



# Whatcom Community Foundation

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE  
WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **Whatcom Community Foundation receives \$375,000 gift.**

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Whatcom Community Foundation (Foundation), a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit with the mission of connecting people who care with causes that matter, received of gift of nearly \$375,000 from an anonymous donor. “We could not be more thrilled,” remarked Foundation Board chair Glenn Butler. “This is an unprecedented contribution from an individual donor given specifically to support the fundamental work of the Foundation.”

The bulk of the gift will be added to the Foundation Services Fund endowment which supports the Foundation’s work to encourage charitable investment in our community and to serve as a catalyst for healthy community change. The endowment was initially funded with a portion of the \$1 million grant received in late 2007 from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. In early 2008, the Foundation Board of Directors added to the endowment, bringing the total to more than \$1 million.

“The donor has a great appreciation for the potential of our community and recognizes the important role the Foundation plays in reaching that potential,” noted Mauri Ingram, Foundation President and CEO. “We are honored and grateful to be the recipient of such a generous investment in the organization’s ability to address the numerous opportunities and needs in our community. The donor derives immense pleasure and satisfaction from charitable giving and it is infectious.”

The gift is an example of the changing charitable landscape in Whatcom County. “Donors are more and more sophisticated in their giving. For example, one of our fundholder families allocates ten percent of all their gifts to the Foundation to our Foundation Services Fund. Like our anonymous donor, they appreciate the value of the Foundation’s broader work in the community and they actively support it as part of their routine giving. Our goal is for every donor to adopt a similar giving strategy.”

The Foundation was established in 1996. In addition to donor services, the Foundation offers a variety of valuable services that support local not-for-profit organizations and community projects, including managing agency endowments that provide support to non-profit organizations in perpetuity, receiving bequests from citizens wishing to leave money to benefit Whatcom County and working with community leaders on projects such as the Campaign for the Arts, the new Ferndale Public Library and the Witter Pavilion in Boulevard Park.

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