

2014
PARENT
AMBASSADORS
YEARBOOK



Changing parents' lives, one year at a time

"Being a parent ambassador this year has been a life altering experience. It is a wonderful feeling knowing you are needed for a cause. I am black man from the projects of Brooklyn, New York. I grew up in poverty. I grew up not having the education that children in the other areas had. When I was given the title of Parent Ambassador it gave me a mission to fight for my children as well as all children so their lives can turn out different from mine.

Before being a Parent Ambassador, I would have never studied how bills are made or how the political process works. I would have never met with a senator or congressman and told them my story; I would have never thought anybody cared about me. Being a parent ambassador has given me the backbone to stand strong; not only was I taught by WSA how to deliver and approach every situation when fighting for a bill to be passed for Head Start and ECEAP, but also knowing that I have a voice to make a difference in the process and a support system of other Parent Ambassadors to stand with." **Drayton Jackson, 2014 Parent Ambassador**

"Being an immigrant it not easy to work within a new system because you need the right information and more support to navigate the system and be able to utilize the available resources. I have personally gotten exposure to the government system and structure that are related to early learning, federal and state regulations for children's early learning policies. I have gotten a chance to interact with legislators, educators and staff working with our children. The training I have received have turned my life around. I have gained more confidence and developed a strong support group.

There is a lot of self discovery, trust building, encouragement, open opportunities, and linkages. As an end result our children have benefited more because of our advocacy, better parent- children interaction, expansion of opportunity, clear understanding of our roles and obligations with the early learning process. **"Grace Ssebugwawo, 2014 Parent Ambassador**

"I have gained so much confidence from this program. I have found my voice and exercise it when something needs addressed in many different circumstances. I also have a clear vision of where I want my future to go because of the hope I have had restored through this program. " **Cherise Billington-Dalton, 2014 Parent Ambassador**

"Parent Ambassadors has been an amazing experience for me. The training I have received has given me the opportunity to advocate for my children and my community. I have gone from a timid public speaker to one who has learned that my voice is strong in my community. I will be forever grateful to this program." **Juliana Johnson, 2014 Parent Ambassador**

Cherise Billington, Vancouver

Cherise developed quite a bit this year and she consistently reaches out to parents in her community. She is working on the "Our Children Can't Wait" Campaign and as a result of attending the "Crayon Awards" ceremony, she was asked by Sen. Cleveland of the 49th District to be on a parent work group. Head Start has given her so much and has even helped Cherise to learn how to formulate curriculum in her Sunday school class. She is giving to a lot of kids in her community and is hoping that her volunteer work leads to a paid position.

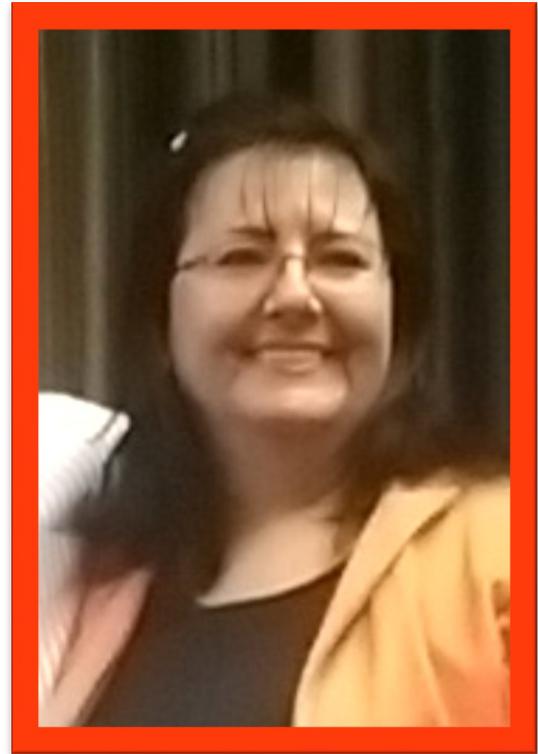


Amber Buckley, Longview

Amber is an elementary school teacher in Longview, WA. Amber is dedicated to making sure that the kids have all of the tools that they need to be successful, so when they show up at her classroom's door, they are ready. Amber is also active in her own kids' lives, helping them with cheer and making time for them outside of her advocacy and teaching. She is dedicated to the kids in her classroom and to the kids of this state and this nation.

