Thank you to our friends and supporters

With the support and partnership of thousands of people who embrace the mission of Associated Ministries, we are doing the hard work of ending poverty and homelessness in our community.

Each person of faith and goodwill offers passion and commitment that brings "love of neighbor" alive among us. It is the kind of love that walks alongside in the journey families and individuals take without dictating their path forward.

The pages of this report represent only a small glimpse of the impact made through your donations, the hours of volunteer time you contributed, the deep dialogue and spirited action you took. We are meant to do this work together!

Thank you for caring deeply about our common good and for joining a cause that's bigger than any one of us can do alone.

You are deeply engaged in transforming our community!
“When the Japanese mend broken objects, they aggrandize the damage by filling the cracks with gold. They believe that when something’s suffered damage and has a history it becomes more beautiful.”

This description by poet Billie Mobayad of an ancient Japanese art form is full of hope to those of us meeting people in desperate need. Every day, we witness those who come to our doors be transfigured; from woundedness, from angry despair to beauty and confident strength. It’s a wonderful thing to read some of the stories in this report and imagine the gold glistening in the cracks and around the scars in the lives of people who shared themselves with us. We are committed to encountering and valuing their wholeness.

Associated Ministries has a long, fascinating and important history in our community. Over the years, many cracks have been filled with the love and faith of our staff and supporters. 2014 was a year of many success stories with our clients and community partners, but we also met some of our own challenges. We continued living into the vision of being a fully interfaith organization and keeping our long-standing partners fully engaged. We struggled to have the capacity to do all the work in front of us. These trials occasionally lead to cracks in our vessel, but this is how we grow, too.

As you read this Impact Report, which features our results from 2014, see the beauty that is emerging from the work we’ve done together. You are making a difference through the programs you support. People who thought society had discarded them are touched by your kindness.

We hope you see yourself in the stories and impact and are proud to proclaim, “I AM Associated Ministries!”

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Officers:

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St. Patrick Catholic Parish
Dr. Christopher Gilbert, President-elect
Bahá’í Faith
Wendy Holcomb, Secretary
Steve Gray, Treasurer
St. Mark’s Lutheran Church by the Narrows

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Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church
Rev. Art Schmidt
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Gerald Gehring
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Woodrow Jones
Shiloh Baptist Church

Margaret Brown
2014 Board President

Molly Archer
Interim Executive Director

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Interim Executive Director
Our team has a small group of dedicated volunteers that sees a project through from beginning to end over the course of about three Saturdays. The first Saturday we pressure wash, scrape and make repairs. Priming bare wood and caulking joints usually takes a half day. A dozen volunteers can completely paint the body and trim in one full day.

Each project brings new memories and stories to share.

One elderly homeowner surprised our group with a barbeque on paint day. Another elderly widow cooked delicious Filipino Pancit for the group when her home was painted.

Expressions on homeowners’ faces as they watch their homes transform makes being part of Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful worth every minute. Homeowners often get emotional, weep with joy, and give us hugs as we leave.

Neighbors love seeing their neighborhood improved. Our work inspires them to start sprucing up their own property.

When you discover the satisfaction of belonging to Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful, you may find yourself wandering around the paint aisle at a hardware store getting equipment for next year. Twenty years ago, I started with only a paint brush and a scraper. Now, I have a shed full of equipment.

My wife, Mary, and I have coordinated Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful paint crews for over 20 years. In 2015, our church, Spanaway Lutheran, celebrates 25 years of painting homes for the program.

Does it take work? Yes. Do we find it fulfilling and enjoyable? Absolutely!
Since 1985, Associated Ministries’ Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful program has organized volunteers each summer to paint the houses of low-income, senior, and disabled homeowners.

In 2014, over 600 volunteers painted 32 houses in Tacoma and Lakewood. Volunteers have painted 2,200 homes in Pierce County in the last three decades.

Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland proclaimed August 26, 2014 to be Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful Day in celebration of 30 years of service to Tacoma residents.
In 2014 our centralized intake for the Homeless Intervention System in Pierce County, AP4H, continued to demonstrate the enormous need people have for affordable housing. Solutions will come by supporting the strengths of people experiencing housing and ensuring that market-rate housing is affordable throughout Pierce County.
My journey with Associated Ministries began in the spring of 2013, shortly before my senior year of college. As a psychology major at the University of Puget Sound I wanted to serve people with real predicaments and affect actual change. I felt isolated in the North End of Tacoma, largely removed from the hardships and struggles of people from other parts of Pierce County. I sought to take steps outside my comfort zone.

Working in a social work setting in **Access Point 4 Housing** has brought me a barrage of experiences and lessons. Some have been downright painful to confront. My world view has opened up. The individuals and families served through Associated Ministries come not only in a state of need but with a level of trust that is humbling. Learning to see them as whole people rather than clients has become the cornerstone value that drives my work.

Growing up, I was always told that I was a good listener. The success stories that I hear and witness carry my hope and optimism. They combat the times when the people who come to me for services feel dejected and are on the edge of giving up. Such times not only test their resolve, but mine as well.

People do rise out of homelessness. They are resilient and resourceful and deserving of dignity. It is an honor for me to share part of the journey with them.

**Will Bergstrom, AM Staff Member**  
**Access Point 4 Housing**

I am transformed by the people I serve.
Sara, Resident of the Youth Advancement and Housing (YAH!) Program
I grew up in a difficult home and let my parent's difficulties become my struggle. I contemplated something I never thought I would get to: how to live out of a car.

I started staying at a friend's place a few times, even asking if I could just park my car there and use their house every now and then. I began feeling like a burden. After a while of this deep struggle, I finally called **Access Point 4 Housing**.

If there is anything I remember clearly of that day, it was the consideration that I felt from the people in the office. I went in feeling completely defeated and helpless. I broke down when I was told that I would be entering **Youth Advancement and Housing (YAH)**. A staff member gave me a hug. This was a hug I will remember forever because of the compassion that I felt through it.

By living in the YAH house, I have felt empowered and hopeful; felt that I am not just a mess or a burden. Any problem that comes my way, I now look at it as something to make me stronger.

Before living in the YAH house, it seemed like nothing more than a fantasy to think about what I would do for the rest of my life. What was the point in thinking about 10 years from now, when I was barely able to think what one year would look like?

Would I be homeless? Would I be in school? Would I skip all my personal ambitions and just try to find a job to get me by?

I am very happy to say that I will leave this program as the YAH housing coordinator because people trust in my leadership ability and my desire to give back. I will also be transferring to UW Bothell starting Fall 2016, where I plan to major in Society, Ethics, and Human Behavior and minor in policy studies.

To this day and all the ones in my future, I will be forever grateful to what Associate Ministries has provided me. Think of the young men and women you are helping propel into their own success. Living in the YAH house, we are reminded every day that someone, somewhere in our own community, is giving a little of themselves to allow us to restore ourselves.
Moments of Blessing

Homicide. Horrific on all counts, including the wake it leaves behind. The impact it has on family, friends and community is devastating. How is the tear in the fabric of community ever repaired? How does a community begin to heal from the wounds? With time…and a Moment of Blessing.

A Moment of Blessing is an opportunity to reclaim space where homicides have occurred. We come together as community to pray for all involved in the particular homicide and to reclaim the space as sacred, a place of life. Just the act of compassionate human beings coming together in that bruised space is amazingly powerful. By setting the intention of reclaiming, praying and cleansing, people can bring about a positive shift in the space and in one another.

In 2014, AM conducted 23 Moments of Blessing: domestic violence victims, gunshot victims, even children killed by their own parents. But something so amazing happened at these sites. Family and friends gathered. People that didn’t know the victims gathered. All in the name of honoring the victim and in reclaiming that space in their community. What a powerful, moving experience to move through together!

Associated Ministries conducts Moments of Blessing at all homicide sites in Pierce County. It is an important and necessary program for our communities during their healing process, in helping to mend that tear in the community fabric.
The 2014 Interfaith Thanksgiving Gathering of Gratitude, hosted by Temple Beth El.

I am uniting people of faith in compassion and understanding.
I was a basket-case when I came to Associated Ministries’ Foreclosure Counseling office!

