



Betty Craipo Joins NECC Board of Directors

Behind every great organization, there is a great Board of Directors. While most of its deliberations go on behind the scene, its impact and decisions can make or break an organization. The Northeast Community Center is extraordinarily proud and blessed to have a board diligently standing behind NECCA. One of our newest Board Members, Betty Craipo, is a prime example of this devotion.

Betty's experience in the community is a tireless tale of hard work and commitment to a cause. She tackles the issues facing the community until she has rooted out the underlying issue and the steps for a possible solution.

Beginning in 2002, while volunteering within Spokane Public Schools, she discovered a staggering lack of volunteers working with the school's programs, resulting in dedicated staff members picking up the slack. Through many years of volunteer recruitment and community development, she successfully evolved stable volunteer programs to support the schools to further excel the attending children's success and the community's dedication to volunteering.

Joining the board of NECC has
cont'd on back



NORTHEAST Community Center

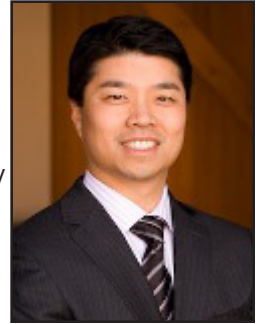
Friends of the Center Newsletter

February, 2015

Edition 5, Issue 1

Empire Health Foundation President to Speak at NECC Annual Dinner

The Northeast Community Center is very pleased to announce Empire Health Foundation (EHF) President Antony Chiang as our Annual Dinner Guest Speaker. EHF is a private health foundation working to measurably improve the health of communities in Eastern Washington.



With an estimated \$86 million reserved towards philanthropy, EHF is the largest private foundation in the region, giving Antony the unique opportunity to build a philanthropic organization from the ground up, design and implement a strategic vision for impact, and establish the Foundation as a catalyst and convener in the region. EHF has helped to move the needle, creating impact via sustainable systems change in the region, in health areas as diverse as obesity prevention, health care access, to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Antony was honored with the 2012 Annual Public Health Leader Award by the Washington State Public Health Association. In addition, he is a member of RWJF's/Culture of Health Prize National Advisory Group, and serves on several statewide leadership boards including the Governor's Council for the Healthiest Next Generation.

Prior to working at EHF, Antony was an executive at a leading philanthropic service provider, designing and managing innovative models of corporate technology philanthropy and streamlining international grant making. In addition, he has served as the chief executive of several social enterprise start-ups and practiced corporate venture capital law. Antony earned his B.S. in Electrical Engineering/Computer Science from UC Berkeley and his J.D. from Stanford Law School.

NECC is honored to have Antony as our esteemed guest and look forward to once again celebrating our community leaders.

Save the Date!

April 2, 2015

An evening of celebration of the Center and the community it serves

Call (509)487-1603 for information

Northeast Community Center Update

been a ten-year journey. When first presented the idea by then Shaw Assistant Principal Roed Freeland, while organizing a similar volunteer program specifically for Shaw, Betty did not feel prepared for the role. She wanted to truly understand the community's social issues, not wanting to simply be on the board but to have a strong voice with vision and solutions. Now in her first year at Gonzaga Law School and preparing to become a legal policy advisor she has found her footing and voice.

As Betty first became acquainted with NECC, she was astounded by not only the square footage of the building but the wide range of services packed into every available space. Resources on multiple levels are available at the center for families to become and remain self-sufficient. "We do everything we can and always try to find out how we can do more."

While serving on the board Betty has tasked herself with looking at the low-income housing available in Spokane, not only the availability but also the effects it has on a community. In her roles in the neighborhood schools and the Boys & Girls Club of Spokane County, she has seen firsthand how school aged children are impacted by current social issues. She has made it her passion to secure safe and promising futures for as many children and their families as humanly possible.

A self-proclaimed "advocate and facilitator in the community," Betty will be a valuable leader for the Center working for our families. We look forward to sharing her vision for the future of the center and the stability of the community. Each Board Member brings a special touch to the Center and Betty's will assuredly bring about positive changes.

A remodel project at the Senior Center was finished in January. New offices offer a welcoming environment with more space for staff needs. The expansion will bring security, additional resources, and ease of access for seniors.

Children's Home Society brought in additional counselors to fulfill the high demand of families seeking counseling sessions. In addition, interns extended services even further while expanding their own education in family interrelations.

SNAP wrapped up their second round of energy appointments, filling all the available spots. The third and final round begins on February 18. Classes on conserving energy were also held at the center to promote lifestyle changes.

MOOSE Project welcomed new students, including a young girl born with Down Syndrome and the inability to speak. For her family the MOOSE has offered them a brighter future with profound progress in her communications.

WSU Food \$ense was welcomed back to the center and has begun distributing food and produce to clients every other week. Hundreds have already been served and the numbers grow weekly.

Students from Shaw Middle School volunteered at the Center to help run a Valentine's Day Post Office. Head Start students created personal cards for family members and were able to experience the joy of mailing their own letter.



AARP tax preparers once again offered up their services on a volunteer basis to assist clients with free tax preparation. This year was the first they were able to utilize the new lower level computer lab, made possible in part by Comcast.

Unify Community Health Northeast (formerly Riverstone Medical) again expertly helped clients enroll in Health Insurance programs. Many of these new enrollees never before had health insurance for themselves or their families.

The year has already brought much excitement to the Northeast Community Center and we look forward to the upcoming months. In order to continue growing our resources and services available we must look to our contributors for the much needed support for the Center and the communities we serve.

Be a positive impact in a family's life!

There are many ways to support the center and our mission:

- Shop for a Cause! NECC is registered with both Amazon and Fred Meyer for their community rewards programs. Our Fred Meyer id is 89894
 - Attend our Annual Dinner on April 2nd
- Set aside time on May 6th to test drive a brand new car to benefit NECC
- Send in your Pledge Form today to make a general donation to the Center