

Bluebill FLYER December 2019



Olympic Peninsula Boeing Bluebill Newsletter Serving Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap Counties



Chair Barbara

From the Chair

By Barbara Berthiaume



Co-Chair Clint

Thank You Bluebill Volunteers!

Research has shown that volunteering has been linked to a variety of personal health benefits.

- ◇ Volunteers have lower mortality rates and higher functional ability.
- ◇ Volunteers are happier, more fulfilled, and have lower rates of depression later in life than people who don't volunteer.
- ◇ Volunteering leads to increased life satisfaction. When you volunteer and make a difference in your community, you feel pride and accomplishment.

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On the Peninsula, the word Bluebill is synonymous with volunteering. The range of programs Bluebill volunteers are involved with vary from Essential Supplies with volunteers driving trucks to the Fife [World Vision](#) warehouse, inventorying goods, and distributing them to the 3 counties. The Builders are legendary with all the hard work building ramps and installing grab bars. At the beginning of the school year, volunteers reach into their pockets and provide money for school supplies for Chimacum grades K – 8 so all students can start the year successfully. School supplies from World Vision are distributed to Title 1 schools from Clallam to Mason counties as well. At Christmas, volunteers again reach into their wallets to shop and provide gifts for homeless children. In August, the [Dove House](#) Golf Benefit raised \$19,000 for direct client services. The [Peninsula Support Organization](#) networks with the Bluebills and the [Museum of Flight](#) in Seattle to bring STEM programs to Peninsula schools. A new program, Independent Living, connects resources with people in need who want to stay in their homes. All of these activities are supported by volunteers who give their time and skills to help their communities. The Bluebill volunteers generate around \$500,000 in goods and services to the Peninsula annually. According to [HelpGuide.org](#), volunteering can be not only very rewarding but very inspiring as well. It can lead you to eye-opening experiences that help you become in touch with some of the things that are going on in your community and the world. It can show you how many people are actually in need of help, and just how easy it can be to contribute. A big thank you goes to all of you who helped to make these programs work.

Being a Bluebill volunteer is very good for your health!



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Meet Your Fellow Bluebills

By Karen Griffith



I always ask new members how they got into the Bluebills and it seems almost all roads lead right back to Myron Vogt. Don plays golf with the morning bunch Myron plays with and Don finally got worn down hearing about all the good projects Bluebills did, so he filled out an application to join. He has been involved in the building of ramps as well as one delivery of World Vision goods.

Don grew up in Wyoming, going to high school in Rawlins. After graduation he went into the army, then back to Rawlins where he got a job digging underground pits in which to store natural gas. After a cave-in, where he escaped with his life, he changed to something much safer: bread sales. He then went to Denver for a different bread company, where he met Verba, his wife of 54 years. She was a flight attendant for Western Airlines (soon to be purchased by Delta Airlines) for 30+ years.

Later he worked for Frito-Lay in Hawaii. He needed a change so started answering ads in the paper and was hired to work for a printing company selling print copy and ads for area businesses. He also got interested in boats and sailing. Soon they moved to the Bay Area where Don got involved with a boating magazine and then he ultimately bought the magazine, *Bay and Delta Yachting*. Then he started another publication, *Yachts for Sale*. He continues to run the magazines today.

In 1994 he brought his boat up to Sydney, BC and every year, he and Verba would take time sailing up and down the coast from Sydney to the Panama Canal, occasionally stopping in at Port Ludlow. Finally in 2004, they relocated to Port Ludlow. Verba and Don have a son, Ty, who works for Don at the *Bay and Delta Yachting* magazine.

They are both interested in getting more involved with Bluebill activities. Don and Verba, welcome!!!

continued



Bruce and Cindy Parsons moved to Port Ludlow in October of last year. They were just really getting settled in when in February, Bruce slipped on a piece of black ice while walking their dog, and broke his hip. He was taken to Harrison Hospital by ambulance for hip replacement surgery. Due to our huge snow storm the next day, Cindy was assisted by fellow Boeing retirees, Linda and Ed Campbell to transfer Bruce to rehab in Port Townsend the next week.

