



2013 ANNUAL REPORT
Building Communities Together



For 38 years, the Associated Recreation Council (ARC) has provided recreation, lifelong learning programs and community-driven leadership in partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation. With a goal of providing equitable access to citywide programs for Seattle residents of all ages, ARC works through 37 volunteer Advisory Councils to fulfill its mission of **building community through citizen engagement and participation in recreation and lifelong learning programs.**

To provide **equitable, dynamic and responsive** recreation and lifelong learning programs for every Seattle resident.

- » **Citizen Engagement and Participation:** Involved citizens make our community and neighborhoods better places to live, raise our families and recreate.
- » **Equitable Access:** No matter where they live, who they are or what language they speak, Seattle residents deserve to know about and be able to participate in a broad range of quality recreation and lifelong learning opportunities.
- » **People:** Residents' interaction with dedicated, diverse and caring staff and volunteers are keys to Seattle's quality of life.
- » **Community:** People thrive as individuals when they have a sense of belonging to their community and have opportunities to come together to recreate, socialize and learn.
- » **Accountability:** Integrity and transparency of decisions affecting program, finance and people are fundamental to public trust.

In September, ARC and its member Advisory Councils launched a year-long Legacy Planning Process, inviting input to define and recommend the future direction of the ARC/Parks partnership. The ultimate goal of the resulting ARC Legacy Plan will be to ensure the **continued effectiveness and sustainability of the partnership** for years to come by clearly spelling out who we serve, what we do and how best to allocate retained earnings in supporting Parks and serving our community. The preliminary plan is slated to be presented to Parks leadership in August 2014, with the final version delivered in September.

A group of diverse children, including a boy in a green Seattle Seahawks cap and a girl, are smiling and holding a basketball. The background is a warm, indoor setting.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present the Associated Recreation Council's (ARC) annual report highlighting significant accomplishments and financial results for the year ending December 31, 2013.



This past year, in partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation, ARC served thousands of individuals and families each day from each of Seattle's neighborhoods by providing safe, affordable and accessible recreation and lifelong learning opportunities. It did so in a remarkable way – keeping the quality and accessibility of its programs high in a challenging economic environment. In another year of economic uncertainty and cuts to public services citywide, ARC kept its revenues steady, maintained its program delivery and sustained a high level of service through the Seattle Parks and Recreation system.

For many families and individuals whose own budgets have tightened, ARC and Parks programs remain an irreplaceable source of accessible, high quality recreation and learning. From affordable preschool and school-age care, to innovative technology learning for teens, to activities keeping seniors active and engaged, ARC continues to serve our entire community well. This contributes to making Seattle one of the most dynamic cities in the country.

This is a tribute to the 37 Advisory Councils and countless volunteers and supporters throughout our community who have made Seattle Parks and Recreation a priority. It speaks to the strength of our diverse neighborhoods and the value we all place on community.

This report reflects both our rich diversity as a city and the way we come together as a community to raise our young, care for the elderly and make Seattle a special place to live and grow. The programs and stories in this report are indicative of the tangible impact your support has and a testament to the strength of our community.

Thank you,


Charlie Zaragoza
Board President

NORTHWEST

ADVISORY COUNCILS

1. Ballard
2. Bitter Lake
3. Carkeek Park
4. Discovery Park
5. Green Lake
6. Loyal Heights
7. Magnolia
8. Rowing (Green Lake)
9. Seattle Canoe & Kayak (Green Lake)



ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING DAY CAMP

Each summer at Carkeek Park, you will find a group of children aged 6-12 engaged in one of ARC's most popular all day camps – *Earthkeepers*. With a fun, theme-based approach to learning about the outdoors, weekly topics range from “Wet and Squiggly Tide Pool Wonders” to “Furs, Tails, Tracks & Trails.” Maintaining a low student-to-teacher ratio and with trained and knowledgeable naturalists leading the way, children have the opportunity to explore acres of urban green space that includes streams, forests and meadow habitats. This hands-on, experiential education instills them with an appreciation for our natural environment, while keeping them active and engaged during the summer months. Similar day camps are offered throughout the summer at Discovery Park and Camp Long, which together with Carkeek are Seattle Parks’ designated Environmental Learning Centers.



