



Whatcom Community Foundation

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE
WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER

Foundation *focus*

Personalized Service
Local Expertise
Community Leadership



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

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Welcome!

2011 launches our 15th year of helping people *turn passion into community action*. Over the years we've worked throughout Whatcom County connecting donors to organizations and causes they care about; providing leadership on community issues; making strategic and effective grants; and, building permanent charitable funds. Our work touches every aspect of daily life including education, health care, human services, the arts, the environment and more. Since 1996 hundreds of individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits have established charitable funds at WCF, creating a family of funds that collectively support our local community

Grant Round Update and Matching Opportunity

Thanks to community donations and investment income from a number of the Foundation's endowed funds, we anticipate having more than \$100,000 to award for the second consecutive year to support the work of local nonprofits. Since our January request for proposals, we have received 110 letters requesting more than \$600,000 in support through our 2011 grant round.

The amount of funding available may increase *if* more donations are made to the grants program. One of our donors has offered to match the first \$10,000 in unrestricted gifts. As with all Foundation work, great things happen with your help. Please help us leverage this generous gift by making a contribution to support this year's competitive grantmaking

[Make a Donation](#)

Whatcom Council of Nonprofits Becomes a Program of the Foundation

The Whatcom Council of Nonprofits (WCN) was created with support from the Community Foundation in 1999 to build skills and relationships, share resources, and communicate the vital roles of nonprofit organizations in Whatcom County. It left the umbrella of the Foundation, and for a number of years it was inactive until a group from revived it and found a home for it with the Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities. When the Coalition closed its doors at the end of 2010, the Foundation's Board was approached about taking WCN in as one of its programs. The Foundation Board understands WCN's great value, recognizing its essential role in supporting area nonprofits and the clear connection to the Foundation's mission.

We are pleased to announce that as of January 2011, WCN again became an official program of the Foundation. With Foundation support, WCN's all-volunteer steering committee hopes to increase its effectiveness and reach in the community. The Foundation is actively seeking sponsors to support this program. Please contact Pamela Jons or Mauri Ingram for more information 360-671-6463.

Highlights

Competitive Grant Round: Respite Care for Grandparents

Many people in our community serve as caregivers for family and friends. Reasons range from family to health issues. Last year two generous donors underwrote part of our competitive grants program in order to support respite care in the community. Kinship Respite Care Program funding provided grandparents respite support through Northwest Regional Council. Thanks to gifts several children were able to attend camp so that their caregiver grandparents could rest and recharge.



Loretta Bollinger and her two great grandchildren

MBI Health Innovation Fund (MBI): The Whatcom County Diabetes Connection

Being newly diagnosed with diabetes can be daunting. Managing the illness requires multiple lifestyle changes. Funding from Mt. Baker Imaging brought together the Critical Junctions Institute, the Diabetes and Nutrition Clinic, and PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center to begin an action research project with a planning group of diabetic patients who were highly motivated to develop a peer-supported self-management program in Whatcom County.

Whatcom Funders Alliance Survey of Nonprofits on the Impact of Economic Downturn

In today's difficult economic times, thousands of families in Whatcom County are struggling with job losses, dwindling savings, and foreclosures or evictions. At the same time, many local nonprofit organizations in the community are experiencing a number of growing and changing pressures on their services.

In order to assess the economic impact on the nonprofit sector, the Whatcom Funders Alliance, a local coalition of public and private funding partners, organized a survey in 2010. To read the report please click [here](#).

County-Wide Effort to Grow Scholarships

For nearly two decades, Dollars for Scholars has been helping students in communities in Whatcom County and across America pursue postsecondary education. From Bellingham to Blaine to the Nooksack Valley, hundreds of dedicated volunteers devote their time and energy to raising funds, supporting students and making a real difference in the lives of those in their community.

Seven Whatcom County communities, including Bellingham, Nooksack, Mt. Baker, Ferndale, Lynden, Blaine, and Meridian are part of Scholarship America, the nation's premier non-profit, private-sector scholarship organization and combined hold nearly \$5 million in assets. If you would like more information on how to participate in any of these programs please contact us at BDFS@whatcomcf.org.

Low Overhead Does Not Equal High Quality Philanthropy

The Stanford Social Innovation Review coined the phrase "Nonprofit Starvation Cycle" in describing a vicious pattern that leaves nonprofits so in need of decent infrastructure that they can barely function as organizations—let alone serve their beneficiaries. The cycle starts with donors and funders' unrealistic expectations about how much running a nonprofit costs, and results in nonprofits' misrepresenting their costs while skimping on vital systems—acts that feed funders' misconceptions. Funders, donors and nonprofits alike share in the perpetuation of this unhealthy cycle. To read the entire *Stanford Social Innovation Review* article please [click here](#).

