



PHOTOS BY ARLA SHEPHARD | MASON COUNTY LIFE

Boys & Girls Club of South Puget Sound board member Kevin Cure, left, and Hawkins Middle School principal Thom Worlund plunged into Case Inlet to support the North Mason branch of the Boys & Girls Club at the club's annual Polar Plunge fundraiser on Jan. 31 at Allyn Waterfront Park.

Putting a little 'fun' in fundraising

By ARLA SHEPHARD
MASON COUNTY LIFE

Until this year, Corinne Welander, 17, had never heard of the Boys & Girls Club Polar Plunge.

An on-and-off member of the North Mason branch of the Boys & Girls Club of South Puget Sound since she was in kindergarten, Welander learned of the annual fundraiser earlier this school year and decided to do all she could to help out.

"I talked to my family and my grandparents were able to help out a lot," said Welander, a junior at North Mason High School. "I felt like the Boys & Girls Club is a worthy cause. I enjoy it and I want other people to enjoy it."

Welander raised \$376 for the North Mason Teen Center, the most any teen has raised for the club in recent years, and she plunged into Case Inlet for the first time with around 20 other fearless fundraisers at the annual event on Saturday, Jan. 31, at Allyn Waterfront Park.

"It gets easier every year," said Hawkins Middle School Principal

Thom Worlund, who plunged for the sixth time. "You know what to expect. It's only one minute of pain."

In total, community members raised \$2,500 for the club, with teens and club members specifically raising more than \$1,000.

That's the most that branch director Christy Garner has seen in her five years running the North Mason Teen Center.

"It's the most teen involvement I've seen in the last five years," she said. "We had 10 to 15 members committed to raising money. We hope to continue that involvement in the future."

Club member Randall Lewis, 18, raised the second highest amount of money after Welander, with \$170 collected.

The North Mason High School Leos Club provided refreshments for participants and onlookers, while Stan Yantis and the Windjammers provided music.

The North Mason Boys & Girls Club Teen Center sees about 80 kids per day.

For more information, visit www.bgcsps.org/find-a-club. ■



Corinne Welander, 17, raised \$376 for the North Mason branch of the Boys & Girls Club at the Polar Plunge.

On the cover: Supporters of the North Mason branch of the Boys & Girls Club of South Puget Sound dived into Case Inlet on Jan. 31, to raise money for the center. Photo by Arla Shephard

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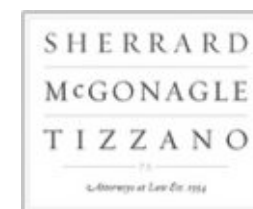
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