SETTING THE PACE

Things have never been easy or straight-forward for Alexander Silva-Holland; not as easy or straight as his eight-person boat glides through the water during his practices after school on Lake Washington. As a skinny 8th grader, Alexander began his rowing experience as a coxswain with Rainier Valley Rowing – a unique partnership between Seattle Parks and Recreation, the Mt. Baker Boating Advisory Council and the George Pocock Rowing Foundation designed to bring rowing to South Seattle school students by eliminating barriers to access. The program provides assistance to students through mentoring, transportation and subsidized program fees, while emphasizing overall health and fitness.

Despite difficulties at home and at school, Alexander stuck with it. With that persistence came progress. In the past few years, he grew from coxswain size to rower and more specifically, the stroke (the stroke rower establishes the stroke rate and rhythm for the rest of the crew). He recently returned from Youth Nationals in Sacramento, CA with Mt. Baker's Lightweight Boys 8+ boat, placing 14th out of 24 teams in their category. And he's not done yet. Currently a junior at O'Dea High School, Alexander is continuing with the program in hopes of guiding his crew to even greater achievement.

Seattle Parks and Recreation offers **rowing, sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding** and many other on-the-water activities for all ages and abilities at both the Green Lake Small Craft Center and the Mt. Baker Rowing & Sailing Center.

Rainier Valley Rowing – a unique partnership between Seattle Parks and Recreation, the Mt. Baker Boating Advisory Council and the George Pocock Rowing Foundation designed to bring rowing to South Seattle school students by eliminating barriers to access.



NORTHEAST

ADVISORY COUNCILS

1. Laurelhurst
2. Magnuson
3. Meadowbrook
4. Northgate
5. Ravenna-Eckstein



ROCKING THE PARK

For the fourth consecutive summer, children and teens from Brettler Family Place and Sand Point Transitional Housing in Magnuson Park had something to look forward to. Under the leadership of Magnuson Community Center Coordinator Karla Withrow, the Center raised enough funds to host a free summer day camp program for these children from formerly homeless and/or low income families. The program was organized into three segments: "Rock the Park" junior day camp for 5-10 year olds; "Rock the Park" senior day camp for 11-17 year olds; and a high school apprenticeship program for teens 14-17 years old. After completing 30 hours of training, the latter served as camp counselors for the junior day camp and received a stipend for their service. All three programs have been highly successful and have contributed to the participants' personal growth, work readiness, involvement in their community and appreciation for park stewardship.

LASTING FRIENDSHIP, MUTUAL SUPPORT

Linda Glas remembers the day that ARC Field Supervisor Nick Bicknell came to her son's preschool program and spoke about the range of activities for special needs populations offered through Seattle Parks and Recreation. She was surprised to learn that activities were available beginning for children aged 4. When her son Paul turned 4, Linda contacted Nick to sign her son up for field trips. Summer camps followed at age 6 and both Paul and Linda have been active participants ever since.

Paul is now 13 and actively engaged in as many field trips, summer camp sessions and recreational opportunities as his schedule will allow. He really enjoys seeing friends during the Saturday field trips, recreation activities and summer camp each year – often bringing camp songs home to share with his folks. His passion, though, is basketball and he has been involved through both Specialized Programs and in Parks and Recreation youth basketball leagues.

Linda has also become more and more involved in the program, joining the Specialized Programs Advisory Council and serving as an advocate for the special needs community at both City Hall and in Olympia. She has found that meeting other parents in a similar situation has resulted in lasting friendships and a support network for dealing with many of the challenges facing parents of special needs children. Linda appreciates the value of the program for her own family and recognizes the importance for many others. "For us, it's more about quality than cost, but for many families cost is an important consideration. There are few other options that are affordable, safe and convenient, especially for working parents." She also appreciates the "real partnership" of ARC, Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Advisory Council in serving the special needs community.

Specialized Programs offers year-round activities for people with special needs aged 4 and older. Our goal is to provide recreational opportunities for individuals who choose to participate in activities designed and conducted by trained, qualified staff.

"For us, it's more about quality than cost, but for many families cost is an important consideration. There are few other options that are affordable, safe and convenient, especially for working parents."



Paul and Coach Katie celebrating a medal.

