

Washington State



Hands & Voices

Christine Griffin
Guide By Your Side
Coordinator

Our Story



Our History

Development of community based resources and supports grew out of the movement to deinstitutionalize children and individuals with disabilities. (CDPR, 2002)

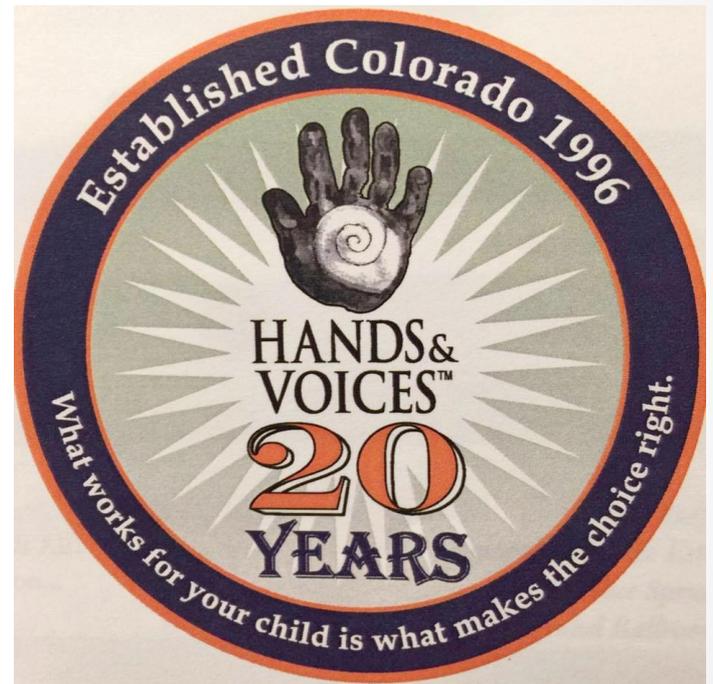
- “Community Guide”
- “Personal Broker”



“Families responded that using natural supports...were more effective when sources were closest to a family’s geographic location and personal situations” (Hobbs, Perrin, & Ireys, 1984)

Hands & Voices

- 1996 - Grew from a group of parents in Colorado coming together to form a support program, not based on how a family communicated, rather on the outcomes families wanted for their child.
- This mindset transcends any debate about communication methodologies.

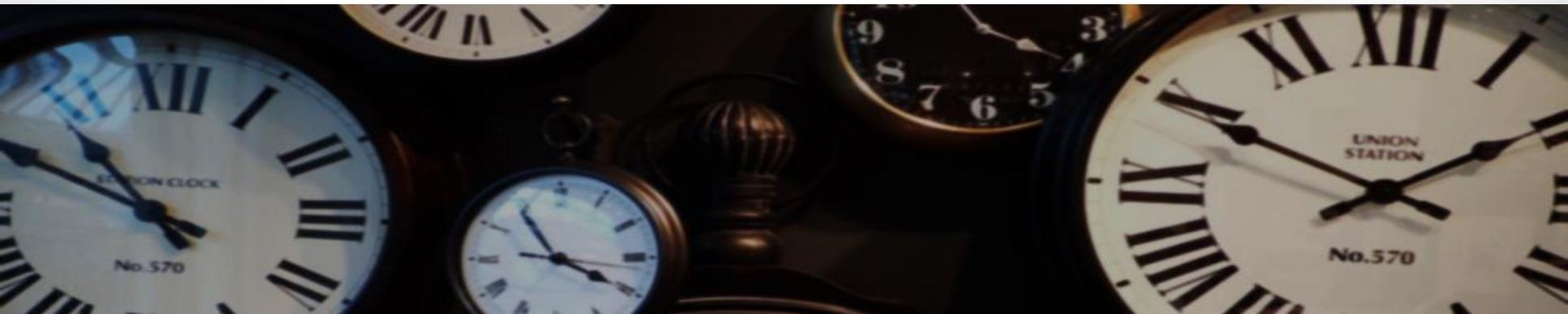


What makes us Tick

We are a **parent-driven, parent/professional collaborative** group that **supports families without bias** about communication modes and methods.

