

COMMUNITY ADVOCATE

Jennifer Leach



4H State
Equine Program

Jennifer Leach is no stranger to Longview. Born and raised here, she graduated from Mark Morris High School and went to college at LCC. She finished her education at WSU Pullman, receiving her BS in Animal Science and Masters in Adult Education. Sports played a major role throughout her academic career; Jennifer held the high jump record at Mark Morris from 1971-1984, and was competitive in Track & Field, Basketball, Volleyball, and Tennis through high school and college. She even participated on the Women's Rodeo team, which qualified for the National College finals! Her love for animals, particularly horses, as well as people, brought her back to her native Longview, where she's been playing an integral role in making a positive difference in hundreds of lives, working with numerous local organizations as a catalyst for positive change in our community.

Jennifer has spent the last 33 years working for the WSU Extension 4-H Program, focusing on youth development and families in the statewide assignment for the 4-H State Equine Program. She also oversees the Strengthening Families program for Cowlitz County. One of Jennifer's most meaningful endeavors includes her role with Youth After Hours (1994-2004), a joint effort of several agencies coming together to provide after school programming at Wallace, St Helen's, and Kessler Elementary schools. This program received national recognition, including accolades from the National Recreation & Parks Association. Jennifer was also involved in the Mayors Task Force on Youth, which assisted with the creation of our local Skate Parks. Jennifer is on her 22nd year as a Longview School Board member, is active on the Health & Human Services Advisory Board, the Children's Museum Board, and is an Early Edition Rotary member. Thanks to Jennifer's passion and vision, Longview Parks and Recreation has been able to collaborate with WSU 4-H Extension Office and the Rotary club to provide a free summer meals program at Archie Anderson Park for the past 4 summers.



Food for Thought 2017 -
Archie Anderson

Most importantly, Jennifer is a mother of two sons and a proud grandma of two grandchildren. Her recreation is working, volunteering, helping take care of her grandchildren and her two horses Scooby and Sugar. She is a strong believer in the value of afterschool programs and says they are essential in our community. She encourages us all to spend quality time with kids, not just our own, and that's how we can make a difference.

Congratulations and thank you Jennifer Leach, for being a playmaker for the "good" in our community!