

THE CHAMBER VOICE



**Greater Yakima Chamber of
Commerce**

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Message From Verlynn Best

Congratulations to Kathi Mercy, our 2020 Ted Robertson Community Service Award recipient.

Our past board chairs could not have picked a better person for the award this year. We had a low-key Blue Friday themed celebration for a very humble woman. According to her children, she wouldn't have wanted it any other way. We celebrated with Kathi, her family, and a few close friends. Watching Steve, who currently sits on the Chamber Board present his mother with the award was touching.

I have known the Mercy family for years, I worked for Mike many years ago. Our children went to La Salle together. I was recruited to the Chamber board by Kathi and Robyn Heilman around 2006. Thank you, ladies, for leading me to the Chamber and my eleven-year career.

I truly believe this woman is an inspiration to all women. Kathi has said she went from wife and mother to President/CEO in one night. She has juggled, maintained, and thrived through it all. Kathi and the Mercy family have been supporting and giving back to Yakima humbly since the beginning of their business in the Yakima Valley.

Kathi reminds us that no matter what life challenges us with, we can handle it with God, family, and a great deal of love. I can't wait to see what the next generation of the Mercy family does!

On behalf of the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce Past Chairmen, Board of Directors, and our members, Thank you Kathi.

Verlynn K. Best President/CEO

2020 Ted Robertson Edition



"I am thrilled that Kathi Mercy is the 2020 recipient of the Ted Robertson Community Service Award. Kathi and her entire family have done so much for the Yakima Valley over the past several decades, much of it behind the scenes. 'Thank you' and congratulations to Kathi and the Mercy family."

Rich Austin
Past Board Chair of the Greater Yakima
Chamber of Commerce

2020 Ted Robertson Community Service Award Recipient Kathi Diann Mercy

My Bio consists of two distinct sections, before 1997 and after 1997.

Born and raised in Yakima, 12 years in Catholic schools, (with Nuns!!) Joined the Husky Nation and married a fellow Husky, Michael. Raised kids, dogs, horses and apples as well as a few cats in the Terrace Heights area. Fred, Jennifer, Mickey and Stephen were the 4 rebels raised on Roza Hill. I did all the things an urban mom did, carpooling my kids, as well as the neighbors, putting plenty of miles on our Suburban with "KID KAB" plates. At one point I served on the boards at Eisenhower HS PTSA, St Joseph/Marquette Middle School, Success By Six, and was President of the Terrace Heights Pre- School Board, while pregnant with Stevie.

I was on the Terrace Heights Improvement Association Board, and the Yakima Valley Hunt Club Board. Junior League was a great learning opportunity, and my favorite accomplishment was the first YJL Cookbook. The YWCA board added more training I wasn't sure I would ever need or use. Was I ever wrong.

Then came 1997

Fred was out of school, Jennifer in college, Mickey in high school and Stevie in grade school. From wife and mother to President/CEO of the family business in one shocking night. Lucky for me, Mike had done a great job of sharing the business plans, and combined with our excellent office staff, I managed to keep things running. The early board training was put to good use.

I was now serving on the Providence Hospital Foundation Board and of course the Yakima Chamber. Mike helped start the Sister Rebecca Foundation and I was asked to serve in his place, which led to the St. Joseph Bingo Committee.

The rest is history, and the Family Business is still running strong after 108 years. From a one screen storefront theater, to twin screens and a 6-Plex as well as drive-ins and the beautiful Capitol Theatre, we have done it all.

"Now it is 10 screen complexes and our latest attraction, in-theatre dining at the Orion Cinema & Mickey's Pub. We added a few people to the family. Fred married Tressa Stadel and Jennifer married Brian Hull. Stephen completes the 4th generation.

And, wait until you meet Generation 5. My wonderful grandchildren, Trista, Ryker, and Cheyenne. Hopefully there is a showman among them to carry on the Family Tradition.

The Show Must Go On!!!

Kathi Mercy



Ted Robertson Community Service Award Recipients

1989 - Bea Noel
1990 - Greta Bryan
1991 - Dorothy "Bill" Donelson Robertson
1992 - Wesley H. "Bud" Snyder
1993 - Melvin Wagner
1994 - Bob DiPietro Sr.
1995 - Shirly Doty
1996 - Marvin Sundquist
1997 - Bob "Straight Arrow" Lynch
1998 - "Ollie" Nelson
1999 - Eugene "Gene" Shields
2000 - Curtis King
2001 - Ester Huey
2002 - Senator Alex Deccio
2003 - Paul Campbell, Gary George,
Mel Moore, Gene Rostvold
2004 - Rick Lenneweh
2005 - Gary Webster
2006 - Sid Morrison
2008 - Bob Hall
2009 - Dale Carpenter
2010 - Gary Lukehart
2011- Bob Brown
2012 - John Gasparetti
2013 - Greg & Jan Luring
2014 - Ken Marble, Al DeAtley, Bill Dolson
2015 - Ron King, Linda Kaminski
2016 - Dr. Lloyd Butler, Steve & Anne Caffery
2017 - Rick Pinelle
2018 - Jack & Connie Bloxom
2019 - John Baule

The Ted Roberson Community Service Award was established in 1989 by the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce Past Presidents/Board to honor individuals each year that have made major contributions to the betterment of the Yakima Valley. Ted Robertson, former publisher of the Yakima-Herald Republic, held a strong belief that good fortune earned in a community should be shared with that community. Ted also believed that we, as a community, ought to find more ways to honor people who distinguish themselves through their community service, over and above their chosen profession.



Bob Hall and Senator Curtis King



Jan and Greg Luring



John Baule with Connie and Jack Bloxom at the 2019 Ted Robertson Awards Dinner.

A Message from the Board Chair

Although small in size, this years Ted Robertson Award contained (and in some cases surpassed) the emotion and excitement of any "pre-covid" year. The intimate location and guest list created the perfect setting for this year's worthy recipient, Kathi Mercy. The humility and love for her family and community were evident in everything from her bio, to ta speech from lifelong friend Joe Mann and son Steve Mercy. Thank you Kathi for all that you and your family have done, and continue to do for Yakima. From the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce Board, the Yakima Business Community, and citizens of Yakima County...CONGRATULATIONS!

Kristi Foster
Board Chair of the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce



We would to thank PayneWest Insurance for their continued support in presenting the Ted Robertson Community Service Award.

Thank you to all of our sponsors!



Executive Board

Chair: Kristi Foster, Wheatland Bank
Immediate Past Chair: Bob Gerst, John I Haas
First Vice Chair: Kathy Rheume, HUB International
Past Chair Advisor: Joe Mann, Ron's Coin & Collectible
Past Chair Advisor: Rich Austin, Yakima Sports Commission
Secretary/Treasurer: Danelle Kindell, Alegria & Company, P.S.
Legal Counsel: Jon L. Seitz, Lyon, Weigand & Gustafson PS
Second Vice Chair: Jamon Rivera, Virginia Mason Memorial
President/CEO: Verlynn Best

Board of Directors

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Steve Mercy, Yakima Theatres
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Ben Record, AAI Financial Group I
Jamie Cuevas Jr.
Linda DiLembo, Valley Mall
Ron L. Cardey, Kwik Lok Corp.
Ranie Haas, Washington State Tree Fruit Association

Mission Statement

"The Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce is an organization that promotes pride in our diverse communities through positive, active leadership aimed at creating a cohesive, successful business climate in our County."