

# HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

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## Tenant's Rights

Tenants win protections in Tacoma; the struggle continues for more

By Austin Hayes

Sparked by the Tiki apartment crisis 7 months ago, tenants across Tacoma have been organizing for tenant rights and protections. On November 20th, this organizing paid off when the Tacoma City Council unanimously passed the Rental Housing Code, which took effect on Feb 1, 2019. This tenant rights movement has been led by Tiki apartment tenants who helped form the Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee (TTOC), with support from the Tacoma Democratic Socialists of America, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 23, Futurewise, and more. We rallied community turnout to Tacoma City Council, canvassed streets and apartment buildings, participated in meetings with City Council members, and held community-facing education events. We built support across the City for the passage of these crucial protections.

Two of the principal demands of TTOC have

come directly out of our work at the Tiki Apartments. The Tiki tenants, when faced with their 20 day eviction notices, demanded from their landlord and from the city two material requests: more time and more money. Now the request for more time will be reflected in city law: instead of 20 days, tenants will receive 120-day notices to vacate in the case of renovation or demolition, and 60-day notice to vacate for any other reason. The request for financial support will now be met through relocation assistance of up to \$2,000 available to low-income renters, half provided by their landlord and half provided by the city of Tacoma.

Another key protection is the prohibition from landlords retaliating against tenants who exercise their rights—such as asking for repairs or organizing collectively at an apartment complex like we did at the Tiki Apartments. Additional protections include: 60-day notice of rent increases, installment payments for move-in costs, notification of enforcement activity if a landlord has an open code violation or has violated fair housing laws, and a requirement for landlords to distribute tenant rights information. All of these new laws will be enforced by the City of Tacoma, and landlords who fail to comply will be fined. Furthermore, “source of income” now constitutes a protected class

in Tacoma, meaning landlords cannot discriminate against a potential tenant based on how they pay their rent—such as through a Section 8 voucher or other housing subsidy.

While many of our demands have been met, we know that we must keep pushing for more protections and make sure that every tenant in Tacoma is aware of their rights. TTOC and our community partners will continue to provide direct support to tenant organizing. This is how the movement began: on the ground, with boots, gloves, trucks and vans, lending a hand – first at the Tiki Apartments, then again at Merkle Hotel. As long as these displacements continue, we will be there to respond. And we will continue to bring our demands for Just Cause evictions, community land trusts, public housing, and rent control.

Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee is connecting with tenants across the state. There are many poor and working-class communities in Washington without adequate tenant protections. Those living in Parkland, for example, do not receive the same rights we just won in Tacoma. In order to win universal tenant protections we must bring our agenda to county councils and the state legislature, otherwise we will continue to see holes in the safety nets we’re building here. Landlords should not be

able to move ten minutes south of Tacoma to continue on with exploitative practices. Similarly, as development and rising rents force low-income tenants out of Tacoma, the legal rights they have fought for here will no longer be enjoyed once outside city limits.

The fight for housing justice continues, and those of us involved in the struggle will continue to shout from the rooftops that housing is a human right. While the path forward is a long one, we have proven over the past seven months that we are ready for it, and our movement cannot be stopped.

For those not yet involved in the movement, please join us! Follow Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee, Tacoma Democratic Socialists of America, and ILWU No. 23 Young Workers Committee on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to stay in the loop for upcoming actions, education events, and meetings. The Tenants Union of Washington is also on Facebook, and you can check their website or call their hotline if you have questions regarding the actions of your landlord and how you should respond to them. We cannot win without you, so join Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee and join the fight. Housing justice now!



## People's Center History

The Fortieth Anniversary of the People's Center

By Preston Childs

On Mother's Day, 1969, civil unrest burst forth upon the Hilltop. Long time problems with a non-responsive Tacoma city government sparked a riot in the community. After the unrest, on May 20, 1969, the City Council and 400 people attended a study session at the Hilltop Youth Activities Center, later called the Malcolm X Center. The News Tribune newspaper reported that a swimming pool for the area was urged as an alternative “to keep restless youngsters off the streets”. This large community forum was pivotal for the Hilltop Community. It resulted in the funding of a new center at the current location in 1977. It was named People's Center as a result of Hilltop resident voting. A year later the gym came into existence and in 1979 the original pool opened as a result of the involvement of the community. The pool was a popular spot in the summer and also used by nearby hospital

employees during their lunch hours.

The pool closed suddenly in 2008 when serious structural problems were discovered. The closing marked the beginning of years of effort by the People's Center Steering Committee (PCSC) led by President Emeritus Fletcher Jenkins who said: “When a child falls into the water and they don't know how to swim, color does not make a difference. They have to have these types of things in their community to help them grow”.

The result is our new pool which opened in 2016. Assistance is available through Metro Parks to help residents learn how to swim and use those skills and the many other programs that our Community Center offers. This is an excellent example of what our communities can do when people get involved. All are invited to come enjoy this place for everyone in this neighborhood and get involved with this historic part of the Hilltop community.

Call (253) 404-3915 for information about People's Center activities and programs. If you are interested in the work of the People's Center Steering Committee, please contact Preston Childs, [johnchilds496@gmail.com](mailto:johnchilds496@gmail.com).

## Hilltop Action Journal

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### Community Priorities

- Good Jobs and Local Hires
- Safety through Community Policing
- Pathways to Home Ownership
- Sustain and Value Existing Community Organizations
- Programs for Youth and Seniors
- Peoples Center as a Cultural Hub of Information & Programs
- Create a Hilltop Neighborhood Library
- Community Journalism
- Keep Homes Affordable for Seniors and People with Fixed Incomes

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## Hilltop Action Coalition

Hilltop Action Coalition is a community-based coalition and 501(c)3 nonprofit that is working to mobilize and empower diverse individuals, families, businesses and other public and community organizations to build a safe, clean, healthy resilient and united community.

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# Hilltop Action Coalition Monthly Community Meetings 3rd Mondays @ 6pm

Community Healthcare Bldg. 1202 Martin Luther King Jr. Way  
 Meet your neighbors and become part of the local Hilltop community. Each month we have presentations and information about community events, activities, policy, and important news. Light refreshments and kid's activities provided!



# President's Message

By Brendan Nelson

We are in the midst of an extremely busy time here in the Hilltop. There's plenty of work being done on the Link Expansion and I'm so excited to see things coming together. There are numerous conversations about how things will shape out in the coming years and how will all of these changes affect the fabric of our community. The Hilltop has always been a beautiful place and just like any other place, we've had our share of challenging times but at the core of it all, we will stand together.

Over the last year I've witnessed so many groups, organizations, residents and elected leaders working together to ensure that the Hilltop continues to be a strong and

vibrant place to live. I am encouraged by the challenging, yet fruitful dialogues that are taking place. It is my hope that we continue seeking common places of understanding to discuss projects or proposals that directly affect the Hilltop. I firmly believe that each of us plays an invaluable role, and when we combine our talents and abilities, great things can happen. When we all make our unique contributions to the collective effort, everyone achieves more.

The Hilltop Action Coalition has made a commitment to work with all stakeholders this year to build stronger and more unified partnerships. We feel it is our responsibility to be actively engaged and have hands-on

involvement in the developments taking place. We will work to ensure that residents are informed and connected to the many things poised to happen soon and look forward to continuing the journey with you all.

