

In 2003, the City of Richland implemented a program which provided transportation of seniors and a city employee to guide participants in active outdoor activities such as hiking. The City charged a fee to participants based on the distance from the Richland Community Center to the location of the activity. The number of seniors wanting to participate in this program soon substantially exceeded the capacity of the City van. With consent of the City a number of private individuals volunteered to provide transportation using their own vehicles. In the latter part of 2003 a school van similar to the 15 passenger van used by the City in the senior program crashed killing two of the student riders. Reports in the local newspapers indicated these 15 passenger vans were having similar roll-over problems nationwide. The City subsequently decided that because of the risks involved in using the old vans and the cost involved in getting new ones they would no longer be able to continue the program.

Some of the individuals who had been involved as participants in the City program strongly believed this public program had been providing a valuable service and benefit to seniors which was not available from any other entity. They decided to pursue the creation of an organization which could take over the burdens which the City was no longer willing or able to assume. They decide to develop a way to continue and even expand on the services and benefits which had previously been available to seniors through the City of Richland programs.

It was decided that a non-profit corporation would be the best legal entity to accomplish this objective. The Fun, Fit and Over Fifty Club, a Washington non-profit corporation, was created for the purpose of promoting the health and welfare of aging over fifty by (1) educating them on the importance of physical and mental activities in keeping health and in preventing or delaying the onset of old age malaise, obesity, depression, heart diseases and other health conditions associate with aging and a sedate and non-active life style, and (2) providing for and encouraging these aging individuals participation in activities (primarily outdoors) which will help maintain or achieve optimum physical and mental health.