



## **2009 AWB LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

*Each year, the Association of Washington Business is proud to recognize businesses and individuals who contribute to Washington's business community and the general welfare of the state.*

### **BRUCE BRIGGS AWARD WINNER**

**Broetje Orchards, Prescott**

 **firstfruits.com**

*The Bruce A. Briggs Award for Community Service is presented each year to an AWB member who continues to give back to his or her community. The award was named for the late Bruce A. Briggs, founder and owner of Briggs Nursery in Olympia.*

Broetje Orchards is a company that combines faith and business in a way unlike almost any other. The company and its brand — FirstFruits of Washington — is one of the largest privately owned orchards in the world with more than 5,000 acres, most of which is situated along the banks of the Snake River near Prescott. But Broetje Orchards is much more than just a business. Over the years, founders Ralph and Cheryl Broetje built a community on formerly arid land that includes housing for the company's workforce, as well as daycare and schooling for the children of its workers. Vista Hermosa, established in 1990, uses proceeds from the business to serve children and under-served communities at home and around the world. Each year, Broetje Orchards donates approximately 75 percent of its profits to local, domestic and international projects. The brand name FirstFruits refers to a Biblical festival in which people offered the first and best of their harvest to God. "Sure, we have to make money or we'd have to shut the doors," Cheryl Broetje said. "But profit isn't our main motive. It becomes the by-product of treating people with dignity, respect, and mutuality, and as equals in every sense of the word."

### **C. DAVID GORDON AWARD WINNER**

**Terry Bergeson**

*The Gordon Award is given each year by AWB in recognition of Washingtonians who distinguished themselves in service to the citizens of the state of Washington. C. David Gordon served as AWB president from 1955-64 and 1966-1979, and is AWB's Honorary President for Life.*

This year's C. David Gordon Award is presented to former State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Terry Bergeson. For more than 40 years, Terry Bergeson has worked to ensure public school students achieve an education that truly prepares them for life beyond the classroom. An advocate of teachers, educators and others within the public school system, Dr. Bergeson has focused on what is best for students, and has worked tirelessly to build partnerships between legislators, educators, and parents and community leaders. Her passion for quality public education and the impact it could have on all students fueled each of her campaigns for public office. In 1997, she was elected to the first of her three terms as Superintendent of Public Instruction and was instrumental in developing and implementing grade-level standards that informed both teaching and learning. From the advent of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning to the implementation of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, Dr. Bergeson has worked tirelessly to ensure that all children achieve their potential, regardless of income, race, gender or disability.

## **JUDY COOVERT AWARD WINNER**

### **Judy Covert and Bill Meacham**

 **[printcominc.com](http://printcominc.com) and [baldwinrgi.com](http://baldwinrgi.com)**

*A new annual award, AWB established the Judy Covert Award this year to honor excellence in volunteerism to the association. The honor recognizes Covert who, along with her husband Jim, runs Printcom in Burien. Covert has chaired AWB's Policy Summit, served on the Executive and Finance Committees, served on AWB's Board and the Paid Family Leave Task Force, and continually helps AWB recruit new members.*

The first recipient of the Covert Award is Bill Meacham, executive vice president of the Baldwin Resource Group and founder and principal of The Meacham Group. Meacham has been extremely helpful to AWB over the years in setting up AWB Agency Services, establishing the annual AWB Services Lecture Series at Seattle Pacific University and helping to shape compensation packages for AWB staff.

## 2009 Community Service Awards

*AWB's Community Service Awards recognize our members' volunteerism and efforts that make our communities better places to live and work. Awards are presented in five categories: Education, Helping People in Need, Projects That Mobilize People, Recognizing Volunteerism and Youth Organizations.*

### EDUCATION

#### **Far West Agribusiness Association, Spokane**

 [fwaa.org](http://fwaa.org)

The Far West Agribusiness Association works to enhance business, education, safety and security in the fertilizer and agrichemical industry throughout five Western states. In 2006, the association began working with the state Department of Ecology, Northwest Ag Plastics, Inc. and the state Department of Agriculture to find ways to increase recycling of empty pesticide containers. That led to a pilot project in Yakima County where Far West, together with its partners, provided storage containers, signs, promotion and training for container inspection. Far West worked to promote recycling through posters and by posting information online, and as a result of the effort, approximately 450,000 pounds of plastic pesticide containers were recycled in 2007. In 2008, some 575,000 pounds were recycled, and it's expected that more than 600,000 pounds of containers will be recycled this year.

