The Mukilteo Boys & Girls Club played a very important role in my life as I grew up in what is now called “Old Town”. I joined the Club in 1964 and would walk from Rosehill after school to the Club to play with my friends until my dad would pick me up on his way home from work. Two of the Club’s previous Unit Directors, Ron Edlin and Dave Surface, were great mentors to me in my youth, and continue to be leaders in our community. I learned to play basketball at the Club, which later provided me with the opportunity to play on successful teams in high school and college. I made friendships through the Club that continue to enhance my life and business opportunities to this day.

I was fortunate to have loving and supportive parents and siblings and to grow up in a small town where everyone knew each other. The world and Mukilteo have changed a great deal in the past 50 years. Young people face far more choices (good and bad) then we ever had when I was their age. It is far easier for them to be lead down the wrong path, either by choice or circumstance, resulting in costly or life threatening mistakes. Organizations like the Boys & Girls Club provide a safe and positive environment for young people to develop life skills that will enable them to be successful in school and beyond. I have had the good fortune to participate on the selection committee for the Snohomish County Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year on two occasions. I was truly amazed by the narratives of some of the participants and the role that the Club played in helping these young people overcome challenging situations and set them on the path to follow their dreams.

While I no longer live in Mukilteo, I have chosen to support the Mukilteo Boys & Girls Club because of the impact it had on my life. The existing facility can no longer meet the growing needs of the community. It is no longer within close proximity of the majority of the population of the City, nor are there any schools nearby. Property for a new location in Harbour Pointe has been secured, and work on raising funds began a few years ago. The time for a new Mukilteo Boys & Girls Club facility is now, and the plan is in place to make it happen. I am hopeful that the community will support these plans and pitch in to help create a facility that will serve the community and its youth for decades to come.

Steve Holtgeerts