



*LEAGUE OF
EXTRAORDINARY GIVERS
Awards Ceremony*

*February 12, 2015
Renton Pavilion*

THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GIVERS

The Renton Community Foundation works hard to enhance philanthropy in our community, helping to make life better for us all. For that reason, the board voted to create the ***League of Extraordinary Givers***, a fraternity of recognized good-deed doers whose passion for making our community a better place to live is accomplished through generous donations of their time, talent and/or treasure. These individuals and organizations help to lift the downtrodden, inspire through the arts, protect the environment, guarantee the future through education, engage the disadvantaged, and generally serve as philanthropic leaders in our community.

Tonight, we induct the first members into this elite society. But the Foundation's long-term goal is to inspire others to follow - to fill the room with a legion of good-deed doers, all working to make a difference in our community. Let us celebrate the good-deed doers!



LIFETIME OF GIVING AWARD - This award is given to those who have spent decades leading by example - volunteering on community boards, initiating new ideas, serving on committees and task forces, making personal donations, inspiring others to engage and participate, building partnerships, and finding resources to get the job done. These are the individuals who stand tall among us, who create a legacy for others to follow and who show us that each and every one of us has the potential to make a difference.

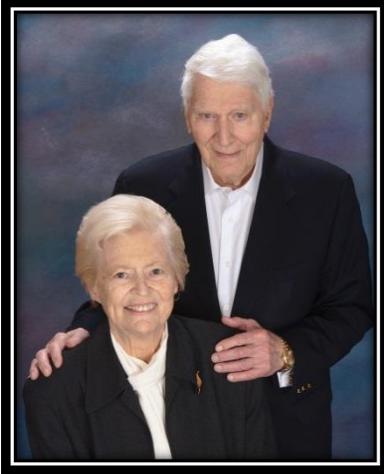
PATRON OF THE YEAR AWARD - Each year, we hope to identify one person who has made a splash the year before, perhaps by chairing a campaign, initiating a creative solution, or publicly championing a cause. Through their efforts, good things have happened.

RISING STAR AWARD - Many young people see the need in our communities and want to make a difference. The Rising Star Award is meant to recognize the next-generation of community leaders, those younger individuals who make time in their busy lives to reach out, step up, and give back.

PUBLIC SPIRIT AWARD - When resources are limited, collaboration and partnerships can make all the difference. The Public Spirit Award is meant to recognize organizations and individuals who have successfully brought multiple resources together to meet a need.

LUMINARY AWARD - This honor will only be bestowed on those individuals who, by their very nature and personal integrity, inspire others. It is not meant to be an annual award. Rather, each year the committee will look for that special person who shines with an inner light and whose passion for helping others is infectious enough to prompt the rest of us to follow.

2015 LIFETIME OF GIVING AWARDS



ALEX & NORMA CUGINI ~

In every community, there are a handful of people who are thought of as community patrons or benefactors – not just because of the money they are capable of donating to worthy causes, but because they have distinguished themselves as champions of the community and those less fortunate. Alex and Norma Cugini fit that description. Their roots go back to the beginning. Alex's grandparents came to Renton from Italy in 1900; Norma's grandparents came from England shortly after. Working on behalf of the community and keeping Renton strong is in their DNA.

Alex is past president of the Renton Rotary Club and has volunteered for a variety of city projects. Together, they became major donors to the capital campaign that created the Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center. And while Alex was busy with the business (Barbee Mill), he encouraged Norma to get involved within the philanthropic world. Here are just some of the things she has accomplished:

- Served on the Board of Trustees of Seattle Opera in the early 1970's.
- When Pacific Northwest Ballet was founded in 1972 under the aegis of Seattle Opera Association, Norma was one of the founding board members of Pacific Northwest Ballet. Served for many years on the Board of Trustees for Pacific Northwest Ballet and is currently a Trustee Emeritus.
- 2011, City of Renton, Citizen of the Year.
- Served as Co-chair of the first Renton Annual Art Show.
- Co-chaired the capital campaign to construct the Salvation Army Renton Rotary Food Bank.
- Founder of the Celebrity Chefs Scholarship Series for Renton Technical College Foundation, which raised money for scholarships for the Culinary Arts program at Renton Technical College. The Cuginis have a scholarship fund at RTC Foundation.
- Instrumental in the capital campaign to build Mount Rainier Kidney Center (now part of Northwest Kidney Centers).
- Founding board member for the Renton Community Foundation, and has a donor-advised fund within the Foundation.
- Her children created a second fund in her honor to benefit the Renton Annual Art Show.



