Janie & Kirk Starr
Jeffrey H Tepper
Sheri and Jeffrey Tonn
Dr. Pamela J. Transue
Timothy and Barbara Tucci
Terence T. Turner
Emily & Bob* Vincent
James L. Walton
Whitney Family
M. Wayne Williams
Anonymous (10)

FULFILLED LEGACIES*

Mary Jane Aram
Emma T. Archer
Elva Austin
George and Dorothy Babare
Baker Family
Leola B. Baron
William and Margaret Barton
Charles W. Bingham
Margaret J. Bock
Marydale Brooks
Angeline Cappa
Betty Jane Cappa
Frances Cappa
Allen Capps
Mable Crate
Doris B. Crow
Geraldine Delano Derrico
Joseph H. Easterday
Iris F. Elliott
Ruth Murphy Evans
Loretta Faust
June Fayette
Eulalie Fisher
Harold R. and Jessie B. Flowers
Dick and Mary Foege
Laura Foltz
James E. Frail
Elaine M. Fredrickson
Aurel A. Fries
Fuchs-Harden Family
Mina Garrison
William J. Gazecki
Charles E. and Thelma T. Gilmur
Barb Granger
Betty J. Green
Ryan Alan Hade
James and Enid Harris
Gerald and Susan Hartman
Captain Fredaline Healy
Frances Heidner
Wynn R. Hoffman
Bill and Betty Hyde
Howard R. Kilworth
June R. Kilworth
William W. Kilworth
Peggy Lou Kopf
Charles R. Lane
Evelyn Larkin
George and Mary Long
Mrs. Grace M. Lynch
Charles Matejka
Natalie Mayer
Dr. Charles and Edith McGill
Georgianna Miller
Grace M. and Bernard S. Miller
Paul E. Miller
D.C and H.P. Miller Trust
Emma Alida Moir
Edith Moore
Claire K. Morris
Edgar Morrison
Richard D. Mosier
E. James and Hazel A. Nance
Sue D. Nilsson
LaVerne and Lloyd Paff
Viola and Roger Paris
James W. and Frances C. Petersen
Raymond and Bernice Phillips
Vinod K. Rajpaul
Dr. Jerry V. Ramsey and Elaine Perdue
John and Jean Reine
Nina Rook
Pearl Rose
Anna M. Rundquist
Kyile Lee Schreiner
Lloyd Silver
Belle S. Smith
Marjorie H. Stansfield
David L. Strait
Viora Strait
Angelica Strunz
Doris G. Stucke
Mary Helen and Erling Thompson
Michael A. Tucci Sr.
Earl and June Veverka
Heartie Griggs Wagner
Virginia Funkley Ward
Agnes J. Waterhouse
Fred O. and Anona Weber
Ann and James Wiborg
G. Fred Wilkinson
Donald R. and Mary E. Williams
Fredrick and Ingrid Willis

**Deceased*

GTCF STAFF
And Year They Joined

AERIELE JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR- 2024

ANASTACIA LAMB
IMPACT COORDINATOR- 2017

ANZRA SULLIVAN
DIRECTOR OF LEGACY ADVISING- 2026

DANNIELLE ROBERTSON
PHILANTHROPY COORDINATOR- 2023

DEANA HODGES
SENIOR ACCOUNTANT- 2019

DOUGLAS PAGE, CAP
SENIOR LEGACY FELLOW- 2023

JOE HUNICH
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER- 2017

HEIDI PELLETIER, CAP
DIRECTOR OF ADVISOR RELATIONS- 2026

KATHI LITTMANN
PRESIDENT & CEO- 2015

KIERA AUSENHUS
PHILANTHROPY SERVICES MANAGER- 2017

MANDEEP SINGH
STAFF ACCOUNTANT- 2026

MARINDA HUBER, CPA, CAP
CONTROLLER- 2019

MEGAN SMEDSRUD
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY IMPACT- 2019

MEGAN SUKYS
CHIEF STRATEGY & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER- 2017

