

**OUR  
FAVORITE  
NEIGHBOR**

**Cara Carrubba**



**Bid for Executive Board Member of  
the Year 2003-2004**

When it comes to service to community, the first person that comes to mind is Mr. Rogers. He was the ever positive voice of comfort, advice, friendship, and good neighborliness. It seemed all the good in the world resided in that man. The purpose of his show was to foster positive values in children by showing them the ideal neighbor. They were values of community in the neighborhood, leadership in service and initiative, and a compassionate, dependable character.

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***“Won’t You Be My Neighbor?”***

*I have always wanted to have a neighbor  
Just Like you!  
I’ve always wanted to live in a  
Neighborhood with you.  
So let’s make the most of this beautiful day.  
Since we’re together we might as well say,  
Would you be mine?  
Could you be mine?  
Won’t you be my neighbor?*

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An avid watcher of Mr. Rogers’, Cara Carrubba always wanted to be a good neighbor. When Cara grew up (or at least graduated from high school) she came to the University of Washington (UW) neighborhood in Autumn of 2001. From the beginning she wanted to contribute to the community, becoming involved in an organization that was the perfect fit, the UW Residence Hall Student Association (RHSA). Weeks into her freshman year she was elected to RHSA Representative for her hall, she soon began to show the responsibility and dedication that distinguish her. Continuing her participation, she bid and won the position of Administrative Manager on the RHSA Executive Board for 2002-2003. As if one successful year as Administrative Manager was not enough, she bid for a second year. Serving as 2003-2004 Administrative Manager of the UW RHSA, her love for the values of Mr. Rogers has shown through: community in the neighborhood, leadership in service and initiative, and character.



# Community in the Neighborhood

*"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes." - Fred Rogers*

A great neighborhood is only as good as its neighbors. Mr. Rogers stressed community and Cara's record displays a similar enthusiasm for community.

Mr. Rogers built up the children that watched his show for the benefit of the neighborhood just as Cara built up her peers in the residence hall neighborhood. Viable leadership training has always been necessary to an effective RHSA community. Cara took on a very active role in the Day of Training that the RHSA Executive Board put on. Specifically, she trained the seven Secretaries of each hall in addition to all 20 RHSA Representatives from every hall. Many of the attendees said their positional training was the most relevant and helpful for them, without Cara's dedication this need would not have been met.



*Cara helped organize and implement the RHSA Day of Training.*

Communication is necessary to any neighborhood. Mr. Rogers got his message through in the convenient, efficient medium of public television. He is arguably the father of children's educational televAs Administrative Manager, Cara maintained and improved communication in the Residence Hall system, making it more convenient and efficient. With no previous web design experience, she began building the RHSA website which had not been online in over a year. Additionally, she composes the weekly RHSA Newsletter and Agenda, adding humor through jokes and riddles making them easier to read. She also improved the email list serve by maintaining the system more actively, ensuring the most



current membership is on it. This has allowed her to send update of upcoming events, program, and reminders, which effectively helps cross-campus communication.

Mr. Rogers saw community much like a series of concentric circles. Mr. Rogers covered issues in the family, school, and the world. Mr. Rogers would talk on helping your neighbor and your peers but he also talked about national issues facing children, September 11<sup>th</sup> was one example of this. Cara's actions reflect the same outlook on community. She is highly involved within and outside RHSA. Supplementing her duties on the executive board, she volunteered in the Resident Advisor Interview Process and the Eviction Review Committee. At the Resident Advisor Interview Screening, she did one-on-one interviews with potential Resident Advisors. This helps to further establish and maintain community within the residence halls. This goal is kept in mind at the Eviction Review Committee where the most serious of offenses are addressed. As the only student leader and resident on the committee, she is able to offer suggestions and opinions that help maintain the building and encouragement of community by asking those who threaten the neighborhood to leave. She maintains a presence at events beyond what she is not directly involved with, attending hall dances and RA programs. She sees support of the entire community as crucial. Her work with the DAWGs program, a program that assists in the move-in of the over 3000 residents who come to live in the UW residence halls every year, built our residence hall community early on in the year. This included a 7-hour stay in a hot parking lot with concerned parents and future residents. She helped alleviate the stress of move-in by mingling with people, answering questions, discussing ways for residents to get involved. While parents and students waited in their cars, Cara enthusiastically handed out beverages and ice cream, all with a smile on her face. This was also an early start on RHSA promotion, giving freshman their first opportunity for leadership in their new home. Beyond the UW RHSA, she