Please take time to follow us on Facebook and check out our website. We are updating regularly with all things Hilltop. Also, please reach out to us if you have ideas on how we can better serve the community.

Let's move forward in UNITY!

In service,  
 Brendan Nelson

# Hilltop Is Rising

By Mario Lorenz

I had to put my cat down. I never expected to be as attached to an animal as I was with this cat. "Fozz" was a very good cat, and since 2004 he had been a faithful companion for my wife and me. I was raised on a southern Minnesota farm and I learned not to be attached to the animals on the farm. While in 4-H I raised a steer for show at the county fair that was sold at market. I had been quite close to this animal and it was difficult the first time to accept the animal's fate. This early lesson taught me the value of detachment, and it came as a complete surprise to me that I was so deeply affected by the loss of "Fozz".

When I think about Hilltop I can become emotional about the losses we may be experiencing now and in the future as new development continues the growth of Hilltop. Replacing the banners along MLK, on 11th and on Earnest S. Brazil is a reminder that we are in a business district, inside a community, inside Tacoma. This understanding helps my attachment to Hilltop in order to preserve historical memory.

Replacing the banners was no easy task. With the help of our HBA treasurer, Anne Artman, and past HBA president, Eric Crittendon, we attended meetings with the Tacoma Economic Development Department, the Central Neighborhood Council, and the New Tacoma Neighborhood Council. After filling out the application for the Innovative Arts Grant and presenting it to the neighborhood councils, and along with funding from Sound Transit, we were awarded enough money to



replace the banners.

As project manager and manager of the district, I got bids on the cost of producing the banners, and for whom would hang the banners, as the city no longer provides this service. Once done, the banners were printed by ARC, and the installation began. It was my goal to have them in place for the street fair. We finished half before the street fair, but the rest after. We rented lifts from Aaberg equipment, but the first lift was not stable on the hillside going down 11th so we rented a more stable lift to finish the project.

I contracted Paul Byerly through the Foss Waterway Seaport to hang the banners. He had hung banners on the Foss and I felt he was the man, along with his team, for the

job. We began installation but soon discovered we needed to fix some of the brackets that, with time had worn out. With extra labor by Paul, the problem was solved.

Throughout the district, the new and colorful banners are now in place

As for my cat "Fozz", I will spread his ashes in my garden and know that his memory like the banners in Hilltop will be a reminder of where we have been as a district with the ability to look forward to where we are going. We release the past and embrace the future that comes with love, knowing that it is all good in this time of transformation.

# Workforce Central

By Candice Rudd

In Pierce County, too many young adults are falling through the cracks, and too few adults know it's not too late to finish their high school diploma or earn a GED.

That's where the Pierce County Workforce Development Council comes in: The WDC has unveiled its latest workforce strategic plan draft, and wants to hear from Hilltop and Pierce County residents who are interested in learning about the WDC's plan to prepare local people for local jobs.

Through federal legislation, the WDC is charged with leading and overseeing the local workforce development system in Pierce County. It's the WDC's mission to ensure that system provides exceptional services that include providing workers and job seekers with training and resources to help them find meaningful work, and helping Pierce County businesses recruit, screen and hire local talent to fit their needs.

On Hilltop in the zip code of 98405, the American Community Survey estimates that 21 percent, or 3,251 of adults aged 20 to 64 years, are living below the poverty line.

And in the years 2012 to 2016, the American Community Survey five-year estimates of the unemployment rate in that zip code consistently tracked higher than the countywide unemployment rate: Those estimates place the 98405 unemployment rate at 8.7 percent. The same census data shows the Pierce County unemployment rate for that period at 7.4 percent.

The two groups mentioned earlier – young adults who are not working and are not in school, and adults without a high school diploma or equivalent – historically have not been served effectively or at all by the workforce development system.

In fact, the Tacoma Central area, which includes the Hilltop and surrounding neighborhoods and reaches as far south as the Tacoma Mall, has higher rates of young adults who aren't in school or working and adults who don't have their high school diploma or GED than most other geographical areas in Pierce County.

The WDC's goal is to effectively address the challenges that Hilltop and Pierce County residents face in accessing education and training and finding meaningful work that provides a living wage. You can help: Read our latest workforce strategic plan draft and give us your feedback! Send questions and comments to [info@workforce-central.org](mailto:info@workforce-central.org)

You can find the strategic plan draft here: <https://bit.ly/2OsL6DO>



# Tacoma Creates

## Hilltop Artists Help Pass Tacoma Creates initiative

By Courtney Chamberlin

After nearly a decade of hard work by arts and culture advocates, local and state elected support, and effective grassroots organizing and campaigning, including many volunteers from Hilltop Artists, voters in Tacoma approved Proposition 1: Tacoma Creates with over a whopping 67% approval. As a sign of tremendous and widespread public support, the measure passed in 100% of all voting precincts in the City of Tacoma. Hilltop Artists was one of the programs touted during the campaign to demonstrate how increased funding for arts programs could benefit youth from all communities and backgrounds.

The first measure of its kind in Washington State, Tacoma Creates builds on state legislation adopted in 2015 to allow counties or cities to support arts, culture, science and heritage programs by raising funds through a modest voter-approved sales tax increase. Tacoma Creates will now generate approximately \$5 million per year to fund increased access and new programming for arts, culture, science, and heritage based on a .1% increase in the sales tax.

At-Large Tacoma City Council Member Ryan Mello who sponsored the legislation to place this measure on the ballot stated, "Tacoma Creates is a transformative and innovative program that will ensure equity and access to opportunity. Tacoma's community members, particularly those in underserved neighborhoods, lower income families and K-12 students, will all benefit from Tacoma Creates." This means more performances and festivals in our neighborhoods. This means children will find inspiration in after-school arts programs. It means more free or reduced admissions at our renowned arts centers, museums, and theaters.

Tacoma Creates was spearheaded by the Arts & Culture Coalition of Pierce County, a collaboration of over two dozen arts, culture, science and heritage organizations. In achieving this electoral success, they formed a strong and broad political coalition with educators, philanthropy, social service providers, parks and open space advocates, and neighborhood groups. They united around the idea that greater public investment in arts and culture programs would benefit the broader collective community by improving educational outcomes, benefitting underserved communities, and offering more activities for people on fixed incomes. Clearly, the voters of Tacoma agreed! Numerous studies nationwide have reported on the individual and

community benefits that result from increased exposure and availability to arts and cultural programming. Tacoma Creates was designed to break down economic barriers and to create outlets and opportunities for youth, and make arts and culture more sustainably accessible to the broader public, grow the vibrancy Tacoma's neighborhoods and generate greater economic activity.

"For many years, our private and public sectors have partnered to invest in Tacoma's theaters, museums and other cultural institutions primarily through facility-building, and often with the goal of boosting economic impact via tourism," stated Tacoma Arts Live Executive Director and campaign co-chair, David Fischer, "this strategy has succeeded wildly!"

