

2025

NORTHEAST
COMMUNITY
CENTER  ZONE

ANNUAL
REPORT



509.487.1603 

4001 N Cook St, Spokane, WA 99207 

www.necommunitycenter.com 

www.thezonespokane.org 

Together, We did This.

649

Animals Served at



996

vaccine clinic appointments with NEWSNA

131,952

Units of Service



2,530

Volunteer Hours



2,044

Tax Returns Completed

2,196

Hours of Free Room Rentals



1,076

Coats 4 Kids



6,119

Students Served

5,882

Families Served

208,192

Hours of Youth programming

55,028

Hours of Adult programming



THE ZONE

216

Community Partners

2025 Annual Awards



Resident of the Year

Gydance Brown

For six years, **Gydance Brown** has volunteered through The ZONE, supporting families and connecting neighbors to resources. As a four-year member of the **ZONE Resident Steering Committee**, she gathers youth feedback, leads school listening sessions, and helps guide funding priorities. Gydance acts on what she hears, volunteering regularly with **Second Harvest** to address food insecurity. She has served twice on the **Chase Youth Commission**, traveled to Olympia for equitable education advocacy, and earned the **2024 United Way Emerging Philanthropist Award**. She graduates in 2026 with a high school diploma and AA degree. She will attend Whitworth University to study psychology and behavioral health.



Agency of the Year

Spokane Colleges Head Start & ECEAP

Spokane Colleges Head Start & ECEAP partners closely with NECC/ZONE to support children and families in Northeast Spokane. NECC/ZONE recently became a Community Representative on the **Head Start Policy Council**, strengthening local collaboration. Family Services Coordinators frequently visit the ZONE to **connect families with resources**, share program flyers, and encourage families to participate in community events. Through these efforts, Head Start & ECEAP help families access educational programs, wellness opportunities, and neighborhood activities, **building stronger connections and fostering a supportive, engaged community across Northeast Spokane.**



Partner of the Year

If You Could Save Just One

If You Can Save Just One is a youth serving non-profit creating a safe, engaging third space for youth to feel seen, valued, and supported, while exploring their potential and building community. Located within the **Hillyard Neighborhood**, Just One has been a ZONE partner from its inception, engaging youth furthest from opportunity through mentorship and **after-school/summer programming** activities for youth and their families. Just One also provides local resources and support for parents and caregivers, navigating community programs in Spokane.



Looking Back



As I look back on my time at the Northeast Community Center, I am filled with pride, deep gratitude, and a touch of sadness after retiring from 35 years of servant leadership. Serving as Executive Director for the past nine years was an incredible privilege, and I am thankful to the Board of Directors, staff, partners, and, most importantly, the residents who made this work meaningful.

Together, we navigated challenges, celebrated milestones, and strengthened NECC as a trusted community resource.

For more than 43 years, the Northeast Community Center has served low- to moderate-income families across ten neighborhoods in Northeast Spokane. Guided by resident voice, a dedicated Board, and a small but mighty staff, the Center has remained true to its founding vision of improving quality of life and expanding opportunity for our neighbors. I was fortunate to build on the foundation laid by those who came before me, from the grassroots efforts that opened the Center's doors in 1982, to the leadership of Bill Dillon and the passion and expertise Jean Farmer brought to this work.

Leadership is not just about directing work; it is about cultivating an environment where people and ideas can grow while remaining grounded in mission and adaptable to change. When I joined NECC in 2017, I inherited a well-tended garden, and it was an honor to help steward its continued growth. I have full confidence in NECC's future and in the leadership guiding its next chapter. Jene brings a deep commitment to listening to community voice and supporting self-sufficiency, and she will lead the Board and staff forward with clarity, purpose, and a strong balance of strategy and innovation.

To our Board and staff: you are the heart of NECC, and your dedication and care have driven its success. To the community we serve: thank you for trusting us with your voices and partnership. To our partners and donors: your belief in this mission has made the work possible and strengthened not just our neighborhoods, but our entire city.

While this chapter has closed for me, my support for NECC remains strong. I am grateful for the opportunity, the lessons, and the relationships we shared, and I look forward to all that lies ahead for this remarkable organization.