MOHAMMAD MOUSA
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER- 2016

SETH KIRBY
CHIEF IMPACT OFFICER- 2019

STACEY GUADNOLA, CAP
CHIEF PHILANTHROPY OFFICER- 2019

For Generations To Come

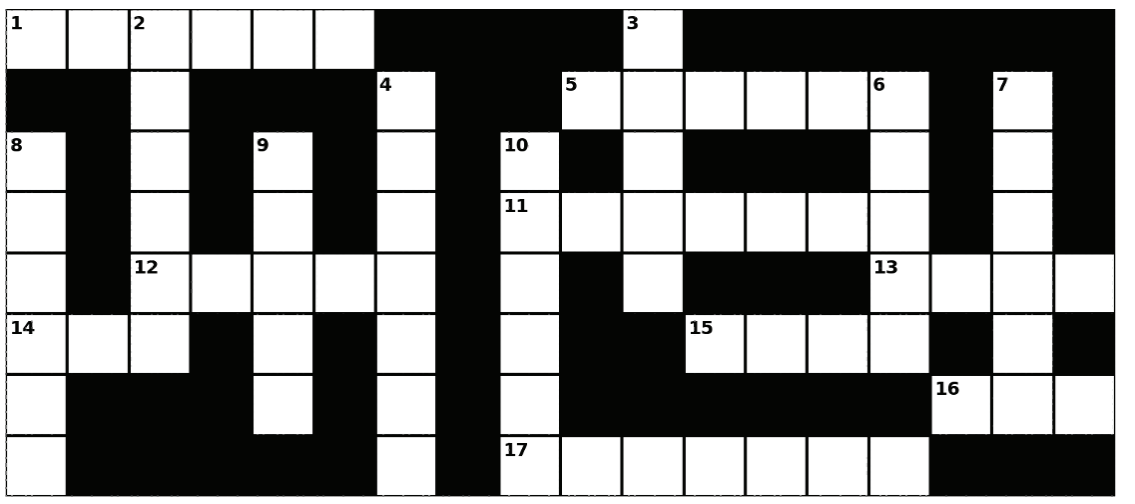


Well, in MY legacy plan I'm supporting the library, the community garden, and whatever invention inevitably replaces the Internet."

ART: Mark Monlux

FOUNDATIONS & FUTURES CROSSWORD

Answers pulled from the Foundations & Futures card deck



ACROSS

1. Gig _____, home to a dock named for a Croatian fisherman (6)
5. Pierce County Library branch serving a fast-growing corner of the county (6)
11. The mountain that watches over Pierce County, originally called Tahoma (7)
12. The medium used by students in Tacoma's Hilltop Artists program. (5)
13. The canyon in the Eastside's _____ Creek Park is getting engineered log jams to help salmon (4)
14. What the Mustard Seed Project helps Key Peninsula elders do "in place" (3)
15. 23,000-seat venue anchoring downtown Tacoma for concerts, sports, and graduations (4)
16. East Pierce County home to a small-town summer rodeo tradition (3)
17. Tacoma's Little _____ was Founded by neighbors in 1918 (7)

DOWN

2. The estuary at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually Wildlife _____, restored after decades as diked farmland (6)
3. Foothills _____ spans 24 miles of former railroad, now open to walkers, cyclists, and wheelchairs alike (5)
4. Ski resort started in the 1950s with support from 824 families and 36 Communities (7)
6. This Graham-area nature preserve is cared for by volunteers nicknamed "The Force" (5)
7. Tacoma park whose basketball courts sit in the center of blooming cherry trees (6)
8. Since 1934, the Daffodil _____ has wound through Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner, and Orting (6)
9. What riders do at one of the state's largest public parks, in Spanaway (5)
10. This Tacoma park has been a living tree museum since 1886 (6)

Find answers at gtcf.org/crossword

2026 GTCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
And Year They Joined

SHEILA LANGE
CHAIR, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON-TACOMA - 2025

LANCE GOODPASTER
VICE-CHAIR, FRANKLIN PIERCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS - 2025

AIMEE KHUU
SECRETARY, TACOMA COMMUNITY HOUSE - 2025

TONO SABLAN
TREASURER, LEMAY FAMILY COLLECTION FOUNDATION - 2024

NATHE LAWVER
AT LARGE, PIERCE COUNTY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL- 2023

WAYNE WILLIAMS
CHAIR EMERITUS, COMMUNITY LEADER - 2021

AHLMAHZ NEGASH
CITY OF TACOMA - 2021

CHRISTOPHER ALGEO
KEY BANK COMMERCIAL - 2024

BRETT FRESHWATERS
RETIRED CFO -2024

GWEN GILL
TROUVÉS HEALTH CARE CORP -2026

JACQUES COLON
CITY OF TACOMA - 2021

JEANNETTE DORNER
NISQUALLY LAND TRUST - 2026

JEANETTE ROATCH
SHANNON & ASSOC CPA - 2024

KITTY-ANN VAN DOORNINCK
RETIRED JUDGE - 2023

MICHAEL YODER
ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES - 2022

ROSIE AYALA
PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL - 2026

TIMOTHY ALLEN
RETIRED, CITY OF TACOMA - 2026