When I took office in January 2012, I thought it was my job to improve Port Orchard. I quickly realized that the people you will read about in this report is the reason I am proud to call Port Orchard my home. These volunteers are the heart and soul of our community. They are working every day to serve us all. I then knew that if I wanted to improve Port Orchard, my job would be to help them accomplish their goals.

One of my favorite songs is sung by Randy Travis and written by Don Schlitz/Thom Schuyler. The message of the song is about a “dedicated army of quiet volunteers.” It explains, “All it takes is a point of light, a ray of hope in the darkest night. If you see what’s wrong and you try to make it right, you will be that point of light.”

Our City has so many points of light, folks that are “reaching out to feed the hungry, reaching out to save the land, reaching out to help their fellow man. There are dreamers that make our dreams come true, and ones that teach the children there is nothing they can’t do. Giving shelter to the homeless, giving hope to those without, isn’t that what this land is all about?”

I dedicate this report to Port Orchard’s own Points of Light. These people do it because it’s the right thing to do. Without them, we would have no community.

South Kitsap Helpline

The South Kitsap Helpline is a non-profit organization which has served South Kitsap children, adults, and senior citizens in need since 1980. Helpline is dedicated to providing food and other assistance, as well as referrals to our fellow community members who find themselves in crisis. South Kitsap Helpline Food Bank provides critical food and other necessities to approximately 3,600 children, adults, and senior citizens in Port Orchard EVERY MONTH! Children are almost half of that number!

Helpline always gratefully accepts donations of food from the public to assist them in their mission of helping to feed the hungry. Donations can be made during their regular business hours of 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

As the food bank can easily go through more than 900,000 lbs. of food each year, local service organizations, schools, churches and businesses are encouraged to organize food drives for the Helpline throughout the year. They can always use the help! Help from our community makes it possible to better meet the needs of those who are in crisis.
Records in our Sidney Museum files tell us that there have been community festivals in Port Orchard since 1968 – that’s 45 years! It is a non-profit all volunteer group, with a twelve member board of directors. Well over 100 volunteers work throughout each year to help provide a long list of events.

Currently activities include a Royal Scholarship Pageant, Fathoms O’ Fun Grand Parade, Parade Day Activities, Summer Festival Craft and Vendor Show, Murder Mystery Event at Harbor Festival, 5K Fun Run, July 4th Sinclair Inlet Fireworks Show, Festival By The Bay, Concerts By The Bay, Port Orchard Party, and more. Annually Fathoms O’ Fun and the Fathoms Royalty present an award winning community float which travels throughout Washington, helping other festivals, and spreading the word about our great community.

Fathoms works with other community organizations including the City of Port Orchard, the Port of Bremerton, the Chamber of Commerce, Bay Street Merchants, and many service clubs. Coordination between all these groups plus businesses and interested individuals is necessary to provide the many activities needed to create a vital and thriving family environment for our community. Fathoms continually seeks out individual volunteers and partners in the business and non-profit community to ensure provision of quality recreational activities.

To get involved as a Fathoms volunteer or sponsor, or to give us great new ideas, visit our web site: www.fathomsofun.org

Port Orchard Bay Street Association (POBSA)

POBSA spends countless volunteer hours each year throughout the City of Port Orchard. This past year we have been involved in every non-profit event in our City.

This year was started with organizing and funding clean up groups and block captains in the downtown core to beautify our City. We pressure washed all sidewalks, benches, flower gardens, and tree pots in downtown. All plantings are handled by POBSA. We also maintain and fund the watering system that keeps the flowers abloom throughout the year.

One new cause this year was the new "Port Orchard Public Market", which will hopefully open next spring. We anticipated 250,000 people will visit this new destination style venue each year.

POBSA partners with just about every group in Port Orchard, including: The Cruz, the Marina, Harbor Fest, Port of Bremerton Boaters Bags, Chimes & Lights, Chamber of Commerce, Sidney Arts Museum, Fathoms O’ Fun, Concerts by the Bay, and many more. We promoted and held the 2nd Annual Taste of Port Orchard, which grew 100% from last year.

We are currently working on new promotions to identify the marketability of Port Orchard and to create an identity for Port Orchard. We visited Poulsbo, Seaside, Port Townsend, and Leavenworth, all of which have succeeded in increasing tourism by turning their towns around with a new identity. One big achievement this year was forming our Main Street Program, which will allow us to apply for new funding through the state and local B&O taxes.

Our reach and effect is accomplished through the countless hours spent by our volunteers and the funding we receive through lodging taxes, dues from our sponsors, and new sources we seek each year. We have lots of energy in our organization, new visions to accomplish and a wonderful city in which to do it. We are looking forward to 2013 and the exciting events we have planned.
The Port Orchard Chamber of Commerce is a membership-based organization of businesses and individuals working together to promote a favorable local business climate; encourage strong community leadership and support quality of life. We have been serving the community and businesses for a hundred years!

Chambers are first and foremost a business association. A study released by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives reveals that membership in a local chamber of commerce can significantly boost a business’s image among consumers, as well as among other businesses. When respondents were told that a particular small business was a member of its local chamber, they were 44 percent more likely to rate it favorably than respondents who were not told of the chamber affiliation. Respondents were also 63 percent more likely to want to purchase goods or services from a small business that is a chamber member.