MARCIE MAXWELL ~

Marcie Maxwell is a legend in the Renton area, not only for her marketing talent, which is formidable, but her dedication to the community, region and state. Marcie currently serves as Governor Jay Inslee's Senior Policy Advisor on Education. Besides being a past Renton School Board member and state legislator, she spends much of her free time attending various fundraising, education, and/or advocacy events. Just follow her on Facebook and you'll understand when we say that Marcie's hobby isn't scrapbooking or gardening, but helping others. Marcie even gave Lynn Bohart, RCF Executive Director, a place to live when she first moved to Renton. Bohart remembers

Marcie coming home after 8:00 p.m. most evenings and then still sitting down to work on various community projects. "Marcie is steadfast in her commitment to making a difference," says Bohart. Besides her legislative, business-related and education-related work, here is just a taste of the groups with which Marcie has worked and had an impact:

- Founding board member, Renton Community Foundation.
- Past president and Paul Harris Fellow, Renton Rotary Club.
- Founding board member, Communities In Schools of Renton (CISR).
- Founding board member and current CISR Advisory Council member.
- Founding board member, Friends of Renton Schools Foundation.
- Founder/benefactor/advisor, Maxwell Fund for Youth & Families Fund within RCF.
- Renton Chamber of Commerce Community Development & Education Committee chair.
- Chaired first two Total Resource Campaigns for the Chamber.
- Member, Renton Blue Ribbon Committee.
- 2004, City of Renton, Citizen of the Year.
- Member, Renton PTA Council.
- Member, Citizens for Renton Schools, levy and bond committees.
- Board member of Anti-Defamation League.
- Board member, NW Jobs for Washington Graduates.
- Member, WA State School Directors Association.



KING PARKER ~

Everyone knows where the little red store is up on the hill. That's because King Parker has been a force to be reckoned with in this community since he went into business back in 1982 with King and Bunny's Appliance Store in the Highlands. Not only is he known far and wide as the owner and chief promoter of King & Bunny's, he served two terms on the Renton City Council, ran for the office of mayor, served on the Blue Ribbon Committee, which developed the "ahead of the curve" concept, and is seen as the 'go to' guy when you want something done. King rarely says no, whether it's to serve on a committee, build a strategy, or give advice. And while King rarely says no, people rarely say no *to* him when he's looking for the financial resources to finish a campaign. As the second most interesting man in the world, here is just a short list of how he's impacted our community.

- Sierra Heights PTA President.
- Board member, Renton Chamber of Commerce.
- Board member, Renton Rotary.
- Founding member, Blue Ribbon Committee.
- Member, Renton Salvation Army Food Bank Capital Campaign Committee.
- Board Member, Communities In Schools of Renton.
- Mentor, Communities In Schools of Renton.
- Board member, Renton Technical College Foundation.
- Founding member, Renton Community Foundation Board of Directors.
- Council President, Renton City Council.
- 1999 City of Renton, Citizen of the Year.
- 2004 PTSA Outstanding Service Award.
- Member, Capital Campaign Committee to build IKEA Performing Arts Center.
- Member, Steering Committee to develop Piazza Park.
- Chair and/or Co-chair of the Circle of Giving campaign for the past six years.



PAT AUTEN ~

As a retired nurse, Pat naturally lends a hand when a hand is needed. And while she doesn't have thousands of dollars to throw at causes, she is often the first to write a check for a worthy effort. In fact, Walter Cook was so impressed with a story about Pat when she retired as the Volunteer Coordinator for the school district in 2006, he showed up at her retirement party ready to donate \$10,000 in her honor. Instead, the money was given to the Renton Community Foundation to begin a fund. Walter's boss, O.J. Harper, matched the gift and they named Pat the donor advisor. Today, Pat uses money from the O.J. Harper Engineering Children's Needs Fund to provide supplies to classrooms, socks and underwear to the Renton Clothes Bank, and support for organizations like Communities In Schools of Renton. But that's not all she does, or *has* done. Listed here are a few more:

- Current Secretary of the Renton Kiwanis Clothes Bank Board and manages their Children's Needs Fund.
- Founding member of the Communities In Schools of Renton (CISR) Board of Directors and served as secretary to the Executive Committee. She also helped to start the annual fund raising dinner.
- Assisted in writing the CISR Mentor Program and was a trainer for the program until she retired from the school district in 2006.
- Volunteers at the Renton Community Foundation, doing weekly deposits and paying invoices.
- Serves as an active member of REACH and serves as the Outreach Chair for United Christian Church.
- Former member and Past President of Renton Kiwanis, and a former member of Soroptimist, where she served on the board.
- Former member of the Career and Life Skills Advisory Citizen's Committee and a former member of Community Connections through the Renton Chamber of Commerce.
- Served as President of the Renton Historical Society for four years.

2015 PATRON OF THE YEAR AWARD



DALE WALKER ~

Walker's Renton Subaru and Walker's Renton Mazda have long been champions of education. For several years, these two companies have been supporting Friends of Renton Schools Foundation with an annual donation of \$25,000, and Communities in Schools of Renton with an annual donation of \$12,000. In addition, Subaru of America has had the Share the Love promotion for approximately six years, donating millions of dollars to five national charities. The event happens every mid-November through December. Everyone who purchases a Subaru during this time period may select one of these five charities to direct a \$250 donation. Starting in 2014, Subaru of America allowed local dealers to add one local charity to the list and Walker chose Friends of Renton Schools. According to Friends of Renton Schools President, Pam Teal, "We didn't have any idea how much money we could raise this way. It could have been a few hundred to a few thousand dollars." In fact, Walker's Subaru raised a total of \$24,000 in 2014 and is poised to do it again this year.

