



## OUR STORY

*A celebration of our past  
and a vision for our future*



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## LETTER FROM OUR CEO & BOARD CHAIR

Thanks to your philanthropic gifts, lives in Pierce County are made better, the arts are supported, neighborhoods are strengthened, the environment is improved, and culture is celebrated. For more than 35 years, you've allowed our organization to be a catalyst and accelerator for new and important opportunities in our community.

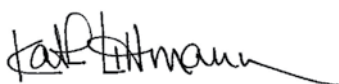
We're here today because of the people who came before us; people like Paul Bender, Margy McGroarty, and Rose Lincoln Hamilton. We've also benefited from the vision and leadership of dozens of board chairs and board members as well as hundreds of committee volunteers. These talented individuals helped create plans for a healthy and thriving community, established and fostered meaningful relationships, and identified gaps and needs in our social and economic systems.

Thanks to their leadership, our Community Foundation has a roadmap to guide us in convening community partners around critical issues, while providing data, ideas, and resources to facilitate positive change.


We are committed to being your partner in making Pierce County the best possible place to live and work; however, we recognize that our focus areas may shift over time, as the needs and hopes for our community reflect the influences of a shifting market, environmental, and societal conditions.

Thank you for joining us in this journey and for sharing your time, talents and resources with us. We are grateful for your generosity and passion and we are excited to continue to work with you in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Kathi Littmann  
President & CEO



Sheri Tonn  
Board Chair





## OUR HISTORY

In September 1977, three members of the Tacoma/Pierce County community believed that their area would benefit from a community foundation. Inspired to create an organization that gave people the opportunity to provide support for those in need, they applied for and received a Certificate of Incorporation establishing Greater Tacoma Community Foundation.

The three incorporators and six other persons comprised the original Board of Trustees:

Paul C. Bender	Cleve A. Redig
George L. Davis, Jr.	Lawrence M. Ross
William R. Gregory	John P. Wallerich
Byron Johnston	Ann Wiborg
Arleigh T. Jones	

In 1981, a part-time Executive Director, Paul C. Bender, was hired and on June 1, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation became officially operational with assets of \$10,000 and a commitment from a local private foundation to provide first year administrative funds of \$36,000.

Since its establishment, the Community Foundation has grown substantially, reaching more than 450 funds, and distributing more than \$100 million in grants and scholarships.





## OUR MISSION

Strengthening our community by fostering generosity and connecting people who care with causes that matter.

## OUR VISION

Pierce County is a thriving, engaged and caring community.

## OUR VALUES

We approach our work with a strategy that seeks to engage, invest in, and strengthen our community. Our overarching grantmaking strategy is based on community input and built upon our cornerstone pillars of equity and quality, driven by our values of:

**INTEGRITY:** We maintain a reputation of trust and stewardship through an honest, accountable, and transparent approach in all of our relationships.

**LEADERSHIP:** We value the diverse experience of all community members and take time to listen and learn from others to inform and guide our work.

**INNOVATION:** We commit to creative thinking, excellence and the development of new philanthropic approaches to create positive change.

**COLLABORATION:** We believe that building effective relationships and working with others for positive impact leads to more powerful and lasting solutions.

## OUR WORK

Greater Tacoma Community Foundation (GTCF) is a volunteer-led nonprofit that helps people and organizations advance the causes they care about. Our job is to support generosity across generations and we see our work having impact in three different ways:

### 1. MAKING CONNECTIONS

We listen and learn about the needs and opportunities in our community. For more than 35 years, we have built a deep understanding of Pierce County, which gives us the unique ability to link community donors and causes.

### 2. BUILDING CAPACITY

We welcome new ideas that enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion. We bring together research and expertise to create ongoing quality improvement.

### 3. INSPIRING PHILANTHROPY

We encourage philanthropy of the many, not the few. Gifts of all sizes can make a big difference by joining with other like-passioned people to create positive social and economic change.

We are working every day to build a thriving Pierce County community.





## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

One of our core competencies is assisting you in determining the best giving options to meet your philanthropic goals. The following descriptions provide a brief overview of the various fund options available to donors. Individuals or families who wish to have their gifts last in perpetuity can endow their fund to ensure their impact outlasts their lifetime.

### DESIGNATED FUND

A designated fund provides support to your favorite charitable organization(s) in perpetuity, or over a set number of years.

