



# Whatcom Community Foundation

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE  
WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER

## Foundation *focus*

*Personalized Service  
Local Expertise  
Community Leadership*



Bald Eagle at Semiahmoo Park February, 2010

News from your Whatcom Community Foundation  
<http://www.whatcomcf.org/>

Volume 2, Issue 6  
January/February/March 2010

**Welcome!** We want to take this opportunity to share some important updates that, as a supporter, we know you will appreciate

### Sustainable Whatcom Fund – Farm to School Grants

In 2008, a donor approached the Foundation with an interest in promoting local food in Whatcom County. A special fund was established for this purpose, and an advisory group was formed to direct that fund to its greatest effect. That advisory group, called the Sustainable Whatcom Fund Committee, spent a year listening to people involved in the local food sector, learning about barriers to increased production and consumption of local food. These barriers include access to capital, access to equipment, access to institutional markets, and the lack of processing and season extension infrastructure.

Based on these discussions, the Sustainable Whatcom Committee has initiated and supported community efforts through a number of strategies. Since its inception this Committee has awarded more than 30 grants totaling nearly \$500,000.

Most recently the Committee held two competitive grant rounds for their "Farm to School" program awarding \$66,523 in funding to a variety of applicants including school districts, schools, PTSA's and farmers. This pilot project aims to facilitate the establishment of more locally grown foods into school meal and snack programs.

We applaud the Sustainable Whatcom Fund Committee for their efforts to

### Highlights

#### Bellingham Dollars for Scholars Posts 2010 Scholarships



The Bellingham Dollars for Scholars has posted over 30 scholarship opportunities for graduating high school seniors in Bellingham. Please visit <http://www.bellinghamdollarsforscholars.com/> to view the application timeline, available scholarships and scholarship Application form.

Participating schools include Bellingham High School, Sehome High School, Squalicum High School and Options High School.

Bellingham Dollars for Scholars recently became a program of Whatcom Community Foundation in October 2009.

support agricultural sustainability through projects which address social, ecological and economic realities in a holistic manner.



*Whatcom County Master Gardeners' Children's Story Garden funded by the Sustainable Whatcom Fund in March 2009*

## Whatcom Middle School Fund Update

Whatcom Middle School sixth graders, Rachel and Kim Dorr along with friends and family, their School Parent Teacher Association and partner Bellingham Public Schools Foundation continue raising funds to benefit teachers and students affected by the devastating fire last November.

Thanks to this great collaborative effort, over \$17,000 has already been granted out to cover teacher's supplies. Additional grants will be made in the coming months. A portion of the Fund will be reserved for when the school re-opens.

This goes to show that young philanthropic hearts can achieve huge accomplishments, and mixed with "pay it forward" affects, the outcomes make our old philanthropic hearts even stronger!

## Sebastian In Bellingham

The "Sebastian in Bellingham" Project is seeking sponsors for the exhibition of 19 large-scale sculptures by internationally renowned Mexican sculptor - Sebastian. The pieces will be on display throughout the core of downtown Bellingham's Cultural District from February through October 2010.

A portion of the program has been funded by a \$25,000 grant from the Washington State Tourism Department and backed by Whatcom Community Foundation. But Allied Arts needs your help. Please consider sponsoring one of these masterpieces. The exhibit on the right is located on the corner of Grand and Flora Streets in downtown Bellingham. If you would like to sponsor one of these masterpieces with a tax deductible donation, you can call Allied Arts at (360)676-8548 or send a check made out to Allied Arts of Whatcom County (Note on the check 'Sebastian in Bellingham Sponsor') and mail to: Allied Arts of Whatcom County, 1418 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, Washington 98225.



*The Foundation is the fiscal sponsor for the following community projects. Contributions may be made to the Whatcom Community Foundation, 119 Grand Avenue, Suite A, Bellingham, WA 98225. Please specify the project name in the memo section of your check.*

## New Staff Member Profile

*Foundation Hires Pamela Jons as Director of Advancement and Programs*



Foundation staff and

Board were delighted to welcome Pamela to the organization in late December. Pamela brings a wealth of experience in development, community organizing and program management. She has over 20 years of experience working in the non-profit sector and a Masters Degree in Urban and Environmental Planning & Policy. For the last several years Pamela has worked as program manager and technical advisor for YouthBuild USA. You may recognize her from her past work with the Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities or perhaps you've taken a class from her at the Yoga Room. Her position is part-time now and will transition to being full-time in the next year. Pamela, her husband Mike Cohen and 2 year-old daughter Piper live in Bellingham.

We invite you to contact her with any questions about the Foundation at [pjons@whatcomcf.org](mailto:pjons@whatcomcf.org) or (360)671-6463.

## Double Your Gift!

**Foundation Offers Matching Gift Opportunity for Competitive Grant Round**

As you may know, the Foundation received two grants to support our competitive grant round this year. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation awarded \$75,000 to help fund special fields of interest in our grant making. The Foundation also received a two-year award of \$200,000 from the Convergence Partnership, a collaboration of six of the nation's leading funders, plus the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in support of funding efforts focusing on developing Healthy People and Healthy Places.

