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## **Kiwanis Club hands out annual County Citizen award**

The Olympian

Mike Williams was named the 40th annual Thurston County Citizen of the Year on Monday.

Williams is board chairman for United Way of Thurston County. In that role, he has helped with initiatives for early childhood learning, women's philanthropy and building community coalitions.

Williams said after the awards ceremony that he has seen the good United Way does in the community as he visits with people who receive the help.

"You can see in their eyes what it means to them," he said.

He also thanked Kiwanis because the award "inspires thousands to volunteer."

Williams' other volunteer service includes past chairman of the Thurston chamber, membership in the Lacey Chamber of Commerce, service on the Thurston Economic Development Council's board, serving as a volunteer coach for the YMCA, and being a youth leader at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

He was one of five finalists for the Kiwanis Clubs of Thurston County award.

All five were honored for their service Monday at a luncheon at Saint Martin's University in Lacey.

The others were:

n Loraine T. Nelson: As president of Olympia Junior Programs, Nelson organized and managed programs attended by more than 28,000 elementary students in 2007.

n Jim Pitchford: A skilled handyman, he spends considerable volunteer time with Kiwanis, delivering apples or working at Capital Lakefair.

n Scott Schoengarth: He spearheaded Entertainment Explosion's show to benefit homeless children in South Sound. The show collected about \$15,000 for shoes, coats and services.

n Don Secena: A volunteer at the club and member of the board of directors, Secena volunteered at the Rochester Day for Kids and was Santa at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Thurston County's annual holiday dinner.