

**Thank You and Congratulations**  
**to all our Nominees**

Birth and Family Wellness Fair

Be Love Therapy Dogs

Bikers Against Child Abuse

Mike Bixby

Lesley Bombardier

Spencer Boudreau

Stacy Chilton

Community Resource Providers

Michelle Grendahl

Sybil Iverson

Nikki Hemberry

Lower Columbia CAP

Caleb Luther

Margarret (Peggy) Malone

Susie Marion

Frank Morrison

Lori Parsons

PeaceHealth St. John Medical Center's

Youth Mentorship Program

Gregory Price

Mary Putka

Relay for Life

Barbara Rutherford

Youth and Family Link

**Pathways 2020**  
**Community Champions**  
**Award Recipients**



**June 22, 2016**

For more information on Pathways 2020  
visit our webpage at [pathways2020.org](http://pathways2020.org)  
or email us at [youmans@cowlitzedc.com](mailto:youmans@cowlitzedc.com)



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## 2016 Community Champions

### Economic Vitality - Mike Karnofski



In 2010, after 37 years of working in management positions at Weyerhaeuser, Mike Karnofski turned his attention to serving the people of Cowlitz County as a County Commissioner. Mike has been a consistent advocate for economic development whether it be promoting the development of SR 432 or job training and

development through the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council. He has served as chairman of the Cowlitz Economic Development Council, the Community Economic Revitalization Board, Solid Waste Governance Committee, and Freight Mobility Strategic Investment board. His passion is for a healthy Cowlitz County and recognizing it as a quality of place. To accomplish this he has served on the Law and Justice Council, United Way Board, and has been a long time adult leader in youth soccer. He served as a director for the 40 for 2020 community planning efforts.

### Housing - Diane Perron, Habitat for Humanity



Diane Perron is Executive Director of Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity. She provides strong leadership which has allowed this program to grow, providing homes for families and offering a store for the exchange of affordable building materials. The value of Habitat for Humanity as a Christian foundation calls for them to set aside religious differences and work towards a common goal: to eliminate poverty housing in our community. In the

past 15 years, Habitat for Humanity has built 25 homes. Diane has been instrumental in raising the profile of Habitat for Humanity in our community in very positive ways.

### Education - Susan Barker



Susan Barker is the Superintendent of Castle Rock Schools. She has proven herself to be committed to improving the health and well-being of all students, so they can be successful in school and beyond. She is the driving force in building effective and meaningful school/family/community partnerships. She recognizes the future of her students affects the quality of life in the community, and encourages

community members to invest in education. To enhance the academic and social growth of students and to engage the community, she developed the school/community garden project, incorporating students and adults in all stages of the growing process. The area food bank, Senior Center, and assisted living facility are all recipients of the produce grown in the gardens. Recently she has brought a new program to the district called Career Beginnings, which engages local businesses in student learning by sharing skills and knowledge about potential career choices, opens up opportunities, and readies students for a career path upon graduation. Susan's leadership has improved the students academic success and involvement in the community.

### Access to Healthy Foods - Jon Griffin & Wendell Harper



Jon Griffin and Wendell Harper have served on the Longview Parks and Recreation Community Garden Board for eight years. Wendell has been gardening at the community gardens for 39 years and

Jon for nine years. Their passion for gardening is shared with all 124 community gardeners throughout the season. Their message is that gardening is a great way to exercise, reduce stress, and grow healthy crops. Jon is a WSU master gardener and has helped many people learn how to garden properly, not only at the community gardens, but in the classroom as well. Wendell has been sharing his experience and techniques with community members for years. They have dedicated countless hours to make the community gardens a safe and enjoyable place to grow healthy crops for many families in the community. They are always available to assist anyone with gardening questions. Their knowledge of gardening is a key factor in the success of the community gardens.

### Health - Blaine Tolby, M.D.



Doctor Blaine Tolby is a well loved pediatrician who has been involved with community health in Cowlitz County for decades. His passion is much more than simply providing medical care for kids. He has been an advocate for children in various ways. He has tirelessly advanced efforts to promote children's mental health. He constantly works with police, courts, and others to address children's abuse issues.

He received the Governor's Volunteer of the Year award in 1991. He is currently on the Board of Directors for the Children's Justice and Advocacy Center and has served on Boards of Directors or as an advisor for many other community and children's organizations.

### Social Cohesion - Patrick Ryan & Michelle Ryan



Patrick and Michelle Ryan have been feeding the homeless every weekend for many months. Recognizing that nutrition services were not available on the weekend for many of the homeless population, including those housed at Love Overwhelming, they stepped up to do what they could. Using an older van

stocked with tables and necessities, and with help from other volunteers, they plan the menu, cook a hot main dish and provide other food items which they purchased themselves. They accept donations of side dishes, fruit, water, coffee,



and dessert. Patrick and Michelle, in their Stone Soup project, work tirelessly to meet the needs of others without recognition, and would not normally want to be acknowledged for the amazing work they do. They are a classic example of where a few dedicated people make a world of difference for others by giving of themselves and helping others come together to meet a greater need.