



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Imagine
 Rotary*

SHIRLEEN WILHELM QUILTS OF VALOR



Shirleen Wilhelm has been a resident of Yakima for over 32 years. She worked as the computer coordinator for Abeyta Nelson from 1990 to 1996. During this time, her hobby was drag racing at Renegade Raceway. She was the sole proprietor of Stitch & Fix, an alteration business specializing in bridal for twelve years before retiring in 2008. She is a member of Yakima Valley Quilters' Guild and volunteers her time quilting for a couple community charities. She is woman of faith and seeks a life of serving and loving others.



As a teenager in Kentucky during the Vietnam War Era, Shirleen would hear her cousins and friends talking to each other about their war experiences. She understood early that our Vietnam War Veterans were not treated well when they came home. Over two years ago, Shirleen joined the Quilts of Valor Foundation, a national non-profit 501(c)3 organization, with the mission of awarding comforting and healing Quilts of Valor to service members and veterans touched by war. She nominated her husband and those ten family members and friends in Kentucky, and watched the presentation on Facebook as each received their Quilts of Valor. She saw a need for the organization here in Yakima County. She wanted to make a difference in the lives of the service members and veterans in this area. After tears of joy, prayer, and discussion with husband and friends, she registered Yakima Quilts of Valor Group with four friends and joined the Quilts of Valor Foundation as a group under QOVF's nonprofit 501(c)3 status in July 2021.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Music – Linda Kaminski
 Greeters – Scott Wagner, Mina Worthington
 Invocation – Kurt Labberton
 Sergeant-at-Arms – John Cooper
 Program – Jane Davis

FUTURE PROGRAMS

December 15th – Christmas Program
 December 22nd – No Meeting, Happy Holidays
 December 29th – No Meeting, Happy New Year
 January 5th – Christine Cote, Perry Technical Institute



ANNUAL ROTARY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thursday, December 15th
 Yakima Convention Center
 4pm to 6pm


Kid Activities: Pinecone Bird Feeders,
 Sugar Cookie Decorating,
 Christmas Ornaments

Adult Activities: Ugly Sweater OR Most
 Holiday Cheer Outfit Contest

Get your outfit planned. Invite your kids,
 grandkids, and friends
 to join in the holiday cheer.
 Santa will be there!

MOLLIE DAVIS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS IS OPEN



The Yakima Rotary Trust is pleased to announce the


Mollie Davis Scholarship Program

Renewable Scholarships up to

\$7,500 / \$30,000

a year and / overall

Awards are based on financial need, academic achievement and leadership



Mollie Davis SCHOLARSHIP

YAKIMA ROTARY TRUST

Each qualified applicant must be:

- A US Citizen
- A resident of Yakima County (You may be away attending college)
- A high school senior, a high school graduate, a GED recipient or a current postsecondary student
- Enrolled in fulltime undergraduate study at an accredited two or four year college or university and pursuing a first associate's or bachelor's degree

The application period is December 1st to February 22nd each year

To begin your applications, please visit our website at yakimarotarytrust.org

ROTARY BELL RINGING WEEK

The sound of Rotary bell ringing is set to begin on Monday, December 5th and go through Saturday, December 10th. Of the total 96 shifts assigned to us across four locations, there are 21 shifts left to fill.

Tuesday, December 6th

Fred Meyer Grocery – 5pm to 7pm
Fred Meyer North – 3pm to 5pm

Wednesday, December 7th

Wray's 56th – 5pm to 7pm
Fred Meyer North – 11am to 1pm, 3pm to 5pm & 5pm to 7pm

Thursday, December 8th

Wray's 56th – 1pm to 3pm
Rosauers – 1pm to 3pm
Fred Meyer Grocery – 5pm to 7pm
Fred Meyer North – 11am to 1pm & 1pm to 3pm

Friday, December 9th

Rosauers – 5pm to 7pm
Fred Meyer Grocery – 11am to 1pm
Fred Meyer North – 1pm to 3pm

Saturday, December 10th

Wray's 56 – 5pm to 7pm
Rosauers – 1pm to 3pm
Fred Meyer Grocery – 1pm to 3pm, 3pm to 5pm & 5pm to 7pm
Fred Meyer North – 1pm to 3pm & 3pm to 5pm



There is not another organization in the Salvation Army's Pacific Northwest Region that serves their community with this many shifts and money raised. Yakima Rotary is truly special! Sign-ups can be done by emailing or calling the Rotary office OR by clicking on the link sent by email. Your small donation of time can change the life of someone in our community.