Sincerely,

Dave Richardson

Executive Director
2016-2025

Leading Forward



I'm excited to step in as our next Executive Director of NECC, assuring we are mission focused as a community resource and connection hub here supporting thriving neighborhoods in Northeast Spokane. While I have been overseeing our resident facing programs through The ZONE for years, being steward of this building and our agency partners, and continuing to adapt our Center to the current needs of our neighbors, is a very meaningful charge.

Whether you are interested in community gardening, mentoring youth, lending a professional skill, crafting with seniors, improving your own employment opportunities, increasing youth mental health, developing leadership skills, finding free local youth programs, or meeting new neighbors (plus a bazillion other things)- you've come to the right place! We welcome residents, community, business, and civic partners to join us. Please reach out and sign up to receive the partner and/or resident newsletters. Community is our solution.

Warmly,

Jene Ray

Executive Director
2026





The Northeast Community Center is a hub for resources, support, and connection in Northeast Spokane. We help children, youth, and adults thrive by addressing social, health, economic, and educational needs through direct services, programs, and events, as well as partnerships with local agencies. As both a **Family Resource Center** and a **Financial Opportunity Center**, we provide opportunities for growth, learning, and community connection.

Board of Directors



Eric Owens
President - 2026



Mackenzie DeGon
Vice President - 2026



Betty J. Craipo
Secretary



Matt Sonderen
Treasurer



Sean Bresnahan



Eric Christiansen



Dr. Brian Davenport



Jarren Long



Alvaro Figueroa
President - 2025



Holly Renga



Jasmin Davis

New Member Spotlight:

Jasmin Davis is a Hillyard resident, new board member, 2024 Leadership Spokane participant, and works at Eastern Washington University. She's part of LaunchNW's All It Takes Is One committee and recently hosted a fall movie night at Wildhorse Park with hot chocolate, candy, and popcorn to bring neighbors together. She's excited to keep building community connections next year.

Our board members bring their time, expertise, and passion to support The NECC & ZONE beyond meetings. Board members contribute in many ways—for example, Jarren helps with IT, Alvaro supports youth sport access, Mackenzie leads website design and outreach, Betty shares her knowledge at community programs like financial aid and essential skills, and Holly volunteers at every event while mentoring students at On Track Academy. Every member's dedication, in their own way, helps make everything we do possible.

Resident Steering Committee

Resident Steering Committee members meeting to create action strategies in their neighborhood.



Members

Allonda Brown
 Angel Troutt
 Achilles Ferguson *
 Amanda Randall
 Ben Walker
 Charles Hanson
 Daniela Garcia *
 Erika Barba Laredo
 Gydance Brown *
 Jeff Braunschweig
 Kate Clementich
 Laura Johnson

Lavonnie Mcmanus
 Lorraine Holokai
 Maia Jaffe
 Marsha Valenzuela
 Mandie Norman
 Pat Casteneda
 Peggy Haun-McEwen
 Sawyer Randall *
 Holly Renga
 Tienaya Godes
 Wednesday Adams *
 *youth members

2025-2026 Priorities

Youth and adults are centered in all priorities to create intergenerational impact. Mental health is a core focus throughout, recognizing its essential role in long-term stability, well-being, and community resilience.



Employment

Increasing access to career pathways, skills development, and opportunities that support economic mobility and long-term employment success for residents.



Community Belonging

Strengthening neighborhood connections, access to resources, and community safety so residents feel supported, included, and empowered. Central to this priority is building meaningful relationships and neighborhood connectivity.



Life Skills

Providing practical tools and resources that strengthen independence, well-being, and readiness for life transitions across all ages.



Allonda Brown with her team at MOD Pizza & Holly Renga Volunteering at the annual Beef Counts Distribution with Second Harvest at NECC.



August Retreat

NECC Agency Partners



Manzanita House



Announcements



2025 Bank of America Neighborhood Builder



NECC/The ZONE was recognized as the 2025 Bank of America Neighborhood Builder. This designation comes at a meaningful moment during our leadership transition, providing access to **leadership development** and a **national peer network of nonprofit leaders**, along with resources that help us continue supporting families, youth, and neighborhoods across Northeast Spokane.