Yolanda Herrera, Centralia

Yolanda is a quiet but busy leader for children in our state. Yolanda was unsure of herself and her role as a PA because she felt her English wasn't good and she didn't think it was her place to do this work. Once she got started, she took off. She hosted a visit from her state Senator and was featured in the local newspaper. She collected parent letters that she shared in Olympia and when chosen to go represent PA's in DC, she rounded up parents and took the letters that they wrote and hand delivered them to congress. Anything that we asked her to do, she did.



Samantha (& Deklan) Hummel, Selah



Sam has had a year of growth in many ways...She began her PA year as a mom, with a brand new bundle of joy, Deklan. When she applied to become a PA, she was an AmeriCorps volunteer, and we are proud to say that she completed that this summer. If that wasn't

enough, she moved to a different city and began a new job at PNW, whew! Sam has shown great dedication and passion to all of what she began and completed this year.

Drayton Jackson, Bremerton

In case you didn't notice, Drayton is our one and only father this year...but Drayton is on fire for the PA's. He went to DC earlier this year and came back ignited for all things early learning. He's been very active at KCR and is informing parents at his center about how government works and opportunities for them to get involved. He has also extended a helping hand to parents in his community, who are not connected to services but who need services to help keep them safe.



Julianna Johnson, Sultan



Julianna began the year terrified and in tears when thinking about speaking in front of groups. However, she had a story to tell and with encouragement and support, in this last legislative session, she testified in both the House and the Senate about 12 month authorization for Working Connections Child Care and

why it is so important. She has also become a community leader in Sultan, advocating for facilities and expansion of ECEAP, so that more children can have access to high quality early learning.

Heather McBride, Longview

Heather is another PA that is busy working on change for children with special or unique needs.

When we asked Heather what one of her takeaways is from this year, she said “this program has expanded my views.” Heather has worked with parents in her community to empower and inform them; and while Heather didn't share with us her work in her community, we heard that she is doing it and is doing a great job at it.



Rami Messier, Airway Heights



Rami is very passionate about what she wants for our kids in this state and our nation. She believes that we need to increase the dosage for kids and that Universal Pre-K is needed. She began the year as a stay at home mom and now she is a full time family services worker at her Spokane ECEAP program Rami is a leader and is finding creative ways to advocate for change.

Brittany Kirk, Kirkland

Brittany has been very busy this year volunteering in her children's classroom. She has also written articles for her school's newspaper. Brittany has had some struggles this year but she has come through all of them with that smile we all love! She is continuing to advocate for children with special needs and those who count on her most.



Mayra Lopez, Zillah

Mayra wasn't sure about whether she was a good fit for this program and considered it for a year; well, we are glad that she applied. She has been persistent in reaching out to her legislators and even when they've tried to give her the cold shoulder, she has found ways to continue to reach out to them. Mayra said one of the results of her year as a PA is that she has become a better parent. She now carves out time to spend with her children whether it's playing with them or to helping them study.

Kimberly Mugler, Auburn

Kim is the vice chair of the policy council and liaison to the board at PSESD. Kim (along with others) would love for us to make this a 2 year program, but she knows that in her new found confidence, she is ready to go out and continue to change the world one day at a time. Kim has always kept an open mind, whether it was listening to the opinions of other PA's or learning about new and difficult topics from our trainers.



