



Jane's Fellowship Program—Alumni Profiles



Kelly Coughlan-Mainard is a co-founder and volunteer of the **Community Action Team**, a coalition of community members and leaders who joined together to reduce the impact of illicit methamphetamine labs in the rural areas of Pierce County. The Team does its work by collaborating with local law enforcement, speaking at community events, pursuing media coverage of the problem, and conducting “drive-by photo shootings” of drug labs and dumps to educate the general public. CAT volunteers are in the process of upgrading some of their programs including their website. Whether a meth user, family member, meth cook, neighbor or student doing a report on meth – they want to have good information available on their website. Website upgrades should be finished by the end of 2005. For more information, email Kelly at Kelly_Mainard@meooow.org or visit their website at www.meooow.org.



Jason Hulen is the Director of **Fab5**, an initiative of the Northwest Leadership Foundation with its mission to enhance the leadership and academic skills of the youth in Pierce County, as well as, promote Hip-Hop as a positive medium of expression. Fab5 provides youth in Tacoma and Pierce County with safe, drug and alcohol free events and education programs called LIFE. LIFE is a hip-hop education program created to give students a glimpse of the foundation of the hip-culture. For more information email Jason at Jason@fab-5.org or visit their website at www.fab-5.org.



Martina O'Neil is a co-founder and volunteer of **Salishan Ambassadors**, an organizing and advocacy group for residents of the Salishan public housing community on Tacoma's East Side, where she resides. Currently, Salishan is undergoing massive revitalization under a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant resulting in the displacement of 300 plus low-income households, the demolition of sub-standard housing and the creation of new single-family homes for the residents. While all this change is ultimately good news, it can potentially create anxiety, grief and displacement. In response Martina founded Salishan Ambassadors to help educate and organize residents on the latest developments of the revitalization. The Ambassadors engage residents through door-to-door education and Talking Circles - informal living room discussions. For more information, contact Martina by sending an email to info@trff.org.



In March 2004, a group of experienced Special Olympics volunteers, headed by **Kristen (Krissy) Rehberger**, with a vision beyond the scope of existing programs in the area founded **Pierce County Friends and Athletes (PCFA)**. PCFA was created to provide spiritual, social, educational and athletic opportunities for developmentally disabled youth and adults in an inclusive environment where activities are designed to be shared with loving, non-disabled friends. While it started small, PCFA has quickly become one of the largest, independent Special Olympics programs in the state of Washington, providing soccer, track, softball, golf, bowling and basketball. For more information, contact Krissy at (253) 858-2531, PCFA2004@hotmail.com or visit their website at www.PCFA2004.org.



Lawrence Stone is the founder of the **Big Homie Program** of Tacoma. Big Homie provides at-risk youth with an alternative to the street life of gangs, drugs and violence, while guiding them towards education and employment. Lawrence is an ex-felon, former drug dealer and past gang member who grew up in the Salishan housing projects of Tacoma's East Side. As one community leader commented: "More often than not a person who successfully negotiates an escape from the kind of community Lawrence grew up in rarely, if ever, returns. Remarkably Lawrence has returned to the East Side and become one of its biggest cheerleaders by developing innovative and relevant programming such as hair braiding contests for girls, Big Homie fish fry and rap events." For more information, contact Lawrence at Lawrence@bighomie.org or visit their website at www.bighomie.org.



Preston Wesley is the volunteer founder of **Young Men of Outstanding Vision (YMOOV)** an informal group of 40 boys and young men who meet monthly for mentoring. Preston started the group in November 2003 as a way to provide boys and young men the opportunity to learn life skills such as conflict resolution, parenting, auto repair, tying a tie, etc. YMOOV meets every third Friday of the month in a Tacoma church and are mentored by Preston and other volunteers. Recognizing that many boys and young men live in single parent households headed by women, YMOOV is designed to provide them with positive male role models. For more information, contact Preston by sending an email to info@trff.org.



Bashiiir Abdul-Mu'min feels strongly about giving back to his community and is working on improving his community outreach skills so that he may help more youth who are trying to improve their lives. He previously volunteered for five years with the **MASAI program** in Tacoma's Hilltop area teaching basic life skills to African American youth. Bashiiir is passionate about the written and spoken word and uses journaling and poetry in his mentoring with youth. For more information, contact Bashiiir by sending an e-mail to info@trff.org.