### DONOR-ADVISED FUND

A donor-advised fund is a charitable giving account created by an individual or family and used to support charitable causes recommended by the donors and their successors. This option provides great flexibility for giving during your lifetime and allows you to leave the gift of philanthropy to future generations.

### FIELD OF INTEREST FUND

A field of interest fund allows you to make an impact in a specific field over time. You identify a specific interest area (such as education, the arts, etc.) and GTCF ensures effective grantmaking within that field as the needs evolve over time.

### UNRESTRICTED FUND

Establishing an unrestricted fund allows donors to support the most pressing and often changing needs of Pierce County, now and in the future. GTCF understands the community and develops effective strategies to best serve Pierce County residents.

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholarships may support any level of education and can be directed toward students attending a particular school, studying a particular subject or field, and can be based on need or merit coming from a particular geographic area or community.

### EARL W. VEVERKA ENDOWMENT FUND: ESTABLISHED IN 2002

By working with the Community Foundation, June Veverka was able to provide a charitable legacy for her husband that makes a difference today and will continue to do so for generations to come. On average, the fund has provided more than \$31,000 in assistance each year to help more than 100 seniors stay warm for years to come.



**TOTAL GIFTS**  
\$666,214



**TOTAL GRANTS**  
\$413,319



**FUND BALANCE**  
\$805,617

## GIVING THAT CREATES MEANINGFUL IMPACT

Our goals have and will continue to be centered on building community that improves and enhances the quality of life in Pierce County, while also strengthening our network of local nonprofit partners to increase their capacity to have greater impact.

We embrace the role we serve in offering our community exceptional insight into our region's most pressing challenges and most promising opportunities. As a donor, you have the option to make a gift to support the focused initiatives described below or you can contribute to a specific organization, project, or cause in one of our broad-based fields of interest.

### GTCF FOCUSED INITIATIVES

#### INVESTING IN GRASSROOTS LEADERS & PROJECTS

Through our Spark Grants program, we work to inspire grassroots leadership and action through individual micro-grants up to \$1,500. Spark Grants fuel go-getters, organizers, and community trailblazers who have great ideas to make their neighborhood a better place but who need a small boost.

#### EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

We know it is essential to prepare today's youth to lead our communities in the future. At GTCF, we focus on the challenges faced by youth during the time they spend out of school. Through a range of programs, we fund opportunities for young people to learn, engage, and lead. These are critical in helping youth navigate complex transitions to adulthood and map out pathways to career and life success.

#### CREATING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

In all of our research it is clear that if we help elevate the financial growth of women, we can have a dramatic impact on reducing the poverty level in Pierce County and increasing the quality of life for thousands of families. Melinda Gates says it best, "If you want to make life better for a community, you should start by investing in its women and girls. Women tend to spend their resources on their families—prioritizing things like healthcare, nutritious food, education, and all the building blocks of a thriving society. The way I think about it is that when we invest in women, we invest in the people who invest in everyone else."

#### STRENGTHENING LOCAL NONPROFITS & BUILDING THEIR CAPACITY

Our local nonprofits are only as strong as their internal talents, resources, and operational systems. For them to serve more people and deliver high-quality services, they must have the infrastructure that allows them to grow in a healthy and sustainable manner. Strengthening Pierce County grants supplement select nonprofits' general operating funds, enabling them to be more flexible and nimble in carrying out their missions.

Nonprofits sometimes need a lift to help them go from good to great. Our Building Capacity grants provide that lift through funding, and our learning communities offer peer-to-peer networks and professional development workshops to learn and gain best practices.





## OUR STORIES: DONOR AND COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

At Greater Tacoma Community Foundation (GTCF), people are at the heart of our work and it is their stories of compassion, commitment, and generosity that make Pierce County such a beautiful place to live.

At our core, GTCF is about building connections. Connecting passion to action. Connecting resources to needs. Connecting people to community. Our goal is to create community collaborations among neighbors, ongoing quality improvements to maximize results, and to inspire philanthropy for donors of all sizes and from all generations.

In the following pages you will find stories about donors, nonprofit partners, scholarship recipients, family legacies, social entrepreneurs, community pioneers, grassroots changemakers, and much more.

These stories provide a sense of scale and scope for the work the Community Foundation has supported over the past three decades and demonstrate how GTCF continually strives to improve the quality of life for Pierce County residents.