"Now, with Tacoma Creates, citizens will have the chance to support more than buildings," noted Hilltop Artists Executive Director Kimberly Keith, "they will support growing and creating programs that deliver great services to youth, elderly, and general community members in every Tacoma neighborhood."

"Our hard work is not over," sated Children's Museum of Tacoma Executive Director and campaign co-chair Tanya Durand. "Tacoma Creates still needs community voices and involvement to produce a viable, relevant program. We implore community members stay and get involved." To that end, the Coalition is helping to support a Tacoma Creates Community Conversation. "We want to have a conversation about how to shape the future together. Let's talk about nurturing an authentic and vibrant community. We want to hear from the diverse voices and talents throughout our city."

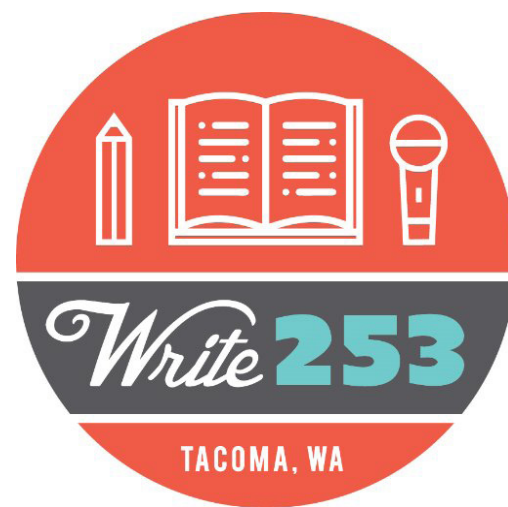
Stay connected with community meetings and updates on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TacomaCreates/>



Write253  
Remann Hall Broadside Excerpt

By Jeff

Walking down this lonely road  
I see these broken stones  
falling through my  
shattered hope  
Is my life that I have known  
floating away like  
wisps of smoke  
I leave this broken home  
in search of light  
This darkness grows  
seeping through my bones  
Cover it up and keep on  
walking  
My life inside this poem



## G Street Neighbors A Hilltop Urban Village

By Theresa Powers-Drutis  
and Wes Wesley

“In a neighborhood, people come together when they have a problem to solve. A village is not just about geography; people come together because they choose to share their lives, warts and all.” Wes

When Tacoma began “site reclamation interventions” (encampment sweeps) in January of 2017, it was no surprise that the Hilltop absorbed many displaced campers. Across the nation, people experiencing homelessness band together in walkable neighborhoods close to services and public transportation.

Scores of people experiencing homelessness travel through our village every day. As a community grounded in hospitality, we want to welcome everyone; we recognize that being un-housed is not, and should never be, a crime.

As a community that cares about health and safety, we are challenged by encampments that block sidewalks, the strong smell of urine, and garbage that is strewn on streets, sidewalks, and lawns. We take a load of garbage to the dump and, before we return home, a new pile begins to grow.

As gardeners, we resent having to remove human waste before we can weed the flowers. We wish

people would stop leaving food that attracts rats. We want the children at Guadalupe Vista to walk, unimpeded, to their bus stop. We don’t want the drug trafficking, the discarded needles, the fights, or the noise. Sometimes we call Tacoma’s 311 line and wonderful people come to help solve problems. But we are weary of “reporting” and frustrated that we have no alternatives to offer people when they are told to leave.

We’ve been here before. During the catastrophic social experiment of the 60s and 70s known as “deinstitutionalization,” Western State Hospital released most of their patients into low income communities. Far too many found themselves in the “least restrictive setting” of homelessness or incarceration. In those days the Hilltop was referred to as a “dumping ground” and the ramifications of that ill-fated experiment can still be felt in overstressed social services throughout the community.

In 1979, when Theresa moved to Tacoma, the Hilltop was home to many people with severe mental health issues. Hilltop was also known as a haven for gangs and every kind of trafficking. As a carpenter for Hilltop Housing, Theresa quickly learned how to safely remove needles from the job site and the basics of de-escalation. Though needed less often, these techniques continue to be useful.

Because a long-shot is better than no shot at all, Theresa joined William

Bichsel S.J. (Bix), Bob Gallucci, and Joe Drutis in founding Guadalupe House, the central structure in our Hilltop Urban Village. As one of the first projects, they remodeled the Yellow Apartments, a low-income housing cooperative.

Wes moved into the Yellow Apartments with his family in 1993. He worked for many years at the Hospitality Kitchen providing free meals and a safe space for people in need. Wes continues to build relationships with neighbors, community agencies, and people seeking services. He also works to maintain the integrity of our community and to reduce drug trafficking and other destructive activities.

What is our Hilltop Urban Village?

In addition to Guadalupe House, Yellow Apartments, and Nativity House, this Hilltop Urban Village includes the Neighborhood Free Clinic, St. Leo Church, Food Connection, Lewis Jones House, Jean’s House of Peace, Annie’s Cottage, Irma’s Place, New House, Keep ‘em Warm and Fed, Needle Exchange Van, Gallucci Learning Garden, Guadalupe Community Garden, Peace Garden, The Commons, JV House, and a couple of other houses that await naming.

In this village we practice compassion, grow food, advocate for social justice, and celebrate victories (large and small). If we receive



a bumper crop of tomatoes or an abundance of furniture, we distribute these where they are most useful. We also make plenty of mistakes and try to learn from these so that we can make new mistakes.

Why Does It Matter?

Ubuntu: “My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in what is yours.” Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

We are not the only urban village in the Hilltop. Pockets of dedicated people are working on great projects such as Hilltop Urban Gardens, Hilltop Artists, Oasis of Hope, Hilltop Action Coalition, Tacoma Community House and Catherine’s Place. The Hilltop Business Association is building economic opportunity and stability on a local level.

Our elders can offer hard-earned

insights that relate to issues we face today. Growing families bring hope and keep a focus on future generations. Young activists and entrepreneurs offer fresh ideas, creativity, and energy. An asset map of the Hilltop would show abundant resources and many villages. Some are already connected; others may need an invitation or opportunity to engage. Together, with the spirit of Ubuntu, we can better address issues of affordable housing, homelessness, and shared access to the benefits of development.

## Ministry With the Walkers

### Faith Community Interview

By Harlan Shoop



Greg and Kelli Walker are a grass roots Christian movement that is part of a larger movement known as “The Sanctuary”. Here are Greg’s responses to some questions I posed to him regarding his ministry.

**Harlan- “What is the main focus of your ministry/mission?”**

Greg- “Our purpose is to foster and grow multiple communities of Jesus followers on the Hilltop. The Hilltop has many excellent traditional churches. However, many of our neighbors are not connected to churches, and we want to help them experience Jesus in a more intimate way, forming groups of 20-30 people who support and encourage one another while we all grow to become

the people, and community, that God has designed us to be. As a fundamental outcome of these groups seeking to build relationship founded on Jesus, we serve our community around us. To that end, much of my work over the last two years has been focused on becoming involved in the fabric of Hilltop, primarily through the Hilltop Action Coalition. Additionally, I’ve helped launch a new social enterprise, Valeo Vocation, which works with people experiencing homelessness to help them obtain full-time, living wage employment that will lead to permanent housing. Advocating for our homeless neighbors, and for affordable housing for all people in the Hilltop community and across

Tacoma has become one of my main efforts.”

