ATHLETES SPONSORED BY THS WIN NATIONAL TAEKWONDO TITLES

THS recently sponsored two young athletes, with funds from our Guy Kurose Fund, to compete at the 2012 USA Taekwondo Championships, held in Dallas, Texas from June 29th – July 4th. The Guy Kurose Fund is named in honor of the late Guy Kurose (1952-2002), a longtime Seattle civil rights activist and volunteer who worked with gang-involved youth. Guy was a talented black belt in karate, so the Guy Kurose Fund is used to support local youth involved with martial arts.

Olu Dixon and Samuel Shannon both won the national championship in their divisions; Olu in the Green Belt Sparring for 8 – 9 year olds, and Samuel in the 12 – 13 Black Belt Sparring. Samuel is now part of the junior national team and will have the opportunity to compete internationally.

Coached by Lionel Lee at Yi Sport Taekwondo in Mount Baker, they train 5 days a week. Both have been doing taekwondo for 4 years. Their families credit taekwondo with helping the boys in other aspects of their lives such as school. They say taekwondo is not just a sport; it also instills in youth a set of codes to live by. Participants are expected to act with courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self control and indomitable spirit.

THS IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OLU AND SAMUEL AND OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE THEM.

Images
Top right: Olu and Coach Lee celebrate after the championship bout. Bottom right: Samuel competing at the national championships.
NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Norman O. Johnson

One of the key components of health care reform readiness is technology. Electronic records and the ability to communicate critical information from agency to agency are minimum requirements that each health care provider must meet. I am proud to say THS board leadership and staff have been strong advocates for increasing THS’s information technology infrastructure. In many ways we are ahead of many of our peers in this aspect of our operations.

But hardware, software, servers and data lines are only the information and communication structure that supports the very human work we do. Our staff of professionals combines a unique mix of experience with a true dedication for providing THS participants with the support they need throughout their recovery.

Over the next few months, our Board’s Program & Healthcare Reform Committee and senior staff will work on our 2013-2018 Strategic Plan. Of course, health care reform permeates many sections of the Strategic Plan. As we move forward we will continue to ensure that THS is optimally positioned to be a key player in the region’s health care system, while continuing to make a difference in the lives of the individuals and families who come to us for help.

SYVPI NEW LOCATION

In March 2012, THS opened the Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative (SYVPI) Central Area Network satellite office in the heart of the Central Area. Located in the Promenade 23 shopping center on South Jackson Street, the 747 square-foot space is the hub for the program, which serves 350 teenagers who live or go to school in the Central Area. The office will provide meeting space, drop-in opportunities, service learning/internships, and greater access to community resources to the teens in the Network.

SYVPI was launched in 2009 as a partnership between the City of Seattle and several community-based organizations, including THS, and is designed to reduce youth violence in Seattle, keep young people out of trouble and get them back in school.

Jamilia Taylor, the THS SYVPI program coordinator says “this office is important because we are in an area that has been a hot spot for teenagers attending schools nearby. It provides the youth and community partners an easy way to access SYVPI resources. We estimate that over 75 youth have come to the new office since it opened in March. We anticipate increased usage as we add mentoring and job readiness programs in the coming months.”

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We want your feedback! Please write to info@ths-wa.org with any questions, comments or suggestions.

IN MEMORIAM
Tom Allison - Board Member

Tom Allison, a THS Board Member since 1987 and former Vice President of the Board, died May 26, 2012. A long-time resident of Bainbridge Island, he also had a home on Cypress Island where he was instrumental in convincing Washington State to list the island as a Natural Area Preserve.

Tom was a prominent attorney who served in several high government posts in Washington, DC, including Chief Counsel to the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, general counsel to the US Senate Appropriations Committee, special counsel to Senator Bill Bradley (D-NJ), general counsel to the US Department of Transportation, and Judge Advocate General of the US Coast Guard. Tom was passionate about consumer protection and played a major staff role in the passage of a series of strong consumer protection laws, including the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act, which broadened the Federal Trade Commission’s powers to pursue abusive and deceptive corporate practices. He also helped draft the Railroad Revitalization & Railroad Reform Act, the Airline Deregulation Act, Staggers Rail Act, and the Motor Carrier Act of 1980.

After leaving government life, Tom joined the DC office of Preston, Throgmorton, Ellis & Holman (now KBL Gates). He later transferred to the Seattle office, where he represented clients including the Port of Seattle, the Republic of Nauru, Burlington Northern Railroad, and the Federal Railroad Administration. He retired in 2006.

Tom had a life-long love of transportation including cars, yachts, railroads, ships, airplanes and “all things that moved.” He traveled widely around the world, including a sailing voyage from Tahiti to Hawaii and countless cross-country rail trips. He is remembered for his sardonic wit, towering intellect, and bottomless generosity.

Tom is greatly missed at THS and is remembered as an integral part of the team. THS Executive Director Norman O. Johnson says “the development of THS over the past 25 years has been supported by Tom’s legal acumen. We are where we are because of Tom and his excellent effort.”

MEET OUR NEW BOARD PRESIDENT
Harold G. Booker

Retired attorney Harold G. Booker is well known throughout the greater Seattle area for donating numerous hours of legal assistance to low-income families, people with AIDS, senior citizens and those with disabilities. He has received multiple awards and recognition for his volunteer service. Harold has been an active member of the United Methodist Church for most of his life and is presently Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Bryn Mawr United Methodist Church.

Harold served as commissioner for the King County Housing Authority for nearly twenty years. He sat on the Board of Directors of the Seattle and King County Economic Opportunity Board, which served as a model for other community anti-poverty programs during the Lyndon B. Johnson administration. He was a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Way Committee for Human Rights and was a leader in the successful national fight to desegregate organizations such as the Elks Clubs.

Once Harold received his law degree from the University of Puget Sound Law School (now Seattle University School of Law), he began volunteering with the King County Bar Association. Since retiring from Boeing after 40 years, Harold has been actively involved in VAPWA (Volunteer Attorneys For People With AIDS) of the King County Bar Association providing pro bono legal assistance to low income individuals who are HIV positive.

In 2005, he received the Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award from King County and in the following year he received the Jefferson Award for public service. In 2007, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Washington and a Special Recognition Award from the Seattle University School of Law.

Harold credits his many years of community service to his mother, Alvivra Little (1913-2006). She contributed more than 50 years of professional and volunteer service to support youth and families in Seattle. Her legacy of community involvement and longstanding friendship with THS is what led Harold to join the THS Board of Directors in 2007. Harold says, “As an attorney that does mostly pro bono work since my retirement from Boeing, I work primarily with people with disabilities. Alcoholism and mental illness are disabilities, so THS falls in line with what my focus has been.”

As board president, Harold’s goal is “to maintain the excellent level of service that THS provides to its clients and to steer THS in the direction it needs to go in light of healthcare reform.”