The way we see it, a thriving community:

- Supports arts and cultural opportunities that create pathways for community participation, education, and economic vitality.
- Requires equitable access to quality programs that support success in school, career, and community.
- Requires a healthy and sustainable South Sound that works for all of its residents.
- Is one where your health outcomes can't be predicted by zip code, educational attainment, income, or race.
- Requires all residents to have their basic needs of food, shelter, and safety met.
- Supports a workforce system that creates value and offers employers, individuals, and communities the opportunity to achieve economic prosperity.

In the pages ahead you will see some of the work we've done to get where we are today and we hope these stories will encourage you to continue to partner with us in the years ahead. We are grateful for your support.

# DR. HSUSHI YEH

## *Scholarship Fund*



“Going into my freshman year at the University of Washington, in the big and beautiful city of Seattle, I had expectations of grandiose academic achievement, movie-like social situations, and the perfect college experience. While I achieved many things, such as growing into a more independent adult, I struggled in others.

My computer programming class stretched me to my limits and made me realize that not everything academic comes easy and even when you fight hard, you still might fail. That's a valuable life lesson. Failure will happen even when you give your highest and best effort. It's not the end of the world or the end of a journey, just the beginning of a new adventure with more defined direction. I learned through these experiences that I want to major in International Studies, not Computer Science.

Through trials and triumph, I've finished the year with a positive mindset and eagerness to restart in the fall and do even better and feel even better. The first year was rough, filled with academic and non-academic struggles, but I'm more than strong enough to use them as lessons, and advance forward into 2017 with pride that I did my absolute best. I am so grateful to the wonderful people at Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, for my four-year scholarship that covers my tuition and fees.”

— *Maritza Fernandez, 2015 Foss High School Graduate and Dr. Hsushi Yeh Scholarship Recipient*

# JAMES E. FRAIL

## *Scholarship Fund*

“My scholarships enabled me to do so much! I was able to study abroad in Mexico, England and France. I was afforded opportunities I never thought were possible and now I am grateful I am able to give back and financially support the same scholarship that helped me. Who knows, the money I give today may fund the education of a student that develops the cure to cancer? Bright people deserve bright opportunities.

Just recently I completed my MBA at UW Tacoma and it was so important for me to have my child see me walk across that stage with my diploma. I am setting a positive example for him, just like my parents did for me. I was the first in my family to graduate from college and honestly my bachelor's degree was more a gift for my parents. They overcame so much to get here from Vietnam after the war and fought so hard to create opportunity for me and my four sisters. The scholarships I received made me realize community is just like family. I would not be here today without the love of my parents and I would not have an education without the love of caring community leaders.”

— *Lyna Vo, James E. Frail Lincoln High School Scholarship Recipient*





# YOUTH PROGRAM *Quality Initiative*

“The Youth Program Quality Initiative (YPQI) was brought to Pierce County by the Community Foundation in 2011 and it aims to strengthen youth-serving organizations through a process that includes program assessment, data-driven improvement planning, peer learning, and intensive professional development.

As a three-year participant with YPQI, YMCA staff are equipped and able to successfully deliver meaningful programs for young people. We have strong systems of accountability among our teams and incorporating action plans and coaching has made a big impact on our work. Having a common language for our work has been so valuable in supporting each other and in building strong internal relationships.



critical to developing leadership skills for our young people, it also helps our staff find ways of helping young people grow, both personally and academically. It is extremely rewarding to see youth thriving as a result of having structure in their lives and goals they believe they can attain.

While we have a number of quantitative and qualitative measures in place to measure achievement, youth coming back to the program each day is always the best indicator of success.”

— *Chris Spivey, Associate Teen Director for YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties*



# DONALD R. & MARY E. WILLIAMS *Youth Fund*



“The Youth Philanthropy Board (YPB) opened my eyes to the importance of leadership in community service and it helped me connect to a number of new opportunities. My biggest take-away was the realization of how much I love my community and how I want to dedicate my life to helping young people reach their full potential. The YPB experience gave me and my fellow board members a tremendous amount of responsibility as we made grant funding decisions that supported local youth organizations. YPB works because it takes input and direction from youth in the community and it puts that insight to work through programs that address the unique needs of young people in Pierce County.

Today, I am a Youth Development Specialist with the Northwest Leadership Foundation and I work with younger students on tutoring and mentoring. I love this work and I have grown so much because of the people I've been able to connect with. In just a week I will be leaving for a study abroad program in the Netherlands through my criminal justice program at UW Tacoma. This will be the first time I've been separated from my family. While I am nervous, I know this experience will have a profound impact on my life. Next year when I graduate from college, I will be the first in my family with a four-year degree. All of these experiences are the result of caring and compassionate mentors who've continually guided me to try new things and believe in my abilities.”

