



**The mission.** As stewards of Sam Theler's Will, our mission is to provide a place that fulfills people's need for "community" and connection with this earth. We recognize that people, with their unique gifts and talents, are the real center of any community; we will honor our citizenry, particularly the children, by providing a gathering place and activities that embrace our history, diversity, and varied and common interests. We will protect, maintain, and showcase the wetland trails so that people will always have a place to enjoy our unique natural environment. In the spirit of our benefactor, it is our hope that the Theler Center & Wetlands will always be a reflection of our citizens and a source of community expression and pride.

Community Center

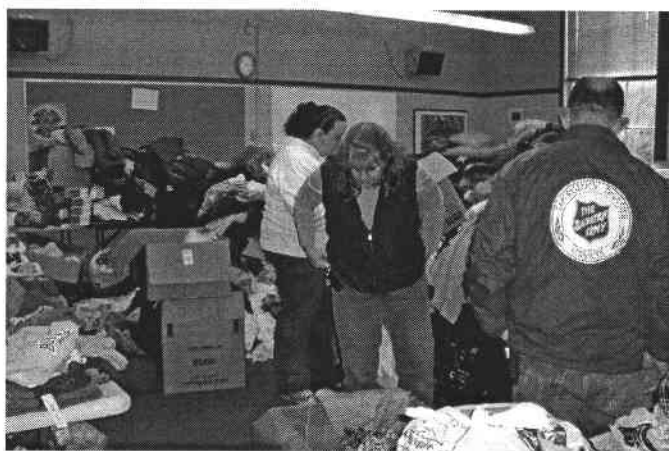
Wetland Trails

Education Support

## 2007 Annual Report

**2007 was a pivotal year for the Theler Community Center. Past efforts have been devoted to "survival." This year Theler Center began building the measures that will establish a firm business and financial foundation for sound management and long-term success. Theler Center "reconnected" with the North Mason community by expanding community support and events.**

**Community emergency shelter.** Theler Center completed preparations for function as a community emergency shelter. This was a two phase project with Theler Center integrating training from the American Red Cross and Mason County Fire District 2; and completing an emergency supply grant from the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound.



**Community Assistance.** Theler Center served as the disaster shelter during the December, 2007, flood relief efforts, assisting the Red Cross, Salvation Army and FEMA.

Theler Center's staff and volunteers activated the Center as an emergency shelter twice in 2007, served as a distribution center for emergency supplies to members of the community afflicted by the December, 2007, flooding and as an operations center for emergency agencies assisting North Mason residents recovering from the storms.

**Community support.** Theler Center built on its partnerships with other local community service organizations by improving support for essential community support services.

- Puget Sound Blood Bank
- North Mason Seniors Association
- Meals on Wheels
- Mason County parole office
- North Mason Coalition of Churches monthly community suppers
- Faith in Action
- Farmers Market
- ESD113 Student job training
- Head Start/ECAP
- Community service work site for Mission Creek Correction Center for Women
- Park & Ride for Allyn Days

**Business foundation.** Theler Center approved and implemented major policies to establish a firm foundation for business management and long-term success:

- **Governance**, establishing a firm business foundation.
- **Accountability**, assuring Theler Center remains faithful to the mission stipulated by benefactor, Sam Theler.
- **Gift Acceptance and Endowments**, assuring Theler

*"where community and nature walk hand-in-hand"*

22871 NE State Route 3 • P.O. Box 1445 • Belfair WA 98528  
360 275-4898 • FAX 360-275-3857 • theler@hctc.com • www.thelercenter.org

Center is a good steward of donors' resources.

- **Risk Management**, assuring Theler Center is safe.
- **Audit**, assuring Theler Center is a good steward of funds.
- **Records Management** to assure Theler Center's history is preserved.
- **Board of Directors** policy and procedure to assure stability of Theler Center's governance.
- **Job descriptions** for Board directors and Manager to assure competent operation of Theler Center.
- A variety of policies for day-to-day operations.

**Risk Assessment.** Theler Center conducted an organization-wide risk assessment to evaluate and mitigate safety, business and legal risks.

**Destination events.** Theler Center supported local tourism by implementing and expanding major



**Mystery Dinners.** Theler Mystery Dinners are a hit.

events, drawing participants from around the State:

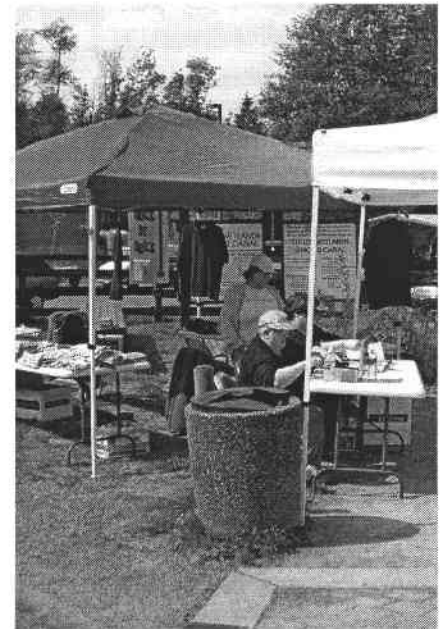
- Poker Run (September)
- Wetlands Festival (August)
- Walk for the Wetlands (May)

**Community events.** Theler Center provided opportunities for community involvement and support of the community center.

- Mystery dinners
- Breakfast at Theler
- Bingo
- Parking lot sales
- Art shows and Artist of the Month
- Vendor festivals
- Teen concerts
- Trick-or-Treat on the Trails
- Ping Pong

**Farmers' Market.** Theler Center became the home to the Belfair Farmer's Market. The market experienced significant growth in 2007, as a result of the increased visibility and access it gained by relocating to Theler Center.

**Education support.** The Wetlands Exhibit Center was open to the public during the summer season and offered bird-watching walks and painting classes. Busloads of students from schools all over the region visited the exhibit center and wetlands.



**Wetlands Festival.** Theler's first Wetlands Festival was a popular mid-summer event.

**Youth support.** The number of Girl Scout troops meeting at Theler Center is increasing. The "Green" has been used as a much needed practice field for local soccer teams and Little League T-Ball teams.

**Community partnerships.** Theler Center forged partnerships with other organizations supporting the North Mason Community.

- Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Mason County Fire Dist #2
- Federal Emergency management Agency
- Mason County Dept of Emergency Management
- Small Business Administration