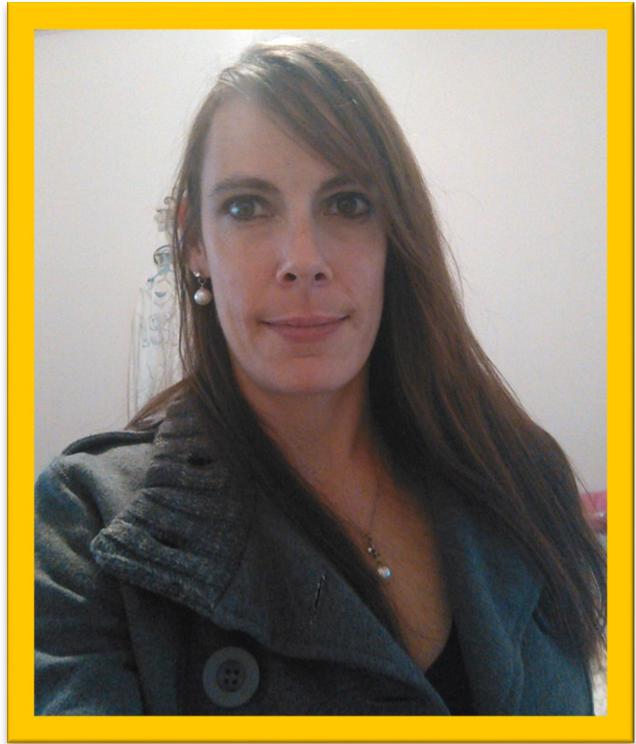
Lynda Popplewell, Tacoma

Lynda is not the same person that she was when she walked in to Dumas Bay back in January. SMART goals helped Lynda be able to track and achieve her goals; and to date - all of what she set out to accomplish, she has. Lynda testified on the foster care bill that became law this year. She has also been working with the Mockingbird Society and has a vision to create a non-profit that helps children who are aging out of foster care to transition. If you need help getting started, we are here to help Lynda!!



Brandi Rigby, Maple Falls

Brandi has been volunteering in the Sedro Woolley school district this past year. She has shared that her Kindergarten teacher was a huge influence on her and helped her get into early education. Brandi has been really busy this year trying to make her dream of living on a self-sustaining farm a reality.



Rayah Rooks, Olympia

Rayah was jaded about our political system and didn't think that her one voice could actually effect change. Now that she has seen how her voice and the collective voice of parents can influence change at the state and federal level, she is hopeful about what can be done in the future for our children. Rayah is not afraid to voice her opinion in a thoughtful, yet sensitive manner, nor is she afraid to ask thought-provoking questions. Rayah welcomed her second daughter in November and we are so happy for her and Mayana.

Marybell Russo, Everett

Marybell has many talents, however, advocacy and baking are our favorites. Marybell immigrated to this country and is so thankful for her ECEAP program. She has a son with unique needs and knows that being a part of ECEAP is a great thing for her family. She met with Rep. Marko Liias to advocate for the children of her community and wants him to keep her son in mind while making decisions for all of our children.



Grace Ssebugwawo, Federal Way



Grace speaks up for what is right, even when it is difficult. She has encouraged other parents to get involved and is always trying to help the next person or parent. After some of the trainings that we did this year, Grace decided to begin a non-profit organization, "Culture Legacy Outreach International" and although she is just getting started, she has 7,642 global likes on its Facebook page. Way to go Grace, we wish you the best on this journey.

Susana Zermeño, Kent

Susana has one child and planned to dedicate a lot of time to the PA program. However, at the 1st face to face, she found that we gave a lot of information and she had to go home and process it all. She learned how to advocate for children on all levels and as result of the Parent Ambassador program she feels that she could only grow by enrolling in school and taking English classes. Susana is planning to continue her advocacy work for all children.



Chelsea Zuniga, Olympia

Chelsea has grown in lots of ways this year, but the one she identified was she made it through this year. She has gone through a year of changes in her personal and professional life, but here she stands. There were many times that presented themselves as opportunities for her to advocate for children, her family, and others in her program and every time it came up, she did it! Chelsea-you survived and you were successful!



First Face to Face



Advocacy Day, Olympia



Summer Institute, Ellensburg



Fall Conference, Pasco



Washington D.C.



2013 Parent Ambassadors



Sonja Lennox, John Jones, Victoria Hilt, Kayle Troester, Marciela Rodrigez, Emma Chapman, Cecilia Smith, Lori Pittman, Stephanie Bare, Rebecca Boyer, Rebecca Nielsen, Crystal Garvin, Jen-nir Ross, Betuel Gonzalez, Nicole Gonzales, Ginger Finau, Terra Luff, Martha Banda, Benjamin Parrish, Kyleess Crouch, Benjamin Smith, Guyanthy Parramore, Bianca Bailey

2012 Parent Ambassadors



Martha Chavez , Tiffanie Coe, Carine Crooks, Jamie Devries, Nicole Erickson, Natasha Fecteau, Sarita Garibay, Crystal Garvin, Nicole Gonzalez, Trena Haywood, Sarah Hogan, Leslie Horn, Consuelo, Jimenez Erika Lopez, Nicole Matthews, Maryan Miae, Shaena Nelson, Jennifer Ross, Leanna Stevenson, Dezarie Taylor, Jacquelyn Wolcott