We are grateful to Bank of America for investing in our community and helping NECC/The ZONE continue its work in **workforce training, youth development, and neighborhood engagement**.

Jeans Beans is Open!



Our Jean's Beans Coffee Shop (named after Jean Farmer) is now open, offering hands-on training and work experience through a partnership with **Career Path Services**. The shop was launched under the leadership of **Amanda Randall**, a dedicated case manager with The ZONE for the past two years, whose welcoming personality and commitment to mentorship created a strong foundation for participants. In 2025, we welcomed our first four individuals into the program. One participant, Beth, has since transitioned into a leadership role as the coffee shop manager, demonstrating the program's impact in **developing skills, growing confidence, and building career pathways**.

Spotlight: Nourishing Our Neighbors



NECC works year-round to ensure families and seniors in Northeast Spokane have access to food. In September, our **Beef Counts** distribution with **Second Harvest** and the WA State Beef Commission provided **12,473 meals**.

Twice a week, donations from WinCo and Costco help support local seniors, beyond the hot lunch provided by HSC. We also partner with the **Hillyard Community Campus** and Second Harvest, running weekly distributions at rotating schools, and when the schools are unable to host, NECC/ZONE steps in to keep food available for the community. Through these efforts we help reduce food insecurity and keep Northeast Spokane nourished.

Creating Space for Families

Family Nights, co-hosted with the **NEST Coalition**, welcomed nearly 400 participants engaged across three events, offering hands-on activities, shared meals provided by **NEWTech Prep**, and opportunities for families to connect. Generous partners and volunteers helped make each night special.

Paint & Snack



Families explored their creativity with canvases and paints, while laughing, sharing ideas, and proudly showing off their finished artwork. By the end of the night, families left with painted creations and shared memories of time spent together.

Garden Party



Families planted seeds and received starter plants from WSU Snap-Ed, while enjoying crafts and outdoor activities like axe throwing hosted by Special Mobility Services. Volunteers from the Junior League of Spokane supported activities, helping families create something to grow at home and connect with their neighbors.

Pajama Party



The largest Family Night featured crafts, games, and treats. Every child received a toy, plushy, toothbrush and filled goodie bag, thanks to Bank of America, Christ Our King Church, Embrace Washington, Project Beauty Share, and NEST, while families celebrated together in a festive, fun-filled evening.



509

Toys Distributed to NE Families



587

Waterbottles & Lunchboxes from Zak! Designs Distributed to NE Families



10K+

Schools Supplies Items distributed to NE Families



50

Community Partners connected to NE Residents

Growing Community Connections

Once a month during the market season, NECC/ZONE hosted boosted Street Fairs sponsored by **Wellpoint** during the **Hillyard Farmer's Market**, bringing neighbors together with **activities, legal aid, resources, and food**. In 2025, events included **Kickstart to Summer**, an **Employment and Education Market** with a firetruck and Italian sodas in ZONE Color Changing Cups, a **Back to School Fair** distributing over 10,000 **school supplies** and offering **health services**, and **School & Beyond**, featuring a space-themed scavenger hunt and giveaways. Legal aid from **Inland Empire Legal Aid** or the **Sandy Williams Justice Center** was available at each event. On average, **355 residents attended** each fair, connecting with community partners and enjoying hands-on fun. Thank you **URM** for keeping neighbors hydrated at all of these hot events.



Youth Wellness

The Youth Wellness Zone (YWZ) is a student-driven initiative centering youth voice as its guiding force to strengthen collective responsibility for youth wellness. The YWZ model aligns partners and leverages deep neighborhood engagement with youth driven strategies to promote youth mental health and wellness locally in both the built and social environments.



Visionary Artist: Rilee Bennett
Design Artist: Adrian Erian



Chase Youth Awards



The YWZ students won the **Environmental Champion Teen Group Award** for their research and advocacy on climate change. **Wednesday Adams** received the **Judges' Choice Individual Award** for her outstanding advocacy in youth mental health.