— *Alberto Baena, Former Youth Philanthropy Board Member & Current UWT Student*



# THOMAS A. CROSS

## *Endowment Fund*

“

When local sports historian Marc Blau was working on the book *Playgrounds to the Pros: An Illustrated History of Sports in Tacoma-Pierce County*, he identified Ben Cheney, Clay Huntington, Doug McArthur, Stan Naccarato, and my dad, Thomas (Tom) Cross as the “Fab Five” of Tacoma-Pierce County sports history.

Each of these men were civic-minded business leaders, public officials and promoters whose passion and hard work lifted sports in this region to a new level in the decades following World War II. Dad was the Director for Pierce County Parks and Recreation from 1958 through 1981 and was instrumental in developing Peck Field, Heidelberg Park, Spanaway Park, Sprinker Recreation Center, several golf courses and the Titlow and the South End swimming pools. He was passionate about community and creating space that could be used for sports and play.



I remember Dad starting Bike Hike in the early 70s, leading a pack of cyclists from Spanaway Park all the way to Lakewood Park. There must have been 100 kids following as Dad led the charge. He was a leader and wanted people to follow. He had a free spirit that was bigger than life.

Today, Thomas A. Cross Endowment Fund allows us to honor my father’s legacy and because it is endowed, we are able to see the work that he loved so much continue for future generations.”

— Cara Cross, Daughter of Tom Cross and Pierce County Parks and Recreation Supervisor



# PEACH FAMILY

## *Foundation Fund*

“My grandfather invested wisely and always helped in the community, so when he passed his wealth down, I knew it was now my opportunity to give back. I liked the idea of opening a fund at Greater Tacoma Community Foundation because it was easy and I knew organizations would be helped in perpetuity. — *Gayle Peach*”



Gayle Peach shares this story while enjoying her deck, looking through the trees, out onto the water and surrounded by exotic and native plants. You see, Gayle is most comfortable being out in nature. Our natural resources are very important to her and educating our youth about the environment is imperative.



When Gayle and her family got a tour of YMCA Camp Seymour, they had a chance to see kids enjoying and learning about nature. In the YMCA's environmental center, they joined the kids playing with the touch tanks, dissecting squids, and they even learned about the state-of-the-art wastewater treatment system that uses tanks filled with specialized plants and vegetation.

Gayle's interests support the preservation of farmlands, education through a first generation scholarship at Tacoma Community College, and the environment through the Greater Peninsula Conservancy. The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation helps her achieve her philanthropic goals and priorities.

# FOSS WATERWAY

## *Development Authority Fund*

“When I came on board at the Foss Waterway Development Authority, the first thing I did was take a walk along the waterway and all I saw was a blighted, abandoned industrial area. It was full of debris and drug needles. Not a safe place to walk.

Today, on that same spot where I took my walk stands the Museum of Glass – a jewel on Tacoma’s waterfront. Nearby are beautiful walkways, condos, parks, and marinas, and there is more to be developed. It happened because this community came together with a vision and the Foss Waterway Development Authority implemented that vision. With persistence all things are possible.

To maintain the integrity and sustainability of the work that was being done around the waterway, and to maintain quality over time, the Development Authority reached out to Greater Tacoma Community Foundation to help. We established a fund specifically for the purpose of parks maintenance.”

— *Su Dowie, Retired Executive Director of Foss Waterway Development Authority*





# WHITE RIVER

## *Hometowns Fund*

“I get great joy and satisfaction in giving when community projects come together and everyone starts pitching in with their talents, resources, or pure grunt work to get the job done. It’s like a snowball effect.

My first experience with philanthropy was helping a senior living facility that couldn’t afford air conditioning and I worked with them to fund ceiling fans and screen doors to keep their low-income residents cool. Before I knew it, the maintenance crew at the hospital was inspired and decided to volunteer their time to do the installation. The same thing happened when the historical museum’s plumbing blew up. I pitched in funding for an ADA accessible facility and this inspired a local plumber and floor company to pitch in.

With both of these projects, everyone wanted to get into the act and I was astounded at how many people responded. Sometimes the most important stuff is not all about money. From what I’ve seen, giving to opportunities makes me feel a part of the community and that is a good feeling.”