**Harlan- “How long have you been doing this ministry in the Hilltop?”**

Greg- “We moved to Tacoma two years ago, with the vision to begin building the “missional communities” described above. God led us to the Hilltop, and we’ve quickly fallen in love with our new home.”

**Harlan- “What population do you desire to serve?”**

Greg- “Anyone who calls Hilltop “home.” We love the diversity here that makes Hilltop such a vibrant community. We place special emphasis on serving those who are not well-served in our culture or economy. The Bible uses several terms, such as “the least of these” or “the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the foreigner among you.” Basically anyone who finds themselves at disadvantage, we want to serve, because that’s what Jesus calls us to do.”

**Harlan- “What have been some great stories of people being engaged in your ministry?”**

Greg- “I’m not sure we’ve written any “great stories” yet. We’re still getting to know people and looking for opportunities to plug in and serve. To me, the great stories up to this point are the awesome people we’ve been able to meet and build relationships with. Probably my most visible “success” has been the opportunity to coordinate the last two Hilltop Cleanup events for HAC— we’ve helped haul off a lot of trash

the last two years! “

**Harlan- “Do you have pictures of people being a part of what you do?”**

Greg- “I’m lousy at remembering to take pictures, and my selfie game is embarrassingly bad.”

**Harlan- “If your ministry didn’t exist, what would be the consequences?”**

Greg- “I don’t know that there would be any “consequences.” God is amazing, and there’s so many people here on the Hilltop that love him, that I believe the work we do would continue at the hands of others.”

**Harlan- “How does your ministry reflect values of Christian faith and the work of Christ’s kingdom?”**

Greg- “In John’s account of Jesus’s life and ministry, he records Jesus on his last night before he was crucified, imparting his final instructions to his disciples. In this long passage (John 13-17) Jesus does something pretty radical—he gives a “new command” that will be a distinctive of his followers: In John 13:34-35, Jesus says “A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” In a parallel account recorded by Matthew, just a few hours earlier on the same day, Jesus tells a story about the “final judgment” of mankind. He describes the division of all people into two groups. One group, he says, Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your

inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.” The other group, he tells “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.” We all too often believe that this decision is made based on how well we followed the rules. But Jesus doesn’t mention what we think of as “sins”—lying, cheating, stealing. He points to how we treat “the least of these brothers and sisters of mine.” (Matthew 25:31-46). When Jesus said in the Gospel of John that the world would know us as his followers by how we loved one another, he was completing the idea he introduced earlier that day in Matthew 25. Jesus calls those who claim to be his followers to lavish a servant-type love on the people all around them, particularly those who are hungry or thirsty, the stranger (also translated as foreigner or immigrant), those in need of clothing and shelter, the sick, and those who are in prison. We are working to live out that kind of love on the Hilltop.”

**Harlan- “Would you say that because of what you do that people are brought closer to God? In what way and how is it reflected in people’s lives?”**

Greg- “I hope so! If we live like Jesus calls us to, and serve like he did, we expect that people will encounter a love so compelling that they want to know the God who provides it. That love changes people, and we hope that as more people are changed, our community is transformed as well.”

## Keeping Hilltop Residents in the Community with “Homesharing”



By Drena Sellers

Hilltop resident Annette began thinking long term about how to stay in their purchased home after retirement. At the age of 69, Annette knew she wanted to age in her home as long as she could. Unfortunately, her retirement income would not allow her to stay in her home by herself. Annette was referred to local agency, Shared Housing Services, as an option to have a roommate rent out one of her rooms to supplement her income. After Shared Housing Services conducted a smooth referral process of “homeseekers” and a careful background check, Annette found great roommates through the matching referral process and opened a total of three vacant rooms with “homeseekers” who matched her

roommate criteria. Having roommates provides Annette with a sense of security, companionship, and the ability to support herself with the extra income. If “home sharing” through Shared Housing Services was not an option, Annette would have no other choice but to sell her beloved home as her only means to make it to retirement. “I would recommend home sharing for single homeowners. I’m enjoying the benefit of the extra income and the feeling of sharing with others, in addition to the security it is providing me.” (Annette S. 2018)

If you are a homeowner and are exploring options that would allow you to stay in your home and earn extra income, please call Shared Housing Services at (253) 272-1532 or visit us online at [www.sharedhousingervices.org](http://www.sharedhousingervices.org)

# Project Homeless Connect

By Wendy Morris

Pierce County Human Services has chosen Associated Ministries to carry on the mission of Project Homeless Connect. PHC is a series of one-day, one-stop gatherings in Pierce County which provide services, resources, and hospitality in a way that is convenient and accessible for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Project Homeless Connect brings together in one place dozens of service providers, government agencies, and the general community to address this crisis that affects so many. The goal of each event is to directly address the needs of people who are without a proper place to live and those without easy access to services.

The most recent Project Homeless Connect event was held on Friday, January 25, 2019 in the Hilltop area. The event offer services including dental and medical care, access to education and employment services, flu shots, haircuts and more.

Associated Ministries is proud to carry on the legacy of Sound Outreach in providing this essential service for people experiencing homelessness. In addition to funding from Pierce County Human Services, AM is thankful for the substantial long-time support of The Milgard Foundation.

Mike Yoder, Executive Director of Associated Ministries says, “Our growing leadership role in providing services to those experiencing homelessness makes AM a natural fit to organize the Project Homeless Connect events going forward. I believe we can focus some new energy and partnerships into PHC which will further strengthen its ability to effectively serve those in need. I invite you to join us in helping to meet critical needs for our vulnerable neighbors by participating in Project Homeless Connect.”



## Celebrating 30 Years of Read to Me

By Korie Jennings and Elanor Herting

It’s a Wednesday morning at McCarver Elementary. A faint scent of sharpened pencils, paper, and hand sanitizer moves through the halls – the quintessential “school” smell. Fluorescent lights buzz overhead as a line of first graders make their way down the hall, their cheeks puffed out to keep in pockets of air to help keep quiet the “silent train” of students as it comes to a stop at the classroom. Inside, Read2Me community volunteers are seated at small tables, awaiting the students’ arrival. Upon reaching the classroom, the silent train is derailed as the students excitedly seek out their tutors. Suddenly, the room is full of smiles and excitement, which quickly calms as the pairs open their books. For the next 45 minutes, these students will work with their community volunteer tutors, taking turns reading to one another, writing in their notebooks, and building their literacy skills. Another Read2Me session is in full swing.

The Read2Me program’s mission is simple: to help get every student reading at a fourth grade level by the time they start fourth grade. This focus is due to a change in curriculum between early and late elementary school; students in early elementary school learn how to read, but from fourth grade on, students are expected to read to learn. For this reason, reading proficiency is one of the most important predictors of later school success, high school graduation, and long-term career success. Read2Me is a key preventative intervention for ensuring the future success and well-being of students in the Hilltop and greater Tacoma community.