recognizes the importance of involvement outside the local residential life community. She helped in writing several bids including the University of Washington bid for Student Award for Leadership Training (SALT) and University of Washington's PACURH winning Program of the Year (POY) bid. She also helps to raise money for RHSA members to go to conferences through our Study Buddy Fundraiser. This includes helping to organize, label and stuff 400+ Study Buddies during the autumn quarter. Extending into the broader university neighborhood, she attends important events such as "Sunday Conversation" in which UW Administration and the Dean of the Undergraduate Department discussed current issues directly concerning the residents of RHSA. She participates fully in her community in any scope.

## Leadership in Service and Initiative

*"This is Just the Day" by Josie Carey; Song from Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*

*If you've got a plan,  
Now's the time to try it.  
If you've got an airplane,  
Fly it.  
This is just the day.*

*It's the day for seeing all there is to see.  
It's the day for being just you, just me.*

*If you've got a smile,  
Now's the time to show it.  
If you've got a horn, Then blow it.*

*It's the minute to begin it.*

*This is just the day.*

Mr. Rogers always challenged his viewers to make the most of their day, taking the initiative to make a difference.

Cara always found needs and filled them. Seeing the need for better efficiency she created the "What's Happen'?" Card,

now events are accounted for in an easy process that saves a lot of time in asking the specifics repeated times. These cards are passed around at every RHSA General Council meeting and give the member the chance to advertise their hall events. At the end of each meeting she collects and compiles them into a friendly email that help promote hall events. The UW RHSA experienced a



*"This Is Just the Day"*



change in structure early in the year. This translated into more than 10 amendments in three weeks to the Constitution and By-laws from several different people covering items like: committees, our relationship with the Student Senate, and logistical “house-cleaning”. In addition to maintaining the RHSA Constitution she also serves as Chair to the Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee, which oversees and discusses six hall councils’ constitutions. As Administrative Manager, she is responsible for the integrity of the Constitution. She meets this need for an orderly process and with a systematic, organized process she coordinated the different adjustments while maintaining the Constitution’s continuity without incident. Her leadership not only benefited RHSA today but also the posterity of RHSA. She continues to show a desire for improvement, which a characteristic all leaders should have, finding needs and filling them.

## Character

*Have you ever worked as hard as you knew how and people still didn't appreciate you? What do you do? You either give up or you keep on. - Mr. Rogers*



*Always a bright smile!*

Mr. Rogers made his character come out in the show. And at the end of every show he always told the children “It’s you I like.” She brings life to each meeting with the moment, no, the event, of the weekly meeting that every member waits for The Riddles!!! She writes in riddles in the end of the newsletter and at the end of her report at the RHSA Meeting she answers. She has been awarded the PACURH Bronze Pin for her

outstanding service in the halls and for the aid that she provided to the President. Even after such success and dedication she continues one of the best work ethics I have seen. Whether its nominating people for awards or taking a hike down the infamous University Village Hill to QFC to get the food for the next meeting in the Seattle rain, she does it without asking and



without adequate recognition. This bid can be summed up in one word: understatement. Fred Rogers said “If only you could sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person.” No one can surmise Cara’s complete affect on the UW RHSA, nor the power that she has in making a positive community and executive board.