The Gates Foundation grant requires that we raise a one for one match and the Convergence Partnership a two for one match. We invite you to make a tax deductible donation to the unrestricted competitive Grants Fund or to one of our Field of Interest Funds to help us achieve these matching grant goals and give more to the community at time of greater need. The

## The New Ferndale Library Project

The Ferndale community's demand for library services exceeds the existing building's capacity. The economic downturn continues to result in record numbers of visitors; in some cases, more than 900 people per day visit the branch. Area residents began working with the City of Ferndale and the Whatcom County Library System in 2006 to plan for a new, larger home for the beloved Ferndale institution.

The Foundation serves as the project fiscal sponsor, handling charitable contributions and grant funds. Additionally, the Foundation helps with fundraising training, strategizing, facilitation of the capital campaign committee, and lending our expertise to support the community of Ferndale in this effort. The library project, including land acquisition, preliminary construction, equipment, furniture and other expenses, is estimated to cost approximately five million dollars.

The capital campaign is off to a tremendous start. Gifts and pledges to date, including the generous \$1 million anonymous contribution to the Foundation and the City Council's commitment of \$1 million towards the project, total more than \$2.75 million. Additionally, donations from community members and businesses are beginning to come in.

On January 21, 2010 – Polar Tankers and its parent company, ConocoPhillips, announced a \$6,000 capital contribution to the Foundation for the New Ferndale Library Fund.



With this donation, Polar Tankers and ConocoPhillips became one of the early corporate donors for the new public library, to be constructed on Main Street, west of Ferndale City Hall.

"While Polar's ships travel up and down the west coast, many of our employees live in the state of Washington," explained Polar Tankers' local marine superintendent Jeff Shaw. "Contributing to a new library in Ferndale is a great way to support and invest in a community where we live and work," added Shaw.

On February 8, 2010 - The Friends of the Ferndale Library presented a check to the Foundation for \$10,000 for the new library. According to Norine Amend, President of the Friends "We are stepping up to invite the community of greater Ferndale to join us. We need to move forward rapidly on all of the building projects which have been approved for Ferndale – repair to the old Boys and Girls Club, a state of the art police station arising from the remodeled current library – and the new building, a 21<sup>st</sup> century library for Ferndale." (photo below)

fields of interest include:

- Increasing access to existing public benefits,
- Preventing and reducing violence in Whatcom County,
- Strengthening communities and building strong families,
- Strengthening food distribution systems and fighting hunger, and
- Healthy People, Healthy Places

Please click [here](#) to donate now.

## Donor Advisor Alert

This year we received over \$480,000 of local compelling grant requests for our competitive grant round. In April we will provide our Donor Advisors many of these funding opportunities that we are not able to fund. If you would like to know about these opportunities now, please do not hesitate to contact us at (360)671-6463 or email [wcf@whatcomcf.org](mailto:wcf@whatcomcf.org). The Donor Advisor grant recommendation form is now posted on the Foundation website [here](#).

## Madrona Society

The Foundation's Madrona Society is a group of donors who have named the Foundation in their wills with a bequest. We dubbed our legacy members the Madrona Society for several reasons. Like Society members, the madrona tree is deeply rooted in its place. Those roots add stability to the tree's surrounding environment, as Madrona Society members do to our community. In addition, healthy saplings can sprout from the fallen tree's trunk, providing a base for growth and nourishment for new life.

Madrona trees are truly beloved in the Pacific Northwest. That's the way we feel about our legacy donors. In upcoming issues of Foundation *focus*, you'll learn more about some of the Madrona Society members and the legacy they hope to leave.

The Madrona Society currently has more than 40 members. However, that number represents the people we *know* about. If you have already included the Foundation in your estate planning, please let us know. The more we know about your wishes the more successful we can be in fulfilling them. If you are interested in becoming a Madrona Society member, please contact us at 360.671.6463. We will be happy to work with you and your legal and/or financial advisor to meet your goals for charitable giving.





**Tribune Readers Care Fund / Ferndale Record Journal Care Fund/ Foothills Gazette Community Fund**



Thanks to the generosity of the Lynden Tribune readers, the Lynden Community Center will send hot, nutritious meals to homebound seniors. The fourth annual Readers Care Fund of Whatcom Community foundation raised \$13,210, a record, for the center's meal program. (photo above)



The Ferndale Record Journal Care Fund raised \$3,310 for the Ferndale Boys & Girls Club. This is the second year of the Record Journal Care Fund. (photo above)

The Foothills Gazette Community Fund has followed suit in its second year and has raised \$395 to benefit the Nooksack Valley Food Bank and \$395 for the Foothills Food Bank.

Congratulations all!

**Keep Bellingham's Arts Scene Vibrant - Support iDiOM Theater's Public Tickets Program**

iDiOM Theater has been making extraordinary original live theater for the people of Whatcom County for the past six years. Now, through their Public Tickets Program, they are offering ten free tickets to every show, all season, on a first-come, first-served basis. We are seeking locally-owned businesses to sponsor this program. Benefits include comp tickets, great publicity, and the undying gratitude of theater-goers in Whatcom County. Join iDiOM's Business Sponsors -- The Community Food Coop, Mallard Ice Cream, Backcountry Essentials, La Fiamma/Fiamma Burger, The Temple Bar, Eclipse Books and Ciao Thyme/In the Kitchen -- and help make live theater accessible to *everyone*. Please contact Carolyn McCarthy, iDiOM's Development Director, at [carolyn@carolynmcc.com](mailto:carolyn@carolynmcc.com) or 734-4086 to find out more! To learn about the Theater visit <http://www.idiomtheater.com/>.

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