From Classroom to Capitol

Youth-led means students **name the problems, design the solutions,** and **lead outreach** to gather community, business, and lawmaker support. While our OTA Wellness class may not have realized where this would lead—they took a breath, prepared their thoughts, got in the van, and drove to present to legislators on the **Senate Human Needs committee**. For 20 minutes, they shared priorities, including how important funding **988** is for suicide prevention, **support for reducing wildfire risk,** and how **accessible parks** positively impact **youth mental and physical health**. Students then went from legislative office to legislative office, holding meetings with legislators to share how they can contribute to our state's youth wellness.

Schoolyard Forest



The On Track Academy schoolyard forest on the Hillyard Community Campus is officially open to encourage forest bathing. Students found that being outside lowers heart rate, blood pressure, and stress.

Showcases

Students showcased their work at City Hall, **connecting with the mayor, city council members, and community leaders.** They shared their perspectives on the issues that matter most to them, sparking meaningful conversations about **youth priorities and community needs.**

They also led a session at the **End the Violence Conference** sponsored by **SRDVC**, focusing on mental health awareness and strategies to support themselves and their peers.

2025-2026 Youth Priorities

1. **Safety & Safe Spaces**
 - o Safe & clean sidewalks and streets
 - o Safe & clean parks for outdoor activities
 - o Housing & community resources
 - o Safety at the bus stop, on the bus, and walking to school
2. **Physical Health**
 - o Increase in free recreational activities for youth ages 6-18
 - o Increase access to nutritious food
 - o Decrease youth vaping & drug use
 - o Resources that support self-care & hygiene
3. **Mental Health & Wellbeing**
 - o Reduce stigma around mental health
 - o Peer-to-peer mental health support
 - o Education on coping skills, healthy relationships, & suicide prevention
4. **Community Connection**
 - o Free neighborhood & community gatherings in real life
 - o Connecting youth with community mentors
 - o Arts enrichment for all ages
 - o Free indoor recreational space
5. **Employment & Life Skills**
 - o Biannual community youth employment fairs & networking opportunities
 - o Supportive work environments for emerging professionals
 - o Classes for personal finance education, cooking, and more

Zilch Distribution



YWZ students distributed fresh produce from Second Harvest every other week during the school year and through the summer, providing healthy food to peers, families, and seniors while reducing food waste.



Thank you to one of our 2025-2026 sponsors:



Spokane Tribe of Indians



See the full story of Year 1—scan to watch!



Adult Learning

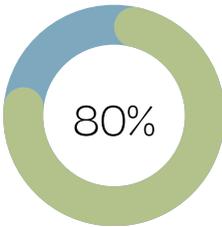
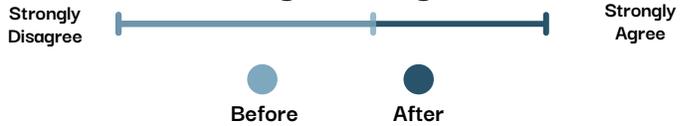
55,028 Hours of ZONE Adult programming



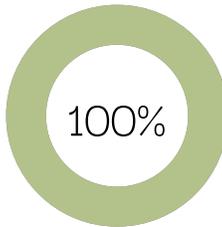
Essential Skills 2025 Cohort

“The most inspirational part of Essential Skills was knowing myself better and what makes me successful through all my experiences in real life. Through my experiences and struggles, I have grown as a better version of me.”

I can describe my emotional and interpersonal intelligence strengths.



continue case management by The ZONE to support their goals.



Have goals/plans to attend or finish school.



Mock Interviews at Gonzaga University



Participant Vision Board

“I never in a million years thought that my 5-year goal would be to buy my own house.”

I can build credit and manage my monthly budget.



Kalolaine Powell · 3rd+
Esthetician Student at International Beauty Education Center
12h · 🌐

I'm so excited to share—starting in just under a month, I'll be a beauty school student specializing in esthetics! Between being a mom of three and working part-time, the beginning of this chapter is feeling like a challenge. I also feel blessed to start a new journey and show my kids that it's never too late, but the sooner you start chasing your dreams, the longer you get to live them.

For years, I put off going back to school after graduating high school 9 years ago. But thanks to the 6-week Essential Skills class through [Gonzaga University](#), [The ZONE Spokane](#), and [Catholic Charities Eastern Washington](#), I finally took the leap. I learned about resources I never knew existed, filled out my first FAFSA, applied to schools, and received student aid.