The value of the personalized, one-on-one approach combined with students meeting the same volunteer tutor each week is a major factor in the success of Read2Me. This approach is also consistent with furthering the Tacoma Public School District’s focus on addressing the social-emotional factors affecting student learning. Students work hard, face challenges, and succeed in their Read2Me classrooms with the support of their volunteer tutor. Through their reading, volunteer tutors and students will find stories that teach them courage, kindness, confidence, hope and more. Most important, students develop a strong sense of belonging as they connect their own experiences to the stories they read and to the fact they are enjoying reading together. “My students absolutely love the R2M program,” said Michelle Pigott, a first grade teacher at McCarver elementary. “They count down the days each week until they can go read with their tutor.”

Their confidence grows each week and they really see themselves as readers because of the work with their tutors.”

The dedication of Read2Me volunteers speaks volumes about the efficacy of the program. Some volunteers have been Read2Me tutors for over 25 years. Last year, over 180 incredible tutors served more than 300 hard-working students. By the end of the school year, tutors dedicated over 4,000 hours to Read2Me students. “I find it very fulfilling to help a child gain confidence

in themselves,” said Kathy Crowley, a third year tutor. “I know that encouragement early in life can go far in making a child successful now and in the future.” When asked what drives her dedication, Carol Webster, a nine-year tutor and Advisory Committee member, commented, “I want to spend my time where it has the greatest impact. Helping a child read well is so important for the success of that student.”

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Read2Me. The program was first established, in 1988, by a group of volunteers from St. Joseph’s Hospital who partnered with McCarver Elementary to help struggling student readers. The initial program was called SMART and eventually became a stand-alone non-profit organization called Werlin. In 2011, the program was adopted by Tacoma Community House and renamed Read2Me.

Read2Me has volunteer opportunities at Arlington, Lister, Manitou Park, and McCarver elementary schools. Since the beginning of October, over 150 students have been paired with volunteers from the community who wish to share their love of reading. Read2Me’s holistic approach offers more than just help with phonics and fluency, it fosters real enthusiasm for reading and learning as a community.

There are still students waiting for tutors, and supportive community volunteers make all the difference. Read2Me is seeking volunteers who love to read, enjoy working with kids, and want to give back to the community. If you are available for just 30 minutes each week and are interested in volunteering, contact Elanor Herting at [eherting@TacomaCommunityHouse.org](mailto:eherting@TacomaCommunityHouse.org). To learn more about Read2Me or Tacoma Community House please visit [www.TacomaCom](http://www.TacomaCom)



### Write253 Remann Hall Broadside Excerpts

By Jeff

Walking down this lonely road  
I see these broken stones  
falling through my  
shattered hope  
Is my life that I have known  
floating away like  
wisps of smoke  
I leave this broken home  
in search of light  
This darkness grows  
seeping through my bones  
Cover it up and keep on  
walking  
My life inside this poem

By Ferris

As I look into her eyes  
it’s like looking into the dark  
gloomy sky  
She tells me she is tired of my  
lies  
everyday it’s our relationship I  
compromise  
As I look side to side it’s my  
guilt  
I’m trying to hide  
Watching the tears fall from her  
eyes  
Is like watching raindrops fall  
from the sky  
As I try to apologize  
She tells me it’s too late, I’m out  
of time  
When i saw her with another guy  
I realized I was blind  
I wish I could go back in time  
But this isn’t a movie I can  
rewind

Visit <https://www.write253.com>

## Hilltop Leaders Black History Mural

By Jo Davies

Standing on the southwest corner of 11th and MLK (in front of the Alberta Canada building), and looking east, you'll see a fading mural of four of individuals backed by Mt. Rainier. One of them is Alberta Canada, the others are Rev. Earnest S. Brazill, Virginia Taylor, and Frank Russell. All were known for their leadership in the Hilltop community and this mural by Bob Henry, dedicated on February 5, 2004, honors them for their dedication to civil rights, education, economic development and social causes.

The gentleman on the left is the Reverend Earnest Stonewall Brazill, the namesake of that section of 12th Street from Yakima to Sprague, who became the first pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in 1955 and served in that capacity for decades. Active in the Civil Rights movement, he helped organize a boycott in the 1950's when Tacoma's education, civic, and business leaders were reluctant to hire African Americans. In the 90's, he was regarded as a central force in the struggle to rejuvenate the Hilltop and he is credited with providing much of the strength behind the Tacoma Ministerial Alliance which established itself as a powerful political voice for the black community.

On the right is Mr. Frank Russell, a real estate developer well known for providing resources for minority-owned businesses. Russell was the president of the Tacoma branch of the NAACP when the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr rocked the nation. To honor Dr. King, the NAACP and the Ministerial Alliance sponsored Tacoma's Mother's Day March on April 7, 1968. Over 1,000 local citizens joined the silent march from J Street, down 9th, to a rally at the County-City Building where Frank Russell was one of the speakers. In his remarks, Russell called on "the city council to adopt an open housing ordinance and to resolve the racial imbalance in Tacoma schools." He continued to be concerned with education: at the time of



his death in 2002 he was serving as a trustee of Bates Technical College.

Virginia Taylor was founder and publisher of Northwest Dispatch, a weekly newspaper that served Tacoma's black community. Virginia Taylor was a fiery and passionate community advocate. She was an active member of many community organizations: the Pierce County Black Collective, NAACP, Pierce County Municipal League. She was a proud and unabashed Republican, so much so that she is the namesake of the local 27th District Republican Virginia Taylor Club. She started the Northwest Dispatch in 1982, the weekly paper circulated about 5000 copies and covered the good news for the Hilltop black community, news from what Taylor referred to as the "hope side," which defended minority, women's, and gay rights.

Want to take a look? Issues of the Northwest Dispatch are available in the Tacoma Public Library, Northwest Room.

She helped establish the Destiny City Family Festival (a forerunner of the Hilltop Street Fair) and Ethnic Fest. She wanted Evergreen-Tacoma to be a "beacon on the hill," and worked tirelessly to bring the branch campus to Tacoma. Although Taylor died of cancer in 2001 at the age of 62, her contributions have ensured that she will always be a strong presence in the community.

The woman with the glasses looking across the street at the building that bears her name is community activist Alberta J. Canada. Co-founder of the Martin Luther King Housing Development Association (HDA). Born and raised on the Hilltop, there were not many Hilltop and Tacoma issues that did not attract her attention and benefit from her dedication and management skills. A regional manager for the Social Security Administration, she quit her civil service job of 25 years in 1988 in order

to devote her energies to helping the Hilltop neighborhood. As executive director of HDA she worked to attract investments that would provide low-budget, neighborhood-sensitive rehabilitation of older Hilltop housing stock. Her list of other community endeavors includes Hilltop Housing Consortium, the Tacoma Community College Board of Trustees, the Tacoma Human Relations Commission, and the St. Joseph Community Health Council of Franciscan Health System. She passed away in April 1999, at the age of 51.

There's much more to know about the lives of these remarkable Hilltoppers. If you have personal memories, recollections to share, please contact the Hilltop Action Journal at 253-442-4484, or send an email to [jodavieshac@gmail.com](mailto:jodavieshac@gmail.com)

## Dressmembers

### How Wearing A Dress Can Combat Human Trafficking



By Sharon Russell

Human trafficking affects every country in the world; over 35 million people, most of them children and women, are exploited through some kind of slavery. This even happens in Tacoma.

