

## **The “David” Award**

The National Network of Prison Nonprofits, NC4RSO, hereby issues *A David Award* to Renton Library Staff in March, 2015 in recognition of an exemplary display of interpersonal conduct that contributes to turning *places* into *communities*.

The National Network of Prison Nonprofits, NC4RSO, is a national coalition of community groups that deliver programs in jails, prisons, and post-incarceration re-entry. Our member organizations – and individual volunteers – work with people who are, or have been incarcerated.

It’s common for the public, and incarcerated persons themselves, to view incarcerated individuals as “society’s throw aways.” While prisons are a legitimate necessity and people can become discouraged when situations require incarcerating someone, this “throw away” perspective deters solution-oriented community improvement. At NC4RSO, we focus on ways for incarcerated persons to successfully re-enter society after serving a sentence. Further, communities need to engage with everyone to the full extent possible – while each person engages with their communities – for communities to be healthy. Further, this attitude applies in all contexts where some persons can be easily dismissed (not just in jails and re-entry).

Renton Library Staff have demonstrated a positive attitude in working with someone in the community who could have been easily dismissed in the course of daily library operations.

In an effort to encourage all members of society to engage in positive interactions everywhere and to thereby improve communities generally, we hereby recognize Renton Library Staff with *The David Award*.

*David Award* recipients may sometimes be tempted to think that their efforts shouldn’t be acknowledged; that everyone should behave in the same manner when finding themselves in the same situation. NC4RSO’s response is that recognition helps foster a public increase in this attitude, thereby improving communities overall for everyone.

The *David Awards* are given in honor of a soul named David – a person with whom the first recipients of this award engaged compassionately when it could have been tempting to dismiss him.