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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*Housing and Food Services  
Residential Services*

Dear PACURH NCCs and RBD:

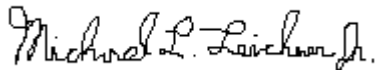
As President of the University of Washington RHSA, I have the chance to work with some of the best people in the university community. Specifically some of the most dedicated leaders and Cara Carrubba is one of those leaders. She is one of the hardest working people I have had the pleasure to be around in my college experience and throughout my life. It is because of this that I enthusiastically recommend Cara as PACURH Executive Board Member of the Year.

Recently, she has held the position of Administrative Manager for RHSA during the last two school years. She has been an invaluable resource and administrative genius for me. She has been able to keep organized with everything from Day of Training to weekly agendas always in an easy to follow manner. She is able to help me out with any issues that arise and is in the Leadership Office for the majority of her weekdays.

Although her job may not be glamorous or well recognized, she has made it her responsibility to bring a special sense of pizzazz and flair to everything she does. Whether it is through weekly newsletter riddles, other fun facts, or shaking her "booty" to the sounds of "Destiny's Child", Cara helps share her enthusiasm with everyone.

One of the things that I have learned as President of RHSA is that you need to have an Executive Board that you can count on but it is a bonus to have people that are fun to be around. Cara is both of these things. She is the so-called "rock" that I can lean on when I need something to get done or just for an honest answer. Cara is the kind of person that will volunteer for something when no one else will but also has the ability to help others take on a stronger leadership role. I have gotten to know Cara this year in both a professional and casual environment and I have seen the dedication she has shown to RHSA. I am fortunate to be able to consider her a friend as well as a colleague. I encourage you to select Cara for the 2003-2004 Executive Board Member of the Year. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely



Michael L. Leichner, Jr.  
President  
Residence Hall Student Association



# UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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*Housing and Food Services  
Residential Services*

Dear PACURH NCC's, Regional Board of Directors, and NRHH Representatives,

It is with great pleasure that I write this recommendation for Cara Carrubba for PACURH Executive Board Member of the Year. I have worked with Cara over the past two years in my capacity as advisor to the Residence Hall Student Association. When I think of outstanding "Executive Board Member of the Year," I think of a someone who not only displays great leadership skills, but one who creates the opportunities for others to get involved and make their experience in the residence halls an active fun experience.

Cara started the year by working with the RHSA executive board to set goals to build fun into the general council and its meetings. Cara brings much strength to her position as Administrative Manager of the Residence Hall Student Association.

First and foremost, she is enthusiastic about the experience living in the hall environment can give to the students; this enthusiasm is contagious to those with whom she interacts. Her laughter can be heard down the hallway where ever she goes.

Secondly, Cara brings her tenacious spirit to the position of Administrative Manager – she is capable of absorbing and retaining a large amount of information and recalling details accurately. Cara takes time to listen and really hear what residents have to say in our residential community.

Finally, Cara is professional and holds herself to very high standards. Cara will ask questions to understand and handles interactions with students and staff alike with respect and dignity.

Cara's achievements are many this year. I would like to highlight a few to give examples of ways she has worked to achieve building community within our on campus community:



Written 10 constitutional and bylaw amendments; this ensured constitution validity and continuity.



Active planner of the Executive Board Day of Training; presentations were made to the Secretaries, New Reps, and How to make contact with University Communities.



Actively greeted 3000 plus students and their parents on move-in day in our E-1 parking lot. She greeted, handed out RHSA lanyards & mugs, and shared campus information throughout the day. Serving the student population is something that Cara really believes in.



Awarded the Bronze Pin for service to the halls.

Cara is the Executive Member of the Year in my book and is very deserving of this year's PACURH Executive Board Member of the Year Award. If I may be of further assistance, ask, as I will be in attendance at the No Frills Conference.

Sincerely,

Leslie J. B. Howard, M.Ed  
Coordinator for Leadership Development and Resident Education