So once again, this December, local men and women, under the auspices of the Dressember Foundation, will dress to bring awareness to and raise money to combat this. You'll see them in your neighborhoods-women wearing dresses all month, men in ties. They may be asking you to make a contribution which will be distributed to holistic services for those who are vulnerable or are already being trafficked. Dressember is an international non-profit that gives grants to those who do work to solve the problem of human trafficking. In 2016, 88% of the funds raised went towards counseling and prosecuting as well as documenting evidence. The cost for one rescue operation is approximately \$6,300 including therapy, shelter, and legal proceedings. Dressember partners with 3 other non-profits-A21, International Justice Mission, and McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Center.

Hilltop resident and photographer Lisa Blackmore is one of the area organizers. Four years ago, she and another photographer friend heard about the organization and decided to put together a

team. Their goal was to bring together ten people; they eventually formed a locally-based team of 60.

Each woman who signs up has an individual photo shoot in one of her dresses then sends the image to friends, relatives, and colleagues, asking them to donate to the project. "It's a simple, creative, fun style challenge," Blackmore says. "Many of us find our outfits at local thrift stores, then at the end of the month, we give them back."

Often participants offer or accept extra challenges to raise more money. Last year, Amy Cooper, another Hilltop resident, participated for a second year. Her goal was to raise \$500. "And wearing a dress is a good way to start a conversation about the issue," she says. "Dresses can be seen as signs of femininity, which might symbolize weakness. However, the purpose of the movement is

to show a dress as being a sign of power. A dress can't change the world, but the woman wearing it can."

Half way through December, she'd met half her goal. She then posted that if she could double that amount, she'd wear party dresses (including high heels) for everything-making lunches for her family, doing dishes, etc.-for the rest of the month. She met that amount.

At this point, Joe Cooper, Amy's husband, said if she could quadruple that goal, he'd wear a dress on a Saturday when the family was out and about. An anonymous donation of \$300 put Amy over that amount, so she went shopping and found a dress for Joe to wear. And he did.

Amy's team, Beauty and Dignity, has been raising money for 2 years. The team goal was \$25,000. Amy adds that last year \$2,550,752 was raised nationally.

# Hilltop Street Fair

The 2018 Hilltop Street Fair was a huge success and continued to grow with more vendors, entertainment and attendees. Here are a few photos from the event. See more on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition>.



# Grit City Trees Program

By Patrick Babbitt

What is better than free? Free for life. The benefits of a Grit City tree are free of charge to residents of Tacoma and may very well last for generations to come.

This past year, Tacoma's Urban Forestry program distributed 433 street trees across the city to 172 recipients. We had nine applications from the Hilltop neighborhood! To receive a tree through this community building program, residents submitted an application along with a willingness to plant and take responsibility for the tree after it's received.

Beyond just planting trees, this program really shines by bringing people together. Planting parties in neighborhoods and at schools built community around planting new street trees for everyone to enjoy. Here at OEPS, we hope that your neighborhood can join us next year to help make Tacoma a greener, happier, and healthier city.

Be sure to check the Grit City Trees webpage for the upcoming program year. Applications will be open at the start of May 2019. If you are interested in a tree to plant elsewhere on your property, check out Tacoma's tree coupon program in cooperation with Tacoma Power, the Puyallup Watershed Initiative, and Pierce County surface water management, and more.

Staff contact: Arin Lewis, 253.502.2138, [alewis1@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:alewis1@cityoftacoma.org)

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<p><b>SUPPORT</b> Young people need to be surrounded by people who love, care for, appreciate, and accept them.</p>		<p><b>EMPOWERMENT</b> Young people need to feel valued and valuable. This happens when youth feel safe and respected.</p>	
<p><b>BOUNDARIES &amp; EXPECTATIONS</b> Young people need clear rules, consistent consequences for breaking rules, and encouragement to do their best.</p>		<p><b>CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME</b> Young people need opportunities—outside of school—to learn and develop new skills and interests with other youth and adults.</p>	
<p><b>COMMITMENT TO LEARNING</b> Young people need a sense of the lasting importance of learning and a belief in their own abilities.</p>		<p><b>POSITIVE VALUES</b> Young people need to develop strong guiding values or principles to help them make healthy life choices.</p>	
<p><b>SOCIAL COMPETENCIES</b> Young people need the skills to interact effectively with others, to make difficult decisions, and to cope with new situations.</p>		<p><b>POSITIVE IDENTITY</b> Young people need to believe in their own self-worth and to feel that they have control over the things that happen to them.</p>	

The 40 Developmental Assets® [www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org)

## Recycling Changes in Tacoma

The changes to the recycling program will impact the entire Tacoma community, so the City is directing community members to <http://www.tacomarecycles.org/Changes> to learn more. On the new website, there is information about the cause for these changes, a Frequently Asked Questions section, potential solutions, and a survey in multiple languages to gather community feedback about where to go from here.

City staff are working to engage community groups in person across Tacoma about changes to the recycling program. Presentations are available upon request, and we are interested in engaging Hilltop Action Coalition and the Hilltop community.

Staff contact:  
Preston Peck, 253.593.7707  
[ppeck@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:ppeck@cityoftacoma.org)

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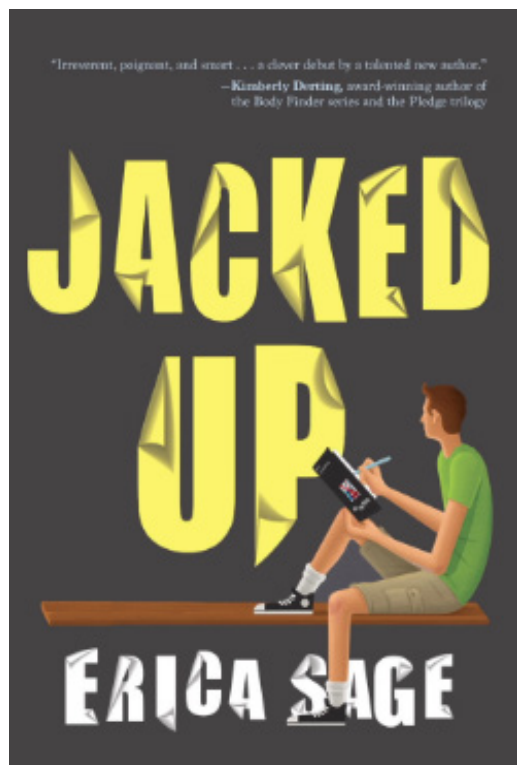
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## “Jacked Up” from local author Erica Sage

It's bad enough that Nick's sister is dead and, in some bizarre attempt to force him to confront his grief, his parents ship him off to Jesus Camp. But he's also haunted by the ghost of Jack Kerouac- who's surprisingly annoying for a genius.

