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**WECU Donates \$50,000 to the Campaign for the Arts to support educational element of new Whatcom Children's Museum.**

BELLINGHAM, WA, July 15, 2008. Whatcom Educational Credit Union (WECU) recently donated \$50,000 to the Campaign for the Arts in support of the capital campaign for the new Whatcom Children's Museum building currently under construction in downtown Bellingham. WECU is proud to join the many local organizations making contributions to this exciting community project. WECU's grant will fully fund one permanent Rainwater Harvest exhibition in the new museum building. The leading edge exhibit will demonstrate how the building's roof design captures and utilizes rainwater, and decreases water consumption. A section of the roof will be dedicated to Rainwater Harvesting while a separate area will be covered with a living green roof. "WECU has demonstrated its commitment to green building by constructing all our new branches to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver standards," said Wayne Langei, WECU's president and CEO. "Our grant to the Campaign for the Arts is a

way for us to invest in environmentally responsible public facilities as well as support creative educational opportunities.” In an effort to incorporate education into every corner of the new facility, the rainwater exhibit will be part of the family restrooms, one of which is also funded by WECU’s grant.

As a member-owned financial institution, WECU is committed to connecting to and improving the community. WECU seeks projects that address important needs in the community, and strives to be a positive contributor to the landscape and character of Whatcom County. As an educational credit union, WECU understands that exploring and discovery are a large part of early childhood learning. The new building for the Whatcom Children’s Museum is an exciting and rich addition to Whatcom County and WECU is pleased to support such an exceptional project. WECU’s donation will directly benefit the more than 57,000 children who visit the Whatcom Children’s Museum each year.

With over 54,000 members, 11 branches and 20 no surcharge ATMs, WECU is Whatcom County’s largest member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative, serving all residents of Whatcom County.

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