

# Urban Leaders Live



Urban Leaders live a different life...this newsletter will help keep you up to date and in the loop!



October 2013

Volume 1, Issue 2

## Amazing First Month, More to Come!

From relocating or coming back to Tacoma to the first day on the worksite these Urban Leaders in Training members have already started to make their impact on the community. After our weeklong orientation complete with ribbon activities, name games, a volunteer activity and a city tour members had a glimpse into this great city that they will be working within.

Since orientation members have been busy on worksites, in trainings and volunteering. We had our first team volunteer day at the Pierce County AIDS Foundation South Sound Walk. In our weekly training we have been taking a look into contextual leadership and how our views shape how we are able to lead and if that leadership proves to be effective or ineffective. This lens has lead to great discussion revolving around the depths within our city, the way we look at our worksites and the way we look at others.

Urban Leaders in Training have all been working hard on their worksites too! This month members completed over 2400 hours of service! While the first month has

it's bumps in the road these members have not slowed down one bit. From launching and educating people about The Affordable Health Care Act, measuring water quality in streams to spearheading a classroom of high school students and leading afterschool programs this team had exceeded expectations!

The month of October has great things in store with the AmeriCorps Launch in Seattle, great team time, leadership development and continual work onsite, this fall is bound to be a wonderful one for us all!



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## Important Dates

- 10/11 ULT Training at NLF
- 10/18 AmeriCorps Launch in Seattle  
(8:30am-3pm)
- 10/25 ULT Training (location to be announced)
- 10/31 Halloween
- 11/1 NO TRAINING

We will have other social and volunteer events this month as there is a TON going on in the community so keep your eyes peeled for a great email announcing these opportunities.

HUGE Birthday shout out's to Sojje, Bojje and Robert!



## Tacoma Murals Project

The Tacoma Murals Project joins artists and communities through the collaborative process of mural-making to create powerful artworks that can transform public spaces, neighborhood identities, and individual lives.

The project is structured to teach talented adult artists how to work with communities to design and implement high quality murals that are technically and aesthetically successful. Training involves a series of classroom sessions and 'hands-on' experience creating murals with community input. After completion of training workshops, teams of qualified artists, lead by teaching artists, are paired with community groups selected to participate. Each artist team designs and implements a mural that

reflects the stories and content researched from the community. Murals are designed to fight blight and combat vandalism in select neighborhoods in Tacoma.

The community groups are provided with funding to complete a mural, an artist team to implement ideas, technical assistance, and general promotion of the project. In return, the selected community groups assist the artist team through community coordination, input of stories and content, and maintenance of the mural after its completion.

This program is an initiative of the Graffiti Reduction Through Community Based Art team, part of the City of Tacoma's Safe, Clean & Attractive effort.



## Program of the Month— TONE Resource Center

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was authorized by Congress, December 2001, as part of the No Child Left Behind Legislation. The purpose of the McKinney-Vento Act is to remove barriers to education for homeless/transitional students and provide educational stability. The TONE Resource Center helps to do just this.

Who is considered McKinney-Vento eligible? Any child or youth who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence is considered homeless, and includes those who are temporarily sharing housing with others due to loss of housing or economic hardship. It also includes children and youth who are living in hotels, camping grounds, emergency shelters, cars, bus or train stations, or other similar settings, unaccompanied youth, transitional housing

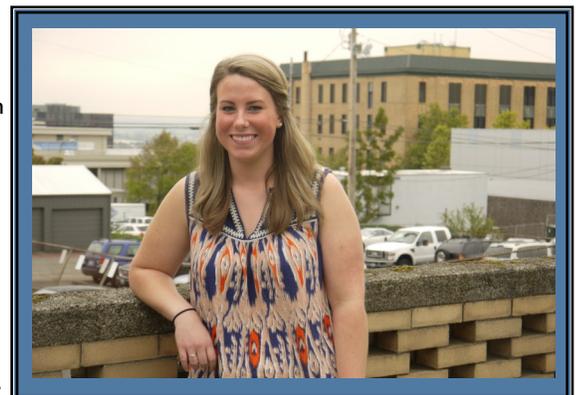
programs and children in foster or temporary placements. If you are not sure if a child qualifies, please call 253.571.6790.