Brenda Garcia-Brown works in several capacities to improve the lives of the young people in our community. She reaches out through her work with Stewart Middle School, the Metro Parks Sparx Model, the Reality Check Dance Troupe and **DASH Center for the Arts**. On top of this she is a proud mother and wife. She is passionate about kids and one of her biggest goals is to nurture the youth with whom she works and instill in them a desire to give back and make a difference in their communities. The DASH Center for the Arts has recently opened its doors for community benefit through classes offered at their new Martin Luther King Jr. Way location. For more information, contact Brenda by sending an e-mail to info@trff.org.



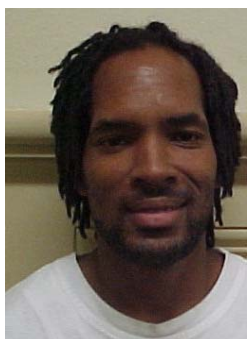
Diane Formoso drove a school bus for the Clover Park School District for 34 years and during her time as a bus driver she saw a lot of children in need and took action by starting an all volunteer organization called **Caring for Kids (CFK)**. Today CFK serves nearly 6,000 children and their families each year with access to a clothing bank, on-site school food bank and school supplies. Diane is passionate about children and truly cares about giving needy children access to basic resources and services that will improve their quality of life. For more information, contact Diane by sending an e-mail to carekids@comcast.net.



Frederick Jerome Davis (J.D.) established **WayOutRecords** in 1997 as a potential “Way Out” for kids thinking of choosing the destructive path of gangs, violence and potential incarceration. In 2005, J.D. expanded WayOutRecords with a children’s educational outreach component, Building Youth Through Music and mascot Rodney Raccoon. They have published a music learning CD that is currently being used in the Tacoma School District and several local day care centers. In addition to music, community events for the benefit of youth are put on by JD and his company. For more information, you can visit <http://www.rodneyraccoon.com/default.htm> or send an e-mail to jdee@rodneyraccoon.com.



Jesse Miller likes to help others find and tap into their natural talents to improve their quality of life. Jesse spent two years in prison for drug charges and has been out of prison now for ten years. She recently had her voting rights restored. In 2004 Jesse organized a “Vote for a Change” Hip Hop Tour and Voter Registration Drive. Jesse helped found a hip hop foundation in Tacoma. Jesse also serves on the board of the **Poverty Action Network**, a statewide organization. She is currently working on community listening sessions focused on issues that are affecting the community. For more information, contact Jesse by sending an e-mail to info@trff.org.



Jimmy Quins mentors youth through sports and founded the basketball program **TacCity Hoopers**. Jimmy volunteers through basketball practice, basketball camps and fundraising for youth living in the Hilltop area. He works with Peace Community Center to provide a base for the TacCity Hoopers team. For more information, contact Jimmy by sending an e-mail to info@trff.org.



Lisa Bowman-Macklin founded the **United Interdenominational Holiness Academy of Excellence** in 2001 with a desire to provide excellent educational opportunities to disadvantaged youth in the Hilltop area. She is passionate about educating children and plans on doing this work for the rest of her life. For more information about the Academy, please visit www.uihae.com or send an e-mail to Lisa at macklinministries@yahoo.com.



Meridith Hatch regularly volunteers her time in her hometown of Eatonville to enhance and improve the community through various projects. She has volunteered and helped plan and fundraise for a community park and helped with a park clean-up effort. She has volunteered with the Eatonville Chamber of Commerce and regularly attends Town Council meetings. She is passionate about doing everything she can to make Eatonville a wonderful place to live. Currently Meridith is working with **Parents and Students In Action** to improve the quality of life for children and families in Eatonville by opening a facility to provide after school programs. For more information, contact Meridith by sending an e-mail to info@trff.org.



Roslynn Watson wants to find ways to provide affordable housing to low-income families using an approach that is holistically supportive for the entire family. Roslynn founded the **Friends and Families United to Network for Housing** to achieve these goals. She is a mother of three and prides herself on raising happy, educated, drug-free children. Her passion for helping those in need is remarkable and shows in all that she does. For more information, contact Roslynn by sending an e-mail to info@trff.org.



Susan Dobkins is the director of the **MICAH project**, a social justice outreach project based at First Center in the First United Methodist Church in Tacoma. The MICAH project finds creative and collaborative ways to bring people together to promote peace and social justice. She is passionate about the issues that affect working people, immigrants and people of color. For more information, contact Susan by sending an e-mail to info@trff.org.