Jerry Beavers' Y Story

Modified from "The First 100 Years" by Lawrence E. O'Donnell

In 1987, Jerry Beavers was leading the downtown YMCA branch in San Jose, California, when the Everett Y called to offer him the job of President and CEO. He didn't know the Puget Sound area, but he knew the Y. "My wife Sue and I didn't know anybody in Everett," he later recalled, "but when we came up here with our two children, we liked what we saw. There were good people with good intentions."

Jerry had two goals: bring stability now, then expand the Y across Snohomish County so families wouldn't have to drive to Everett. He lifted staff morale, rebuilt ties with the church community, opened the building to more families, and started school-age child care.

By 2001, membership had grown from under 4,000 to nearly 50,000. When he retired in 2008, he closed out a 37-year YMCA career. He left behind a Y that grew from a single Everett association into a countywide organization serving tens of thousands of neighbors.