



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- SOCK remembers 13 years of programs and graduates.
- A special thanks to SOCK's supporters.
- Learn about the new Youth Philanthropy Program!

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# The SOCK Drawer

SUMMER 2010

Anniversary Edition

## Happy 13th Anniversary, SOCK!

Since SOCK opened its doors thirteen years ago, we've helped more than 6,500 young people believe in themselves and helped our community believe in them. And we've had so much fun doing it! SOCK kids, volunteers, and staff danced, ate, played sports, gardened, produced videos and music, and created art during programs like Friday Nights @ SOCK, the Kids With Potential (KWIP) mentoring and after-school program, Ivy's Kitchen Cooking School, SOCK Summer Day-camp, and our Community Technology Center.



During all this time, SOCK did what SOCK does best: mentor young people and help them realize their potential. We also provided nutritious meals, environmental education, employment and homework help, support with social issues, and a helping hand to youth in juvenile detention. These programs, carried out by responsible and caring adults, have helped many of this year's graduating seniors from their kindergarten days all the way through 12th grade. That's an entire generation that has grown up with SOCK!

Fortunately, it doesn't end there! I'm excited to announce SOCK's newest adventure, the Youth Philanthropy Program. Based on the same SOCK principles of mentoring and youth empowerment, this program will allow the next generation of young people to grow up experiencing the transformational effects of giving. Please take a look inside this newsletter for more details, and we earnestly invite you to join us in this newest endeavor!

-Sue Sheldon, SOCK Executive Director

## Rob Wilson-Hoss leads SOCK Board

Hello! I am the new "old" President of the Board. I have been involved since near the beginning, either as a Board member or volunteer advisor to the director. Once again, SOCK has an exciting program lined up. This time it uses high school graduation requirements for projects, and injects them with a youth philanthropy approach. This will be available to students throughout the county.

SOCK's history has been to provide careful management of selected programs that have been very successful. It has enjoyed widespread community support. I am excited to become a part of this new adventure.

Kathy Haigh was a part of the SOCK board for many years, and president for at least the last five years. SOCK is very grateful for her leadership during that time.

## A Look Back: 13 Years of SOCK Programs



### Friday Nights @ SOCK

This popular SOCK program offered drop-in recreation for children and young adults up to age 22. Basketball, volleyball, pool, foosball, music from local bands, skateboarding, youth-coordinated dances, and free nutritious meals were featured. These events were well known for their safe and caring adult supervision.

### The Detention Center Transitions Program

By the time this program ended in December 2009, SOCK staff worked one-on-one with 115 of the 122 youth released from Mason County Juvenile Detention, and provided long-term case management support to 91 of them. We helped youth still in detention prepare "release plans" which the youth agreed to implement when released. The plans specified a return to school, exploration of alternative schooling, entry into vocational training, or an employment search.

### The Digital Media Studio

The Digital Media Studio offered a multi-track recording studio and video editing facility that taught audio and video production skills to youth. The production team, including youth and their mentors, worked on two films in collaboration with the Bicycle Re-Cycle project and Mason Transit Authority. The media studio was also used by youth who gathered oral histories from members of local communities and tribes, thereby earning high school credit.



### The KWIP (Kids With Potential) Mentoring Program

KWiP mentored kids in grades 4-8 to ensure that youth embraced a culture where achievement is rewarded through activities like on-site academic and social mentoring, educational field trips, job-shadowing, and academic achievement incentives. The KWIP program matched an average of 26 mentees with 45 teen and adult mentors each school year from 2005-2008, and was one of our most popular programs.



### The Community Technology Center

After receiving a state grant that allowed us to upgrade our computer lab hardware and software, the Technology Center was able to open to the public, youth and their families, private businesses, and other organizations. It offered free access to the Internet, instruction in basic computer use, job search skills, resume writing, GED preparedness, and access to online education. The Technology Center served over 460 individuals who used the computers and Internet access to find housing, work, educational resources, do homework, or more effectively market their businesses or organizations. Youth made up approximately 78% of Technology Center users.