Lynden Tribune and Ferndale Record Readers Care Funds

Hunger is a persistent problem, particularly given the ongoing economic climate. Once again, loyal *Tribune* and *Record* readers generously supported the publisher's philanthropic call. The 2010 Lynden Tribune Readers Care Fund raised \$10,935 for Lynden's Project Hope and the Nooksack Valley Food Bank bringing essential services to people needing help with basic human needs. The Ferndale Record gathered \$2,588.70 in support from the community for Ferndale Food Bank.



Ferndale Food Bank check presentation (above)



Project Hope check presentation (right)

The goal of self-management is for people with a chronic illness is to keep themselves as healthy as possible in order to minimize their risk of further health problems. Self-management means taking responsibility for the daily treatment of a chronic condition, such as making choices surrounding medication, diet, exercise, and other lifestyle issues that can affect one's health. Participants in the diabetes project helped develop a *Peer Partner* program, which has proven to be a valuable support system for persons who have been diagnosed with diabetes.

Community to Community Development

Cocinas Sanas (healthy kitchens), a project of Community to Community Development (C2C), supports Latina women in making healthier food choices for themselves and their families while staying true to their culinary roots. C2C is a women-led, place-based, grassroots organization working for a just society and healthy communities. They focus on systemic change and creating strategic alliances that strengthen local and global movements towards social, economic and environmental justice.

They have three program areas: Movement Building, Food Sovereignty, and Participatory Democracy and within this they have several projects that are working to create the systemic change. These include: Raices Culturales Youth Mentoring Project, Cocinas Sanas/Healthy Kitchens, Aguila del Norte Immigrant Justice Project, Colectiva Comunidad Sana Culturally Appropriate Cooperative Development, the Food Justice Alliance, in addition they work with the U.S Food Sovereignty Alliance, the Domestic Fair Trade Association, and others. www.foodjustice.org. We thought you would enjoy a story from one of their members.

"Chilaquiles Story"

By Monica De Leon, 2010-2011 AmeriCorps members for Community to Community I have never been the type to take a moment and think about where I come from and think about my culture. I would consider myself being part of that generation when our families arrived to the United States we lost some of our cultural roots and just let it happen. Working at Community to Community Development has been such an experience both challenging and rewarding. Being part of an amazing group of women at Community to Community has made me open my eyes and look at my life in a new perspective. Whether it may be me thinking about the foods I eat every day and where they come from, my rights as a human being and how I can help my community; Community to Community teaches me something new every day. Not only has my time with the organization changed my perspective on life but has also helped me bond with my mother. Something my mother and I rarely do. My job at Community to Community is working on their Cocinas Sanas (Healthy Kitchens) project. The program is about empowering the Latina women in our community to make healthier eating choices for them and their family. My co-worker and I host collective meals with a group of women that we have met through our outreach. We cook together with the women and they share their stories about the foods and different methods of cooking they may have from where they come from. Personally I do not cook and I have a hard time understanding the cooking scene so I go to my mother a lot for help. She helps me put the recipes together then I come back and use that as a guide when working with the women. I've never really asked my mother about cooking or how to make something and, my mother is a great cook; she feeds our family well.





Nooksack Valley Food Bank check presentation (above)

Events/Happenings!

Marketing Your Mission in 3 Simple Steps - Presented by Erica Mills

An Interactive Training for Whatcom County Nonprofits
Thursday, March 17 from 8:30am to noon

Want to attract more donors? Inspire more volunteers? Motivate your board members? Of course you do! But how to go about it, that's the question. In today's world of information overload, it can be daunting to figure out where to start with your marketing efforts. The good news is that while the tools change all the time, the thinking remains the same. And anyone can learn to do it. For registration and more information [click here](#). Erica Mills heads up Claxon, a company on a mission to help nonprofits market their missions with confidence. (www.claxonmarketing.com).

Ethical Will Workshop Coming Soon

This April we will be hosting a workshop on creating an ethical will. An ethical will, also called a legacy letter, is different than the legal documents outlining estate plans. Ethical wills convey your thoughts about what is important in your life. It is a statement of your values, hopes and wisdom. It may be short or long, serious or funny. One person's ethical will might include the value of supporting libraries, while another may talk about the importance of walking outside daily. It can be a general sentiment such as the value of education, healing the world, or being philanthropic. It can explore accomplishments or emotional issues, such as past regrets and uncertainties. It should reflect what is important to you.

