

Business Sponsor Highlight

Brad Hansen of Baker Boyer Bank



by ED STOVER

It seemed only natural for Baker Boyer Bank to step up as a donor supporting the Yakima and Selah Neighbors' Network, says Brad Hansen, Vice President and Senior Trust and Family Advisor at Baker Boyer's Yakima branch.

"The Neighbors' Network fits into our mission," said Hansen, 39, who began his career as a college intern with Baker Boyer 22 years ago, left for various positions in Seattle and Boston, and returned to the bank as an officer in their Yakima office in 2013.

The bank, which in the multiverse of financial institutions Hansen describes as a "small community bank," is the oldest bank in the state, founded in 1869 by early-day entrepreneurs Dorsey S. Baker and John Boyer. Six generations of Bakers have kept the bank going through thick and thin for 154 years. Today, the bank serves a variety of clients throughout southeast Washington with branches located in Walla Walla (154 years), Tri-Cities (35 years), and Yakima (20 years).

The bank's focus on community is key to its success: "Part of our mission as a bank is to help raise up communities. We do that by supporting businesses

in the community by providing various financial services. We also do that by helping those (individuals and families) who may not have the resources because of their background."

The latter category is why Baker Boyer donates to YSNN. Hansen said he talked to YSNN board members Janet Doty and Barb Heinzen and recognized the community value in YSNN's mission of helping its members in the Yakima-Selah area remain independent as they get older.

"Those people have needs and this is a relatively easy way for us to help them," said Hansen. "YSNN fits our mission. We've always been involved with supporting non-profits."

The bank is proud of its mission and its longevity. That is evident when you visit the Yakima branch at 921 Seattle Slew Run (off Fechter Road west of North 40th Avenue in West Yakima). If you go downstairs, you will see a large mural that runs the length of one wall, a sort of pictorial timeline that depicts high-water marks in the bank's long history.

Hansen said the bank has helped families and businesses get through many hard and stressful times, including the Great Depression.

"I like to tell the anecdote about a conversation I had with an elderly lady who asked me if the bank helped people in the recession back in the '80s. And I responded: 'Do you mean the 1980s or the 1880s?' We've been here since 1869!"

Thank you to all of our volunteers. You are the heart of our organization!

How to Become a Volunteer

If you are interested in volunteering, or know someone who would like to volunteer we encourage you to call Chrissy Schott -Program Manager. As a volunteer you pick when you want to volunteer, it's **flexible** and you volunteer with seniors. Fill out the **online volunteer application** at **www.yesneighbors.org**. Alternatively, you may download, print, and fill out a **PDF version of the volunteer application**. Applicants must pass a background check and attend volunteer training and orientation. Call to join, (509) **853-1917**