

COMMUNITY ADVOCATE AWARD 2017

We love our community advocates! They inspire us every day with their passion and commitment to make Longview a better place!

**Do you know someone that enhances the quality of life for the residents of Longview?
If so, we want to hear from you - email us at rec@mylongview.com**

RECIPIENT: BECKY BERNHARDT



Becky Bernhardt has 4 biological sons, 2 step-sons, and 10 grandchildren. She worked in retail for 20 years, and drove a Hostess bread truck delivering snacks for 15 years. She has been a Para-educator for the Kelso School District and worked at Lifeworks for over 7 years. Becky cares for 5 clients that have developmental disabilities and provides weekly respite.

Community Involvement:

Becky has been a coach for Special Olympics for over 20 years. She oversees fundraisers and special programs for the athletes. Becky's heart is with these athletes. Over the years she has helped the program continue to grow. Becky says, "It is a blessing to watch each person grow athletically but most important socially. I have been through ups and downs in my life time and it was these special individuals with their commitment to not only Special Olympics but friendship that helped me through. As long as I can mentally and physically be a part of the Special Olympics I will."

Becky started volunteering with Parks and Recreation in as a teenager with the Therapeutic program. Becky became involved with Special Olympics and the Therapeutic program because of her brother who had special needs and the mentality of a child. She always took care of him and took him everywhere she went.

"He was my gift from God... He taught me compassion and how to truly love. He also taught my sons - who also help others with special needs. My grandchildren never had the chance to meet Wayne (my brother) who passed away almost 15 years ago, but I make sure they learn about special needs by taking them to Special Olympic events and practices."

Becky says that she could go on and on about Special Olympics because of her passion for it. This makes it easier to volunteer so much of her time.

Recreation Pursuits:

Becky's favorite part of living in Longview is the caring people who live here - pulling together to give each other a helping hand. She is thankful to the many organizations that bring the community together - Longview Parks and Recreation, Youth & Family Link, and YMCA.

Becky loves to fish, attend her grandchildren's sporting events, and spend the weekends with her grandchildren. She says her favorite time is the time she spent with them.

Favorite Park:

Becky's favorite park is Lake Sacajawea, specifically the playground at Martin's Dock!

Congratulations and thank you Becky, we are thankful to have you in the Longview Community!