We believe that there is no one communication choice that will work for all children who are deaf or hard of hearing. We think **families need access to good information that's free from a sponsoring agenda or ideology.**

We believe that “What works for your child is what makes the choice right.”



What makes us Tick

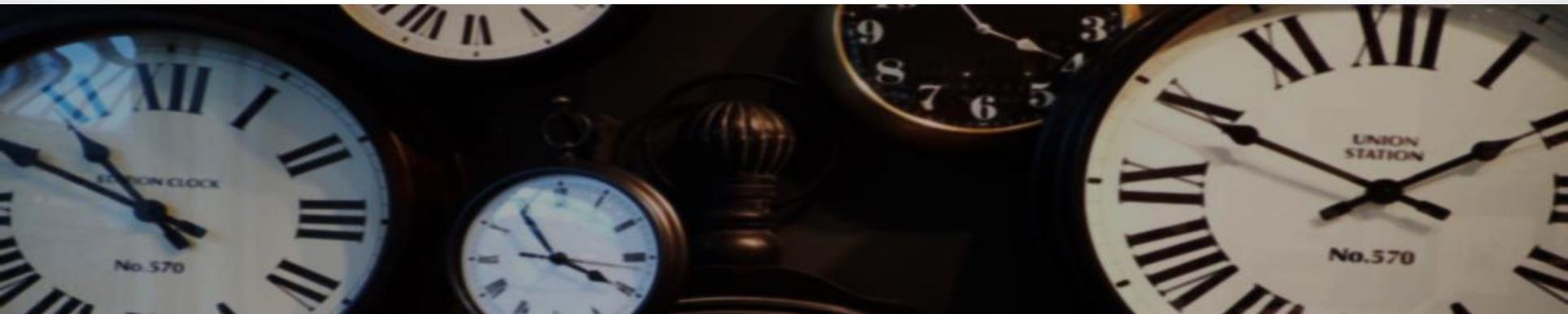
We believe **our children have a fundamental human right to communication**, regardless of their mode or method of communication.

We get **meaningfully involved** in early hearing detection and intervention programs, educational advocacy, and other systems **to improve** them from an end-user perspective – **through highly trained, knowledgeable parents.**

We exist to help our children/students reach their **highest potential.**

We believe **Parent-to-Parent Support is a cornerstone** for families finding their way.

We **promote the life experiences and talents of adults who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing** to help families ensure success for their own children who are d/hh.



