



WHATCOM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



119 Grand Avenue, Suite A  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
360.671.6463  
www.whatcomcf.org



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# Whatcom Community Foundation

## We Can Help Make Great Things Happen on Your Behalf

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE  
WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER

### GENEROSITY IS AN EXTRAORDINARY FORCE.

It creates hope and possibility.  
It embraces the real needs of real people at the same time it celebrates their humanity. So what does it take to give?

*Compassion. Initiative. Purpose.  
integrity, guidance and deliberate,  
responsible supervision.*

When people decide to give, and then focus their ideas and energies intelligently, excellence emerges from a community.

Person by person. Community by community.  
Truly, it's as simple as that.

### WHATCOM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Whatcom Community Foundation can transform your generosity into powerful, active resources for organizations doing community work that's important to you. Since 1996, individuals, families, businesses and other organizations have used our expertise to enrich the quality of life in Whatcom County. By helping you choose the type of fund that best fits your charitable goals and then handling all the administration, your gift goes to work immediately.

### HOW WE DO IT

We are one of nearly 700 community foundations across America, building endowments to meet ever changing community needs and opportunities. As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Foundation enables donors to take the maximum deduction for charitable contributions under IRS rules.

The Foundation is a tax-exempt public charitable organization. Funds are professionally managed, and endowed funds grow over time. Community Foundations are distinguished from other forms of organized philanthropy by three features.

#### PERSONALIZED SERVICE

We help individuals and families achieve their charitable goals by offering tools and resources that make giving easy, flexible and effective.

#### LOCAL EXPERTISE

We have a knowledge of the issues, needs and people that allows us to help you make your giving as effective as possible.

#### PHILANTHROPIC COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We actively foster giving throughout Whatcom County and support high impact opportunities

#### INVESTMENTS

The Foundation invests assets in a diverse portfolio intended to produce asset growth, security of principal, and income for grant making. We scrutinize investment returns and have our funds independently audited each year.

#### GRANTMAKING

With the help of several community members working with the Board of Directors, the Foundation distributes grants based on community needs, opportunities and, in the case of donor-advised and designated funds, donor goals.

Thanks to a growing pool of unrestricted endowed funds, we are able to make a variety of grants from the endowment's income to improve Whatcom County's quality of life through literacy programs, violence prevention, environmental education, service learning projects, youth and family services, community arts programs and much more.

# Why Partner with Whatcom Community Foundation?

**THERE ARE MANY REASONS** people give through us:



We are a **LOCAL** organization with deep roots in the community.

We boast professional staff with **BROAD EXPERTISE** regarding community issues and needs.

We provide highly **PERSONALIZED SERVICE**, tailored to each donor's charitable and financial interests.

We build **ENDOWMENT FUNDS** that benefit the community forever and help create personal legacies.

We offer **DIVERSE FUND TYPES**, which help people invest in the causes they care about most.

We accept a wide **VARIETY OF ASSETS**, and can facilitate even the most complex forms of giving.

We partner with **PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS** to create highly effective approaches to charitable giving.

We offer **MAXIMUM TAX ADVANTAGE** under state and federal laws.

We **MULTIPLY THE IMPACT** of gifts by pooling them with other contributions and grants.

We are **COMMUNITY LEADERS**, working to support and enhance our community.



## 1. DECIDE *to give*

Create a charitable fund now, establish it in your will or create it through a trust arrangement that will also benefit your family. You may give in honor of an anniversary or to celebrate a special event. Tax deductions are earned at the time of your gift, while grants awarded from your fund will continue into the future.

## How Can We Help You?

**PHILANTHROPY SHOULD BE A JOY**, not a burden. Use the Foundation and its resources to make your giving simple and satisfying.

### HERE ARE SOME WAYS WE CAN ASSIST YOU, BY:

- ~ Managing the charitable fund you create; overseeing investment; accounting; and maintaining records
- ~ Working with you to develop and implement a strategy for your philanthropy
- ~ Working with family members, including children and grandchildren, if you wish, to help them develop an effective structure and framework for family giving
- ~ Providing personalized grantmaking services, offering information about opportunities, and providing research/referrals on areas of particular interest to you
- ~ Offering individual or group site visits on topics of interest, as well as educational forums on estate planning and charitable giving
- ~ Issuing regular financial reports detailing the status of your fund
- ~ Consolidating your ongoing contributions through one charitable fund
- ~ Maximizing efficiencies by spreading costs of administration and investment management among a growing number of funds, we are able to offer substantial cost savings over private foundations, and small funds particularly benefit from the diversified portfolio



## 2. CHOOSE *a type of fund*

We offer a variety of funds that will meet your philanthropic and family goals and are flexible enough to meet your different charitable interests. Stay involved in your giving by advising grants, supporting specific causes or giving broadly. Involve your family. Remain anonymous. It's up to you.

## Ways to Give

### UNRESTRICTED FUND > *Think broadly*

Income from unrestricted funds is used for programs and organizations at the discretion of the Foundation.

### FIELD-OF-INTEREST FUND > *Address issues*

A donor may specify a field of interest such as the arts, youth, education, the environment, even a particular neighborhood or town.

### DESIGNATED FUND > *Provide ongoing support*

At the time a fund is established, you may name one or more charitable organizations to receive the income from that fund's endowment.

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND > *Provide students' educational support*

Work with the Foundation to create opportunities for students to receive assistance from the fund.

### DONOR-ADVISED FUND > *Stay involved*

With a donor-advised fund, you may periodically recommend grants to nonprofit organizations.

### FOUNDATION SERVICES FUND > *Cultivate Philanthropy in Whatcom County*

These essential funds make the philanthropic work of the Foundation possible.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

**ASSETS THAT YOU DONATE** to the Foundation create one of several types of funds to support your charitable goals. We offer you a full menu of giving options to tailor your gift.



## 3. NAME *your fund*

Most funds are named for the donor or the donor's family or as a memorial to someone special. Every grant from the fund will carry this name. If you prefer anonymity, you may choose a name that reflects your fund's charitable purpose or one that simply ensures your privacy.

## An Invitation

We hope you will become part of the Foundation. When and how you give is up to you. You can make a gift today, become part of our Legacy Society by including the Foundation in your estate planning or both. You can establish a fund with the Foundation in about an hour. You are also welcome to contribute to an existing fund.

### FIVE WAYS WE SERVE YOU, WE:

- 1) Know our donors – their interests, passions and goals.
- 2) Know our community – its needs, assets and opportunities.
- 3) Match donor interests and community needs.
- 4) Encourage philanthropy in our community.
- 5) Manage funds with great care.

For more information or to speak with a professional who can help you maximize the impact of your charitable giving, contact:

### WHATCOM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Email: [wcf@whatcomcf.org](mailto:wcf@whatcomcf.org)

Web: [www.whatcomcf.org](http://www.whatcomcf.org)

Phone: 360-671-6463

Fax: 360-671-6437

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## 4. DECIDE *what to give*

Almost any kind of asset can be used to start your fund, such as cash, publicly traded securities and life insurance. We can also discuss other options with you, such as bequests and charitable trusts.