2011 Parent Ambassadors



Stephanie Bates, Jennifer DeHaan, Catrina Dodson, Rebecca Gallegos, Sam Gallegos, Angelica Gonzalez, Lisa Grenia , Sonja Lennox, Shawna Macagba, John McClure, Amanda Meirndorf, Eula Motelet, Daralyn Nichols , Amanda Pope, Jessica Powers, Misti Shapansky, Surina Warren-Nash, DesiRae Zabel

2010 Parent Ambassadors



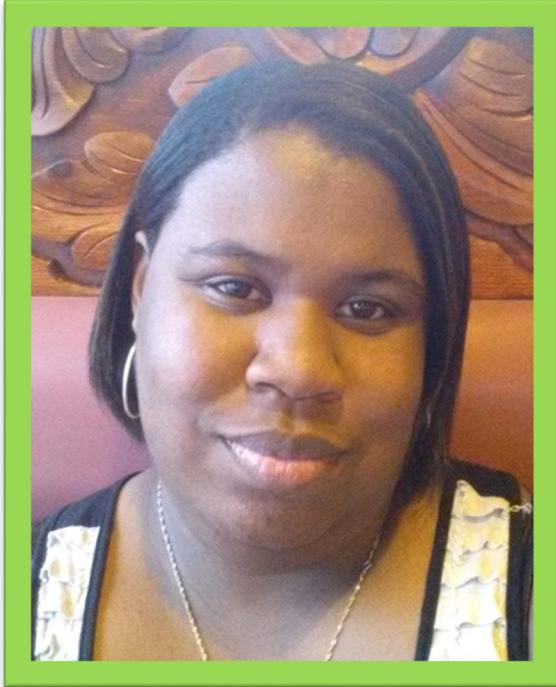
Stephenie Browne, Immaculate Ferreria-Allah, James McBride, Rachelle Ensor, Gloria Fortune, Elizabeth Grillett, Kendra Gunion, Lorie Kavaklian, Tamara Long, Brian Rose, Lisa Sullivan, April White, Robb Atherton, Tiffany Simkins, April Ritter, Wayne Ueda

2009 Parent Ambassadors



Kylee Allen, Keith Angotti, Bianca Bailey, Mary Braae, Cecily Dilworth, Heather Gerrard, Taфра Jones, Lucy Kee, Brandy Larsen, Maria 'Goretti' Manzo-Kittelson, Carmella Martin, David McCormick, Sara Pearl, Melody Quinn, Lizandra Sandoval, Stephanie Scherling, Mandie Swainston, Connie Woodhouse,

Parent Ambassador Coordinator Team



Bianca Bailey



Maricela Rodriguez



Sonja Lennox

Kylee Crouch

Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP Staff & Partners



Joel Ryan
Executive Director



Katy Warren
Deputy Director



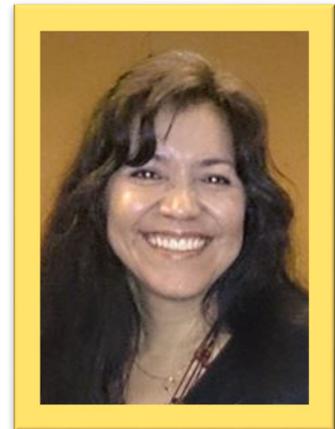
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Parent Ambassador Project
Manager



Hana Gregory
Project Manager



Devin Stubblefield,
Financial Advisor



Claudia Wong,
Interpreter



**Heather Kawamoto, Racial
Equity Trainer**

Peppercorn Foundation

We express our sincere gratitude to the Peppercorn Foundation for investing in parents across the state of Washington for the last six years. Thanks to Peppercorn, we have had several bills passed that make the state and the country a stronger, better place for children and families. We have seen so much growth from parents that have gone through our Parent Ambassador program. Many of them have gone on to become stronger advocates in their communities, serve on committees and boards, and in positions of leadership. Without the grant that you provide, this may not have happened and so with sincere gratitude we say thank you for changing parents' lives one year at a time.



THANK YOU!!!



WSA WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF
HEAD START & ECEAP

Parent Ambassadors

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