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**RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS
NOVEMBER 12–18, 2011**

*Whatcom Community Foundation Participates in National Effort to
Highlight Local Impact of Philanthropy*

November 15 — During the week of November 12-18, 2011, Whatcom Community Foundation (Foundation) joins more than 700 community foundations across America for *Community Foundation Week*. It is an effort to raise awareness about the increasingly important role of these dynamic philanthropic organizations in fostering local collaboration and innovation to seize opportunities for change, and address community problems. In recognition of the importance of these organizations, Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire has issued a proclamation in recognition of Community Foundation Week.

“Community foundations impact lives, solve problems, and improve futures,” said Joyce Pedlow, Foundation Board Chair. “In a down economy, with limited resources and a growing need for services to help families in need, we are more determined than ever to bring our community partners together to find innovative and effective solutions to some of our most challenging social problems.” Pedlow added, “This is the Foundation’s fifteenth anniversary. Hearing from one of our founders earlier this year that she considers the Foundation the glue that keeps the community together is the best compliment we could have received. We’re successful when we’re helping to community be successful.”

Community foundations are independent, public entities that steward philanthropic resources from donors to local nonprofits that are the heart of strong, vibrant communities. In fiscal year 2011 the Whatcom Community Foundation provided over \$2.2 million in grants to 171 of organizations. As a whole, the twenty-three Community Foundations in Washington State made more than \$74 million in grants, and are one of the fastest-growing forms of philanthropy in the United States. In fact, every state in the country is home to at least one community foundation—small and large, rural and urban—that is advancing solutions to a wide range of social issues. Donors of all means have a way to give through a community foundation.