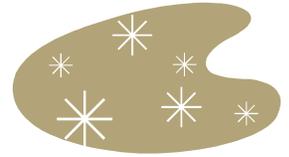
## Caitlin Holland

Caitlin is a Puyallup native but spent the last four years in Walla Walla at Whitman College. She has a huge passion for helping others and golf. Both of which she is able to put to use each day at her worksite with the First Tee of South Puget Sound. In the last week First Tee has held their annual fundraiser as well as moved office locations. Her time in Urban Leaders in Training has been anything but slow.

Throughout orientation Caitlin has stated her desire to become an FBI agent and with all of the great people she will and has met so far this year we all hope this helps get her to her ultimate career goal! Caitlin has been a huge asset to the team this year through her participation in orientation and weekly trainings. We are all excited to see how she helps the First Tee and the great success stories she will have of the youth she is working with.



## National Government Shutdown and You...



So what happens now that a shutdown is in place?

Republicans and Democrats couldn't agree on a spending plan for the fiscal year that started October 1st as they wrangled over Obamacare, leaving federal coffers short.

*Here's a quick Q&A to get you caught up on what happened and what to expect:*

### Why did the government shut down?

Congress has one key duty in the Constitution, pass spending bills that fund the government. If it doesn't, most functions of government: from funding agencies to paying out small business loans and processing passport requests- grinds to a halt. But some services, like Social Security, air traffic control and active military pay, will continue to be funded. Oh, and Congress still gets paid.

### What was the holdup?

House Republicans insist any new spending bill include provisions to defund, derail or otherwise chip away at Obamacare. Senate Democrats are just as insistent that it doesn't.

### How is Obamacare tied to the spending bill?

The health care law isn't directly tied to funding the government, but it's being used as a bargaining chip. A group of Republicans (Tea Party), led by freshman Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, believe the president's signature domestic policy achievement is so bad for the country that it is worth disrupting government funding to undercut it.

### What are some of the objections to Obamacare?

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the actual name of the law, requires all Americans to have health insurance. Opponents say it'll hurt employers and amounts to overreach by the federal government. Some have also criticized the medical device tax that's part of the law, saying that by imposing such a tax, it's basically sending jobs overseas.

### Has this happened before?

Yes, this shutdown is the first since late 1995. That one lasted 21 days, into 1996.

### How many government workers have been furloughed?

Most of the 3.3 million government workers are deemed "essential" -- they'll keep working. But more than 800,000 government employees will sit at home, according to a CNN analysis.

### What will this do to the economy?

**Depends on how long it lasts.** If it's just a few days, the hit might not be severe. But the total economic impact is likely to be at least 10 times greater than the simple calculation of lost wages of federal workers, said Brian Kessler, economist with Moody's Analytics. His firm estimates that a three- to four-week shutdown would cost the economy about \$55 billion.

### How will this affect me?

**In ways big and small.** The mail will continue to come. The military will continue to fight. And Social Security checks will continue to be paid. But if you need a federal loan to buy a house, you'll have to wait. If you want a gun permit or a passport, that won't happen anytime soon.

### Will a shutdown kill Obamacare?

No. Most of the money for Obamacare comes from new taxes and fees, as well as from cost cuts to other programs like Medicare and other types of funding that will continue despite the government shutdown.

### Isn't there another matter -- the debt ceiling?

Ah yes, that's the next battle brewing. Remember that time when you maxed out your credit card? **That's what the debt limit is all about.** The U.S. is on the verge of maxing out its \$16.699 trillion credit card. And the president must ask Congress to raise the country's credit limit.

But the debt ceiling debacle won't come to a head until October 17. Perhaps it's best to deal with one showdown at a time.