A special thank you to [Emily Shiraishi](#)—your encouragement, love, and knowledge inspired me every step of the way. I'm so grateful our paths crossed.

Let's always chase our dreams—no matter our age, how many kids we have, or how long you've been blessed to be a hard working, stay-at-home mother. Advocate for yourself, reach for the stars, and above all—be kind.

👍 4 7 comments



“ Essential Skills opened me to all the things I have to offer and helped me find a direction that I want to share with the world around me. I can finally see the worth and value of what I do have to offer and apply these things to a career. ”



I AM BECOMING...

“I am becoming a better version of me.”

“I am becoming more confident and educated.”

“I am becoming the best version of myself. I want to be myself and confidently me.”

“I am becoming the woman that I can be proud of. I've never felt like I've been making it. I feel like I'm becoming who I want to be and showing my kids that its never too late.”

“I am becoming someone my children will be proud of.”



Essential Skills Participants volunteering at Mission Community Outreach Center



Cassie on the right alongside her former teacher and lifelong mentor.

Meet Cassie

In the Essential Skills class, Cassie included a story about a lifelong mentor in her final I AM Poem presentation, reflecting on her growth and insights:

"She saw a woman worth saving long before I believed she existed. Today, I am still fighting to become the person she always knew I could be, and I'm only standing because she chose to be the anchor when I was drifting away."

At graduation, she shared her I AM Poem with this teacher in the audience—alongside her own children—celebrating her growth.

Emily Shiraishi, facilitator of the Essential Skills program, noted: “From the first day of Essential Skills, Cassie showed up authentically and invested in every part of the class. Even in moments that required vulnerability, she stepped into her power—not only for herself, but for her family.” Through the program, she strengthened her **emotional intelligence, confidence, relationship-building, parenting skills, and career readiness.**

Since completing the program, she has continued her journey through **The ZONE Economic Mobility Case Management**, gaining employment as a **Crisis Response Peer Specialist**, and has now been elected **President of the Head Start Policy Council.** Cassie reflects the power of mentorship and skill-building to help women grow in their careers, families, and communities.

24/7 Dad Class

Through partnership with the **Spokane Fatherhood Initiative**, more than 30 families experienced the impact of a **loving, present father** this year.

Fathers overcoming homelessness, isolation, and deeply difficult moments found **stability, connection, and renewed purpose**, strengthening not only themselves, but their families and the NE Spokane community at the Northeast Community Center/ZONE.



Economic Mobility

This year, The ZONE launched the Economic Mobility Program, following our successful Housing Stability Program. The mission is to foster **financial mobility, independence, and confidence** through comprehensive support services, including: employment supports, education supports, benefits cliff navigation, financial coaching, peer support & advocacy, and wrap-around case management.

81

Total Case Managed Individuals

97%

of participants are of low income households

27

Individuals Secured Employment

3

Individuals Launched their own businesses

11

Individuals enrolled in GED or ESL classes at SCC

Two Generations, One Journey



Erika Barba Laredo and her daughter **Daniela Garcia** exemplify the **multigenerational impact** of The ZONE. Through personalized case management, programs, and community connections, both have grown in **stability, leadership, and opportunity**, while also giving back to Northeast Spokane.

Erika began her journey with The ZONE by enrolling in the Essential Skills class, recommended by her case manager, Lavonnie. **“I have seen myself grow thanks to my case manager believing in me,” Erika shared. “The Life Skills Class really changed my career and what I wanted to do in life.”** Through ongoing case management, The ZONE supported Erika in achieving employment at **Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP)**, navigating personal challenges, including a medically necessary surgery, and pursuing professional growth, along with completing a **Certification as a Medical Interpreter**.

Building on her mother’s momentum, Daniela, a single mother with **entrepreneurial vision**, pursued opening a dessert mini-pancake food trailer. With guidance from The ZONE and partner **Safety Net Inland Northwest**, she navigated permits, business planning, and renovations. Her trailer will debut in 2026 at the Northeast Community Center as a launch spot, creating a joyful gathering spot and financial independence for her family. **Daniela shared, “This journey has strengthened my belief in my abilities, taught me to overcome challenges, and motivated me to continue working toward building a better future for myself and my family.**



Daniela and Lavonnie, her case manager, at her mini-pancake trailer.

