



Outstanding Washington state philanthropists honored at 25th Anniversary National Philanthropy Day luncheon

Six outstanding philanthropists will be honored at AFP-WA's 25th anniversary luncheon: "National Philanthropy Day 2013: Celebrating Washington Philanthropists for 25 years." It will be held on Nov. 14, 2013, at [The Westin Hotel](#) in downtown Seattle. More than 1,000 donors, volunteers, leaders and other supporters of nonprofit organizations are expected to attend – making it one of the largest National Philanthropy Day celebrations in the nation.

Each November the Association of Fundraising Professionals - Washington Chapter joins national and international colleagues to honor and support the efforts and passions of philanthropic leaders and the organizations they serve.

The 2013 honorees are:

John and Mary "Buzz" Folsom – Outstanding Philanthropists

Since arriving in Tacoma in 1989 John and Mary "Buzz" Folsom have worked quietly to help improve and enrich the South Sound community through their efforts with local nonprofits. Together and individually they have supported and led numerous capital and annual fund campaigns for organizations providing health and human services, education, job training, and the arts. Additionally, many look to them for assistance in identifying and cultivating new leaders of nonprofit and for-profit boards.

Buzz has served as [Charles Wright Academy's](#) Board Chair, [Tacoma Goodwill](#) Heritage Foundation's Board Chair, and served as a board member at The [Museum of Glass](#). John is the past President of Raleigh Schwarz and Powell and its successor firm [Brown & Brown insurance](#) of Washington. He currently chairs the [MultiCare Health System](#), serves on the boards of [Good Samaritan Hospital](#), [Multicare Auburn Medical Center](#), [Tacoma-Pierce County Sports Commission](#), the [Foundation for Tacoma Students](#), and the [Foss Waterway Public Development Authority](#), in addition to serving as an advisor to the [Children's Museum of Tacoma](#) and the [Tacoma Symphony Orchestra](#). In past he has chaired the [Tacoma Art Museum](#), the Executive Council for a Greater Tacoma, [American Leadership Forum](#) Tacoma/Pierce County Chapter, the [Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce](#), [University of Washington Tacoma](#) – Urban Studies Advisory Board, and the [Economic Development Board of Tacoma-Pierce County](#). John

has also served on the boards of [Bellarmine Preparatory School](#) and the [United Way of Pierce County](#).

The Folsoms have sought to pass along the value of community service to their two adult daughters. "They have raised millions of dollars in support of Tacoma's unprecedented revitalization and have been highly effective catalysts and strategists in transforming the city and region," wrote UW Tacoma Chancellor Debra Friedman in nominating the Folsoms for this honor.

Phillips 66 Ferndale Refinery – Outstanding Philanthropic Corporation

For nearly 60 years the Ferndale Refinery, owned and operated by [Phillips 66](#), has provided millions of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours to support communities throughout Whatcom County. With a focus on education, the environment and health and safety, Phillips 66 supports a variety of nonprofit organizations with direct donations and generous employee volunteer and matching gift programs. Among the organizations benefiting from the company's contributions are the [United Way of Whatcom County](#), [Whatcom Land Trust](#), [Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative](#), [Bellingham Technical College](#), the [Ferndale School District](#), [Ferndale Chamber of Commerce](#), and [Ferndale Boys & Girls Club](#). Phillips 66 also supports nonprofits in other Washington cities where it does business, such as Tacoma and Spokane.

Phillips 66 encourages employee participation and leverages its employees' efforts by matching employee donations to any eligible nonprofit organization or school, up to \$15,000 per employee, per year. In addition, employees and their spouses can earn company donations for qualifying nonprofit organizations by volunteering their personal time for those organizations.

"Phillips 66 is an outstanding philanthropic leader that takes great pride in being a good neighbor and in helping make this a wonderful place to live and work," wrote Mauri Ingram, president and chief executive of the Whatcom Community Foundation in nominating Phillips 66 for this honor.

RAM Construction and Mike Hammes - Outstanding Small Company

Mike Hammes, owner of [RAM Construction](#) of Bellingham, is known not only for what he and his company give to the community, but for initiating philanthropic causes. When a specific need arises in the community, Mike and RAM are first to step up and issue a challenge for others to make their donations to fill the need. "There are very few community efforts or good works that happen in Whatcom County that don't benefit from Mike Hammes' humble philanthropy and the involvement of RAM Construction's crew and equipment," wrote Dr. David A. Lynch, vice president of [St. Luke's Foundation](#) in nominating RAM for this honor.