— *Marydale Brooks is a quiet philanthropist from White River who works closely with the organizations she supports on special ‘opportunities’. She also helped start White River Community Outreach because she saw a need for social services in Buckley.*





# RYAN ALAN HADE

## *Endowment Fund*

“Ryan Hade’s experience of traumatic abuse is the most impactful story I’ve heard in my entire career. When Ryan came to HopeSparks for treatment, it changed our organization forever. It shifted our focus toward treating more children impacted by trauma.

Recently I was preparing a speech where I planned to talk about Ryan’s legacy and how it has transformed our organization and the lives of thousands of children in our community. As I was reflecting on Ryan’s resilience and the fact that often out of tragedy there is hope and healing, I realized that my son is the same age as Ryan was when he was abducted. This thought put into perspective Ryan’s pain and vulnerability and the devastation it caused his entire family.

Over the past decade our clinicians have really become specialists in trauma-informed care and we have worked diligently to create the safest place for families in our community. Environment matters in our work and Ryan’s Wing has been a game changer for us because it created a space for kids that is familiar, comfortable, and led by caring professionals dedicated to comprehensive treatment. More than anything we want to give our young clients a second chance at a healthy, happy, and stable future.”

— Joe LeRoy, President & CEO of HopeSparks



# TUCCI FAMILY *Endowment Fund*

“Creating a family tradition of philanthropy has to evolve over time and it evolves through leadership. Our family is very adamant that we recognize our blessings and be responsible with the good that has come into our lives.

The story of our family’s philanthropic tradition can be traced back to my grandfather Alexander Tucci, who immigrated to Tacoma from Southern Italy in the early 1900s. While my grandfather did not have any money to speak of, he instilled in his children the importance of giving back.

My father Michael J. Tucci, was born in 1910 and was a beneficiary of his dad’s lessons of hard work and giving back. My father was a member of the first graduating class at Bellarmine Prep and earned a football scholarship from Gonzaga University. After graduating, he moved back to Tacoma and began work for Boeing. He then bought a construction company in 1950 and learned the business from the ground up and developed it into one of the most successful businesses in Pierce County.

While his business was very successful, my father never lost touch with the importance of supporting others in the community. He was very generous and set a living example for us. His lessons developed philanthropy into a core family value.”

— *Michael A. Tucci Sr., reflecting on the Tucci Family Endowment Fund*



# LEA ARMSTRONG

## *Scholarship Fund*

“When I created this scholarship, I wanted to provide an opportunity to single parents that encouraged them to stay in school and demonstrated that people in our community were thinking about them and supporting them in their journey. I remember thinking let’s not kill success, let’s give these students the courage to go on and succeed in order to improve their lives and the quality of life for their families.



When it comes to this scholarship, age, gender, religion, and national origin do not matter...every single parent in Pierce County is eligible to apply. In the case of this scholarship, students who receive an award have priority the next year and they get mentorship support from one of the selection committee members. This not only gives the recipients an added level of support, it also provides them with a higher level of self-confidence. Typically, scholarships are only one-time and students never know the selection committee who made the decisions.

Since 2003 we’ve invested more than \$250,000 in almost 200 scholarships. Our scholarship recipients have become a network of support for one another. Together these students are having a huge impact in our community as a result of their education. Their testimonials clearly indicate their improving lives and it inspires me to think what can I do next.”

— *Lea Armstrong, Successful Tacoma Business Woman & Scholarship Founder*



# ANN WIBORG

“Mom was not born or raised in Tacoma. She married Dad, who had grown up here, and moved to Tacoma from Seattle. At the time, Tacoma was not seen as a community in its own right, but was just considered a bedroom community for Seattle. When Mom moved here, she truly adopted Tacoma as her own community and made a commitment to dedicating her time, talent, and resources to making this “diamond in the rough” into a caring and cultured community. She served as President of the Junior League of Tacoma and on the boards of the Tacoma Symphony and the Tacoma Art Museum, just to name a few of her contributions.



Thinking back, we remember Mom talking about a core group of highly passionate people who came together to form Greater Tacoma Community Foundation. Mom served on the board of the Foundation, the only woman to do so at that time. She was very concerned about women’s education and worked to support women in their efforts to advance their educations and their careers. Although Mom was deeply involved in the founding of GTCF, even she could not have foreseen the tremendous growth in the Foundation and the lasting and extensive impact it has had on Tacoma. She is tremendously gratified by the work that GTCF has done in this community.

Our parents had a strong sense that the time, talents, and gifts with which they were blessed ought to be shared with their community. They taught us to be grateful for these blessings and to give back through community service. They were always eager to hear about our various involvements with community service and were very supportive of those efforts.

