



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

NEWSLETTER

Whatcom Family YMCA

December 2020

LET US INTRODUCE OURSELVES...

Everything we do at the YMCA is based on the notion that everyone should have the opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of their race, income, education or status. The work the Y is doing to eliminate barriers to access, eliminating disparities in health, providing educational support, and supporting working families, must be guided by an intense commitment for equity and inclusion.

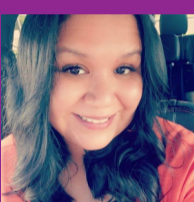
The DEI Committee is focused on these guiding principles and welcomes feedback from all our staff. Thus, we wanted to introduce ourselves so you know who to reach out to.

Anne Granberg - Early Learning Program Supervisor



Bill Ziels - Whatcom Family YMCA CEO

Darcilynn Bob - Community Member



Janae Payne - Community Member



Jennifer Willner - Group Fitness Instructor



Jillian Hardy (she/her/hers) - Teen Development Coordinator



Kirsten Barron - YMCA Board Member



Lynda Purdie (she/her/hers) - HR Director



Tracy Diehl - Relationship Development Director



Vinson Latimore - YMCA Board Member



WHY WE JOINED: Here are comments from some of the members as to why they asked to be on the committee.

I am a member of a generation of people who have foolishly thought that blatant racism was a thing of the past. I have lived by trying to be a good person, being good to others, and believing that everyone is equal in the eyes of god and man. I believed that if you never committed any racist acts and you treated people with respect that was good enough. I believe that the majority of Americans now see that this was wrong. That we need to do more. We all need to do better—including the Y.

Now is the time for our Y to double our efforts to fill gaps and address disparities in or community. I hope that I can make a difference by making the Y and our communities become more inclusive and equitable for all. I don't want that to be shallow talk—rather significant actions.

Bill Ziels

I am excited to work on the DEI Committee and make it a point to participate in as much race equity work as is available and as I am able. I think race equity is one of the two most important issues (along with climate change) of my lifetime—and maybe in human history.

I think my skills are best applied to race equity and that is where I focus many of my volunteer activities. Nothing I have worked on has changed me and my view of the world more than race equity. I am all in for a more just society, a more just YMCA and a more just me.

Kirsten Barron

I wanted to serve on this committee because I have personally witnessed donor discrimination in our community and was shocked and saddened to see this behavior in OUR Whatcom County community. I want to ensure that the Y as an organization can help to identify, monitor, and advance diversity, equity in order to achieve our mission of empowering all people, especially the young to reach their fullest potential, helping the Y to become an anti-racist organization.

Tracy Diehl

I joined the DEI committee with the intentions to apply my youthful perspective, education and passion around social and racial justice to something bigger than me. I joined to speak-out on and address the social and racial injustices that take place specifically in our community and how we, as an organization, can become a stronger public ally to our BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and underserved and underrepresented communities.

Jillian Hardy