Both Erika and Daniela now serve on **The ZONE Resident Steering Committee**, lending their lived experiences to shape programs while gaining access to trainings, certificate programs, and community connections.

More Than a First Job

For many **youth 16+**, employment isn't just about extra spending money, it's about helping support their families. Some contribute financially to household expenses, while others balance work with caring for younger siblings.

With limited job options, many young people struggle to find employers willing to invest in emerging professionals. Our Economic Mobility team helps bridge that gap, **connecting youth to supportive, responsible workplaces** while **prioritizing education** and building the skills and confidence that **create long-term stability**.

100%

of participants have a career path plan

100%

of participants have a household budget

39%

Increase in financial stability confidence

Language. Trust. Connection.

Arash Baha strengthens our Economic Mobility Program by offering case management in **Farsi/Dari, Pashto, Hindi, Urdu, and Punjabi**, expanding access for Northeast Spokane's **refugee and immigrant families**. Motivated by his own journey, Arash is committed to helping others navigate challenges and **build opportunities with confidence**.



TO THIS DATE

\$633,524

Distributed to Case Managed Families contributing to Housing Stability and Economic Mobility

THANKS TO THE ZONE I'M ABLE TO PUT MY DREAMS INTO REALITY. THEY HELPED ME PAY BILLS AND PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE WHILE I ATTENDED AN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM. IF IT WASN'T FOR A PROGRAM LIKE THE ZONE, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO THAT. I GRADUATED TOP OF MY CLASS.

-Neddy Testifying at a Spokane City Council meeting on behalf of medical benefits, Aug 25, 2025



Neddy at Graduation

Meet Neddy

When Neddy shared her dream of becoming an ironworker, The ZONE walked alongside her every step of the way- through case management and connection to a rigorous pre-apprenticeship program. In partnership with **Construct a Career**, she gained **hands-on training** in welding, structural ironwork, and safety. It opened the door to a pathway that offers long-term stability and opportunity.

Neddy approached the program with determination and resilience, becoming the first graduate of her cohort with **Iron Workers Local 14** and the only woman to complete it. Her hard work paid off; she is now employed as an ironworker, earning \$10 more per hour than in her previous job.

While she was completing the program, The ZONE provided targeted support to help her family remain stable. Assistance with housing, essential expenses, and transportation ensured she could **focus fully on training without the weight of an immediate financial crisis**. That stability made it possible for her to stay committed to the program and complete it successfully. Today, Neddy and her family are building a stronger future with renewed confidence.

Youth Programming

Through ZONE partner programs, after-school activities, summer adventures, and family events like school carnivals, students find **connection, confidence, and reasons to show up for school and each other**. They try new skills, build friendships, and discover passions that make learning feel more engaging and possible. These programs give every student a chance to feel supported and seen.

Embedded staff in 11 ZONE schools, through partnerships with Spokane Public Schools and Communities in Schools, provide mentorship and lead programs for students and families. As site-based resource navigators, they also connect students and families to ZONE programming and events. Students engaged in this after-school programming have **fewer** behavioral incidents in school, **increased** social-emotional scores (growth mindset and self-management), and **improved** attendance compared to peers. The ZONE also supports youth programming through community-based organizations, and with both models, provided **208,192 hours of programming** this year.

15%

Overall increase in ZONE Family Engagement



43%

Attendance Improvement for students with moderate-severe attendance



90%

Increase in family engagement activities within afterschool programming



23

ZONE Funded Youth Serving Partners

A student who was usually disengaged became fully involved during science club—testing ideas, redesigning his project, and proudly sharing his work with his family. The next time they were at school, he introduced them to me.