At the Port Orchard Chamber, our primary business is to assist businesses. To educate, inform and provide referrals, benefits and services and marketing/promotion activities for local businesses. The average membership cost for businesses in our area, is less than a dollar a day. Residents and locals are one of the biggest ‘users’ of the Port Orchard Chamber. We want to make sure our community, businesses, chamber members, potential chamber members, not for profits and service organizations understand that in addition to our high level of community involvement, the shop local program we provide, the marketing and promotion assistance we provide and the legislative/governmental connections and information we provide—another reason to be a Chamber member is because the residents of this community turn to us with many questions and requests. We are the clearinghouse of our community and we need your chamber membership to help us provide for the residents and potential residents, the visitors and potential visitors’ and answer those questions!

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Locally, our club hosts two special annual dinners to honor very special community members: one for the local first responders and all current active duty military personnel, and the second is our annual Blue Star/Gold Star dinner, where we honor all those serving, who have served, and especially those who have given the ultimate in the service of our country. Our Wall of Honor is very well accepted and regularly visited by all visiting veterans and families.

Impromptu dinners are also held with the profits donated to charities. For example, a spaghetti feed was held for Amina, the young Bremerton girl who was accidentally shot. The event was spread by word of mouth and by the local papers, and three days later, we gave her family a substantial contribution.

We donate significantly to South Kitsap Helpline. During Christmastime we put up Giving Trees and donation boxes at businesses all over town, which collect funds, food, and toys for the families Helpline supports. We donated to state kidney funds, Alzheimer’s, abused children, and national charities at state level. We actively support Pope’s Kids Place in Centralia, WA, a home for children (and soon adults) who need 24-hour care to survive. We provide support to the Humane Society and will soon be participating in an “Adopt A Unit.”

We have recently joined the PO Chamber of Commerce, and we have invited the Fathoms O’ Fun Court and officials to our Fall Conference to help us promote Port Orchard the best we can. Our members provide additional public community service such as parking support for Cedar Cove Days and the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the South Kitsap Park.

As you can see, we are a very busy group, and we are “People Helping People.”
In the Pacific Northwest, the boating season gets started on the first Saturday in May, which traditionally is celebrated as “Opening Day.” Throughout the spring and summer, the Port of Bremerton’s two world-class marinas in Bremerton and Port Orchard serve as popular destinations for visiting boaters. The Marinas frequently host and also sponsor events designed to appeal to tourists and involve the entire community. Here are some of the highlights of special waterfront activities that were featured at the Port Orchard Marina and Marina Park this year.

**Kitsap Harbor Festival**
This year’s theme was – “Fun in the Sun for the Whole Family” held on the waterfront at both the Port Orchard and Bremerton Marinas on May 26-27, 2012. Festival events included Vendor Booths, Farmers Markets, Classic Car Show, Seagull Calling Event, Murder Mystery, Fun Run, Sailing Regatta, Live Music, Beer Gardens & much more!

**Chris Craft Rendezvous**
This event featured beautiful classic yachts on public display in mid-July. The Port Orchard Marina’s visiting moorage was once again the site for the event, the public was invited to come to the marina and view the wonderful Chris Craft restorations close up!

**Concerts by the Bay**
held weekly live music open to the public at the Port Orchard Marina Park every Thursday during the summertime

**PO Downtown Art Walk**
the third Friday of each month starting in May thru October. Over 20 local artists set up and display their work inside and outside of some of the downtown businesses along Bay Street

**The Cruz**
is a hot rod and classic car show that was held August 12, 2012. The Port Orchard Marina Waterfront is the site for thousands of classic car fans to view hundreds of classic, vintage and antique cars at the largest Classic Car show in Kitsap. The event is open to the public, sponsored and hosted by The Saints Car Club.

**Mustangs on the Waterfront, is Mustangs Only!**
It was staged on the Port Orchard Marina Waterfront, on July 29, 2012. Mustangs of all vintages were beautifully presented and open to the public, sponsored by the Kitsap Mustang Club.

**South Kitsap Rotary**
The South Kitsap Rotary & friends of Kurt Wagner have joined together to raise funds for the Kurt Wagner Education Fund. This fund was created to honor the memory of Dr. Kurt Wagner and to support the education needs in the South Kitsap Community. Kurt was an administrator with the South Kitsap School District and Rotarian with the South Kitsap Rotary Club. Kurt was loved and respected by his friends, family, colleagues and the community. He spent three decades working with children in South and Central Kitsap schools as a teacher, principal and administrator. Kurt volunteered with various programs that supported the students in his district. He approached his work with others with empathy and was able to connect across departments. The funds raised will be used to help South Kitsap students with educational opportunities not otherwise available to them.

**Kiwani Club of Port Orchard**
was chartered in 1929 and is a thriving organization of service and community-minded men and women who support children and young adults worldwide. With more than 35 members, the Kiwanis Club of Port Orchard performs thousands of hours of community service each year working on the following projects: Kindergarten Reading Program, Library Reading Project, Student of the Month, Scholarship Program, Computer Rehab Project, Special Olympics, Terrific Kids, Bike Rodeo, Builders Club, and Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army.

**Port Orchard Lions Club** is part of an international network of 1.3 million men and women in 205 countries and geographic areas who work together to answer the needs that challenge communities around the world. The following list is where we spend our funds and devote much of our volunteer hours:

- Eye exams and glasses for all ages
- Aid for the deaf and hard of hearing of all ages
- Support Camp Leo - a camp for young children with diabetes
- Health screening education
- Collections for local food banks
- Various senior aid services
- Support South Kitsap School programs
- Diabetes awareness

Please join us for our next get together at 5PM on October 10th at Slaughter County Brewing Company, located at 1307 Bay Street in Port Orchard, to continue the legacy of someone invaluable to our community.

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