My problems started with a phone call. It came immediately after I had talked to my mortgage company. The man introduced himself as Vince and he knew everything about me—including my medical problems. He said he was working directly with Lisa at my mortgage company.

I was recovering from cancer. I had gotten behind in my mortgage when I was put on medicine that was $469 a month. It didn’t take me too long to fall into the Medicare “donut-hole”. At first my mortgage company accepted one back-payment at a time, then I got behind two payments. All of a sudden they wanted all of it at once. I had my house 14 years. Am I now going to live under a bridge? I was beyond scared!

Vince told me not to worry about any of the payments. He had an attorney who was handling everything; anything I got from the mortgage company I was to send to him. Vince told me he could get my payment down to $400 a month. Oh my God, that would be wonderful! I believed everything he said.

Then he called me and said he needed $3,000 for the attorney fee. I almost sent the money. I came so close to sending it.

I just happened to see a Good Morning America segment about these kind of scams. I thought, his couldn’t be a scam—he knows too much about me. So I called my mortgage company and asked if I could talk to Lisa. There was no Lisa.

I heard about Associated Ministries’ Foreclosure Counseling Program at church from a woman whose daughter had been helped with some real big financial problems. By that time I was so far behind that I didn’t think there was any hope for me at all. But I called and got help.

My counselor, Dia, knows how to talk to these mortgage people—I would have been so upset and so nervous. Dia was able to talk directly with my mortgage company and convinced them to work with me. She kept talking and talking and talking to them—I think they may have given me the modification because they were worn out by her persistence. The modification program is working out fine and it’s a great burden off my shoulders.
Nearly 40% of people who go to emergency food services for help are employed but they still need food assistance to meet the needs of their families. Seniors and other households living on fixed incomes depend on food assistance. Each year, food banks, hot meal sites and meal delivery services provide food to one in seven Pierce County residents—more than 100,000 individuals. The money that is raised through the Pierce County Hunger Walk each year helps meet the needs of hungry Pierce County children and their families.

Save the Date: Sunday, October 2nd, 2016
I got a tutorial of how to do things at the Community Resource Connections Center and I jumped right in. I love helping people get the things they need to get, to move them to the next level in their life, past the next hurdle, to get them through whatever they need to do in their life to be the person that they want to be. It’s fulfilling.

This is the path that God has chosen for me and I’m just following it. When I first started school I was homeless. I had just gotten out of jail—just being with the wrong people at the wrong time—and I lost everything. Everything that God blessed me with, He took away from me. Everything, down to my car. I had my two children and our clothes in storage.

When I was in jail I cried a lot. I didn’t understand and I started praying. At that moment, God just came to me. “Just do what you need to do…I will make sure that everything that you dream of will come true.” When I got out, I stumbled a little bit but I got back into school and I got my GED. And then, I was standing there with a GED certificate. “OK, God, where do I go from here? What do I do now?” In the fall I’m going back to school to get my Bachelor’s in psychology.

Working here with the homeless community has humbled me in so many different ways and it completely changed my life. I’m more patient with people. I don’t lose my temper so quickly, I don’t get frustrated easily. I try to look at the whole person and not just the problem.

I’m seeing that people from the homeless community can move ahead, they can make it out of whatever situation they’re in. When you come into the relationship without being judgmental and just offer an open mind and an open heart, you really help people, and they’re grateful. I’ve had people give me hugs and thank me for accepting them and their situation, for not pointing the finger. That’s all they’re asking is that somebody looks past what’s going on in their life and look at them as a person.

I love working with people. Working with the homeless community has definitely opened my eyes to what’s going on in the world. You do the work and you get your blessings. It keeps me happy, it keeps me sane, it keeps me level.
I am paying it forward because I needed help once.

Associated Ministries has provided Payee Services since 2002 for clients who receive funds from DSHS and Social Security. We are able to provide financial management services and counseling to families and individuals who have difficulty managing their own finances and are in danger of losing their welfare benefits. An adjunct service we offer is the Community Resource Connections Center (CRCC), a one-stop-shop that connects families to a broad array of resources. Volunteers are the heart and power of these programs!