Washington State Hands & Voices



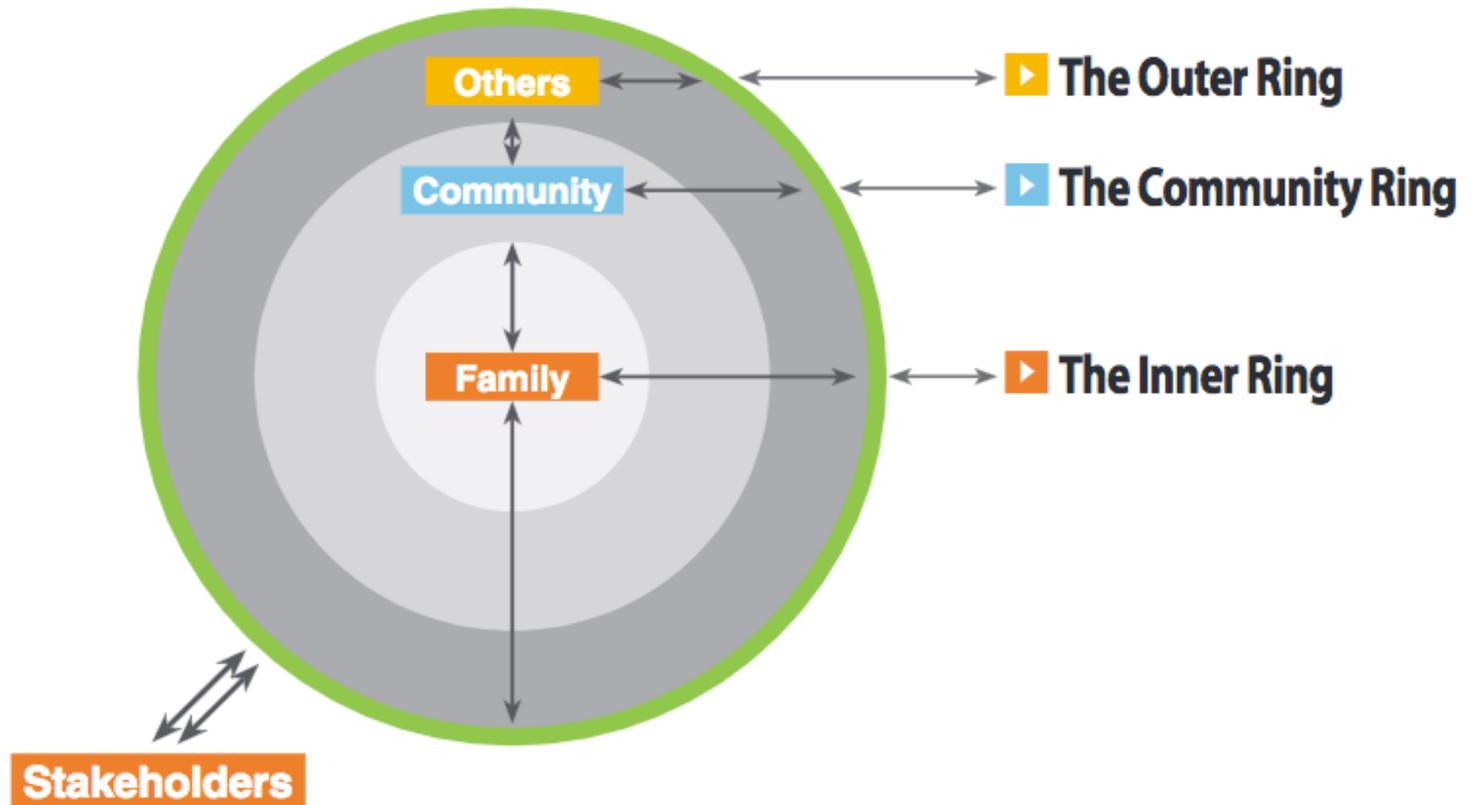
Mission:

*Hands & Voices is dedicated to **supporting families** with children who are **deaf or hard-of-hearing without a bias around communication** modes or methodology. We're a **parent-driven**, non-profit organization **providing families** with the **resources, networks, and information** they need to **improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children.***

*Our outreach activities, parent/professional collaboration, and advocacy efforts are **focused on enabling deaf and hard-of-hearing children to reach their highest potential.***

