

## THOUGHTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This is a time of great joy and thanksgiving for the Forge. Looking back on this challenging year we recognize the vital part that our supporters play in the work the Forge is doing out in the community. We could not do this work without you! Here are a few important updates:

- We are continuing to do our life skills on an individual basis both with new students and with previous apprentices who we have ongoing relationships with. Blacksmiths (mentors) are reaching out to their former apprentices, many of whom find themselves home from college, looking for jobs, or navigating online learning while somewhat isolated on a college campus. We are using this time when we can't meet in person to provide video trainings for our Blacksmiths and coaching them on how to better support students.
- Utmost is back to over 100 youth and adult participants! With the most recent set of COVID restrictions, most gyms in our community have shut down again. Thankfully over the summer we pivoted quickly and our outdoor set up allows for us to remain open while following the governor's mandates. It has been difficult and expensive, but we are elated to offer this important physical, emotional, and mental health outlet to our students.
- Mowtown is going strong with weekly lawn care services and special projects. We are so grateful for our full time crew, Cornelio & Santiago and our student workers, Luis & Jake!
- Our new partnership with students at Hayes Freedom High School has also led to an invitation for one of our board members to help form a Mechatronix program for their Sophomores and Juniors. This course represents a kind of "taster" for engineering students preparing to enter college. For the Forge it represents another opportunity to mentor students and get them ready for life and work!

Opportunities to connect with students and schools in our community continuing to arise. Now more than ever, students need to be "Life Ready. Job Ready." We know that your charitable resources are important to you. We are so grateful for the many ways each of have supported the Forge over the years. Through your one time and ongoing gifts you have made it possible for us to continue this important work! Would you be willing to help us in this critical and challenging time? With your support we are looking forward to meeting the challenges and opportunities that await us in 2021.

- Matt Overton



## [CLICK HERE TO GIVE](#)

Thank you for supporting The Forge. By choosing to support us this past year, you have made it possible for our organization to meet the unique challenges and changing needs of our programs. We are grateful for every gift, especially during a year that has been so difficult for so many individuals and organizations! Here are a few examples of how we use these gifts:

- \$50/month keeps our athletes warm by filling the propane tanks for our outdoor heaters at Utmost
- \$100/month provides a full scholarship for one Utmost Athlete— 1 in 5 of our athletes have a partial scholarship
- \$500 gift provides a one time yard clean up or project for a community member in need
- \$1,000 gifts fund an extra coach for smaller sized training groups required by COVID restrictions

[www.thecolumbiafutureforge.com](http://www.thecolumbiafutureforge.com)

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### COME WORKOUT AT UTMOST!

Utmost Athletics is opening up new training sessions in January! All ages and abilities are welcome! Whether you are a well trained athlete or have never lifted a weight, Utmost can help you build strength and improve your fitness. Right now all workouts are held outside under canopies due to COVID restrictions. We are taking all the precautionary measures that we can to keep our athletes and coaches safe and healthy while still being able to train. Grab a friend or family member and come work towards your health goals in 2021!

New sessions will run Friday/Sunday/Tuesday afternoons and evenings. We also have openings for morning workouts on Monday/Wednesday/Thursday. Email us at [utmostathletics@gmail.com](mailto:utmostathletics@gmail.com) or call Anne at 530-635-1672 for more information and session availability! [www.utmostathletics.com](http://www.utmostathletics.com)



### REFLECTIONS FROM A PARTING BOARD MEMBER

As 2020 draws to a close, The Columbia Future Forge is saying goodbye to one of our founding board members, Dave Cram. Dave's professional experience is in helping to form nonprofit corporations, so before The Forge was incorporated he was approached by our current board president Bryan Ableidinger and executive director Matt Overton and asked to consider playing a key role in the creation of The Columbia Future Forge. The Forge was officially launched in 2017 and Dave has served on the board ever since.

Can you imagine anyone being energized by tax codes? In Dave, The Forge has had someone who is cheerful, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable about how to keep The Forge in full nonprofit compliance with both Washington State and the federal government.

Dave sums it up perfectly saying, "The reason I do this work is for the resulting impact The Future Forge has on youth. That's what we're about and that's what we want to continue to see happening." He says that The Forge is in good hands right now with the current board and is doing well, so he feels called to move on to some other nonprofits who have approached him and asked for his assistance. "My hope for the future is that The Forge would continue to grow to impact more and more youth in life skills and job skills."

How fortunate we have been to have someone with Dave's specialized skills serve so faithfully for this important time period in the life of The Forge! We offer our heartfelt thanks and wish him well as he moves on to offer his time and skills to bless other nonprofit starts ups. Thanks, Dave!