G.K. Chesterton believed that a community was not loved because it was beautiful, but it was beautiful because it was loved. Mom loved Tacoma and is proud to see the beautiful city that her love has helped build.

—The passion, commitment, and generosity of Ann Wiborg, founding GTCF Board Member, as told by her children **Caroline Haydu, Mimi Green, and John Wiborg**

# BLOSSOM BENEFIT

## *Scholarship Fund*

“It started as a community project that I was doing. I was taking a leadership class and I was eight months pregnant with my youngest daughter. At the time I thought I just have to get this project done. What would be the easiest thing to do. Let’s just invite a bunch of women over for some wine and cheese and ask everyone to donate \$25 and give it away. So that’s what I did and we gave it away to a local children’s charity and that was going to be it. And then the next year, a group of women who attended wanted to do it again because they had so much fun. I thought, yeah that was fun, and then we had a second event and it sort of snowballed from there.



We decided to choose the name Blossom Benefit. I really liked the word “blossom” as it is a word I associate with spring and we hold the event in the springtime. As we are blossoming as women, we are trying to blossom other women and girls. I have always liked that connection. It grew from 25 women in my living room to 250 women at the Center at Norpoint. When I started Blossom Benefit 10 years ago, I didn’t have a strong vision, all I knew was that when women get together, we can do amazing things.”

— *Kim Murphy, Founder of Blossom Benefit and Blossom Benefit Scholarship Fund*

# ONE NATION

## *Spark Grants*



Created by George Russell, the One Nation philanthropic collaborative was designed to counter a growing nationwide fear of Muslims in the aftermath of 9/11. This fear, misunderstanding, and prejudice threatened peace in our country and throughout the world. George wanted to create strategies that would enable communities to engage in conversations, education, and activities that would generate meaningful and sustainable change in terms of perceptions and relationships. George believed it was critical for local communities to engage on their own terms in order to meet their own unique needs, which is why it made sense to work with community foundations.

As the One Nation project was coming to a rest in 2012, we were looking for opportunities to support our local Pierce County community. We had just completed a Habitat build for the local Muslim community and we were intrigued by the Spark Grants project with GTCF because it was place-based and very entrepreneurial focused, which are two things George really values. Our investment in the Spark Grants program was very intentional. The work GTCF did to support individual grant-making was really important. We knew by investing in Spark Grants we were investing in the development of GTCF and future philanthropic partnerships. We have mutual agendas and our collaboration work makes us both more effective.



— *Henry Izumizaki, Strategy Director with The Russell Family Foundation on One Nation's start-up funding for Spark Grants*



## ENID L. & JAMES M. HARRIS

### *FAIA Architectural Fund*

“The lives of Jim and Enid Harris have been based on the philosophy of "living along the way". In other words, do what you are interested in and figure out ways to achieve these activities. They've been married for 61 years, partners in business and in life.

Jim and Enid Harris came to Tacoma as newlyweds, not knowing anyone, and immediately immersed themselves into the community and their church. They started their own architectural firm out of their house and working side-by-side they successfully grew their business. They became early pioneers of the Tacoma Art League, which became the Tacoma Art Museum. Over the years they got involved with many other nonprofits and community organizations.



For years they were active in the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and they studied and made recommendations for the redevelopment of Tacoma. Their work with Rotary and architecture has allowed them to visit 65 countries and 49 states and they say they are far richer from these experiences. Throughout their lives, they have worked to impart one simple philosophy with their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and that is: “what can be accomplished is unlimited if you don’t care who takes the credit.”

**Jim and Enid Harris** established a fund with the Community Foundation to continue the work of the AIA and their work in the community.

# TACOMA CIVIL RIGHTS *Project Fund*

“As young kids we all remember learning about the civil rights movement in school. Much of what was taught and many of the pictures that were shown during that era depicted larger national events and activities. Still today our education system focuses more on a broader understanding of the movement and it does not touch on the people of influence here locally and the events that took place in Tacoma and Pierce County.

Many of today's youth do not know about the riot that took place on MLK and 11th. Many have not heard the stories from African American leaders like Harold Moss who came to Tacoma to serve our country in the military but was told he could not skate at a local rink because of his skin color. Can you believe that? Here is a man putting his life on the line for the freedoms of our country and he was not allowed to recreate in our local community. There are many more stories like Harold's. There were neighborhoods here in Pierce County where blacks could not live and restaurants where they were not welcome.