REVIEW

Our star greeter this week was Erika Rutter who wonderfully welcomed everyone as we arrived. The musical choice this week couldn't help but make you smile as David Rogers on accordion and Doug Rich on guitar played and sang a fun song I have never heard before, *Beautiful Christmas Lights* written by cartoonist James Kochalka. Mike Johnson followed with a prayerful invocation encouraging us to see the beautiful and good inside people we meet, especially those that appear broken on the outside. President Rick welcomed our guests, presented a blue badge to Aaron Ruff who then helped promote Rotary Bell Ringing Week, and announced that the Mollie Davis Scholarship Application Process was now OPEN. Interact President Kyle Rasmussen invited everyone to attend their Seahawk Watch Party Fundraiser on Thursday night, December 15th at the Yakima Sports Center. The cost is \$30 and includes a drink, dinner, and dessert. Kick-off is at 5:15pm. Matt Martinkus followed with an invitation to attend the Rotary Christmas Program that same afternoon from 4pm to 6pm. Please support both - come to our party first and then make your way to the Yakima Sports Center afterwards.

As Chair of the Allocation & Review Committee Leanne Antonio presented the first grant awards for the year. The first grant in the amount of \$5,000 was awarded to First Tee of Central Washington who teach life lessons through the game of golf. The funds will be used to purchase a driving cage at their SOZO location. The second award, also in the amount of \$5,000 went to Englewood Christian Church for a non-religious After School Arts Drum Camp being held in February in partnership with Gilbert and Garfield Elementary schools. Kevan Montoya wrapped up Rotary business by raising money for Rotary Charities with questions about football (both soccer and American) for sergeant-at-arms.

Bob Gerst had the honor of introducing Laura Crooks as our program speaker to talk to us about Children's Village. She began by sharing their mission: *"Crossing the bridge together, we connect children with special needs and their families with supportive services."* Children's Village began 25 years ago when several people came together with a vision of how we as a community could serve children with complex needs. It started with 5 organizations coming together of which three remain as current trustees – Yakima Memorial Hospital, the Memorial Foundation, and Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic. It is built upon the concept of collaboration of care for children with special needs. The Board is made up of the three CEOs of each of the trustees.

In 2017, a study conducted by the CDC showed that 17.8% of children are diagnosed with a disability, an increase of 1% from their previous study completed in 2011. In the state of Washington, a separate study conducted in 2018 showed that 5.9% of children under 18 were identified as having a severe disability meaning that they had two or more activities of daily living (dressing, eating, going to school) in which they could not function at a typically developing rate. Yakima has one

of the largest per capita of children 0 to 18 in the state. If you translate the percentage, it means Yakima has 12,000 kids who need help. Children's Village offers over 30 specialties to children and their families. Some of them are provided in their building and some are done through in-home services (50%). Some services are provided by doctors from Seattle Children's Hospital that come over to treat kids, and that Children's Village pays for. Those doctors provide help in five specialties. A campaign is underway to double the medical clinic that would allow more services here.

In the past three years they have experienced enormous growth with a 105% increase. The number of patients increased by 70%. The number of visits last year was 43,398; that translates to 43,000 times a family did not have to travel for help. Of the children they serve, 88% come from the Yakima Valley. The rest come from all over the state. Seattle Children's Hospital has a three-year wait list to have a child diagnosed with autism; Children's Village has their own wait list, but it doesn't take 3 years for a diagnosis. The demographics of their patients match our county. Over 40% of kids have behavioral health concerns. The majority of families require complex coordination and support - they can't do it alone. There are more who are asking for services to be brought here. Often times a family will drive 2.5 hours one-way to Seattle for a 15-minute appointment. In the future, Children's Village will be able to do it here.

One of the things that was done upon Laura's arrival in 2019 was to create a strategic plan. From that plan five initiatives were developed. (1) To become an independent 501(c)3; (2) To decrease wait times by 60%; (3) Growth in defined patient populations of 40%; (4) To create a culture of positive relations and supporting people (staff, patients, families, and community). All frontline staff at Children's Village are bilingual. And (5) To expand their facility to support operational improvements, growth, and culture. They also have three guiding principles when making any decisions are; is it best for their patients and families; is it a safety issue (if yes, it is automatically done); and does it make it better for their staff and providers.

Their vision of where they are going in the future is to be the go-to expertise in specialized pediatric care for the east side of the state (that is already happening); to be the expert in pediatric rural healthcare for children with special healthcare needs in our state and to be a resource in our nation; and to be an organization where people want to come to work and then don't want to leave.

She ended with the stories of two special children in our community. The word "community" is a perfect way to describe their success. It was a community that built Children's Village and continues to keep it open. We live in a very special place and are lucky to be surrounded by generosity.