Bruce grew up near Birmingham, AL, and graduated from Auburn University in 1977 with a degree in electrical engineering. The job market was tight back then so jobs were scarce. He saw an opportunity at Boeing and applied. He said he was hired without ever meeting anyone face to face! He began working in Seattle at Plant 2. Eight years later, his future brother-in-law introduced him to Cindy who had just completed a graduate degree at University of North Dakota. Her bachelor's degree was from USD in her home state of South Dakota. They dated for three years and married in June of 1988.

Bruce worked on many projects and in various Boeing locations over his 39 years: 14 years in maintenance publications for military, commercial, and then 25 years in service engineering and propulsion design engineering in the commercial division. They moved around the Seattle area from Federal Way to Tacoma to Bothell.

They had started coming over to the Peninsula in the 90's for getaways. Then after Bruce retired in 2016, they began making serious plans to make the move over here. They heard about the Bluebills from real estate agents, who, when hearing he was retired from Boeing, told him about our great mission.

Bruce is a musician and has been able to devote lots more time to playing, composing, creating tracks for back-up bands, etc. He has a "music room" in his home and loves to spend time with his electronic piano and other sound equipment. Cindy has multiple sclerosis, so her activities are somewhat limited, but both are wanting to get involved in Bluebills activities such as STEM, backpacks, or event planning. They are a welcome addition to our chapter!!

The word "Welcome" is written in a large, elegant, gold-colored cursive script. Below the text is a decorative horizontal flourish consisting of a series of interconnected loops and swirls, also in a gold color.

United Good Neighbors Name
Bluebill Bonnie Douglass
as “Good Neighbor” of 2019!

Bonnie was named Good Neighbor for 2019 for her work with the Quilcene and Brinnon Weekend Nutrition Program and was presented with a plaque at the Port Townsend Community Center on November 2.

Bonnie is also a Jefferson County “Heart of Service Award” winner.

She and the Quilcene/Brinnon Bluebills are making a great contribution to their communities.

[Click here to read the article in the November 6th Port Townsend Leader.](#)

Congratulations Bonnie!

Congratulations



December Calendar



Dec 5- Thursday, Leadership Team and PSO meeting. Beach Club 3-4

Dec 6- Friday, Pick for Clallam Co. Warehouse at 9:00

Dec 9- Monday, Year-end all-member meeting-Beach Club 11:00

Dec 10- Deliver to Clallam Co.

Dec 10- Central Leadership Council Meeting-Seattle 10-11

Dec 25- Christmas Day

Dec 31- New Year's Eve

Upcoming: Jan 7, 2020 Pick up at World Vision for Jefferson Co.

December 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5 	6 	7
8	9 	10 	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 	26	27	28
29	30	31 	2020			



Builders Pages

JeffCo. Builders

Garage Step Handrails and Ramp

The client had already experienced falling on these steps from the garage to the house. As in so many cases, there were no handrails on these steps. Although sometimes a grab bar can be installed on the wall to hold on to, a grab bar is not as good as a railing when going down the steps, thus the reason for the railings on both sides. If required, a ramp can also be built in a garage.

Myron



Steps without railing.



Railings installed on both sides of steps.



Joe Gagnier, Rick Morasco, Myron Vogt, Don Abbott, and John Fillers with a garage ramp in Port Ludlow.

Ramping up for Future Needs

This was an interesting job in that the client did not need the ramp immediately but anticipated needing it soon. I always encourage people to have us do the work before they absolutely need it done by tomorrow.

The build had a great crew. The hardest part was removing a long, existing step. It was well built, but Dave, etc. made it go away in a short time. We finished the ramp by 1:00, just in time for lunch.

Todd



Joe Gagnier, Michael Graham, Richard Meyers, Dan Nieuwsma, Jo Nieuwsma, Todd Knoblock, Robert Chanpong.
Photo by Dave Parrish

A Ramp to Come Home to

The client, a disabled veteran, needed this ramp before she could come home from the hospital. The crew consisted of Don Abbott, Joe Gagnier, Rick Morasco, Jim Mueller, and Myron Vogt.



