



WILLO is a local nonprofit organization for women and girls to connect across generations and other divides to give voice to women's stories from all walks of life. We celebrate all women and girls of any culture, ethnicity, nationality or sexual orientation. As a nonprofit we are respectful of others' views and do not participate in or promote any political position or agenda. We stand for inclusion and respect, and do not tolerate exclusion or discrimination of any sort. WILLO women and girls hold space in lovingkindness for all who come with peace in their hearts.

GREETINGS FROM WILLO BOARD MEMBERS

As we enter the third year of WILLO's women-centered, community-based activities—from our autumn Annual Storytelling Festival, to our winter Health & Happiness Conversation and this spring's debut of the Father-Daughter Brunch—the WILLO Board Members want to thank all of our Founding Members for your support!

Catching up on WILLO news—there have been transitions in the WILLO board, resulting in a few new faces in leadership, along with a renewed determination to achieve our long-term goal of locating a permanent home for the completed stories of Tacoma's featured WILLO women & girls.

There will be exciting news to share about WILLO's future—hopefully in time for the Third Annual WILLO Storytelling Festival scheduled for Sunday, October 9, 2016, 1–3 p.m. at Theater on the Square. We have six amazing women invited as this year's featured storytellers. Ticket information will be available on our website September 1. Tickets are free but you must reserve your place.

On June 12 WILLO held its First Annual Father–Daughter Brunch, attended by 48 community supporters at Annie Wright School. This event brings diverse families together to celebrate the women and men in our lives. Thank you to our co-chairs, Wild Bill Jones and Clay Zhang, for coordinating this year's brunch.

Our team is delighted to share with you that WILLO Board Members personally contributed a grant to Sweet Beets for life-coach Melissa Jorgenson to work with low-income mothers to help them make healthier lifestyle choices for themselves and their families. And—a warm welcome to Melissa's newest family member born in June!

We hope to see you in October at our third annual storytelling festival. We invite you to join us at our monthly meetings and serve on one of our all-volunteer committees. It's a great way to meet new friends and get involved in making Tacoma a more connected community for all. Email willo-tacoma@gmail.com for more information.

WILLO VISION, VALUES & MISSION

The primary purpose of WILLO is to knit together women and girls from all walks of life; to share and celebrate personal stories of wisdom, resilience, strength and compassion; and to act as a catalyst to inspire and engage youth and elders alike.

WILLO as a change-agent in Tacoma

The intimacy and support of traditional "village" intergenerational relationships—once so instrumental in

women's lives, have been replaced by insular communities defined by neighborhoods, race, religion, profession and politics.

WILLO events seek to develop new pathways for re-connecting the missing "synapses" in modern life between generation gaps and cultural stereotypes—and nurturing those personal connections that have historically strengthened our communities.

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Finding common ground through shared stories

The WILLO Storytelling Festival is founded on the belief that story-telling is an ancient and universal communications 'bridge' which can strengthen our community and foster leadership capacity in women and girls from diverse cultures and traditions in Tacoma:

By shining a spotlight on the diverse women who co-create our unique community, WILLO seeks to bring together diverse groups of women and girls—and their fathers, sons and brothers—in dialogue to break down culturally perceived boundaries and foster strong leaders through mentoring and personal relationships.

WILLO members believe...

- Women at all ages and stages in their lives are enriched and supported by learning from each other's traditions, values, struggles and accomplishments.
- Young girls develop self-esteem through personal relationships with successful role models, and conversely, older women re-experience the spontaneity and vibrancy of their youth through meaningful relationships with younger women.

- Development of critical character traits like confidence and self-esteem are life-skill requirements linked to leadership capacity and successful economic independence—skills which are essential for every woman's health and well-being, and which ultimately determine the health and well-being of her entire community.
- Strong, successful women co-create a resilient and more vibrant community.

Each woman—no matter her age or socio-economic circumstances—has a unique story to share with the capacity to shatter cultural stereotypes and create opportunities for deeper understanding and respect: Every woman has experienced a personal moment of triumph or insight in her life that can be shared with others to break down stereotypes, offer encouragement and bridge perceived cultural chasms.

But her story must be shared with others for these changes to occur...

2016 WILLO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Seong Shin, *Principal at McGranahan Architects*

Secretary:

Mary Robnett, *Trial attorney at the Washington State Attorney General's Office*

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Debbie Scoles, *Controller at TAPCO Credit Union*

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Advisor:

Dawn Lucien, *Civic leader for arts, education and waterways*

Senator Rosa Franklin, *First African-American woman elected to the Washington State Senate*