#### **Inland Northwest Health Services, Spokane**

 [inhs.org](http://inhs.org)

Inland Northwest Health Services is a nonprofit corporation formed by a coalition of hospitals in 1994 with the goal of reducing spiraling health care costs while increasing the quality of patient care. One of its services, Community Health Education and Resources (CHER), provides community health presentations, screenings, rural outreach and professional education to healthcare providers throughout the Inland Northwest. In 2007, the program served 18,600 people. Last year, CHER held events including Heart Check, a free community education effort and Baby Shower 2008. The annual event stalled in 2007 for lack of funding, but CHER collaborated with the West Central Community Center and the March of Dimes for a successful 2008 event that supplied families with more than 5,600 diapers, as well as blankets, toys and baby food, and information on topics ranging from infant CPR and postpartum depression to baby care, poison prevention and immunization.

### **Intel Corp., DuPont**

📍 [intel.com](http://intel.com)

Intel Corporation celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008 with a pledge to deliver 1 million hours of volunteer service. To do that, the company encouraged its business teams and employees to replace more traditional team-building or social events with “community service quarterlies,” events with budgets that provided for project supplies, transportation, refreshment and related expenses. Here in Washington, Intel’s 1,000 employees reported more than 14,600 volunteer hours, and by year’s end the company reported more than 1.3 million volunteer hours at schools and community organizations worldwide.

### **Office Depot Foundation, Boca Raton, Fla.**

📍 [officedepotfoundation.org](http://officedepotfoundation.org)

The Office Depot Foundation is the independent non-profit foundation that serves as the primary charitable giving arm of Office Depot. In Washington state, where Office Depot operates 37 stores, a crossdock and a distribution center, the foundation helps thousands of children each year through the Office Depot Foundation National Backpack Program. In 2008, the Foundation — in partnership with Office Depot’s Business Solutions Division — donated 4,900 backpacks throughout the state. Seattle-based National CASA Association — one of the Foundation’s longstanding partners in the National Backpack Program — received an additional 24,375 backpacks to distribute among its affiliates. The Foundation also supports a number of educational institutions and other non-profit corporations with in-kind donations of school supplies and other products. In 2008, the retail value of these donations was more than \$355,000.

## **HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED**

### **AAA Washington, Bellevue**

📍 [aaawa.com](http://aaawa.com)

AAA Washington, the organization that has been serving members and the traveling public since 1904, initiated a new “Soap for Hope” program last year and managed to collect more than 30,000 toiletry items to help people in need. From Nov. 12 through Dec. 31, donations were collected at AAA Washington offices throughout the state. The campaign especially encouraged travelers who end up with unused sample-size shampoos, conditioners, lotions and soaps to bring them to their local AAA office. All of the offices have full-service leisure travel agencies, so asking travelers for unused toiletries is one way AAA can give back to the community. The items collected during the drive were distributed to 26 charities throughout the state, including homeless shelters, food banks and domestic violence programs.

**Doyle Electric, Inc., Walla Walla**

📍 [doyleelectric.com](http://doyleelectric.com)

Leo Doyle established Doyle Electric in 1972, initially working from his home. Over the years, the business has expanded many times to keep up with customers' needs for things such as security systems, business telephone systems and computer network cabling. All that time, Doyle has contributed to the community through numerous nonprofits and charities. Last year, his service was recognized by the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce, which gave him its 2008 Award of Merit. The award recognizes individuals for their consistent and significant service over a minimum of 15 years. Organizations he has been involved with include Walla Walla Community Hospice, The Christian Aid Center, Camp Amanda, and Catholic Charities.

**Cowlitz Bank, Longview**

📍 [cowlitzbank.com](http://cowlitzbank.com)

Cowlitz Bank employees work during and after business hours to help the homeless and homebound in their community. They contribute many hours of service and food donations to the Community House, which provides housing for homeless individuals, and bank employees go out every Friday to deliver hot and frozen meals to homebound individuals and people with disabilities in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. For some of the recipients, the visit from the bank employees may be the only time all day they see a person.