Joe Gagnier, Don Abbott, Rick Morasco, and Myron Vogt. Photo by Jim Mueller



Trimming the posts and installing the kick rail. Myron Vogt, Joe Gagnier, and Rick Morasco.



The client admires her new ramp.

A Safer Platform

Joe and Richard helped me with this project. The client had fallen several times when leaving her RV. We were able to use wood from her yard and from the Bluebills warehouse to do the job, resulting in no cost to the client who is taking care of her mother who is dealing with bone cancer. -Dave Parrish

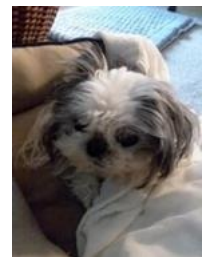
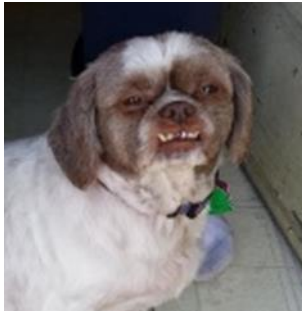
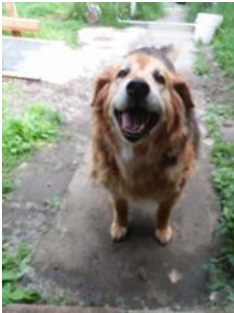


Joe Gagnier and Richard Meyers.
Photo by Dave Parrish

Kitsap Builders

The Pets We've Met

In addition to the clients, we've made a lot of friends with the pets they own. Sometimes we're met with suspicion, and it takes a while before they warm up to us. Often they watch over us to make sure the job is done right. Occasionally we're working for them, like the time we added a side chute for Banjo, so he could get from the ramp to his yard. Here are some pictures of the pets we've met.



Builders' Data

ANOTHER RECORD YEAR FOR BUILDERS

We have already surpassed our 2018 records in all categories except the number of ramps built. I can look back on the 2015-2016 data on who was doing these jobs then. I'm happy to announce that we have a whole lot of new builders who are taking over for those of us who have to "pass the torch" for one reason or the other. Because there is a fair amount of physical effort in some of these jobs, we always need new volunteers to fill the gap. Thanks to each and every one of you who have helped one or more of the 308 clients we have served so far this year. You realize that on every weekday, one or more builders is helping someone live more safely in their home. Be proud of what you are doing.

But we could not do what we do to help the less fortunate or disabled without the help of our "Partners."

- [Catholic Community Services](#), who provides insurance coverage for our Bluebills and clients.
- [Real Estate Professionals for Affordable Housing \(REPAH\)](#), who provides funding for needy home owners.
- [Port Townsend Elks](#) and [Legion](#) Clubs, who provide funding for veterans.
- [Habitat for Humanity of Jefferson Co.](#), who provides funding for various projects in the Quilcene/Brinnon area.
- [Olympic Area Agency on Aging](#), who provides funding for clients on certain programs.
- [Jefferson Home Health](#), who provides the names of clients who need help.
- [ECCHO](#), who provides client referral and home medical equipment.
- [OlyCap](#), who provides funding and client referrals.
- [Lutheran Community Services](#), who secures and administers grant funding for materials.

Thanks, Myron



Builders' Data

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	YTD Total	2018 TTL
Grab bars	16	8	13	23	56	22	20	44	21	40	21	284	262
Ramps	2	3	2	3	8	7	6	6	7	9	5	58	69
Railing	5	1	3	9	7	7	9	3	11	7	19	81	56
Miscellaneous	12	2	8	11	7	7	12	13	16	9	8	105	97
Total Clients	23	11	18	24	37	29	31	39	31	39	26	308	290
Total Different Volunteers	20	8	13	17	29	26	16	21	20	22	19		
Open Projects	44	42	41	38	35	34	23	20	43	31	31		



WORLD VISION AND BLUEBILLS

Bluebills have been working with World Vision for about 20 years.

We take goods from their Seattle-area warehouse and distribute to agencies, schools and churches in Jefferson, Kitsap and Clallam counties.