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# Get Caught Up

## Rooted in the Hilltop 2018 Luncheon

By Jo Davies

Celebrating more than 35 years on the Hilltop, the Hilltop Action Coalition luncheon, "Rooted in the Hilltop", is envisioned as a combined friend raising/fund raising event. On October 10th, 90 Hilltop residents and stakeholders gathered at Shiloh Baptist Church to share a neighborly lunch catered by Mama Rosie and Family. A sweet finish was provided by Johnson's Candy with their famous chocolates served up in souvenir Hilltop Action Coalition mugs. Other sponsors/supporters of the event included Tacoma Community House, Graduate

Tacoma, Discount Party Place and Shiloh Baptist Church. HAC President, Brendan Nelson, introduced Pastor Gregory Christopher who recounted the history of Shiloh Baptist Church and in the process introduced Hilltop newcomers to the legacy of Rev. Earnest S. Brazill, namesake of that part of 12th Street that spans the Hilltop from Yakima to Sprague. Rev. Brazill became the first pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in 1955 and was one of Tacoma's most influential civil rights leaders and was a founding member of the Tacoma Ministerial Alliance. His likeness gazes on passers-by from the Black History mural at the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and South 11th St.

Following a brief slideshow highlighting the work of HAC during the past year, Board member, Christina Blocker, emphasized some of the issues/projects that are HAC's focus and how the community's support contributes to forward movement.

As a result, individual donations ranging from \$5 to \$500, contributed about \$3000 to the funds available for supporting Hilltop Action Coalition programs such as the bimonthly Hilltop Action Journal, National Night Out block parties, the Hilltop Neighborhood Clean Up, etc.

Did you miss your opportunity to support the work of the Hilltop Action Coalition? It's never too late to support a good cause - visit the HAC website to donate <http://www.hilltopactioncoalition.org/>.



## Link Light Rail Groundbreaking

By Candice Rudd

It was years in the making, and the groundbreaking for the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension was a huge moment for Tacoma.

Dignitaries, neighbors, construction workers and members of the media descended on People's Park on Monday, Nov. 19 to celebrate the extension of the current rail line from the Theater District downtown, up through the Stadium District and onto the Hilltop.

The project includes moving an existing Link station and building six new stations along the new line, which will terminate on Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Service will run every 10 minutes.

Among the public figures kicking off the beginning of construction for the project were U.S. Senator Patty Murray, Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards, U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer, Sound Transit CEO Peter Rogoff, Councilmember Keith Blocker, Hilltop Action Coalition Executive Director Brendan Nelson, and Pierce County Build-

ings and Construction Trades Council Executive Secretary Mark Martinez.

"Years of thoughtful planning and collaboration between community, state, and federal leaders to connect downtown Tacoma with the historic Stadium and Hilltop neighborhoods helped lay the tracks for today's groundbreaking, and I am thrilled to see the results of our hard work to expand affordable public transit options for local residents, students, and commuters," said U.S. Senator Patty Murray.

But after the celebration comes the hard work, which will mean some construction headaches in the Hilltop and other Tacoma neighborhoods: To replace underground utilities along the future Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension route, Sound Transit's contractor will have to temporarily close traffic lanes in areas along Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Stadium Way and Commerce Street.

So that community members will know what to expect and what areas to avoid, Sound Transit said in a news release that it and the city of Tacoma will send a weekly construction alert. The

work areas may change slightly each but expect construction noise in the area as well as large construction equipment and materials, and traffic delays due to detours.

Businesses will stay open during construction, and work will generally take place during daytime hours, Sound Transit said in a news release.

The Hilltop Tacoma Link will open in 2022 if construction goes according to plan, Sound Transit has said. The current 1.6-mile Tacoma Link that threads through the city's downtown was built in 2003.

The new route will continue north from its current end at Commerce Street and follow Stadium Way north. From there, it will turn onto North 1st Street and then right onto Division Avenue. Then, it will turn left onto Martin Luther King Jr. Way and end near South 19th Street.

## Learn More About the Link at Hilltop Drop-in Meetings

By Liz Satterthwaite, Community Outreach Specialist, Sound Transit

If you're wondering where the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension will go or have questions about construction, please stop by the Hilltop Action Coalition's office and talk with project staff at a drop-in meeting. Sound Transit is teaming up with the City of Tacoma and the Hilltop Action Coalition to bring project information closer to Hilltop residents.

We plan to hold these meetings at HAC's office regularly, so you can keep informed. The first meetings occurred in January. The next drop-in meeting will be Tuesday, March 19th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the HAC office, 1116 Earnest S Brazill St. Hope to see you there!

Everyone is welcome. Drop-in any time. Light refreshments will be served.

Learn more about the Hilltop Tacoma Link project and sign up for email updates at [soundtransit.org/htlink](http://soundtransit.org/htlink).

You can contact me at [liz.satterthwaite@soundtransit.org](mailto:liz.satterthwaite@soundtransit.org) 253-208-0586.

Thank you and see you there!



## Champions for Children Award Honors Red Elm Cafe

By Alyssa Torrez

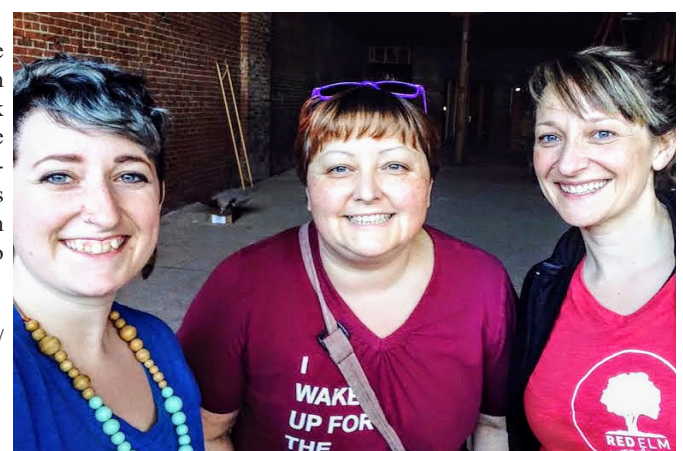
Project Child Success and KBTC hosted the third annual Champions for Children recognition event at the KBTC studio on campus of Bates Technical College. Here, they were joined by education leaders, community members and families to honor those in our community members that are going out of their way to support families and children and build child-centered communities.

Each year, Project Child Success, KBTC and community partners nominate and vote on five people, organizations and businesses that are dedicated to creating avenues of success for children and families in our neighborhoods. One such Champion for Children was the Hilltop's very own, Red Elm Cafe. Here, sitters Jennifer, Sarah, and Adina have created a cafe where children are welcomed as part of the community, with play areas and children's books available for any little one that comes in.

Visit the Champions for Children website to see the video created that celebrates

sister Jennifer, Sarah and Adina and the child-friendly space they have created in their Hilltop cafe. You can also take a look at the other wonderful champions that are doing phenomenal work supporting children and families. The 1029 Champions for Children nominations will also be open soon, so you can nominate someone who is making a difference in your community!

Visit <http://www.kbtc.org/community/champions-children> for more info.





