

JULIE VANEVERY



Greetings,

I hope life is good for all of you today. My name is Julie VanEvery. I have submitted my name for Puyallup Tribal Council. I have worked for over 20 years throughout our community. I have the honor of working for the Puyallup Tribal Court, a very rewarding and high stressed job that I am committed to in order to help our people get there just due rights.

I have found it to be happy days and sad days which has taught me to grow and see the need for our own juvenile holding center and more programs for our young parents. We should have our own halfway house for our people that are coming out of treatment so we can begin the process of reuniting our young parents with their children. You can send children anywhere, but you can never break the bond between a parent and their child. No matter how much time has gone by, a child still knows their parent. I have witnessed the reunification and it has been a very rewarding experience.

I have a heart for the homeless, especially our own native people. I give them food and clothing anytime I can and a couple of bucks. It is my way of honoring and respecting them. They all know me on these streets and never hesitate to wave at me. I truly believe in PAYING IT FORWARD.

I have walked a long road in my short life. I have witnessed and experienced much. I am a daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, and auntie. I am called "mom" by many young people in the community. I have also adopted many more grandkids. I have seven grandchildren of my own, but when I go to see them they always have other kids there, so all the little ones just follow and give me and papa a big hug.

I am a firm believer in living our remaining tradition. Preserving and canning our native foods, as well as smoking salmon are important traditions we must never give up or walk away from. In sharing and teaching our children these traditions we can be assured, not only, will they not go hungry, but also help them to appreciate and honor the life that was given to us.

I have been blessed with what I have in my life and been blessed with two great parents that are not here today, but I hear and see them in my dreams. I hope you take the time to vote this year and good luck for every decision you make.