In order for today's young people to know their future, they need to understand their past. My dream and hope is that we can continue to use the Tacoma Civil Rights Project to capture first-hand stories from our elders so that we can share them with the generations to come.”

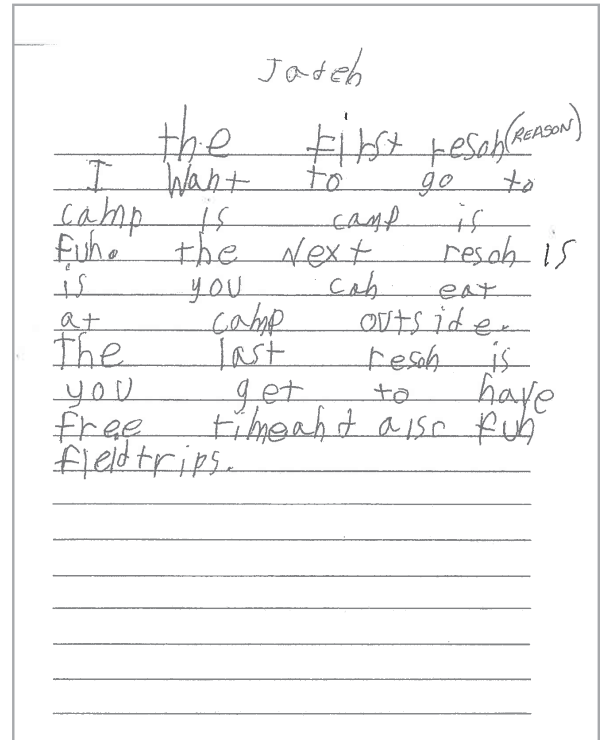
— *Victoria Woodards, President/CEO of the Tacoma Urban League  
on the importance of the Tacoma Civil Rights Project Fund*

# THE CHILDREN'S *Fund*

The Children's Fund was established in 2005 to honor a retiring Pierce County Juvenile Justice System Court Administrator, Dan Erker. Dan dedicated 30 years of his life to the children of Pierce County. The initial gift was \$50, but many more contributions were received when Dan retired. At his retirement party, Dan was told that they had created the fund in his name. He humbly requested it be named The Children's Fund.

The mission of the Children's Fund is to provide scholarships for abused and neglected children under the jurisdiction of Pierce County so they may attend and participate in programs to enhance their education, develop skills through vocational training, or become involved in the performing arts and other personal growth activities. Today, the Children's Fund has grown to more than \$65,000 and this year, program participants took part in piano and guitar lessons, cheerleading and gymnastics camps, jazz and tap dance classes, horse camp, and summer camp at Island Lake and Miracle Ranch.

“Being able to do something to help and having the opportunity to see their reaction and big smiles, really fills your heart, said Erik Jensen, former Pierce County Guardian Ad litem.”





# CHRISTOPHE CHAGNARD

## *Scholarship Fund*

“The Northwest Sinfonietta was co-founded by Christophe Chagnard 25 years ago. During his tenure as the music director, the Sinfonietta became the regions’ leading chamber orchestra providing classical music entertainment for hundreds of thousands of South Puget Sound residents.

In 2015, a scholarship was established with Greater Tacoma Community Foundation by friends and admirers of Maestro Chagnard as a fitting and lasting means of honoring him in gratitude for his significant contributions to the classical music scene in the Puget Sound region. The scholarship fund is used to provide a \$1,000 cash award each year to each of two deserving young instrumental students who study with a musician of the Northwest Sinfonietta.



This is a win-win for so many people...the students, the teachers, and the community. Not only does it honor the legacy of Christophe, it also continues to benefit our community, a community that values the arts.”

— Pat Wooster, Founding Committee Member of the Christophe Chagnard Scholarship Fund

# DODIE SHELTON

## *Arts Scholarship Fund*



“Anyone who knew our mom, Dodie Shelton, knew she had three great passions: family, art, and community. She was a graduate of Stadium High School, Class of '38, and went on to study art at San Jose State University. There she met our dad, Toney, and together they returned to Tacoma where she began teaching art at Grey Junior High School and started her own prolific career as an artist.

Mom's dedication to painting yielded hundreds of works of art across many media, including oils, watercolor, and acrylic – to name only a few. She left her teaching post to start a family, but shortly thereafter she began offering private classes in our home.

Mom's commitment to family and art was matched only by her dedication to the Tacoma community. She was the President of the Pacific Gallery Artists and volunteered with so many other organizations that it's a strain to remember them all. She saw a need and worked toward filling it.