CENTRAL

ADVISORY COUNCILS

1. Garfield
2. Japanese Garden
3. Miller
4. Montlake
5. Queen Anne
6. Yesler



ENRICHMENT

ARC continued to build upon its successful partnership with Seattle Public Schools by offering afterschool enrichment programs aimed at complementing academic instruction with hands-on learning. At several elementary and middle schools, enrichment classes focused on topics such as engineering, writing, computer programming, creative dance, yoga, improvisational theater and foreign languages. One of the more popular offerings this year was robotics, where children learned how to build robots with various sensors and functions. At schools such as Lowell Elementary on Capitol Hill, ARC has built strong relationships with school staff at all levels in order to provide seamless and comprehensive instruction responsive to the needs of all students. Based on the success of this model, ARC is being approached by other schools to offer this programming to still more of Seattle's children.

BUILDING CHARACTER AND COMMUNITY

Growing up in Seattle's central district, Emijah Smith has always had a strong sense of community. This has carried over into her work as a Community Organizer for the nonprofit Children's Alliance and in the way she is raising her children. ARC and Parks Community Centers and programs are playing a big role in maintaining this sense of community and in providing a welcoming place for her boys to learn, play and grow.

"ARC and Parks provide valuable opportunities for positive, constructive community interaction for my sons to become the leaders they are destined to be. The Centers and programs give them a sense of belonging and purpose." Whether it is swimming lessons at Medgar Evers Pool, Jets Track & Field at Miller, summer programs at Rainier, or Tae Kwon Do at Garfield, Emijah and her sons value the Parks system and leverage it at every opportunity. *Learn to Swim* and *Recreation* scholarships available through Seattle Parks and Recreation have also made swim lessons and track affordable and possible.

Emijah cannot say enough about how the staff at Rainier Community Center welcomed her family and clearly care about her children. Looking at the bigger picture, Emijah knows that these are formative, character-building experiences and lasting memories her sons will carry with them through life.

And what do her sons think? The 7-year-old cannot wait to go back for this year's summer program at Rainier; while his brother is anxiously awaiting his turn to do the same. For Emijah, her own positive experience at Rainier has made her feel an even stronger bond with the community and a desire to become more directly involved in support of all the neighborhood's children.

"ARC and Parks provide valuable opportunities for positive, constructive community interaction for my sons to become the leaders they are destined to be. The Centers and programs give them a sense of belonging and purpose."



**IN ADDITION TO THE ADVISORY COUNCILS LISTED
THROUGHOUT THIS REPORT BY LOCATION, THREE
ADVISORY COUNCILS REPRESENT CITYWIDE PROGRAMS:**

- » Lifelong Recreation
- » Specialized Programs
- » Sports

SOUTHWEST

ADVISORY COUNCILS

1. Alki
2. Camp Long
3. Delridge
4. Hiawatha
5. High Point
6. South Park
7. Southwest



PRESCHOOL

ARC offers half-day preschool programs at 13 neighborhood community centers. Our school-readiness programs meet the developmental needs of young children by focusing on the emotional, social, physical and cognitive skills necessary to succeed in school and life. All classrooms are designed as safe and nurturing environments with fun-filled learning areas. Programming is based on a recognized standard curriculum, structured into set schedules and routines, and includes both large and small group activities. One shining example is the preschool program at Alki. There they have created a strong learning community where participants are provided a variety of daily choices and teachers wholeheartedly embrace the interests of each child. This year, their favorite activities included exploring the outdoors – such as the beautiful beach just down the street – and a fascinating month-long study of spiders.



SOUND STEPS

Several years ago, Betty Arens opened up her local neighborhood paper to find an ad that intrigued her. Announcing a new exercise program for those aged 50+, the ad challenged readers to stay active, get up and out, and train for walking events of varying length up to half marathon. It was also free and open to all fitness levels. She decided to give it a go.

Betty was immediately taken by the program – by the dedication of the participants, the instant bond shared and the spirit and thoughtfulness of program staff. “The camaraderie is amazing. I am so thankful for it.” Like most participants, her reasons for joining and staying motivated are simple: to keep fit, exercise, be a part of an active social group, and to participate in a test of strength and endurance.

Betty also found that Sound Steps was about so much more than exercise. With a shared interest in walking and exercise, ready friends are made, mutual encouragement and support becomes second-nature and, as Betty has found, “the group truly cares about each other.” Sound Steps builds community as it encourages seniors to remain active and connected.

Sound Steps is a community-based walking program presented by Seattle Parks and Recreation Lifelong Recreation that provides accessible opportunities for fitness and social connection for adults aged 50+. Sound Steps offers more than 20 weekly walking groups throughout Seattle, monthly hikes, and an annual training program for a 5K, 10K and half marathon walk.