**Eastern Washington Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Spokane**

📍 [ewcdhh.org](http://ewcdhh.org)

In any given population, an estimated 10 to 12 percent of people have a hearing loss of some degree. The Eastern Washington Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing works to ensure that those individuals are not left out when it comes to disaster preparedness. The center works with the Spokane County Emergency Alert System Committee, a group of television, radio and cable station representatives, to discuss broadcasting emergency alerts as well as other techniques for notifying people who do not have access to a television or radio. The organization also partners with other organizations that focus on specific disabilities, as well as organizations that work with victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault to advocate for full accessibility to their services. In addition, its Interpreter Services works to ensure that quality interpreters are available to access medical, legal, educational and service delivery organizations.

**Horizon Distribution, Inc., Yakima**

📍 [horizondistribution.com](http://horizondistribution.com)

Horizon Distribution is a full-line hardware, farm and industrial supply distributor that traces its roots to 1881 when it began operation as a retail hardware store in Yakima. Today it is a

wholesale operation serving Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Alaska, Utah and Hawaii. Horizon Distribution demonstrates its commitment to serving people in need through its work with a variety of charitable organizations including The United Way, Salvation Army and the March of Dimes. Its president, Ken Marble, is the chairman of the 2009 March of Dimes March for Babies for the Mid-Columbia Region. The company donated printing material to promote the events, and HDI is a corporate sponsor. In addition, Horizon Distribution employees formed their own team to march in the April 25 event in Yakima, which brought out more than 1,000 people.

#### **LeMaster Daniels, Spokane**

 [lemasterdaniels.com](http://lemasterdaniels.com)

When LeMaster Daniels celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008, the certified public accountant firm decided to commemorate its centennial by going above and beyond the scope of its regular community support. So, on Oct. 25, 2008 — National Make a Difference Day — employees in each of its 12 offices took on a service project in their respective communities. Some 277 employees gave their time and talent - and in some cases made personal monetary donations - totaling more than 1,640 volunteer hours. The projects included maintenance and repair at Camp Korey, a Bellevue camp that hosts programs for critically ill children, collecting and distributing books to school children in Grandview, hosting a carnival for seriously ill children in Spokane, and performing yard work and home repairs in Yakima for people with disabilities.

#### **Pacific Crest Industries, Sumner**

 [pacificcrestindustries.com](http://pacificcrestindustries.com)

Pacific Crest Industries is a family-owned cabinet manufacturer that makes a difference in the community through the leadership and passion of founders Steve and Carolyn Bell. The company participates in many international and local outreach efforts, including Agros International. Since 2001, Pacific Crest has partnered with Agros in its Journey With a Village program, which seeks to build partnerships between rural villages in developing countries. Pacific Crest is on a “journey” with the village of La Esperanza in El Salvador where it assists 20 families in their journey toward a self-sufficient lifestyle. Pacific Crest also financed a health center in the Democratic Republic of Congo, provides funding for a camp and outreach center in Latvia, and assists nonprofits including Vision House, the Tacoma Rescue Mission and Habitat for Humanity.

### **Sundown M Ranch, Yakima**

 [sundown.org](http://sundown.org)

Sundown M Ranch is a nonprofit chemical dependency treatment agency that's been helping adults and youth for 40 years. Sundown M Ranch not only helps families, but also reaches out to the community. First-year students at the Pacific Northwest University of Health Services spend two- to four-hour sessions with clinical staff where they learn about the disease of alcoholism/chemical dependency. In addition, Sundown M Ranch staff work with Central Washington Family Medicine to provide medical residents with onsite training in the area of chemical dependency. And the agency works with the University of Washington's offsite medical school by providing physician's assistants with a lecture and tour of the Sundown M Ranch facilities.

### **Thurston First Bank, Olympia**

 [thurstonfirstbank.com](http://thurstonfirstbank.com)

Thurston First Bank began in 2004 as response to a number of bank consolidations that created a void for small and mid-sized businesses looking for a full-service niche bank. Its initial capitalization was raised strictly by invitation and word-of-mouth, without any institutional investors. The bank gives back to the community in numerous ways, and following the severe flooding in 2007 it teamed with KGY Radio, Trailer Services Co. and the Salvation Army to collect badly needed items for flood victims in Grays Harbor and Pacific counties. Ralph Munro, former Washington Secretary of State and a Thurston First Bank board member, spearheaded the effort with the help of bank staff volunteers and community members. Generous citizens filled a 53-foot trailer with furniture, food, water, cleaning supplies and clothes; more than \$40,000 in cash was also collected.

