



Member Bio - Theresa Power-Drutis

Theresa Power-Drutis is Co-Executive Director of New Connections, a small, nonprofit agency dedicated to interrupting the poverty-to-prison pipeline and promoting community reintegration after incarceration. New Connections manages two small shelters (Irma's Place for women and Annie's Cottage for families) in the Hilltop area of Tacoma. Other initiatives include pre- and post-release advocacy for individuals, homelessness outreach, and networking for criminal and social system reforms.

Theresa received her PhD in Leadership Studies from Gonzaga University, MA in Education from Eastern Washington University, and Certificate of Carpentry from the Samuel Gompers Technical School at Seattle Central Community College. She co-founded the G Street Community, an intentional community in Tacoma. She also co-founded The Lesotho Connection, a 501c3 partnership addressing extreme poverty in Lesotho, Africa. For more than four decades Theresa has been engaged in education, community organizing and global initiatives. Current affiliations and projects include:

- Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness
- Tacoma Pierce County Human Services Coalition
- Guadalupe House
- St. Leo Homeless Workgroup
- 99 Stocking project (Holiday stockings for people without homes)
- Starter Kit Central (basic household supplies for newly housed people)
- Maker's Kits (free creativity kits)
- Bank on It (assisting people in attaining low-barrier checking accounts with Seattle Credit Union)
- Hilltop Madrinas (Neighborhood "godmothers" strengthening the commons)
- Pierce County Community Partnership for Transition Solutions (Re-entry network and advocacy group)
- Race & Pedagogy Institute, University of Puget Sound (Community Partner)
- AND (of course) the League of Women Voters

Theresa has called Tacoma home for most of her life; she currently lives in the G Street Community on the Hilltop with her partner, Joe and her sister, Rosemary.

Theresa worked with Rosemary - and a great LWV team - to produce the Shelter study for Pierce County in 2019. In 2020 she joined the LWVTPC Board where she is focused on communication, particularly web site design and development. Theresa is also the LWVTPC contact for criminal justice issues. If you have any skills and/or interest in communications or criminal justice reform, or if you want to know more about anything mentioned here, please contact Theresa at tpdrutis@nctacoma.org