-CIS Student Support Coordinator Logan Elementary School



ZONE Schools with Embedded Staff:

- Bemiss Elementary
- Cooper Elementary
- Lidgerwood Elementary
- Logan Elementary
- Regal Elementary
- Stevens Elementary
- Garry Middle School
- Shaw Middle School
- Lumen High School
- On Track Academy
- Rogers High School



Two amazing CIS student support coordinators supporting their school's families at the ZONE Street Fairs

- Communities in Schools Northeast WA
- Girl Scouts of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho
- Girls on the Run Spokane County
- Gonzaga University
- Hillyard Farmer's Market
- If You Could Save Just One
- Inland Northwest Youth Boxing
- KSPS PBS
- Light a Lamp
- Manzanita House
- Northeast Support Team (NEST) Coalition
- Northeast Youth and Family Services
- Northeast Youth Center
- Refugee and Immigrant Connections Spokane
- Skyhawks Rise
- Slingshot
- SPARK Central
- Spokane Hoopfest Association
- Strong Women Achieving Greatness SWAG
- Spokane Public Schools
- Spokane Youth Sports Association
- Ubuntu Fly Anglers Network (iFishiBelong)
- Youth for Christ

What does it mean to be a ZONE Kid?

Hayley began attending ZONE-funded summer programs at **Regal Elementary** in 2017 alongside her siblings, and remained connected through high school with support from ZONE partners like **Slingshot** and **College Success Foundation**. Hayley graduated from Rogers High School with **strong grades, involvement in sports, and big dreams for her future**.

Through **QuestBridge**, she became one of just 8% of applicants nationwide to earn a **full-ride scholarship to Wellesley College in Massachusetts**. Having never left our community or been on a plane, The ZONE funded travel for Hayley and her dad to visit campus for the first time and get familiar with the area. Now in her first year of college, Hayley is navigating life independently – managing classes, building community, and mastering public transportation in a new city. **Being a ZONE kid means growing up with support, and knowing it doesn't end at graduation.**



Manzanita House



Manzanita House offers **year-round Spanish, Arabic, and Pashto/Dari Heritage Language Programs** at the Northeast Community Center, giving kids a safe space to connect with their language, culture, and peers. The classes help children continue their parents' first language, strengthen family connections, and celebrate cultural heritage. Mothers can join **Women's Teatimes** at the same time, creating a shared community experience.

Looking the Part



Yasuhara Middle School's cheer team can now take the spotlight in **new cheerleading uniforms**, giving students a chance to represent their school with confidence and pride. Before the uniforms, students attended parades, competitions, and events in t-shirts and shorts. Having proper uniforms not only lets the team look their best but also creates a **stronger sense of belonging and school spirit**, helping students feel proud of themselves and their school.

SYSA



Spokane Youth Sports Association offers sports camps and activities to promote **mental and physical health**. Their approach prioritizes **youth connection, engagement, and confidence** over competition and winning. Through ZONE partnership, SYSA offers after-school programs at **Bemiss, Cooper, Lidgerwood, Regal, and Stevens Elementaries**, in addition to special events at other ZONE schools and in community spaces. SYSA remains committed to fostering positive experiences that youth will remember for years to come.

Hoopfest



The ZONE supported **10 Hoopfest teams** this year in partnership with **MultiCare**. We delivered new shoes, jerseys, swag, and coordinated practice opportunities. Every team brought **energy, teamwork, and heart**. Of note: Whitman Elementary won their division, and John R. Rogers High School made it to the finals!

Meet Our Team



Jene Ray
Executive Director



Heather McKenzie WaitE
Director of Operations



Rosel Amor
Accountant/HR



Troy Vonasek
Facilities Manager



Zinzi Kellen
Grants Manager



Greg Forsythe
Maintenance & Custodial Manager



Milagros Aquino
Night Custodial Supervisor



Miriam Ruiz
Night Custodian



Mandie L.C. Norman
Youth Wellness Zone Coordinator
NECC, ZONE Quality Assurance



Dajja Tramble
GU YWZ Wolff Fellow



Emily Shiraishi
Youth Program Manager



Michaela Cates
Comm & Outreach Specialist



Lavonnie Mcmanus
Economic Mobility Programs Mgr.



