

Meet Amy Ridley

Introduction by Rob LoBosco

As Rotarians, we are used to helping those with obvious needs and easily defined obstacles. And, we frequently associate with successful people who benefited from considerable advantages in their lives. But, we may not think often enough about those in between, who struggle silently and make their way with little to no help at all.

Our newest Rotarian, Amy Ridley, is one such person. And, I'm honored to introduce her to you today.

Amy had wanted to obtain a degree after high school. She knew the value and leverage it would provide. But, the expense proved too much for her and her family at the time.



Instead, she began a career as a teller at BECU and set out to overcome her deficit through hard work. She succeeded, rising through the ranks to manager and on to a career in Business Development. She is currently a Sr. Business Development Specialist at Salal Credit Union (formerly Group Health), with a focus on Healthcare.

Amy draws inspiration from fellow animal lover, Jane Goodall, who made her name in the scientific community despite her own lack of a degree. She also admires Malala Yousafzai, the young Pakistani activist who survived a gunshot to the head from the Taliban, yet refused to stop fighting for female education rights. She inspires Amy with her quote, "One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world."

Amy was born in Seattle and grew up in Auburn, one of four children. At age four, she had open heart surgery to correct a congenital defect. Her surgeon was Dr. Lester Sauvage, founder of The Hope Heart Institute. Dr. Sauvage had performed a similar surgery on Amy's grandfather, and in keeping a promise to her grandmother, performed Amy's surgery free of charge.

The gesture imbued Amy with a desire to make something of her life, to give back. She has always volunteered and has raised her two daughters with "A servant's heart." With Rotary, she hopes to extend the reach of her giving, both at home and abroad.

Amy lives in Kent with her blended family - her two daughters, her fiancée, and his two children. Her oldest daughter is a senior at Western Washington. Her youngest daughter, a freshman at UDub. Now an empty-nester, Amy plans to finally finish her own degree.

For fun, Amy enjoys cooking and gardening. Her fiancée calls her "Little Marth Stewart." She is a voracious reader and enjoys watching all things sports-related (Go Hawks!). With a daughter at UDub and a stepson at WSU, it will be an interesting Apple Cup at her home this year.

Amy was sponsored by Jane Pryor. Please join me in thanking Jane and welcoming Amy to Seattle 4!