

July 2019

Mukilteo

MONTHLY



Jerry Bush,
CEO of University
Mechanical & Local Resident
Giving Back to Mukilteo!

Cover Photo By: Kristin Boudon Photography

Your Photos, Your Stories, Your Community!



cover story

Writing By: **Carla Swedish**
Photos By: **Kristin Boudon Photography**

Meet Jerry Bush

of Mukilteo-based University Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

Learn how they give back to our community...



(From Left to Right) Jerry Bush with Stephanie Vogt, Martin Clinton, Bob Frey & Dale Stone.

Jerry Bush is a citizen of Mukilteo and the president/CEO of Mukilteo-based University Mechanical Contractors, Inc. (UMC). In both capacities, Jerry enjoys using his time, treasure, and talent to give back to his community.

University Mechanical Contractors, Inc., takes its name from the University District, where it started as a family business in 1920. The company moved to North Seattle in the mid-sixties and remained there until moving to Mukilteo in 2001. While UMC sometimes is in-

involved with general construction, the company focuses primarily on the mechanical systems for large buildings. Its sweet spot is “critical space.” Critical spaces include hospitals, data centers, and biotech companies — any buildings where heating, air conditioning, plumbing, servers, etc., simply must not fail. The philosophy at all levels of the workforce is, “If it’s difficult and technical, we love it.”

Jerry started with UMC in 1989, working his way up the ranks as project manager, construction manager, and operations manager. He took over as president/CEO in 2001, when the company made its move to Mukilteo. Although only one fourth-generation member of the original founding family of the company now works here; UMC’s values have remained familial, with one generation of management nurturing the next. Jerry says he had three managers, the youngest being ten years his senior, for whom he “overnight became their boss” when he took the helm. His mentors did this on purpose! “They helped me be successful, which helped the company be successful,” he says.

The company has always had a culture of corporate giving, and as CEO, Jerry formalized and focused this community support by creating the UMC Charitable Foundation. As stated on the website, “The goal of UMCCF is to support a variety of causes, particularly those affecting children, as well as those that are close to the hearts of UMC employees and clients.” The UMCCF holds one fundraiser and two formal meetings a year. Jerry meets with his assistant regularly to sift through donation requests, many from his customers. There is always a contingency amount set aside for “surprise asks.”

In 2003, two years after UMC moved to Mukilteo, Jerry, his wife Deb, and their two children — Zachary and Kylie — moved here from Lynnwood. Both children went start-to-finish through the Mukilteo school system. Zachary just graduated from Western Washington University with a job lined up at Boeing, and Kylie is between her sophomore and junior years at Washington State University.

We'll help you stay cool and comfortable this summer!

ALLpoints
Heating & Fireplace
Residential. Heating. A/C. Fireplaces

Carrier
turn to the experts

One call and we can help with all your heating, cooling and water heating systems that provide you with value as well as comfort. Kick up your feet and leave it to us!
We're just down the street from you!

4332 Chennault Beach Rd | Mukilteo, WA 98275
425•821•3333 | allpointsh heating.com



Jerry and Deb grew up in Colorado and have known each other since sophomore year in high school. Jerry says he had a crush on Deb back then but that she had “no interest at all” in him. Deb started college at the University of Colorado, later transferring to Colorado State University where she met up with Jerry once again, and “one thing led to another.”

ceased when the recession hit in 2008. In 2010, Jerry and business partner Doug Smith joined the group that finally succeeded in building the new facility now located in Harbour Pointe. It took a long time and the experience left Jerry very appreciative of not only the hard work from “a whole lot” of good people but for the many services the Boys and Girls Club provides for kids. Both Jerry and UMC continue to support this worthy organization.

Jerry’s other ongoing “give-back” activity is as a member of Mukilteo’s Planning Commission. Because he has “been here so long and know[s] a bunch of people,” he has been asked to run for City Council; but Jerry is “just not a political guy.” The Planning Commission is a way to be part of the civic process without being political. Jerry enjoys the consensus-building nature of the Commission, citing that they are respectful of each other, really listen to each other, and “get a lot of stuff done.” Jerry also finds the smart and productive City staff impressive.

When not contributing to or participating in civic activities, Jerry is a photography enthusiast and enjoys fly fishing. He loves nature and being outside. He also loves Colorado, so he and Deb have a place in Steamboat Springs where they often return to their roots for fun and relaxation.

Raising their family here and getting to know and love Mukilteo naturally led Jerry into personal community involvement. He loved running and taking his dogs to Japanese Gulch, and joined the “bunch of mountain bikers” who evolved into the Japanese Gulch Group. The group’s grassroots fundraising led to saving Japanese Gulch from development by orchestrating the purchase of the parcels that now make up Japanese Gulch Park.

Jerry’s second community involvement was the capital campaign to fund the new Mukilteo Boys and Girls Club. Zachary and Kylie played sports there when they were little. The original club was extremely rundown, but efforts to raise money to rebuild had



Do you know someone who is making a difference and/or is involved in a non-profit organization in the community? We want to hear all about it! Email us today at mukilteo_content@n2pub.com.



Visit Us Today - We'd Love To Meet You!

At Harbour Pointe, we offer signature Integral Senior Living programs like Vibrant Life® activities, Elevate® culinary and the Generations memory care program, a program focused on the individual's strengths to foster moments of achievement. Each of these programs helps to promote an adventurous lifestyle and meaningful experiences at our community.

No matter where you are in life's journey, home is meant to be a place of comfort and enjoyment and a familiar, yet enriching, environment. At Harbour Pointe Senior Living, we offer you or your loved ones a beautiful blend of privacy, safety, security and community in the town they've always called home.

Caring for our residents is at the heart of what we do. If you or a loved one is looking for a senior living community driven by a dedication to care and compassion, please call us today and schedule a tour.



Harbour Pointe
Senior Living

10200 Harbour Place, Mukilteo, WA 98275 | 844.681.8877 | hpretire.com