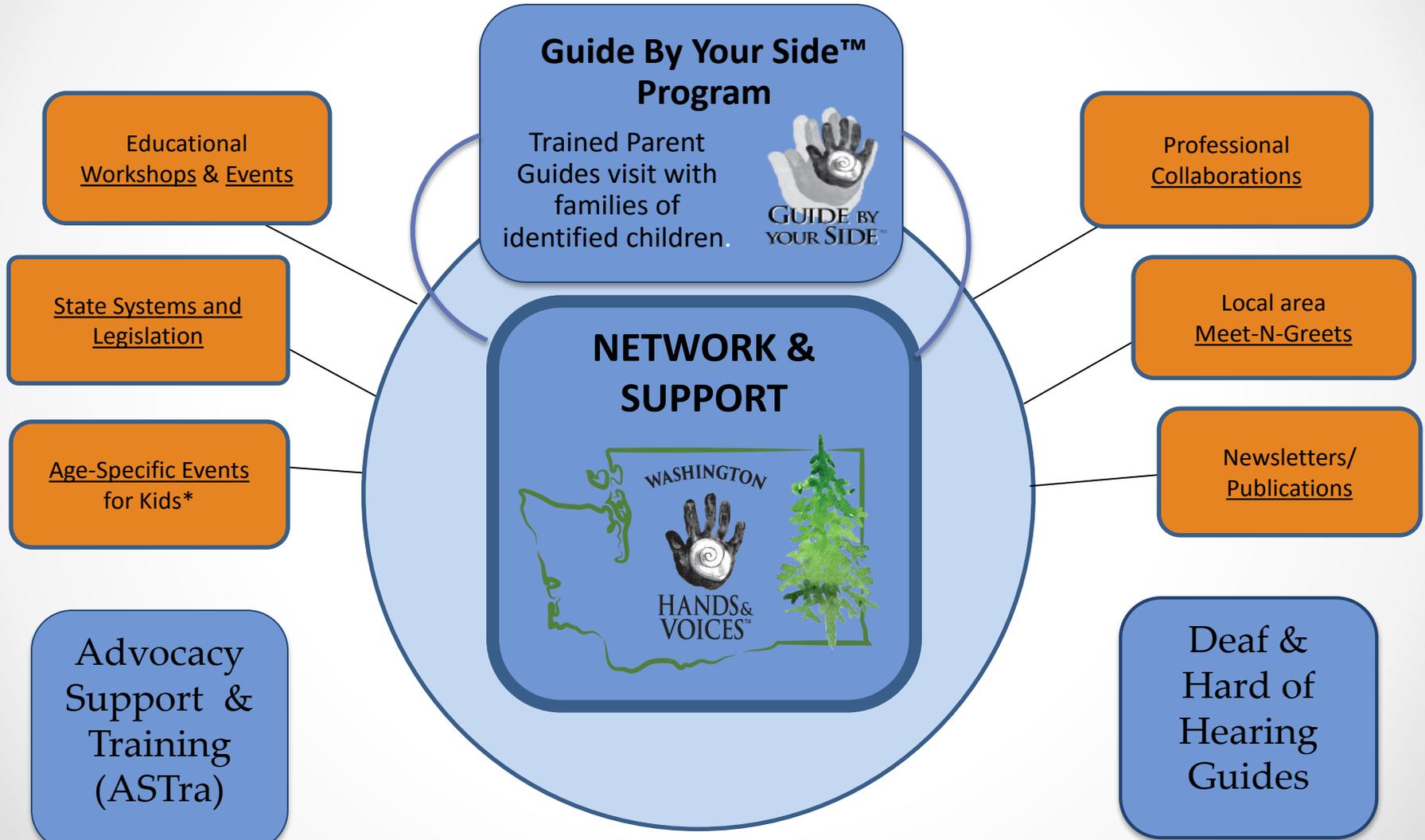
Focus on Leadership

Progression of Leadership™

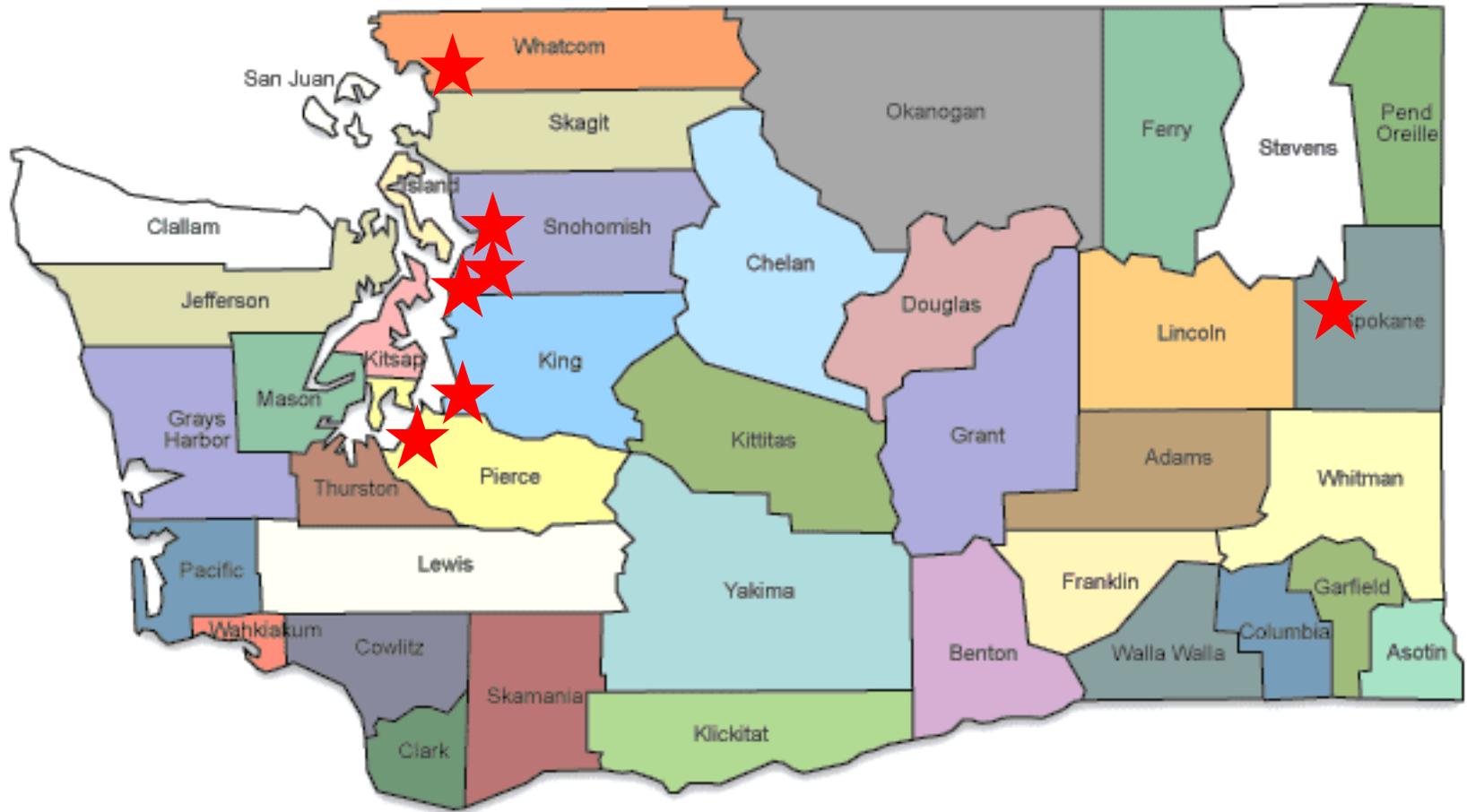


WASHINGTON HANDS & VOICES™ SERVICES

Supporting Families as they Help Their Children Reach Their Full Potential



Guide By Your Side





**Guide by
your Side™**

Guide By Your Side

Guide By Your Side Program Provides:

- A Parent Guide to listen and share resources.
- Unbiased Support to families of children birth to 21 years.
- Compassion and knowledge from parents who have a child with hearing loss.

Why is Parent Support Important to Families?

- Families realize they aren't alone as Parent Guides share their own experiences.
- Support provided by parent helps to validate and empower other parents because they see what is possible.
- Information and support offered allows families the tools to navigate challenging systems.

Family Outcomes

- "The Parent Guide reached out to our family and, quite honestly, changed our lives. She offered guidance and support to help myself and my son cope with being DeafBlind, as well as offered a plethora of amazing resources that continue to enrich our lives. I cannot possibly thank Guide By Your Side and my Parent Guide enough. It's an amazing resource for parents."
- "Thanks for reminding me that I'm my Child's best advocate and for being by my side."



Get Support

Parents, family members or professionals can contact our program directly by:

Phone/Text:

(425) 268-7087

Email:

gbys@wahandsandvoices.org

Service providers or professionals who are working with a family can have a family to fill out our referral form (see below) then fax or mail it directly to our program coordinator.

Download referral form:

www.wahandsandvoices.org

Fax number:

(360) 715-9970

Address:

2950 Newmarket St., Suite 101-124
Bellingham, WA 98226



Getting Involved

Open positions

- H&V Board members
- Parent Guides
 1. Parent who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing that uses ASL and written English with their family
 2. Parent who is Bilingual Spanish and English speaking

Coming Up for Hands & Voices

- Parent Survey of Needs
- 4/20- Parent Workshop Spokane
- 4/26-27 JA Biz Town
- 5/6- Infant and Early Childhood Conference



Resources

- Forlenza, E. (n.d.). Progression of Leadership. Retrieved November 13, 2016, from EileenForlenza.com
- Hobbs, N., Perrin, J.M., and Ireys, H.T. (1984). *Chronically ill children in America*. *Rehabilitation Literature*, 45 (7-8):206-13
- The University of Washington Center for Disability Policy and Research (CDPR), (2002), *Family support opportunity policy: A review of literature*, Seattle, WA