Our workshop will be led by local writer and educator Margi Fox. Please contact us if you are interested in attending this session. Space is limited.

Lighting Boards on Fire With Flare!

More than 100 staff, volunteers and Board members from approximately 50 Whatcom County nonprofits working in a wide variety of fields attended an inspiring workshop on fundraising in January. Consultant and author Susan Howlett presented her practical and engaging ideas based on her recent book, *Boards on Fire*. Participants shared their overwhelmingly positive feedback weeks after the event. The session was presented by the Whatcom Funders Alliance, a consortium of local and regional funders working in Whatcom County. The St. Luke's Foundation and Bellingham Technical College Foundation joined the Community Foundation in sponsoring the event.



CONNECTS people who care with causes that matter

SERVES as a leader, catalyst and resource for philanthropy

PLAYS a key role in identifying and solving community challenges

CONDUCTS strategic grant making that benefits all of our community in fields such as social services, education, health, the environment and the arts

PROVIDES flexible and cost-effective ways for generous individuals, families, and companies to contribute to their community now and for all time

SUPPORTS capital projects benefiting Whatcom County

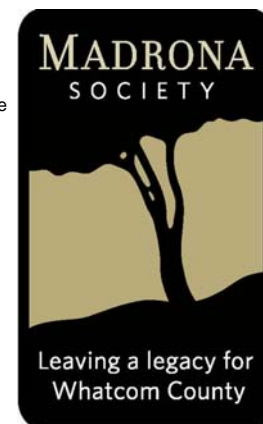
MANAGES charitable funds on behalf of individuals, families and businesses

WORKS with individuals, families and companies to leave a legacy of giving

The first time I asked my mother for help on a recipe she was so surprised that I was asking. I was honest with her and told her it was for work, she might have been a little upset that it was not for my own interest but she was still happy to help. I then went on and used that recipe to cook with the group of women. After that day, experiencing the hard work, dedication and the time that it takes to cook a meal I have looked at my mother so differently. I still continue to ask for her help but this time when I ask I am more interested in what she has to say. Our project recently got the opportunity to team up with Community to Community's youth empowerment program, Raices Culturales (Cultural Roots). When the youth group meets my co-worker and I prepare the children's lunches and then have a small group discussion on food. One day we planned on making chilaquiles for the children, ripped up tortilla pieces in enchilada sauce, sounds simple right; well not so simple for someone who does not cook. Once I again I asked my mother for help on putting the recipe together. Not only did I get the recipe but I also received a little story about this food. You see I have had chilaquiles with egg so when I asked my mother about when do I need to add the egg she looked at me and said chilaquiles don't have egg. Now I was confused, were we talking about the same thing here? She then told me adding egg to the chilaquiles was something people started doing to "modernize" this food. She said "chilaquiles was something people made in the ranchos" (back in Mexico) when they did not have a lot to eat. They friend their tortillas lightly, blended some chilies, put them together and ate. If there was any at home they would also top them off with some chopped onion and queso fesco (Mexican cheese).

Here I am thinking the egg was the whole foundation for chilaquiles and wondering if I ever would have found that out if it weren't for this opportunity Community to Community had given me of working with them. The story may be small for some people but and mean nothing but to me this story was a big deal. That moment with my mother will be a memory; she shared a little piece of our culture with me which I then had the opportunity to share with others. Coming into Community to Community I was not completely certain of what I was getting into. All I knew was I wanted to help people and help make a difference somewhere, little did I know they were going to be helping me and making a difference in me.

Joe & Judy Coons
George & Mary Ann Drake
Jean Gorton
Marge Laidlaw & Scott Wallace
Terry & Myra Harmer
Martin & Gail Haines
John D. Stephens
Sibyl W. Sanford
Larry Berghoff
John Watts & Joan Casey
Owen Olsen
Gary & Ann Blanken
Gail Weiss & Dennis Smith
Chuck & Dee Robinson
Stephen A. Peters
Rick & Linda Luke
Art & Marti Caputi
Margaret & Marc Curtis
Brian & Marya Griffin
David & Katti Esp
Brenda-Lee Karasik
Francis Joseph Lang*
Naomi Wilkins
Karl & Edwina Kleeman
Carrie Coppinger Carter
Daniel Kirkman
Fredericka H. Bond*
Lee Eberhardt & Mauri Ingram



BUILDS and holds a permanent and growing endowment for the communities changing needs and opportunities.

5 Anonymous

*Deceased

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