### **Valley Medical Center, Renton**

 [valleymed.org](http://valleymed.org)

Valley Medical Center is the state's first public district hospital and the largest nonprofit healthcare provider between Seattle and Tacoma. It serves 400,000 residents as a regional center and operates a network of 12 community clinics throughout King County. The organization gives back to the community in a variety of ways, and last year alone spent nearly \$15 million on activities and programs that help infants, seniors, people with cancer, diabetes and epilepsy, as well as disadvantaged men, women and children. In addition to those programs, Valley gave nearly \$9 million in charity care. Some of the programs include Safety Camp, a free one-day safety camp for children ages 7 to 10, a breast cancer survivor fashion show, and several community health fairs where employees give away sunscreen and cancer prevention information.

### **Wal-Mart Stores, Yakima**

📍 [walmart.com](http://walmart.com)

For Wal-Mart, recent events such as the flooding in Washington state and Hurricane Katrina have underscored the importance of planning for disaster aid, especially in isolated areas. The Wal-Mart Foundation has partnered with the American Red Cross to provide money for disaster relief supplies and equipment in communities across the country. In Washington, Wal-Mart provided \$163,660 to be shared in seven chapters in eastern Washington, including Yakima Valley, Wenatchee, Kennewick, Walla Walla, Spokane, Ellensburg and Okanogan. They are among 128 Red Cross chapters nationwide receiving \$5 million from the Wal-Mart Foundation's Disaster Readiness and Capacity Building Grant Program, a program that targets remote areas that often become isolated during disasters.

## **PROJECTS THAT MOBILIZE PEOPLE**

### **Cargill Animal Nutrition, Ferndale**

📍 [www.cargillanimalnutrition.com](http://www.cargillanimalnutrition.com)

Cargill Animal Nutrition traces its roots to 1865 when Cargill Inc. founder William W. "Will" Cargill founded the company that bears his name. In 1941, it began marketing Cargill Feeds and since 1945 it has expanded greatly through acquisition and innovation. It acquired Ferndale Grain in 2003. Cargill employees in Whatcom and Skagit counties give of their time and talent in numerous ways, including volunteering time and donating more than six tons of food to the Whatcom County Humane Society. Employees also volunteer and donate to Relay for Life, Skagit Valley Humane Society, and give to large- and small-animal care facilities. In addition, they contribute to 4-H, Whatcom County Dairy Women and many more organizations.

### **Express Employment Professionals, Spokane**

📍 [expresspros.com](http://expresspros.com)

Express Employment Professionals is a private staffing company that put 350,000 people to work last year. It has nearly 600 locations, including one in Spokane that has served Spokane County for more than 15 years. Since 2003, the company's innovative holiday "gift of giving" letter has helped raise thousands of dollars and provide inspiration for the company's clients and friends. In 2008, more than 200 \$20.08 checks were sent out into the community to be given to nonprofit organization of the recipients choosing, with an invitation to add a check of their own if they were able. Often, the checks were more than matched.

### **Greater Spokane, Inc., Spokane**

🏠 [greaterspokane.org](http://greaterspokane.org)

Greater Spokane, Inc. is the Inland Northwest's only Regional Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council. It has engaged the community through its recently launched Buy Local campaign, which encourages residents to circulate their dollars locally. The campaign has earned television and newspaper coverage worth more than \$6,000 and garnered thousands of dollars worth of donations from business partners for everything from posters and print advertising to billboard space and radio spots. Businesses are also starting to brand their advertising with the "Buy Local" logo. GSI dedicated its efforts in the Buy Local campaign to show the impact companies can have on their local economy simply by "thinking local first."

### **PricewaterhouseCoopers, Seattle**

🏠 [pwc.com](http://pwc.com)

PricewaterhouseCoopers is a global firm that provides industry-focused assurance, tax and advisory services to more than 155,000 people in 153 countries. Last year, for the third consecutive year, its Seattle office joined the rest of the U.S. firm in a campaign in which all 30,000 partners and staff participate for a full day in a community service project. The focus was on projects related to youth education to help develop the next generation of leaders for the marketplace. Staff from the Seattle office volunteered at the Roxhill Elementary School in West Seattle by painting and improving the grounds. The Seattle office staff joined in other volunteer activities throughout the year, as well, by providing meals to the homeless, and by donating newborn necessities for children and mothers through the Harborview Giving Tree.