World Vision is an international humanitarian organization. But it is not only overseas where help is needed. One in five children in the United States lives in a family struggling with poverty. World Vision has a couple of programs that Bluebills participate in to address the needy in our areas.

1. Essential Supplies Program:

World Vision works with manufacturers and businesses to share excess resources with those who need them. Items are distributed to agencies, schools, churches and other groups who in turn distribute them to the individuals who can use them. In 2018 World Vision was able to reach over 4 million people in the USA through this program. Bluebills pick up goods from World Vision in Fife and distribute them in our area to over 80 schools, churches, agencies, food banks and other non-profits. In 2019 we picked up and distributed nearly 180 pallets of goods. We made 28 trips to the World Vision Warehouse in Fife, driving 19,000 miles picking up and distributing these goods to three counties. It takes over 2000 volunteer hours and 30 volunteers to run this program. Our latest example is the run to the World Vision Warehouse in Fife for Clallam County last month, pictured below.



The Bluebills in the World Vision Warehouse.
Charlie Johnson, Myron Vogt, and Ross Krumpe.



Ross Krumpe stacking goods in Charlie's trailer. Charlie and Ross drove over 220 miles that day.

2. Schools Supplies

Often, quite a few school supplies are provided with the above Essential Supplies goods, however, World Vision also has a special program to provide school supplies to elementary schools who have over 70% of the students on free or reduced price meals. In our area that is 14 schools ranging from Queets, on the west coast, to some schools in Shelton and Brinnon.

Working with a school supply wholesaler, World Vision provides boxes of school supplies that are based on the recommended supplies children should have when school begins. Each box contains enough supplies for 30 students. This year Bluebills picked up 165 boxes to distribute to 14 schools. Each box contains about \$240 of supplies, for a total worth of nearly \$40,000. All at no cost to Bluebills or the school. Special thanks to Ed Berthiaume who organizes this program. We do this at least once a year but if World Vision has supplies available we will do it twice.



School supplies delivered in Mason County

We are getting ready to set up the schedule and assign volunteer duties for the first half of 2020. This will be sent to all volunteers who work on this program, and it will also be published in the January Flyer.

If you are interested in helping with this program, please let me know.

Thanks, Myron

HAVE YOU REPORTED YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS?



REMEMBER: YOU CAN REPORT ANY VOLUNTEER HOURS! NOT JUST THE HOURS YOU WORK FOR BLUEBILLS. CHURCH, SCHOOL, COMMUNITY~ ALL OF THESE HOURS COUNT TOO!

EMAIL YOUR HOURS TO Judy McCay:
jimmccay@cablespeed.com

Volunteer hours for October, 2019

65 volunteers reported 1008 hours. That is 33% of the Bluebill membership reporting hours for October.

December Birthdays

STEPHEN SKLAR	12/01
JANE THOMPSON	12/01
JANE ANSLEY	12/02
KIM KEEVER	12/05
TERRY ELLINGSON	12/09
RICH STALDER	12/09
LINDA BLOEMEKE	12/11
SCOTT ERICKSON	12/13
SHERRY JOHNSON	12/13
PETE TALLERICO	12/17
JOAN ZIMMERMAN	12/17
JOE GAGNIER	12/18
MARK BYL	12/20
PAT WEBB	12/22
CHARLES BALDWIN	12/25
MARK WASHELESKI	12/26
ROD KREBS	12/30

Happy Birthday!



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CO-CHAIR ~ Clint Webb	cwebb91275@aol.com
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2nd VICE CHAIR ~ Bob Kever	stableguy@hotmail.com

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World Vision Essential Supplies

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World Vision School Supply Distribution

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Jefferson Co. Erica Mayfield emayfield@q.com

Hood Canal Bill and Candy Anstiss billandcandya@gmail.com

Kitsap Co. Ed Bethiaume edbethiaume@gmail.com

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Quilcene & Brinnon Bonnie Douglass ldouglass@wildblue.com

Sequim Schools Charlie Johnson racer6j@hotmail.com

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Kitsap Co. Bob Keever stableguy@hotmail.com

Dove House Tournament

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Jefferson Co. Homeless / Dove House Support

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