



**Dear Supporters and Friends -**

*Through your generosity, the Greater Gig Harbor Foundation is changing lives in our community.*

How would it make you feel to know that—because of you—thousands in our community will not go hungry and will be looking forward to the New Year with hope? Or, that hundreds of local youth will get the chance to experience early learning programs, or to participate in area sports and recreation programs—regardless of their family’s ability to pay? Or, that you inspired just one young person to become a painter, a scientist, a teacher? **How would it make you feel, knowing that you can help change the world?**

*GGHF is your community’s foundation. We exist to serve our community – to provide resources, support, and yes – even hope.*

Since 2006, your support has allowed us to leverage resources enabling GGHF to provide over \$5-million in community-centered assets, services and opportunities! We hope you will consider the Foundation and continue to come together as **ONE COMMUNITY**, by joining us, as we work to improve all lives across our greater peninsula community.

**Here’s a snapshot of what your 2017 impact looks like ...**

**Financial and Service Support**

- **PenMet Parks Food Truck Fest** – GGHF’s Filling Station yielded support for the District’s recreation scholarship program and the Community Recreation Fund!
- **AUSA Military Appreciation Day** – GGHF’s Filling Station benefited AUSA’s Meriwether Lewis subchapter to support work with local soldiers and their families.
- **Maritime Gig Festival Sponsor** – 11th year participants and sponsor of the first Pixies & Pirates Bike Contest.
- **Gig Harbor Paddler’s Cup Sponsor** – and Dragon Boat Races; GGHF team took Silver!
- **Peninsula School District’s Early Learning Jamboree Sponsor**
- **YMCA 11th Annual Street Scramble Sponsor**
- **Lu Winsor Memorial Environmental Grant Program** – programmatic and fiscal support.
- **#Community Harvest Project** – 400+ hours and support to help address hunger in our community by providing ingredients for nutritious meals to families in need through FB4K and the Basket Brigade programs.

**Community “Umbrella”**

**Gig Harbor Basket Brigade.** As it celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year, the Basket Brigade became a project of the Foundation. Through fiscal sponsorship, GGHF provides services, a safe place to keep funds, and nonprofit status to groups like the Basket Brigade, who are working to make our community better. The two-day effort of some 450 volunteers assembled and delivered 1,456 Thanksgiving baskets to local families. **Thank you!**



**Good Reason**

**Programs, Services, Projects, Scholarships and Grants**

**GGHF Curious by Nature School.** Nominated as one of our community’s top three preschools at Gig Harbor’s 2017 Finest awards, our community-centered, nature-based school has grown by 295% since 2012. To meet growth and demand, CBNS increased teaching staff and expanded to include a 100% Outdoor Immersion program. In addition to providing educational programs and camps serving 200+ area children, CBNS offered free community programs and activities, including monthly *Family Nature Walk* and *Lunch with a Scientist* series, and hands-on children’s activities at the Waterfront Alliance Farmers Market, several local festivals, and the Cider Swig.

**GGHF EnviroCorps.** Completed the **Sehmel Park Rain Garden Restoration** project. Supported in part by Lu Winsor Environmental and Park Enhancement grants, in partnership with Pierce Conservation District and WSU Master Gardeners, the project included removing invasive plants, correcting irrigation and grading, and replanting; resulting in \$20,000 in savings to PenMet Parks. Other services to the District, totaling 242 hours (about \$10,000), include free *Roses & Rosedale Walking Tours* at Sehmel Homestead Park, and Parks Appreciation Day and National Public Lands Day support. Additionally, 100 hours of litter patrol assured removal of 200+ bags of trash/recycling from area roads and trails.

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**The Green Gig™ LOCALLY GROWN.** Annually, the farm-to-table dinner raises support for the **Stewards Scholarship Fund**, which has awarded over \$25,000 in tuition assistance grants to help provide early childhood education opportunities to low-income families. Thanks to our sponsors, volunteers and community support the 2017 TGG was the most successful yet! Mark your calendars for this annual sell-out event: **March 17, 2018.**

**CIDER SWIG and Lu Winsor Environmental Grants.** The 4<sup>th</sup> annual event saw record attendance as 3,800 joined in a day of cider sipping, live music, games, contests and more. Annually, proceeds benefit the Lu Winsor Environmental Grant program, which grew in 2017 to fund \$20,000 in environmental education, conservation, watershed enhancement and other projects supporting area parks and resource lands. Tremendous sponsor support and the festival's wild success will enable the program's expansion again in 2018!

