

The Leader

OWL360 director recognized with Woman of Excellence Award

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Kelli Parcher of OWL360 speaks during the Dec. 13 ceremony.
Courtesy photos.

Kelli Parcher, founder and director of OWL360, was awarded the American Association of University Women's (AAUW) 2026 Woman of Excellence Award during a Dec. 13 ceremony at Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Port Townsend.

Parcher was honored for her long-standing record of supporting both youth and young adults in Jefferson County. She has worked to create housing, provide education and introduce pathways for young people who might fall outside traditional support systems.

With OWL360, Parcher leads a nonprofit focused on helping young people gain stability and independence through housing, skillbuilding programs and community support. The organization operates The Nest, a community coffeehouse and gathering space, as well as a housing program for young adults who are unhoused or at risk of homelessness.

OWL360's programs have now provided thousands of bed-nights each year and serves as a place to connect for the region's vulnerable youth.



Parcher holds the 2026 Woman of Excellence Award.

Parcher was nominated by Zhaleh Almaee, Assistant Director at OWL360, with letters supporting her from colleagues who have worked alongside her for several decades.

Her colleagues said that the organization largely exists because Parcher recognized the growing need for young adults who are aging out of youth services and acted quickly to address it.

Former Jefferson County Juvenile Court Administrator Barbara Carr, who has known Parcher for over 25 years, said that Parcher's ability to flip ideas into services has been consistent throughout her career. In particular, Carr

credited her work establishing the Pfeiffer House, a supportive housing site for young adults.

“Kelli is known for getting stuff done. When she has a goal, she evaluates the immediate, creates a vision for the future, and gets started,” said Carr. “Her vision for the Pfeiffer House became a reality in a matter of months.”

Before launching OWL360, Parcher worked for years with “system-involved” youth through Jefferson County’s juvenile services. She managed The Proctor House, a county-funded alternative detention home that provided structure and support for youth in the court system. In a difficult environment, Carr said Parcher earned the trust of both youth and their families.

“Both kids and parents would call her, text her, meet up with her – all long after they had been discharged,” Carr said. “They trusted her. She was there. She always knew how to help.”

OWL360 board member Lela Hilton, a retired executive director of the Clemente Course in the Humanities, a nationally-recognized, tuition-free college-level humanities program designed for adults facing economic hardship, wrote in support of Parcher. She said that OWL360 has become the “go-to” agency for vulnerable youth and young adults in Jefferson County.

Hilton pointed to the consistency, balance and structure that Parcher provides to work that is often unpredictable.

The AAUW said that this year’s nomination pool was particularly strong. They said Parcher’s selection celebrates the scope of OWL360’s work and her long-standing role in developing programs that support young people in crisis.