

# SUPPORT THE ANNUAL FUND AND BUILD YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD LEGACY

By Ann Suter, MBCC Development Committee member... And 30-year Mount Baker Neighbor

Charity, it has been explained to me, is about financially supporting an organization that you believe in. Philanthropy, on the other hand, is about investing in an organization you believe in to support profitable outcomes and long-lasting legacies.

For more than ten decades, your neighbors have been investing time and money in the Mount Baker Community Club to support the connection among families in our neighborhood. Over the years, the Club has been active in organizing to make our streets and homes safe, to speak to our government about traffic, zoning, parks, schools and more, and to gather us together to promote goodwill and spirit. With the long history of both programs and activism, the club has made—and will continue to make—our vibrant Mount Baker neighborhood a great place to live, work and recreate.

My family moved here in March 1984. We wanted to live in Seattle to have more diverse neighbors. Our son was two and our daughter not yet born. They attended Muir and Hawthorne. Our daughter was a cheerleader at Franklin, and we have volunteered in PTAs in the schools and as board members in the Community Club.

One thing you learn as a board member of a neighborhood or school organization is how much things really cost. Whether it is a facility, a series of programs or regular communications, it takes real dollars to pay for the things that can't be done through neighborhood hands and feet.

We all have a stake in maintaining the clubhouse and supporting MBCC programs, whether they are ones we participate in or not. Mount Baker is loved as a neighborhood not just for our location (awesome!) and our amenities (equally awesome!), but for our long-standing investment in a clubhouse as the center of activity and a rich volunteer pool to create programs and events.

Maybe your life is filled to the point where time is at a premium and you can't offer volunteer support, but you can find some time to write a check for this year's annual fund drive to help the club continue to create strong connections among neighbors.

P.S. Our now 28-year-old daughter got married last month. She

went to Pied Piper, played on the swings, swam at the beach, got her face painted in the park and later volunteered to paint faces in the park. These will always be precious memories, and Mount Baker will always be her first home. What a legacy!!





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# CHARLESTOWN HILLCLIMB GETS A MAJOR WORKOVER

By Judith Yarrow, Friends of Charlestown Hillclimb

The Charlestown Hillclimb has completed its transition from a dirt path through a blackberry jungle into a landscaped hillside with a stairway thanks to the efforts of many, many hard-working volunteers.

As part of Mount Baker Community Club's fourth annual Day of Service on October 19, neighbors and friends, replanted the hillclimb with native and drought-tolerant plants. On the following two Saturdays, more neighbors and a Seattle Works volunteer completed the planting. All told, we added more than 850 plants.

The Friends of Charlestown Hillclimb (FCH) have worked to develop the Hillclimb since 2009. In 2012 and 2013, they received "Small and Simple" matching grants from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods to develop a landscape plan and help buy the plants and irrigation supplies. The community match is the labor for organizing the project and doing the planting and maintenance as well as in-kind and cash donations.

Next spring, FCH will install a temporary above-ground cistern and irrigation hoses to water the plants during dry times and plans to finish planting the top of the hillclimb in fall 2014. FCH is also committed to maintaining the landscaping, with monthly cleanup work parties from March through October.

Charlestown Hillclimb is one of the parks and green spaces stewarded by Mount Baker Community Club, and MBCC is the fiscal agent for the two matching grants.

The Charlestown Hillclimb is located between 37th Ave. S and Courtland Place S on the S. Charlestown St. right-of-way, at the northeast corner of the Rainier Plaza. Look east from Rainier Ave., and you'll see the new planting along the stairway.

For more information about the hillclimb project, to make a donation, or to be added to the email list, contact [info@charlestownhillclimb.org](mailto:info@charlestownhillclimb.org) or visit the FCH Web site [www.charlestownhillclimb.org](http://www.charlestownhillclimb.org).

30 neighbors added more than 400 plants on the Charlestown Hillclimb at the 4th annual Day of Service





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