**#CommunityHarvest Project and Make A Difference Day.** Organized in 2016 to help address food insecurity in our community, the #Community Harvest project is making headway to provide 12,000 nutritious weekend meals to help sustain local families in need through the end of the 2017-18 school year. Buoyed by incredible sponsors and partnership with Main & Vine, nearly four tons of food were sorted and prepared for distribution by Make A Difference Day volunteers for Food Backpacks 4Kids, the primary 2017 beneficiary. **With six months to go, we're about 30% of the distance to meeting community need.** You'll see opportunities to help across the community – or make a **ONE Community gift today.**

**Students of Distinction Program.** The 15<sup>th</sup> annual scholarship and recognition program honored 38 graduating seniors from three area high schools with \$11,750 in post-secondary scholarships. In a first for the program, ties were deemed in two categories and volunteer panelists covered the additional scholarships through personal donations. The program has recognized 550+ students and provided over \$160,000 in scholarships, since 2003.

**Greater Gig Harbor Open Studio Tour.** In its 25<sup>th</sup> year, OST celebrated 27 local artists, in 18 studios. Each year, OST provides the community with a free educational opportunity to experience live art. Beyond this, the program creates connections that foster collaboration between artists and the community, contributing to our community's economic vitality. The three-day event was one of the most successful in OST history!

**#Community Spirit Grants.** Intended as catalysts to ignite efforts that positively impact our community, our 2017 grants were sponsored by one anonymous donor. Projects must include: community participation, volunteerism, and be fun! Recipients were: Lakebay Community Church, Harbor History Museum, Key Pen Parks, Peninsula Hands-On Art, Longbranch Improvement Club and Two Waters Art Alliance. Grants are awarded annually at the **#Community Myxer**, which brings the community together to honor extraordinary people, and reflect on works of building, bridging and enriching our **ONE community.**

As you see, we've been working hard to leverage your support to assure that **every** dollar goes as far as possible in support of our **ONE community.** You know our community is stronger when we work together – and we are ever more committed to working to unite people across our peninsulas to work as ONE toward common goals that improve the quality of life for all.

## We ask you for your support of ONE COMMUNITY with ONE check.

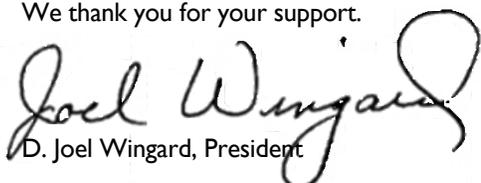
Your tax-deductible gift to the **ONE Community** appeal is extremely important because it offers immediate resources that are directed to current needs and opportunities, while enabling GGHF to continue work on your behalf as a convener and a vital change maker in our community. Your gift of \$500 provides 40 local families with a nutritious weekend meal. A \$1,000 gift helps assure at least 50 disadvantaged youth can participate in area recreation programs. A \$2,600 gift is the average grant from the Foundation to area organizations trying to deliver services. **Whatever you can contribute will be greatly appreciated.**

Whether it's \$100, \$500, \$1,000 or \$5,000, your gift can make all the difference in imagining and creating solutions, and in making positive impacts that will enrich our community for generations. **Every donation makes a difference.**

Through your **ONE check**, you can choose to help neighbors in need, enrich education and create opportunities for students of all ages, preserve parks and enhance our environment, provide sport and recreation opportunities for all area youth, offer hope and a meal to local families in need, and encourage a lively arts community.

You can make your donation online today by visiting: [www.gigharborfoundation.org/giveONE](http://www.gigharborfoundation.org/giveONE) or by returning the enclosed form in the envelope provided.

We thank you for your support.

  
D. Joel Wingard, President

  
Dr. Julie Ann Gustanski, CEO/President Emeritus