# Hilltop Library Planning Committee

By Mary Cogger

You may have read or heard about the Hilltop Library Planning Committee (HLPC). The group of concerned citizens have worked tirelessly for 5 years to restore equity to residents of the Hilltop Area. It has been a long journey including community cafes, trips to Tacoma City Council meetings, giving information at festivals and street fairs, letter writing, and so on. This year HLPC made a goal of being included in the mid-term budget. One major step was to hold an essay contest for 4-6th grade student residents of the Hilltop. The prompt was simple: "Why I want a library in the Hilltop." Contest entrants and guests were recognized at a regular HLPC Community Meeting on September 27th. Specific information can be found elsewhere in this issue by reading Hilltop Library Planning Committee News Release. The Tacoma City Council recognized essay winners at its regular meeting on October 16th. Several contestants read their essays and all council members were presented with bound reprints of their essays. Chair Bil Moss followed with a request that the council make budget con-

siderations for its upcoming budget. At the meeting, Councilmember Blocker recognized the importance of the library and vowed to continue his support of a Hilltop Library. Ending this part of the evening's agenda Councilmember Hunter spoke. She said she was a member of the library board when the MLK and Swan Creek branches were closed. She stated that they were in the worst physical condition in the most undeserved areas. Hunter continued, "To close those was sad if not shameful." "I would submit that we never had a decent library on the Hilltop and that we need a fresh start." Ms. Hunter ended by formally requesting the council to revisit the library budget and include a feasibility study. It was a powerful statement and step forward for a Hilltop Library. HLPC was notified on Nov. 6th by councilperson Ushka that "There is money for a feasibility study for library services in the Hilltop and Eastside." Hilltop Library Planning Committee supports a strong collaboration among all concerned parties including the Tacoma Public Library, Tacoma City Council and members of the community. With this teamwork we can realize a qual-

ity brick and board library to suit the needs of the Hilltop Community. If you want to get involved, you can attend HLPC meetings. Planning committee meetings convene at the Red Elm Café, 1114 MLK Jr. Way from 10 A.M. to noon every 2nd Thursday. Community meetings begin at 5 P.M. at the Allen Russell Conference Center, 1321 MLK Jr. Way every 4th Thursday. Another way to be involved is to email or phone your Tacoma City Council Members.

Author's Note: I am pleased that TPL and TCC have added the Eastside to their planning. Both underserved areas need to be recognized and served by the city.

## Hilltop Action Coalition Community Calendar

**\*\*Know of something important happening in your community?  
Let HAC know and we'll add it to the calendar\*\***

----- MARCH 2019 -----

Mar 18 – Monday – HAC Monthly Community Meeting 6-7:30pm (Hilltop Regional Health Center - Conf Rm on MLK)

Mar 18 – Monday – HAC Neighborhood Leaders Meeting 7:30pm-8:30pm (HAC Office)

Mar 19 – Tuesday – People's Community Center Steering Committee Mtg 5:00pm-6:30pm (People's Community Ctr)

Mar 21 – Thursday – Hilltop Business Association Meeting 8:00am-9:00am (Allen AME Church)

Mar 21 – Thursday – Tacoma Human Rights Commission Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm (747 Market ST, RM 243)

Mar 21 – Thursday – Community Quarterly Meeting to End Homelessness 5:00pm-7:00pm (Oasis of Hope Ctr, 1937 S G)

Mar 23 – Saturday – Women (over 40) of Color Mammogram Screening Event 12:30pm-4:00pm (4525 S 19th ST) Schedule appointment at 253-301-6615

Mar 23 – Saturday – LTAB-Tacoma SLAM Finals 5:00pm-9:00pm (Alma Mater Tacoma, 1322 Fawcett Ave, tickets \$8, kids Free)

Mar 26 – Tuesday – Community Health Care 2019 Annual Luncheon – Lunch & Laughter 11:00am (Hotel Murano 1320 Broadway Plaza) FREE - RSVP is required 253-722-1552

Mar 28 – Thursday – Hilltop Library Planning Committee Mtg 6:00-7:30pm (Hilltop Regional Health Center Conference Room, 1202 MLK Jr Way)

Mar 30 – Saturday – THA Design Lab #DesignTheHill 1:00pm-4:00pm (Fab-5 Headquarters, 1120 S. 11th Street)

----- APRIL 2019 -----

Apr 1 – Monday – HAC Board Meeting 4:00pm-5:30pm

Apr 4 – Thursday – Central Neighborhood Council Meeting 7:00pm-8:30pm (Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 S Tyler St)

Apr 9 – Tuesday – City of Tacoma Council Meeting 7:00pm-8:30pm (Tacoma Municipal Building, Citizens Forum)

Apr 10 – Wednesday – Neighborhood Council of New Tacoma Meeting 5:30pm-7:00pm (People's Community Ctr)

Apr 10 – Wednesday – THA Design Lab #DesignTheHill 5:30pm-8:00pm (Fab-5 Headquarters, 1120 S. 11th Street)

Apr 12 – Friday – TCH 109th Annual Luncheon 11:30pm-1:00pm (Greater Tacoma Convention Ctr, 1500 Commerce)

Apr 15 – Monday – HAC Monthly Community Meeting 6-7:30pm (Hilltop Regional Health Center - Conf Rm on MLK)

Apr 16 – Tuesday – People's Community Center Steering Committee Mtg 5:00pm-6:30pm (People's Community Ctr)

Apr 18 – Thursday – Hilltop Business Association Meeting 8:00am-9:00am (Allen AME Church)

Apr 18 – Thursday – Tacoma Human Rights Commission Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm (747 Market ST, RM 243)

Apr 24 – Wednesday – Project Peace: Community & Police Dialogue 6:00pm (Peace Community Ctr, 2106 Cushman Ave)

Apr 25 – Thursday – Hilltop Library Planning Committee Mtg 6:00-7:30pm (Hilltop Regional Health Center Conference Room, 1202 MLK Jr Way)



### Come help design the future of affordable housing on the hill!

#DesignTheHill invites youth, neighbors, and elders of the Hilltop community to shape the development of up to 250 new affordable housing units, and new community, commercial and retail space across four Tacoma Housing Authority properties near the MLK corridor.

Get hands-on with designing:

- first-floor business spaces
- affordable housing units
- community spaces
- culturally relevant building design
- rooftops alleys, streets, and sidewalks

Enjoy food, good music, and community collaboration.

Design Lab 2 Saturday, March 30th 1:00-4:00PM

Design Lab 3 Wednesday, April 10th 5:30- 8:00PM

Location: Fab-5 HQ - 1120 S. 11th street, Tacoma WA 98405 (Former Key Bank building)

If you have any questions please contact Kiara Daniels at [Kdaniels24@icloud.com](mailto:Kdaniels24@icloud.com) or Chris Govella at [cgovella@tacomahousing.org](mailto:cgovella@tacomahousing.org)



### 2019 Hilltop Healthy Kids Carnival

Kids and community members had a blast at the 10th annual Hilltop Healthy Kids Carnival at People's Community Center last month. The music had people dancing, friendly vibes had neighbors smiling and great community members had the conversations going! Kiddos and adults won tons of prizes and learned about healthy lifestyles while enjoying some delicious food. Hilltop Action Coalition hosted a table along with many other community organizations that offered games, giveaways, health screening and more. Stay tuned for information on next years' event. We look forward to being a part of this event in the years to come.

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# *Are You Expecting?*

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No appointment needed!**
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**Hilltop Regional Health Center**  
**1202 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Tacoma**  
**(253) 441-4742**  
Learn more at [www.commhealth.org](http://www.commhealth.org)