# A Look Back: 13 Years of SOCK Programs



### Ivy's Kitchen Cooking School

This SOCK program taught youth 10 years old and up the basics of planning, preparing, and serving hot nutritious meals, with the "classwork" taken home for family dinner! This 12-week course met each Saturday and also included instruction in emergency preparedness and how to prepare a family survival kit.

### Summer @ SOCK

Summer @ SOCK offered up to 30 youngsters in grades 1-9 the opportunity to visit and become active stewards of Mason County's natural environment as well as participate in drama, music and art workshops. Summer @ SOCK participants were also provided free nutritious meals and snacks.



### SOCK After School Sensational Youth (SASSY)

SASSY provided a friendly and supportive place for volunteer tutors to help children in grades 1-9 with schoolwork.



### Cultivating Connections

This program used a greenhouse at Fir Lane Health & Rehabilitation Center to teach cultivation skills to youth who grew plants from cuttings and gave them to residents of the convalescent center.



## SOCK's NEW Program - Youth Philanthropy!

The Youth Philanthropy Program helps kids discover and activate their natural philanthropic spirit. The goal of the Youth Philanthropy program is to offer juniors and seniors in Shelton High School, CHOICE High School, and North Mason High School guidance and resources, including micro-grants, to choose and carry out their required culminating projects. Our emphasis will be on projects that are creative, of service to the community, and that allow hands-on learning. The Youth Philanthropy program will also help CHOICE High School students carry out their requirement of performing 75 hours of community service.

Besides helping youth fulfill their graduation requirements, this program will also offer them the opportunity to become philanthropists themselves by participation on a Youth Advisory Committee. These young people will not only be responsible for giving grants to their deserving peers for their culminating or service projects, but will also be given the opportunity to raise funds to replenish the grant fund pool.

We hope the Youth Philanthropy program will help mobilize a generation to see that they can impact global change by addressing issues and concerns right here in their hometown.

"Youth philanthropy will connect youth with the community in ways that will increase their own self-esteem and level of competency while at the same time improving the quality of life of the community as a whole."

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

# Josh Reese, SOCK Youth Ambassador



Josh Reese  
 "SOCK has been there for me throughout my whole life," Josh says. "It's helped me through everything."

When Josh Reese became involved with SOCK in 2005, his leadership skills and dedication to SOCK, as well as his entire community, were apparent even then. In 2008, after being formally named as SOCK's Youth Ambassador, Josh lobbied the state legislature in Olympia, giving a heartfelt speech at the Capitol about the needs of youth in Shelton. Legislators were touched by Josh's words and appropriated \$235,000 which was used for a preliminary site design and master plan for renovating the Shelton Armory into a multi-use transit and community center. Mason Transit Authority, the building's owner, is currently seeking capital funding to begin the renovation project.

Josh also spearheaded a project that provided bikes for local young people who needed them. SOCK helped get this successful project off the ground but credits Josh for this innovative idea and the perseverance to make it work.

As SOCK Youth Ambassador, Josh has been a dedicated volunteer at yearly SOCK fundraising events, including the Shelton Old Time Fiddlers Fest and the RAPSody Ride. We are grateful for all that Josh has done for SOCK, for his peers, and the community; and we're confident that he'll have a bright future. In return, Josh also recognizes what SOCK has done for him. "SOCK has helped me develop my skills throughout the years," he says. "That's why, personally, I have become a good symbol in the community and I enjoy it. It's because of SOCK."

THE SOCK  
 DRAWER

## Two Amazing SOCK Graduates

### Lili Leader

Lili has always been a superstar at SOCK and in the community. At SOCK she helped by mentoring the younger kids, working in the kitchen, cleaning up, and generally being the adult staff's go-to youth during Friday Nights @ SOCK. Lili currently works at Alpine Way Retirement Community here in Shelton, but she's excited to travel to the southern US soon as part of AmeriCorps' disaster relief team. Lili traces her interest in helping others back to her time at SOCK: "The people I worked with at SOCK got me started on this path."