Hammes and RAM have worked to help local organizations from the [Bellingham Food Bank](#) to the [Whatcom Hospice Foundation](#) and St. Luke's Foundation to children in Honduras through Rotary. "Mike compounds his volunteering by inspiring others to get involved," Lynch wrote. "He's a catalyst for good that sparks light and vision in other

people. Whether he is coordinating construction of Hospice House, promoting the [Rotary International Water Quality Project](#), or sponsoring a school in rural Honduras, he draws others to his side."

Lenny Wilkens Foundation - Outstanding Philanthropic Organization

Through more than 40 years of service to the Seattle community, [Lenny Wilkens](#) has woven together a successful career that involves coaching, public service and community development. The former NBA player and coach has focused the last 15 years of that career on the [Lenny Wilkens Foundation](#), aimed at funding organizations that deliver healthcare and education services to young people. In the last decade the foundation has raised more than \$6 million to support causes in the Pacific Northwest. The majority of the foundation's support goes to the [Odessa Brown Children's Clinic](#), a community clinic of [Seattle Children's Hospital](#).

Apart from fundraising events, Wilkens and his family advocate for the well-being of children through numerous public appearances, including corporate team-building workshops, athletic events, and acting as an adviser and mentor to NBA and Olympic athletes. "Lenny Wilkens is a remarkable, inspiring, giving soul who has helped assure that thousands of kids have the healthcare they need, warm clothing in the winter, books to stimulate their minds, and healthy ways to eat on a tight budget," wrote Dr. Ben Danielson, medical director of Odessa Brown Children's Clinic, as part of the application nominating the Kirkland, Wash.-based Lenny Wilkens Foundation for this honor.

Ackerley Family – Outstanding Philanthropic Family

Since it was founded in 1997, the [Ginger & Barry Ackerley Foundation](#) has given more than 70 grants to organizations across the Pacific Northwest focusing on the arts, the environment, higher education, early childhood development and social services. The family's history of philanthropy runs deep. When [Barry Ackerley](#) founded [The Ackerley Group](#), he dedicated 6 percent of gross revenues to corporate philanthropy while [Ginger](#) supported many local nonprofits. Barry and Ginger passed on their ethic of generosity and service to their children, Ted Ackerley, Kim Ackerley-Cleworth and Chris Ackerley (and their spouses), who are now raising the next generation to embrace the same values.

In addition to donating millions of dollars, the family has donated countless hours of time to organizations including the [Pacific Science Center](#), [ArtsFund](#), [The Seattle Foundation](#), [Washington Women's Foundation](#), [Seattle Aquarium](#), [Seattle Theater Group](#), [Epiphany School](#), [Thrive By Five](#), [University of Washington Foundation](#), [First Place School](#), [Lakeside School](#), [Girl Scouts of Western Washington](#), [St. Thomas School](#), [The First Tee of Greater Seattle](#), [Seattle Works](#), [Seattle Art Museum](#), Friends of Madison Park, and [IslandWood](#). "With wealth comes great responsibility. These are words the Ackerley family lives by - words that motivate each member of the family to give back to the community that has given them so much," wrote fundraisers from the Seattle Aquarium, Pacific Science Center, and IslandWood who nominated the family for this honor.

Students in Boo Schneider's 3rd grade class at Ordway Elementary School - Outstanding Young Philanthropists

For 20 years 3rd grade students on Bainbridge Island have created, produced and sold a ["Kids Can Make a Difference" calendar](#) to raise money for Bainbridge Island's sister island of [Ometepe](#) in Nicaragua. So far they've raised more than \$111,000 to help ambulance drivers work weekend shifts, to fund a library, for tutoring, for milk and vitamins for preschoolers, to help young adults attend college, and for many other projects. But more than money, this philanthropic endeavor has taught these young children about the world and how their hard work can make a big difference.

"For many of those students, this initial lesson in the third grade class helped them start to understand what it means to be a global citizen," wrote Katy Childers, a volunteer with [Bainbridge-Ometepe Sisters Island Association](#) in nominating the children and their teacher for this honor. The project began in Alice Mendoza's third grade class at [Wilkes Elementary School](#) and she passed it on to teacher Boo Schneider at [Ordway Elementary School](#) five years ago. It has been so successful that many students who participated in third grade traveled to Ometepe in high school or college to continue their volunteer and philanthropic efforts.

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