2015 RISING STAR AWARD



MEEGAN PRINCE ~

Most people would agree there aren't enough donors and/or volunteers to meet the growing need in our communities. It's fitting then that we should honor someone who developed an innovative idea to help meet that need. In 2009, Meegan Prince asked Lynn Bohart, Executive Director of the Renton Community Foundation, if there was a way younger professionals could get involved in making an impact. She said there were a lot of people her age that would love to be involved with Circle of Giving, but didn't have \$1,000 to give. Lynn and Meegan brought a group together to brainstorm and The Next Curve was born. The Next Curve is comprised of young, vibrant individuals who go out of their way to learn about nonprofits in our community, find projects with which they can become involved, volunteer on boards and raise money to grant back. But Meegan didn't quit there. In addition to her full-time job, she is a former member of the New Horizon School board, currently sits on the Evergreen City Ballet Board, and financially supports organizations such as the Renton History Museum and the Renton Civic Theater. She and her husband, Ed, regularly show their support by attending various community fundraisers.

2015 PUBLIC SPIRIT AWARDS



ROTACARE ~

(Valley Medical Center, Renton Rotary, Renton Salvation Army, Dr. Bob Thompson, Bob McBeth, Jim Sullivan)

In 2003, Dr. Bob Thompson presented the idea of a free healthcare clinic to the Renton Rotary Board of Directors. While everyone thought it was a great idea, the question was, “Who would run it?” Bob McBeth had just retired and decided to make the commitment. Together, with Dr. Thompson, they recruited Jim Sullivan to help. But Renton Rotary needed funds to pay for expenses and reached out to Valley Medical Center. VMC agreed to not only donate all the patient X-rays and lab work, but \$20,000 a year for prescriptions, equipment and other expenses. While originally located at Renton Technical College, since 2005, the Renton Salvation Army has provided a weekly location, giving patients a safe and dignified place to seek help. Year in and year out, the clinic is open each Saturday from 9 – 11 a.m. These three men have been there, along with an army of volunteer doctors, nurses, and Rotarians. In its eleven-year history, the clinic has seen over 6,800 patients.



KAREN BERGSVIK ~

Karen Bergsvik is a true hero to those less fortunate. As the City of Renton’s Manager of Community Services, Karen has worked tirelessly to help the homeless, both on and off the job. In fact, Karen doesn’t seem to know where the job ends and her volunteering begins. According to her co-workers, when Karen goes to the grocery store, she makes up a list of needs for herself and a second list for those who might need help. Karen was instrumental in organizing the Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches (REACH) and the Center of Hope day shelter for homeless women and children. She also chaired the Renton Salvation Army’s capital campaign to build the food bank, and was a key component in helping A.R.I.S.E. get started, giving homeless men a night-time shelter. Karen even brought the One Night Count of the Homeless to Renton, and continues to be part of the team. Here are just a few more ways in which she has helped the underserved:

- Member, Renton Salvation Army Advisory Board and King County Salvation Army Board.
- Started the Renton Community Supper at the Salvation Army and then volunteers to serve/clean-up at the meals.
- Works with the Renton Harambee Center, which facilitates a “cold weather shelter” for the homeless, and then volunteers to clean-up, interact with clients, wash blankets, etc.
- Donates movie tickets and bus vouchers so that the homeless people have somewhere to go on the holidays.

2015 LUMINARY AWARD



TERRY HIGASHIYAMA

The dictionary defines luminary as, “a person who inspires or influences others, especially one prominent in a particular sphere.” A secondary definition is that it, ‘is a body or object that gives off light.’

Perhaps we could interpret that to mean *someone*, rather than an object. And we think that *some* is Terry Higashiyama.

In May of 2014, the City of Renton opened the Meadow Crest Playground, a collaborative effort between the City, the Renton School District, and Renton Rotary. It was Terry’s brainchild when she was President of Rotary in 2010/11. During the ensuing months and years, she did yeoman’s work in bringing the entities together to make it happen. The school district and city would enter into an interlocal agreement, where no property was exchanged, but the playground would sit on land owned by both. A fundraising effort, led by Terry, succeeded in securing the \$2 million necessary to prepare the land and build the playground with its specialized equipment. The Renton Community Foundation was proud to make a grant of \$200,000 from the Charles Custer Parks Fund to the project.

Used by Meadow Crest Elementary School during the day, the playground is open to the public after school and on weekends. What makes this so unique? It is the first inclusive playground in Renton, allowing children of all abilities to come and enjoy the outdoors.

Although Terry serves as the City’s Community Services Administrator, she spends most of her free time giving back to the community in one way or another. “I see her at every event,” says, Rich Wagner, RCF President. “Evenings, weekends, you name it...she’s there.” Not only that, for those of us who know Terry, she is someone who was born with an infectious, positive attitude. “I immediately feel better when I’m around her,” says, Lynn Bohart, RCF Executive Director. “I often think that I’d like to be like her when I grow up. Even though I think she’s younger than I am.”

Terry Higashiyama is a sunbeam on an otherwise gray and cloudy day. She directs that positive energy into doing good things for our community, and we are better for it. The Meadow Crest Playground is just one of the many projects with her unique stamp on it.



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