### Lori Bierle

Lori became involved with SOCK when she was about fifteen years old and SOCK had just opened its doors. She now gives back to the community as an Advocate for Turning Pointe, a local organization that works to end domestic violence. She wrote to SOCK Executive Director, Sue Sheldon, about the role SOCK had in her success: "Thank you for finding me and for the acknowledgments towards all my accomplishments. You did have a part in it all, I hope you know this."



# Thank You to Board Members & Volunteers

## Past Board Members & Advisors

Vivian Cruickshank, Judith & John Michalovskis, Libby Avery, Michael Diamond, Frances Morgan, and Linda Chastek. THANK YOU SO MUCH for your unwavering support and dedication! You helped make SOCK what it is today!

## Fred Seminara and Linda Trail

Fred started our monthly Swap Meets in 2004 and worked tirelessly to make sure that these community events continued until 2008. He also chaired the annual Shelton Christmas Bazaar from 2005 to 2008, and organized two wildly successful Antique Fairs in 2008. All these fun and sociable events brought in over \$24,000 which helped SOCK to keep its doors open. Thank you so much, Fred!

Linda stepped in and took over the Christmas Bazaar in 2009, bringing in \$2,500 for SOCK. She is already planning for the 2010 event, scheduled for December 4-5. So mark your calendars now for this year's Shelton Christmas Bazaar! And thank you, Linda, for your willingness to take over this Shelton tradition! By the way, if you're interested in participating in this year's Bazaar as a vendor or helper, just call Linda at 360-426-1368.

## Annual Fundraising Events

The Shelton Old Time Fiddlers Fest is a 25 year-old tradition in Shelton, and a treat for local music lovers and visitors alike. We are grateful to our partners, the Washington Old Time Fiddlers Association, for producing this event each year.

The Ride Around Puget Sound (RAPSody Ride) is an annual bike ride through five Washington counties that includes an overnight stay in Shelton. SOCK partners with the Shelton High School food service folks and the Shelton Lions to provide a hearty dinner and breakfast for the riders.

The Christmas Bazaar signals the beginning of the holiday season for Shelton. Crafts, holiday gifts and decorations, local vendors, food, and of course, Santa Claus himself round out the year's most festive fundraiser.



## Meet the Current SOCK Board

### Board Members

Rob Wilson-Hoss, President  
Attorney at Law  
Hoss and Wilson-Hoss, LLP

Marina Richardson, Vice-President  
Family Service Worker  
Grays Harbor Juvenile Detention School

Robert Bottman, Secretary  
WA State Conservation Commission (retired)

Andrea Love, Treasurer  
Public School Teacher (retired)

Kathryn Haigh, DVM, Board Member  
Haigh Veterinary Hospital  
State Representative, 35th District

Sue Sheldon, Executive Director  
Assistant Professor, Centralia College  
Washington Corrections Center

### Advisors to the Board

Josh Reese, Youth Ambassador  
Alan Roth, Owner, CompuDAS  
Matt Hornyak, Development Director, Family Support  
Center of South Sound  
Cynthia Fulton, Grant Consultant, CAF Consulting  
Donna Doerer, Non-Profit Consultant



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Or Current Resident

Helping kids believe in themselves. Helping our community believe in them.

## What's Happening @ SOCK?

What's SOCK doing now?

While we don't rent the whole armory building anymore, we do have an office there and are still working to help local youth.

In fact, we've started a new program called Youth Philanthropy, designed to help high school Seniors with their culminating projects, community service hours, and philanthropic works in the community.

Our Youth Philanthropy program will begin with the 2010-11 school year.

Does SOCK still have events for kids?

We can't offer the after-school, Friday Nights @ SOCK, or the dance nights right now due to lack of funds. However, we have them in mind for the future!

Does SOCK need any adult volunteers?

Yes! The Youth Philanthropy program will rely on adult mentors once it begins this fall.

How can I get involved?

Call 360-462-SOCK (7625) to

find out more. Or visit our website.

We're also looking for folks interested in serving on our Board of Directors!

Visit the SOCK website!

[www.sock.org](http://www.sock.org)

