

**White River Families First 2012 White River Communities Champion Award recipients:
Ann Trullinger, John McArtor, and Bob Howie and Mark Thompson (Village Tutors)**

Four volunteers were recognized and honored on May 21st as recipients of the 2012 White River Communities Champion Award at a special meeting of the White River Families First Coalition. Pierce County Councilman Dan Roach was the guest speaker.

The White River Families First Coalition promotes activities and partnerships that support the health and human service needs of individuals, youth and families in order to strengthen White River area communities. Families First Coalition meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month at the Glacier Middle School at 4pm, except in July and December. Our meetings provide opportunities to network and share information with other organizations and groups and a “knowing our community” segment to better understand the work that others are doing in the community.

The Community Champion Award was established in 2011 as a way to recognize the service and dedication of those who make our community better. Each year, many wonderful individuals give of their time and talent to help others and make both small and large contributions to communities within the White River School District. Their contributions do not go unnoticed. We frequently come across these community champions in our lives but they are often behind the scenes, or the extent of how they impact others is not always known. For many, it is their life’s work.

The recipients were nominated by members of our community because they have made a powerful difference without necessarily having the benefit of holding an office, title or position.

They have contributed to the health and well-being of their community’s youth and families, going above and beyond with is expected of them – as a volunteer or in their professional role.

We are excited and privileged to introduce the deserving recipients of the 2012 White River Families First Coalition Community Champion Awards.



Ann Trullinger has deep roots in the White River Community and is committed to giving back. She is involved in an extensive list of volunteer activities and active on several boards for organizations that benefit our community.

Ann has been a volunteer with the Ida Marge Guild and has been active in the local fundraising for Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital since 1972. She serves on the Rainier Foothills Community Health Network steering committee with the Enumclaw Regional Healthcare

Foundation. A long-time senior center volunteer, Ann was instrumental in bringing new senior housing to Buckley, involved in everything from the purchase of the land to the details of the housing complex. She has been a Buckley Fire Department volunteer for many years and serves on the Citizens for a Better Buckley board. In that capacity, she helped get the new fire station on the ballot and was instrumental with the EMS levy. You can visit Ann at the new fire station where she volunteers greeting visitors and answering phones.

Ann is active in the food backpack program at her church, which provides weekend food for children on the free and reduced lunch program in our schools. She is involved in the church quilt group which makes blankets for veterans, quilts for children, the fire department aid car, and WIC, as well as pillowcases for children at Mary Bridge.

Ann Trullinger is a tireless volunteer who is always available to help, especially with projects that benefit the elderly, veterans, and children. A true community champion, Ann makes many valuable contributions to Buckley and encourages those around her to get involved.



John McArtor has been a teacher his entire life, even though he is not certified. Described as a walking book of knowledge and a classic “abstract-sequential” learner, John serves as a volunteer tutor in the White River High School’s Connections Program. He has literally volunteered thousands of hours of service in the last 15 years to this program alone. The program advisors will tell you that he is inspiring, a born leader and a modern Renaissance man with an expansive knowledge of history, art, music and science. His students will tell you about John’s compassion and

magical way with the “differently-abled”.

The Connections program is successful today and will be for years to come because of the commitment of John McArtor. Class projects, dances, movie nights, unified Olympics – John is the connector, the magic that seems to make all things possible.

But that’s not all. John is also a volunteer and valuable asset for the high school’s knowledge bowl team. Attending twice-weekly meetings and often traveling with the team to competitions, John is the resident expert on geography and world events. A perfect combination of education and world travel and experiences, John has brought the team to a whole new intellectual level. He is dedicated, enthusiastic, a role model and a mentor.

Whatever you want to call John McArtor – magical, inspiring, Renaissance man, teacher – he may not have a cape or super powers (well, he actually might have some super powers – that’s still up for debate), but he is indeed a community superhero.



Three years ago, when **Village Tutors** made its home at the Buckley Youth Center, **Bob Howie and Mark Thompson** became champions to White River students. Their passion for making a positive difference for students has been clear from the beginning.

Bob Howie made a personal investment of his time and energy to establish Village Tutors in Buckley, expanding tutoring services in the district, enlisting volunteers, developing a summer math camp, and obtaining resources to create and maintain a computer lab at the Buckley Youth Center. Bob works tirelessly behind the scenes, connecting, planning, seeking resources, and recruiting.

Mark Thompson has also been there since the beginning, volunteering with Village Tutors three evenings per week. Mark not only volunteers as a tutor, he has also served as the interim Youth Center Coordinator. A talented musician, Mark offered his band's services to play at the Buckley Youth Center auction.

There are many, many stories of individual successes from students that Mark & Bob have worked with. Both teachers and parents compliment the work of these dedicated volunteers. But the program goes much deeper than education through tutoring. Bob & Mark treat students with respect, help them get organized, encourage and mentor them.

Village Tutors represents what a small community can do if they work together to help children learn. Mark and Bob make a powerful and positive difference in the lives of children in our community. We are happy that they are part of our village.

Submitted by: Monica Gaub, Co-Facilitator, White River Families First Coalition