“The camaraderie is amazing. I am so thankful for it.”



A NEW SHELTER FOR GEORGETOWN

A true example of community partnership, ARC and Parks worked with local contractor Sabey Construction to restore the Georgetown Playfield picnic shelter that was destroyed by arson in August 2012. Sabey, with offices in the Georgetown neighborhood, donated all the materials and labor for the project and pulled together several suppliers and subcontractors to complete the work. ARC and Parks joined the community in thanking Sabey and celebrating the reopening in June.

SOUTHEAST

ADVISORY COUNCILS

1. Amy Yee Tennis Center
2. International District
3. Jefferson
4. Mt. Baker Boating
5. Rainier
6. Rainier Beach
7. Van Asselt



SCHOOL-AGE CARE

ARC plays a major role throughout Seattle in delivering high-quality before and after school programs for children aged 5-12. Every month, more than 1,400 children are served at 22 sites. Each program provides care that is responsive to the needs of the served community. A prime example is the program at Jefferson Community Center. There, staff provides active engagement for children before and after school, throughout the long days of the summer and even over school breaks. Many of these children are from recent immigrant and refugee families, whose primary languages are Cantonese, Spanish and Vietnamese. They are encouraged to embrace their individual identities and cultures throughout the learning process. The range of daily offerings, in which children lead and participate, create special memories for all participants and their families. This year's highlights included programming focused on Legos, the arts and gardening.



FINDING COMMUNITY AT THE BEACH

When Jerubaal Abayomi first moved to the Rainier Beach neighborhood from Los Angeles in July 2013, it was not an immediate fit. Jubee, as friends call him, had heard some sketchy things about the area and didn't feel comfortable in his new surroundings.

That all changed a few months later with the opening of the new Rainier Beach Community Center, just a short walk across the parking lot from South Lake High School where Jubee is a student. "My perception of the neighborhood changed. I felt like I now had a safe place to go, a good place to wind down, a place to relax." The Center quickly became a regular afterschool destination and a place he hopes to be spending a lot more time soon.

He recently began the training process to become a lifeguard at the pool and, with the encouragement of RecTech Site Lead Tiffany Bigham, applied for the summer RecTech program there. "I'm really looking forward to the opportunity to work with the technology, learn valuable computer skills and be able to connect with others." Considering himself a fast learner, he is eager to use what he will learn to help others and bring the community closer together.

Still new to the neighborhood, Jubee sees improvement of his community and his fitting in as a process – one that he can play an active role in. "I initially felt closed and uncomfortable here, but that's all changing." He has become involved with the leadership group at school, attended a state youth leadership conference and is working with a teen group at the Center to find creative ways to better their community. While the new Center didn't change the community overnight, for Jubee and others the new walls and the programs inside have given them a safe place to meet and grow together.

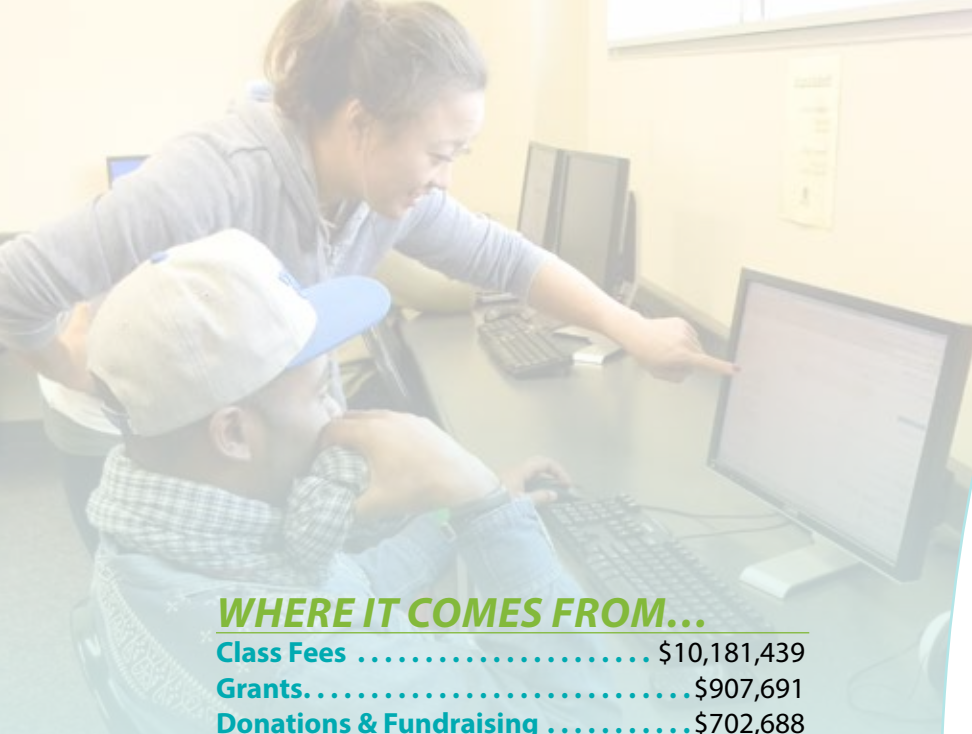
RecTech, ARC's technology access and education program, works to bridge the digital divide by providing technology access, training, and opportunities for personal and career development. Currently offered at Delridge, Rainier, Rainier Beach, South Park and Yesler Community Centers, RecTech is a leading community resource building stronger, more engaged communities through quality technology programming.