### **Qwest Communications, Seattle**

🏠 [qwest.com](http://qwest.com)

Every year, school teachers throughout the state are invited to submit projects to Qwest for funding through a program called Qwest Teachers and Technology. To qualify, a project must have a technology component that inspires students to learn. One project is selected from each of the state's nine Educational Service Districts. The \$10,000 grants have funded projects ranging from Kelso first-graders blogging and creating digital journals to ninth-graders in Rochester creating videos by mixing music, stills and narration in English and Spanish. In Silverdale, a whole school of 400 elementary students was involved in producing a multimedia news broadcast.

### **Verizon Wireless, Bellevue**

📍 [verizonwireless.com](http://verizonwireless.com)

Verizon Wireless offers help to victims and survivors of domestic violence through its Hopeline Program. Last year, the company gave 737 wireless phones with more than two million minutes of service to shelters and domestic violence agencies in the state of Washington. The phones plus air time, with an estimated value of \$221,000, provide women with a lifeline in a time of crisis, and help victims and survivors rebuild lives. Through the company's program, Verizon Wireless also collected thousands of used cellular phones, battery chargers and accessories at Safeco Field, where Seattle Mariners fans were encouraged to drop them off, and at Verizon's retail stores. Verizon also helped by awarding cash grants worth \$91,684 to 19 shelters and domestic violence support organizations throughout Washington.

## **RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERISM**

### **Alcoa Primary Products – Intalco Works and Wenatchee Works, Ferndale**

📍 [alcoa.com](http://alcoa.com)

Community matters to Alcoa, and the company demonstrates that through its encouragement of employee volunteerism, and its financial support of numerous nonprofit organizations. Between the two locations, Alcoa's Washington employees serve on approximately 30 boards and committees. In 2008, both locations provided forums where employees could interact with community organizations to learn more about volunteer opportunities. Alcoa contributes \$250 to nonprofit organizations where their employees volunteer at least 50 hours per year, and the company awards grants of up to \$3,000 nonprofits where teams of volunteers serve. Alcoa's Washington employees provided an additional 600 hours of service as they joined colleagues around the world as part of October's Month of Service.

### **Builders' Hardware and Supply Co. Inc., Seattle**

📍 [builders-hardware.com](http://builders-hardware.com)

Builders' Hardware and Supply Co. is an employee-owned company that has been serving the Northwest since 1958 with commercial doors and frames, as well as commercial and residential hardware. The company's marketing manager, Melissa Bazala, stands out as an example of someone who makes time to help others despite a busy schedule at work and as a wife and mother of two children. Melissa is the coordinator for the West Seattle Relay for Life, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society in which teams of volunteers take turns running or walking around a track for up to 24 hours.

### **Floyd Snider Inc., Seattle**

🏠 [floydsnider.com](http://floydsnider.com)

Floyd Snider is a multi-disciplinary environmental consulting firm founded in 1996. Its principals, Teri Floyd and Kate Snider, have a long history of donating time to local organizations that are instrumental in protecting the environment, but this year they took a step above and beyond what most companies are willing to do. Starting in January, Floyd Snider agreed to give an additional 40 hours of paid time off to any of its 25 employee who chose to volunteer their time to a nonprofit organization of their choosing, as long as they employee has at least one year on the job. The time can be spent in one-day increments or the full 40 hours at one time.

### **Pharmacy OneSource, Bellevue**

🏠 [pharmacyonesource.com](http://pharmacyonesource.com)

Pharmacy OneSource is healthcare’s leading “Software-as-a-Service” provider, providing more than 1,300 healthcare organizations throughout the world with web-based services. The company recognizes the value of volunteerism and rewards employees through a Volunteer Program that encourages team members to participate in community service for four hours each month. If the volunteer opportunity does not take place during a regularly scheduled shift, the employee will receive four hours of personal time off. Some of the organizations helped by Pharmacy OneSource’s 15 Washington employees include the Seattle Humane Society, Boy Scouts of America, Ronald McDonald House, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Saul Haas & Daye G Foundation.

## **YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Another Source, Seattle**

🏠 [anothersource.com](http://anothersource.com)

Another Source is a second-generation woman-owned employment referral service company. Another Source believes in giving back to the community and encourages its employees to take paid time away from the office to participate in nonprofit activities. The company is a partner with the YWCA of King and Snohomish Counties, and was named to the nonprofits 2005 major donor list. In addition, Another Source adopts two families each year for the holidays, providing gifts, food and Christmas spirit. Another Source assists numerous other organizations, including Northwest Harvest, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Angeline’s Homeless Shelter and Trinity Place in Snohomish.

