



Working together to make Thurston County a community
where children and youth are supported, healthy, safe and valued.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kathy Houston, Interim Executive Director, 360-493-2230

The TOGETHER! Board of Directors has appointed Jim Cooper as the new Executive Director of the organization. Prior to his appointment as Executive Director, Mr. Cooper was TOGETHER!'s Community Mobilization Director, creating and supporting coalitions and partnerships to work together in delivering successful prevention services.

Mr. Cooper has 15 years of nonprofit, corporate and government leadership experience working with community organizations, governments and businesses in collaborative efforts to achieve positive outcomes for people and the environment.

Mr. Cooper has a strong commitment to prevention. He said, "I am honored to continue my service with TOGETHER! and look forward to changes in our 'community norms' around substance abuse and violence and the perceptions kids have around those 'norms.' It is important that we set positive examples for our youth and provide them with the tools to make healthy and safe decisions in order for them to succeed in life, and it is my goal to ensure that happens."

In announcing the appointment, Board President Rick Hughes said, "We are pleased to welcome Jim Cooper as Executive Director. His interpersonal skills and passion for the work of TOGETHER! will be assets in our ongoing efforts to make our community one where children are supported, healthy, safe and valued."

Mr. Cooper is only the third person to serve as Executive Director in TOGETHER!'s 20-year history. He succeeds Mary Segawa, who left the organization to become the Alcohol Awareness Program Manager for the Washington State Liquor Control Board.

About TOGETHER!

TOGETHER! is a local nonprofit organization working to mobilize our community to prevent youth substance abuse and violence through awareness, advocacy and action. Awareness: We educate about substance abuse and violence issues impacting our community through trainings, media and community forums. Advocacy: We work for laws, policies and community practices that support positive youth development and prevent substance abuse and violence. Action: We provide direct services to children, youth and families, increasing knowledge and skills. We work with coalitions and partners to improve effectiveness. Examples of direct services include the Evergreen Villages Neighborhood Center, after-school programs at McLane and Chambers Prairie elementary schools, and *Parenting Wisely* and *Strengthening Families* parenting programs.