

DONOR HIGHLIGHT **Pam Cleaver**

by ED STOVER



Pam Cleaver has been around aging family members and acquaintances throughout her life. She has clear memories of her grandmother, who lived until she was 90. Now her parents are in that category, and Cleaver herself recently retired.

"Both my parents are still alive," said Cleaver, 60, who is both a donor to and a volunteer for the Yakima and Selah Neighbors' Network. "As I've watched them age I've become aware how important it is that people stay in their own homes as long as possible. My grandmother lived in Naches and had friends there, so I saw how people need to stay active and have access to other people in the same situation."

Cleaver was a certified public accountant and partner at Moss Adams, an accounting firm with offices in Yakima, when she was introduced to YSNN by

board member/treasurer Janet Doty, who was also a CPA before she retired.

"At Moss Adams, I audited small not-for-profits. I spent a lot of time setting up 501(c)(3)'s and helping them navigate that space. When Janet and I talked, I became familiar with the Yakima and Selah Neighbors' Network and decided to get involved."

Getting more involved followed Cleaver's retirement last Dec. 31, closing out a 35-year career as a CPA, including 23 years with Moss Adams. She's certainly staying active. She currently is the president-elect of Sunrise Rotary in Yakima. Another priority in a "very busy" retirement is supporting YSNN.

It's a worthwhile cause, says Cleaver: "This (YSNN) is a coordinated effort by people who know how to do this to help older folks who need a little extra helping hand to hopefully stay in their own homes for as long as they can."

November Month of Giving brings New Message to our Community

Our Board feels more strongly than ever that older people who want to stay in their homes (or who can't afford other options) should have that choice: membership in YSNN is cost-effective and adds value to our community. We want older adults to stay healthy and engaged in their homes and neighborhoods. In the last few years, we have added a number of new members and volunteers. However, raising awareness in the community about why planning ahead for the needs of older adults is so critical turns out to be very challenging for our Board of six and our half-time Program Manager, even with the welcome assistance of volunteers, members and donors. It has become clear to us that we need a full-time, experienced non-profit Executive Director to scale our organization's place in the wider community and build a sustainable number of members, donors, and sponsors.

This year, in addition to our annual fundraising goal of \$30,000 we are looking for funds to underwrite an executive director position for three years. At the end of that time, the executive director position will be adjusted to fit the new scale our organization has been able to achieve in that time. We have been exploring options for funding such a position. We welcome any ideas you have that could help us accomplish that –please contact any member of our Board.