Our objective is to help low-income families secure community resources and services that address their needs. A significant hurdle that stops many households from entering permanent, affordable housing is their inability to obtain necessary documents such as birth certificates, identification cards, and social security cards that are essential in any housing screening process, enrollment for educational services, and for obtaining employment.

The Pierce County Asset Building Coalition (PCABC) is a collaboration of 50 partners working to actively engage Pierce County residents in building prosperity through various programs, like Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). Through this program, we train volunteers in current income tax law and preparation procedures in partnership with IRS. Volunteers then prepare returns and tax credits and file them electronically at no charge to low-income workers.

- 8,115 Protective Payee services delivered
- 3,044 Households served through Family Emergency Fund
- 1,200 Vulnerable seniors assisted through the Senior Emergency Fund
- 3,619 Homeless Mail individuals served
- 42,067 Pieces of mail processed
- 1,850,000 refunds and credits returned to low-income workers
- 1,439 Tax returns prepared and filed electronically at no cost
### 2014 Financials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources of Funds</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>301,300</td>
<td>231,658</td>
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<td>Churches</td>
<td>30,606</td>
<td>35,409</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>112,068</td>
<td>113,944</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Revenue - Government</td>
<td>1,648,952</td>
<td>1,434,110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Revenue - Other</td>
<td>215,700</td>
<td>212,653</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>46,566</td>
<td>35,034</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>26,972</td>
<td>84,740</td>
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<td><strong>Total Sources</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,382,164</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,147,548</strong></td>
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### Increase(Decrease) in Net Assets

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<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<td><strong>Increase(Decrease)</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>263,055</td>
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### Cash Reserves

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<th>Cash Reserves</th>
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<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Cash and Reserves</td>
<td>150,040</td>
<td>59,948</td>
<td>178,908</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Reserve Funds</td>
<td>190,280</td>
<td>192,727</td>
<td>419,814</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Reserves</strong></td>
<td><strong>340,320</strong></td>
<td><strong>252,675</strong></td>
<td><strong>598,722</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
1. Amounts are based on audited financial statements. The firm of Mary Jane Dubbs CPA conducts an annual audit of Associated Ministries. The audit is available to the public upon request.
2. Thousands of dollars of in-kind donations and thousands of volunteer hours are not fully included in the financial statements, but these contributions are a vital element of the mission of Associated Ministries.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uses of Funds</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access Point 4 Housing</td>
<td>937,799</td>
<td>726,993</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Assistance &amp; Pass-throughs</td>
<td>154,495</td>
<td>164,364</td>
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<td>Other housing &amp; shelter services</td>
<td>304,913</td>
<td>390,010</td>
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<td>Foreclosure Housing Counseling</td>
<td>196,944</td>
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<td>Hunger Walk</td>
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<td>Payee &amp; Mail Services</td>
<td>93,192</td>
<td>74,967</td>
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<td>Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful</td>
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<td>Asset Building Coalition</td>
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<td>Congregational Relations</td>
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<td>Other Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>164,768</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Fundraising</td>
<td>84,576</td>
<td>82,712</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Uses</strong></td>
<td>2,382,163</td>
<td>2,146,993</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Our Donors:**

The people and organizations who inspire and champion Associated Ministries’ impact in our community.

