

Westhill Quarterly

A LETTER TO THE PEOPLE WHO KEEP THE SHOP OPEN

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The shop stayed open 1,140 hours this summer.

Ninety-six people learned to sharpen a chisel between June and August, most of them on a Saturday, none of them charged a dollar. That is what your gift bought — not a building, not a programme, but the lights on and somebody at the bench who knows what they are doing.

We had planned for 60 hours a week and ran 88. The Saturday Bench filled every week from the second week of June, and by July we were turning people away at ten in the morning, which is the first time in sixteen years that has happened. So we did the obvious thing and opened Thursday evenings too, staffed by four volunteers who between them have 70 years in the trades.

The number I keep coming back to is not the hours. It is that **71 percent** of the money that kept the doors open arrived in gifts of under a hundred dollars. Thank you.

NADIA BOONE · EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR · OCTOBER 2, 2025

THE YEAR SO FAR	412 STUDENTS THIS YEAR	96% OF SEATS OFFERED TUITION-FREE	3,180 VOLUNTEER HOURS ON THE FLOOR	1,640 TOOLS IN THE LENDING LIBRARY	71% OF GIFTS WERE UNDER \$100
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PROGRAMMES

Eleven of twelve, placed inside sixty days

Trades Prep cohort 12 finished on August 29. **Eleven of the twelve graduates started paid apprenticeships within sixty days** — four in commercial millwork, three in cabinet shops in Georgetown and Ballard, two in stage carpentry and two with the city's facilities crew. The twelfth is finishing a GED and starts with cohort 13.

THE BUILDING

A dust system, paid for by 214 of you

The spring appeal closed at **\$41,800 against a \$38,000 target**. The cyclone went in over two weekends in July; the ducting was donated and hung by volunteers. Air readings on the main floor are down 86 percent, which matters most to the people who are here five days a week.

AUTUMN DIARY

Oct 4	Trades Prep cohort 13 begins — 18 seats, 41 applied
Oct 18	Open shop night, 6–9pm, everyone welcome
Nov 8	The Chisel Dinner, Fremont Studios, 120 seats
Nov 27	Shop closed for the holiday; library open
Dec 6	Toy build with Toyco — 300 trucks, one Saturday

WHERE YOUR GIFT WENT

Instruction and shop staff	62¢
Materials and consumables	17¢
Tools and maintenance	11¢
Building and utilities	7¢
Fundraising and admin	3¢

NEW THIS QUARTER

Bench circle — Acme Studio, Northwind Coffee Roasters, Container Co., Brightline, Fieldnotes, Toyco, and 214 individual donors who asked for no acknowledgement at all.

To give: westhilltrust.org/give · monthly from \$10 · most employers match · stock, DAF and legacy gifts: give@westhilltrust.org

TOOL LIBRARY

Six hundred members and a waiting list

The library passed **600 active members** in August, up from 388 a year ago, and lent 4,100 tools over the summer. Two thirds of borrowers have never taken a class with us. The waiting list is for the twelve cordless kits, so if you have one gathering dust, we will sharpen it and put it to work.

PARTNERS

Acme Studio rebuilt our identity, and did not bill us

The sign over the Leary Way door is new, and so is everything behind it — wordmark, signage, class handouts and the form you use to give. **Acme Studio did the work at no charge** over eleven weeks this spring. If you know a shop that owes us nothing and gives anyway, tell them we noticed.

SATURDAY BENCH, SECOND SESSION, AUGUST 16

“I came for one Saturday because the bus stops outside. Fourteen months later I am framing houses.”

TRADES PREP, COHORT 9 · NOW WITH A MILLWORK CREW IN RENTON