### **McCarthy Finance, Lynnwood**

🏠 [check-masters.com](http://check-masters.com)

McCarthy Finance, Inc., doing business as Check Masters, prides itself on contributing to the community and encourages its 140 employees to do the same. Check Masters has been a supporter of the Seattle-based children's charity Rise n' Shine for 20 years. Rise n' Shine provides children who are affected by HIV and AIDS with support groups, counseling and summer camp. Check Masters supports Rise n' Shine both through corporate donations and by encouraging employee involvement with the organization. One way that employees helped was by volunteering to be "jailed" for the charity's annual "Big Bail Out" event. The company also keeps Rise n' Shine coin boxes in its lobbies. Check Masters also work with the Sno-King Youth Club, selling tennis balls at its stores to raise money for the club and employees volunteer their time to help with sports clinics put on for children. Check Masters has also partnered with the YMCA and pledged \$60,000 to help fund the new Dale Turner YMCA facility in Shoreline.

## **MULTIPLE WINNERS**

### **Cintas, Tacoma (Helping People in Need, Recognizing Volunteerism)**

🏠 [cintas.com](http://cintas.com)

The uniform company Cintas provides clothing for more than 5 million people every day. The company has more than 400 facilities in the U.S. and Canada. Employees in the South Sound formed a Fun Factor Action Team to look for innovative and fun ways to support charities. The team meets during business hours to brainstorm ideas, which include bake sales, a Valentine rose sale, book drives, and collections of clothing, food and spare change. In 2008, Cintas employees helped Red Cross flood victims, a Salvation Army women's shelter, the Washington Soldiers Home in Orting and Madigan Army Medical Center, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Northwest Harvest and the Tacoma Rescue Mission. Cintas employees also adopted three soldiers serving in Iraq for Christmas, contributed to breast cancer awareness activities, baby food and children's clothing drives and more. The company also has a longstanding partnership with United Way, and it regularly hosts a blood mobile at its facility for the American Red Cross.

### **Clark Nuber, Bellevue (Helping People in Need, Recognizing Volunteerism)**

🏠 [clarknuber.com](http://clarknuber.com)

Clark Nuber is an award winning CPA and consulting firm that has served the Northwest for more than five decades. Caring for and supporting the community is one of Clark Nuber's three strategic goals, and one of the ways the firm demonstrated its commitment was by starting a program this year called Caring, Serving and Giving. The firm already was providing matching gifts for employees' financial contributions to charity, but the CSG program goes a step further

by allowing employees to submit an application at any time of the year for a grant of up to \$500. There is no overall budget, and Clark Nuber funds every proposal that meets its values and offers a community benefit.

**Damar Aerosystems, Monroe (Education, Recognizing Volunteerism)**

 [damarmachine.com](http://damarmachine.com)

From the first day of employee orientation, each new employee at Damar Aerosystems is introduced to the company's tuition reimbursement program. It's just one way that Damar demonstrates its strong commitment to continuing education. The company offers regular in-house classes, and Damar won a matching grant from the state of Washington to teach a two-week in-house lean manufacturing class for employees from all departments. In addition, machinists can take three consecutive classes to enhance specific machining skills, and the company provides two English language classes every Wednesday, each with five employees, to help its diverse workforce increase its language skills. Owners Thom Kroon and Doug Roulstone also foster a culture of community involvement in their employees by helping raise funds for multiple sclerosis research, the local YMCA, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and local schools.

**Dr. John B. Carpenter, Auburn (Helping People in Need, Recognizing Volunteerism)**

Dr. John B. Carpenter established his dental practice in 1971 and has been serving the Auburn community ever since. Since 2007, Dr. Carpenter has worked with Auburn School District nurses to provide emergency dental treatment for children who do not have dental coverage. As the network coordinator for the Adopt-A-School program, Dr. Carpenter has recruited 10 dentists to help provide emergency care for students. His staff works with the Washington Oral Health Foundation to go into elementary schools and give presentations to students, and Dr. Carpenter opened up his clinic to low-income children this year to provide free dental care. Together with the Washington Oral Health Foundation and the Boys & Girls Clubs, he was able to provide treatment for 17 children in South King County, many of whom had little or no previous dental care.