Thank you!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount Tier</th>
<th>Donors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$50,000-$1,500,000</td>
<td>Building Changes-Washington City of Tacoma Pierce County Community Connections Michael &amp; Mary Jo Tucci, Sr. Washington State Housing Finance Commission</td>
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<td>$500-$999</td>
<td>Margaret Archer Molly &amp; Harry Archer Joseph &amp; Bonnie Atwood Charlie &amp; Margaret Brown Allen &amp; Donna Clark Washington State Combined Fund Drive</td>
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<td>$2,500-$9,999</td>
<td>Associated Petroleum Products Dimmer Family Foundation Florence B. Kilworth Foundation Franciscan CHI Health Gray Lumber Company U.S. Internal Revenue Service Mountain View Lutheran Church Darwin Mueller Dr. Lynn Ostenson William Kilworth Foundation</td>
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<td>$5,000-$25,000</td>
<td>Key Bank Foundation Sequoia Foundation Stewardship Foundation The Gottfried &amp; Mary Fuchs Foundation The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation The Russell Family Foundation Mr. &amp; Mrs William T. Weyerhaeuser</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pamela Asberry
Shirley Ashburn
Dave Augustinis
Susan Aumell
Dr. William and Mrs. Carol Baarsma
Andrew Bacon & Deanna Isabell
Jan Bacon & Ming Chiong Choo
Larry & Deanne Baer
Corrine Bahrke
Eric Baker
Shelly Baker
Linda Balman
Bank of America
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Miriarn Barnett
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Myron & Judy Bass
Paula Battle
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Tiffiny Beard
Chaplain(Col) Reinard W. Beaver
Dorothy Beeler
Blanche Beesley
Valerie Behling
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Kristen Beifus
John Bell & Jomarie Lorena Meade
Marilyn Bell
Mattie Lou Bell
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Nathan Brewer
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Buckley Community Presbyterian
Church
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Margaret Burrough
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Sinead Coleman
Lance & Marilyn Colyar
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Campaign
South Puget Sound Combined Federal
Campaign
Community Health Care
Raleigh Conner
Daniel Cook
Duncan & Joan Cook
Nancy Cook
Stephen & Wendi Cook
Joanne & James Cormier
Beverly Corrington
Stan Corrington
Michele Cotton
Stan & Christine Cotton
Julie Covell
Covenant Bible Fellowship and
Seminary
Carol Coville
Ruby Cox
Mr. & Mrs Herb Crabtree
Mrs Laurel Craddock
Margaret & Roberta Craughan
Creator Lutheran Church
Anthony & Karis Crocco
Stanley & Marta Joan Cross
Maria Cruse
CS Dalton Gittens
Mary Lou Cummins
James Curtis
Leslie Cushman
Kevin & Sonja Dahl
Mary Beth Dahl
Doug Dahlgren
Christine Dammeier
Mary Damonte
Harlan & Patricia Damron
Ruth Daugherty
Roger & Barbara Davidson
Jim & Nancy Tam Davis
Rev. K. James Davis
Jonathan & Luz Davison
Eric De Los Santos
Celesta Smith  
Jacqueline Smith  
Col. Willie & Faye Stewart, USAR Ret.  
Sue Duncan Stibbe  
Sue, Duncan Stibe  
Raine Stokes  
Theron & Joanne Stone  
Becky Stover  
Richard & Pamela Stowers  
Claudia Straayer  
Maxine Strom  
Kathy Strong  
Wendy Strutzel  
Jeremy Stubbs  
Elda Sulerud  
Summit United Methodist Church  
Summit United Methodist Women  
Judi Sunde  
Constance Swank  
Kermit & Janis Swartz  
Chellis Swenson  
Eric & Julie Swenson  
Erin Swientek  
Hannah & Susan Swift  
Linda Sue Swisher  
Arturo Sykes  
Taco Friends Meeting  
Taco Public Library  
Taco Rescue Mission  
Tahoma Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Leonard & LaVerne Talbott  
Tandem Electric  
Roger & Mardel Tanquist  
Mr. Jesse Taylor  
John Taylor  
M Desta Taylor  
Richard Taylor  
Rex Tegio  
Janet Thiessen  

Carissa Thomas  
Dianne Thomas  
Jay & Cornelia Thomas  
Lynda Thomas-White  
Anita Thompson  
Becky Thompson  
Bob Thompson  
Kathryn & Peter Thompson  
Robert & Susan Thompson  
Stephen & Patricia Thompson  
Paula Thrall  
Sam & Paula Thrall  
Susan Tiffany  
Diane Tilsta  
Robert & Marlyce Tingstad  
Pamela & David Tinsley  
Today's Uniforms  
Linda & Brian Tollefsen  
Totem Electric  
Carolyn & Alfie Treleven  
Amy Trevenno  
James & Lynne Truitt  
Ann Trullinger  
Amy Tucci  
Andrea Tull  
John & Karla Jo Tupper  
Catherine & Jeff Turner  
Sandra & Arthur Turner  
Stephen & Judith Turner  
Kristen Turpen  
A Elaine Twogood  
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Irene Van Arnam  

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