When it came to honoring Mom, it seemed fitting that her legacy supports a scholarship for a Stadium High School student interested in pursuing the arts after graduation. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with the next generation and, if a little financial assistance can help them get their start in art or music, it's a great thing to be a part of.”

— Steve, Scott and Stuart Shelton, sons of Dodie Shelton



# THEATER DISTRICT *Improvement Project*

“When I joined 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.

After an anonymous donor gifted \$1,000,000 toward the renovation of the Rialto Theater, GTCF formed a task force of community leaders with large goals. The vision was expanded to include the construction of the Theatre on the Square and outdoor space. And the Theater District Project began.

Acting as lead on the project, GTCF and the task force embarked on a challenging and interesting journey. One of my favorite personal stories was the discovery that one of the balcony pillars had been supported by empty liquor bottles from years ago. Another learning experience involved the purchase of air rights above the Theater on the Square and the outdoor space. Who knew?

The task force worked diligently for over three years and \$14,000,000 was raised and the resulting improvements were gifted to the City of Tacoma. The new and refurbished facilities have attracted performances which may not have come to Tacoma otherwise.

The success of the many partnerships forged during the Theatre District Project is a demonstration of the power of good people with a collective vision for their community.”

— *Margy McGroarty, retired Executive Director of Greater Tacoma Community Foundation*





# B.E.S.T.

## *Scholarship Fund*

“It started in 1985 with a dream of providing scholarships to students in Bethel School District. Today more than 1,600 scholarship recipients have realized their dreams of post-secondary education. Through amazing leadership and hard work, B.E.S.T. Dollars for Scholars has provided over \$1 million in scholarships and is committed to continuing this legacy. A scholarship recipient once told Harriott Fix Balmer, Founder of B.E.S.T., “My parents have to believe in me, but to have the community believe in me is something special.”

Every year, each of the four high schools in the Bethel School District (Bethel, Challenger, Graham-Kapowsin, and Spanaway Lake) have scholarship committees that work through the application process to award scholarships based on a combination of merit, need and recommendations.

Our vision for the future is bright and one day B.E.S.T. hopes to be able to give every graduating senior in the Bethel School District a scholarship and to increase the size of the scholarships from \$500 to \$750 per student.”

— *Peg Greiwe, B.E.S.T. Executive Secretary*



Harriott Fix Balmer



Peg Greiwe

## Special Thanks to Our Fundholders, Legacy Society Members and Board Leaders

We are grateful to the many people and organizations who contribute their time, talents, and resources to ensuring Pierce County is a great place to live. Your generous and passionate commitment to the people, neighborhoods, and culture of our region is deeply appreciated.

### AGENCY FUNDS

American Association of University Women, Tacoma Branch

Community Fund

Associated Ministries of Tacoma-Pierce County Endowment Fund

Bethel School District Foundation Agency Fund

#### Camp Fire Orca

Camp Fire Orca Fund

WoHeLo Endowed Fund

Centerforce Fund for Employing Ability and Enriching Community

The Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation Fund

Foss Waterway Development Authority Parks Maintenance Fund

Friends of Lakewold Agency Endowment Fund

#### Great Peninsula Conservancy

Great Peninsula Conservancy General Endowment Fund

Great Peninsula Conservancy Stewardship Endowment Fund

Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare Endowment Fund

Harbor History Museum

HopeSparks Endowment Fund

#### Immanuel Presbyterian Church

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PC Housing Authority Reserve Fund

Pierce County Housing Authority Fund

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Ellis Endowment for Key Center Library Fund

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Carolyn Else Endowment for Library Collections Fund

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Danae Rideout Steilacoom Library Endowment Fund

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Point Defiance Zoological Society Cutchlow Endowment

Gary E. Milgard Family Foundation Endowment for Education

Point Defiance Zoological Carousel Endowment

Point Defiance Zoological Centennial Endowment

Point Defiance Zoological Society Centennial Endowment

#### Steilacoom Historical Museum

Steilacoom Historical Museum Investment Fund

Steilacoom Historical Museum Short Term Investment Fund

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Sumner-Bonney Lake Education Foundation Arts and  
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Luke Voiles Memorial Scholarship Fund

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Clay Huntington Sports Communications Scholarship Fund

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Tacoma Little Theatre Endowment Fund

Tacoma Symphony Orchestra Endowment Fund

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The Donna Cooper Pepos Endowment Fund

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