"My perception of the neighborhood changed. I felt like I now had a safe place to go, a good place to wind down, a place to relax."



MAKING A SPLASH

For two and a half years, the Rainier Beach neighborhood was without a Community Center. In poor condition and beyond repair, the prior Center was closed in December 2010 and torn down the following year. Rising in its place and formally opened in September 2013, the welcoming new \$25 million Rainier Beach Community Center and Pool features state-of-the-art design, accessibility and energy efficiency. Best of all, the neighborhood once again has a place to play and learn. The new Center has quickly become a community focal point. The pool is already the most used in the city – receiving more than 30,000 visitors per month and offering unique women-only swim lessons to accommodate religious differences. The Center also houses one of five ARC RecTech programs and vibrant preschool and school-age care classes.



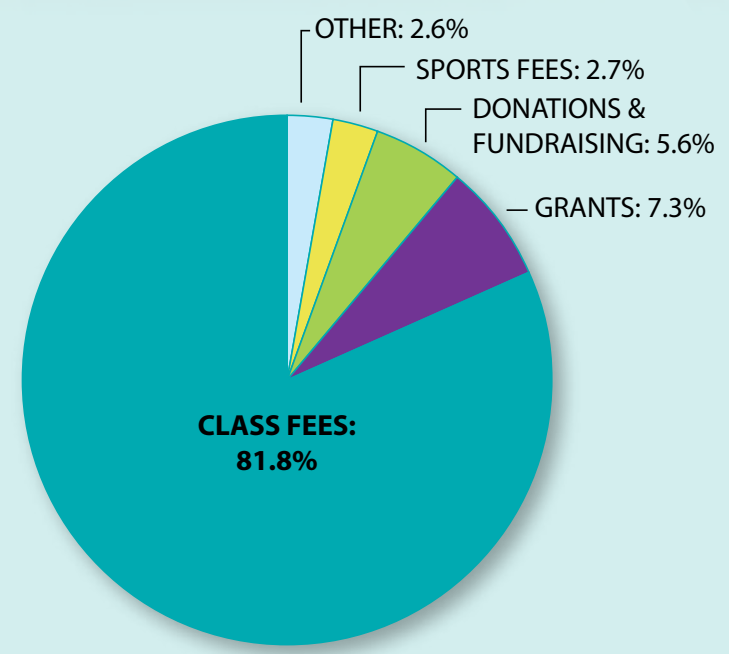
FINANCIALS

Associated Recreation Council revenue comes primarily from class fees paid by participants in hundreds of programs delivered through 26 community centers and related facilities throughout Seattle – nearly all of which is used to directly support and administer those programs and facilities.

ARC and its 37 advisory councils raise additional support through fundraising events, grants and generous contributions from dedicated individuals and businesses throughout our community. These funds allow us to offer program scholarships and improve service delivery, ensuring equitable access to high quality programming for all Seattle residents.