Arash Baha
Economic Mobility Case Manager



Rosa Lopez
Case Manager & Front Office



Bethanie Bushnell
Jean's Beans Coffee Manager

Engage with

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CENTER

Northeast Spokane Neighborhoods:

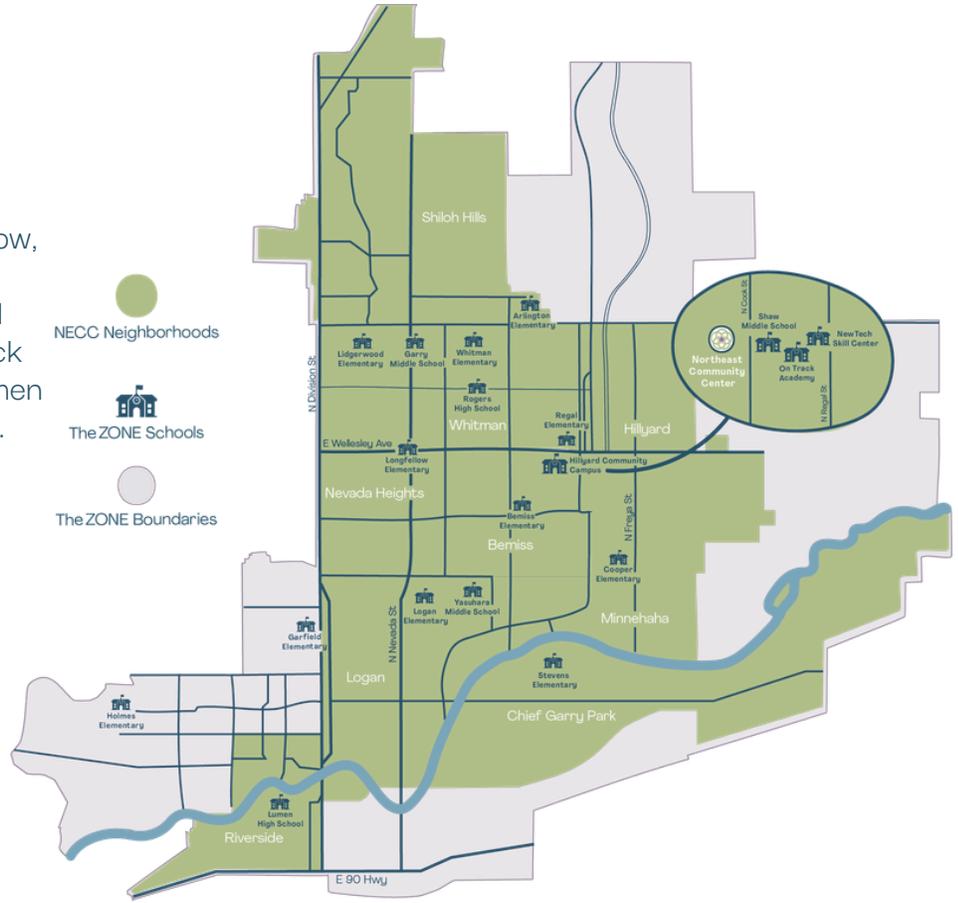
Bemiss, Chief Garry Park, Hillyard, Logan, Minnehaha, Nevada Heights, Riverside, Shiloh Hills, and Whitman.

ZONE Schools:

Arlington, Bemiss, Cooper, Garfield, Holmes, Lidgerwood, Logan, Longfellow, Regal, Stevens, and Whitman elementary schools; Garry, Shaw, and Yasuhara middle schools; and On Track Academy, NEWTech Skill Center, Lumen High School, and Rogers High School.

Do you live in The ZONE?

Check Here:



QUESTIONS?



info@NECommunityCenter.com

Engage with the Youth Wellness Zone



Join the Resident Steering Committee

You Belong Here.

**B
E
M**



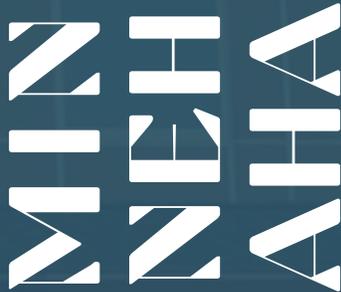
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WHITMAN



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Riverside

Chief Garry Park

NEVADA
HEIGHTS



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