



The residents of Lyttelton, New Zealand, were prepared when the Canterbury earthquakes struck, because Margaret Jeffries organized a time bank through which her neighbors share their gifts.

Jim Diers is all about building community

Jim Diers has a passion for getting people engaged with their communities and in the decisions that affect their lives. Since moving to Seattle in 1976, he put that passion to work for a direct-action neighbourhood association, a community development corporation, a community foundation, and the nation's largest health care cooperative. He was appointed the first director of Seattle's Department of Neighbourhoods in 1988 where he served under three mayors over the next 14 years.

Currently, Jim teaches courses in community organising and development at the University of Washington and serves on the faculty of the Asset-Based Community Development Institute. He travels internationally to deliver speeches, present workshops, and provide technical assistance to community associations, non-profit organizations, and government.

Jim received a BA and an honorary doctorate from Grinnell College. His work in the Department of Neighbourhoods was recognised with an Innovations Award from the Kennedy School of Government, a Full Inclusion Award from the American Association on Developmental Disabilities, and the Public Employee of the Year Award from the Municipal League of King County. *Jim's book, [Neighbor Power: Building Community the Seattle Way](#), is available in both English and Chinese editions.*

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