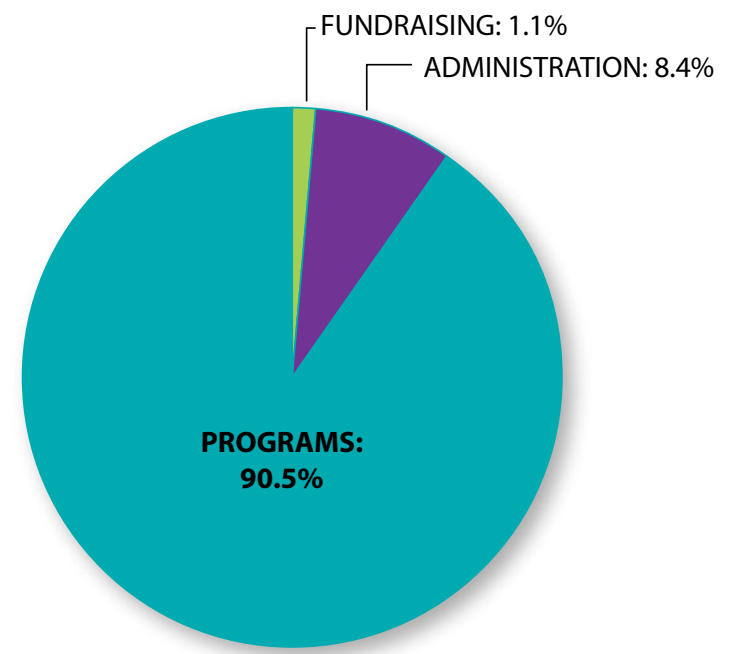
WHERE IT COMES FROM...

Class Fees	\$10,181,439
Grants	\$907,691
Donations & Fundraising	\$702,688
Sports Fees	\$330,764
Other	\$329,134
Total Support and Revenue	\$12,451,716



WHERE IT GOES...

Programs	\$11,042,347
Administration	\$1,020,796
Fundraising	\$136,560
Total Expenses	\$12,199,703



2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charlie Zaragoza, President – *at large*
William Lowe, Vice President – *at large*
Julie Morse, Secretary/Treasurer – *Bitter Lake*
Antoinette Angulo – Parks Commissioner
Adrienne Bailey – *Garfield*
Bruce Bentley – *Southwest*
Darrell Drew – *Magnolia*
Douglas Dunham – *at large*
Edith Elion – *at large*
Belinda Green – *Rainier*
Edward Hiroo – *Jefferson*
Alan Hovland – *Laurelhurst*
Jourdan Keith – Parks Commissioner
Anna Martin – *Mt. Baker*

ARC CENTRAL STAFF

EXECUTIVE

Bill Keller, Executive Director
Christina Arcidy, Deputy Director
Naho Shioya, Executive Assistant

PROGRAMS

Nick Adams, Field Supervisor – *Central*
Nick Bicknell, Field Supervisor – *Specialized Programs*
Megan Castellano, Field Supervisor – *Northeast*
Brandee Paisano, Field Supervisor – *Southeast*
Susan Lee, Field Supervisor – *Southwest*
Traci Thirdgill, Field Supervisor – *Northwest*
Jean Kasota, Director of Child Care Programs

HUMAN RESOURCES

Sue Baumgart, Human Resources Manager
Taryn Dorsey, Human Resources Assistant

ACCOUNTING

Sharon Mauze, Accounting Director
Julie Chen, Payroll Specialist
Karen Demeter, Accounts Payable
Tamara Shtern, Accounting Supervisor/Lead Accountant
Yuko McLinn, Accounting Assistant

MARKETING

Zach Wilson, Marketing Director
Martin Král, Publications Coordinator
Regina Lum-Witkoske, Marketing Specialist

DEVELOPMENT

Joseph DiChiaro III, Development Director
Rachel Sorrels, Development Assistant

AWARDS

At our Annual General Meeting each year, we recognize ARC and Parks staff and Advisory Council and Board members for exemplary service. This year, the following were recognized for their outstanding support for our community:

ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE YEAR

Rainier Advisory Council

STAFF RECOGNITION

Kiesha Cannon, *Southwest Teen Life Center*
Brenna Clausen, *Montlake Community Center*
Jason Coffman, *Mt. Baker Rowing & Sailing Center*
Semere Melake, *Westbridge*

BOARD RECOGNITION

Adrienne Bailey, *Garfield*
Bruce Bentley, *Southwest*
Belinda Green, *Rainier*
Alan Hovland, *Laurelhurst*
Anna Martin, *Mt. Baker Rowing*
Judy Tangen, *Loyal Heights*

PARKS LEGACY PLAN

Susan Golub
Joel Harte
Susanne Rockwell

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Katie Gray
Lakema Bell

