



Whatcom Community  
Foundation

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE  
WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER

## Foundation *focus*

News from your Whatcom Community Foundation

**Welcome** to the second issue of *Foundation Focus*. Thank you to the many people who sent us notes of appreciation! We appreciate your feedback and hope you will continue to send your comments and suggestions.

### 2008 Competitive Grant Awards



This year, the Foundation awarded competitive grants totaling \$64,646 benefitting twenty

personalized  
service  
local  
expertise  
community  
leadership



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

## Highlights

May/June 2008

Youth and Philanthropy  
Philanthropy Highlights

*The first in a series of articles on the Council on Foundations' 2008 Philanthropy Summit*

Philanthropy's Vision - A Leadership Summit was held in National Harbor, Maryland in early May. Several Foundation representatives attended the three-day Council on Foundations conference, including Foundation Board chair Glenn Butler. "It was a great opportunity to hear from other community foundations, as well as learn more about emerging trends related to the Foundation's work," noted Butler. This is the first in a series of articles linking national trends to the Whatcom County community.

*The Millennials and the Moment: Youth Engagement and Leadership Development was a*

community organizations. These awards, combined with grants from Donor Advised funds, bring the Foundation's total grants for this fiscal year to more than \$730,000.

Although we are actively working to grow our assets, the community's needs outstrip our available resources. As a result, there are strong applications which we can only partially fund and many that we are unable to even consider. To help solve this dilemma, the Foundation recently contacted Donor Advisors to give them an opportunity to help fund these requests through their donor advised funds.

As Elizabeth Jennings, Executive Director of Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities, noted, "You are doing what most of us in the nonprofit sector don't have the time or expertise to do: You are developing the culture of philanthropy in Whatcom County. You are not only a grant maker, but also a resource developer. You make it your business to know about community needs, and you help connect people's passions to the organizations that need their support." Liz backed up her remarks with a generous check to the Foundation Services Fund which supports the work she so eloquently described. Thank you, Liz!

For a listing of the organizations and the specific programs and projects supported from this year's grant round as well as a list of the proposals either partially funded or unfunded, please visit [www.whatcomcf.org](http://www.whatcomcf.org) and navigate to the lower right green tab labeled "2008 Funding Opportunities" and please visit [http://www.whatcomcf.org/past\\_grantees.html](http://www.whatcomcf.org/past_grantees.html) for a listing of the 2008 competitive grantee awards.

The completion of the 2008 grant round brings the overall investment of the Foundation in the community to more than \$3.3 million since its first grant was awarded in 1997. The Foundation has received gifts from more than 3,100 donors in its history, and now holds 90 funds to benefit a wide variety of nonprofit activities in Whatcom County.

## Perpetuity Poetic



Sue C. Boynton  
Poetry Contest  
2008

Sue C. Boynton packed the rotunda of the Whatcom Museum of History & Art in mid-May with

particular conference highlight. The attending "millennials" (individuals born between 1980 and 1995) included a bright young man voted onto the Tallahassee, Florida city council at the age of 23, a 20 year old male deputy director for community leadership at the Center for Community Change who has dedicated himself to helping students deal with racism, housing and immigration reform issues and a motivated 18 year old female who has been involved with nationwide student climate change advocacy while working at the Energy Action Coalition among others.

All of these young adults - from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds - have seen exponential growth in interest among youth in giving back, whether to their local or global communities; however, organizations need more funding to support the interest and energy of this growing youth movement. There is an urgent need for youth leadership development in many communities around the world. The combination of exuberance, knowledge and eloquence of these young people is infectious. Fortunately, these qualities are echoed in our own community. In fact, our local example involves even younger philanthropists!



more than 100 people. This is notable because Sue C. Boynton passed away in 1981. Yet her infectious passion for poetry lives on through the annual Sue C. Boynton Poetry Contest. In its third year, more than 250 Whatcom County residents submitted entries. Winners were honored at the May event and attendees were treated to the exceptional talents of Whatcom County poets ranging in age from six to eighty-two.

The award winning poems and more details may be found on the *Bellingham Herald* website at:

<http://blogs.bellinghamherald.com/books/index.php?>

*The Foundation is currently the proud fiscal sponsor for this exceptional community building program and event.*

## New Ferndale Library Progress



Active community leaders from across Whatcom County are raising funds for a variety of capital projects large and small.

### 2008 Ferndale Library Rollout

Ferndale's Community Coordinating Association hosted its annual community gathering at Vista Middle School on May 21st. More than 150 area residents attended, learning more about the numerous projects and initiatives underway in the Ferndale community, including the new Ferndale library project. The Foundation is the fiscal sponsor for the new Ferndale library, working in collaboration with the Whatcom County Library System (WCLS) and the City of Ferndale.

Bob Morse, vice chair of the Foundation Board, introduced Ferndale Library project manager Richard Cville to the group. Bob noted Richard's extensive experience with rural library systems, having served as a board member of the San Juan Island Library, and project management.

Richard's passion for the project and the Ferndale community is clear. He and other project representatives including WCLS director Joan Aioldi and WCLS Board Trustee Nina Cox and others invited questions and comments from attendees. Site selection is a priority for the project steering committee, as well as gathering community input. The Friends of the

### Local Standouts

Most community foundations with youth programs start the same way: the foundation sets aside a portion of their grant monies and invites a group of young people to participate in making recommendations for recipients. The Whatcom Community Foundation story is notably different. In summer of 2007, incoming Sehome High School seniors Anders Crabo and Colin Flynn contacted the Foundation with an idea for their culminating project. Their plan was to raise funds through pledges in support of their bicycle trip circumnavigating the state of Washington to promote their *Bellingham Youth Philanthropy Project*. Their plan became a reality! They created a unique endowed fund to introduce their generation to the concept of charitable giving. Anders and Colin raised over \$14,000 for the endowment.

The pair rode their bicycles over 1,200 miles along the Pacific Coast, through the Columbia River Gorge, and over the Cascade Mountains - without a support team to provide assistance in an emergency.

The Bellingham Youth Philanthropy Project allows a committee of high school students and school advisors to annually recommend grants from a portion of the Fund's income to environmental programs. Following graduation, Anders and Colin recommended a grant of more than \$500 to Woodstock Farm Conservancy, a group supporting development of the City of Bellingham's newest park (<http://www.cob.org/services/recreation/parks-trails/woodstock-farm.aspx>) on Chuckanut Bay.

The young men are now working with a group of younger students to grow the Fund and continue their ethic of youth involvement next year.

The Foundation is grateful for the opportunity to work with these outstanding young leaders. We wish them well as they head off to college and

Ferndale Library are active supporters and another key player in the project.

Other community partnerships for which the Foundation is accepting gifts:

- The Porch at Boulevard Park (also known as Witter Pavillion)
- The [Campaign for the Arts](#) (CFA, raising funds for downtown Bellingham's Arts District)
- The Holden & Phoebe Judson Memorial in Lynden
- Connecting School and Community Fund (Windward High School)

[Visit the Arts District website to find out more about the CFA >](#)

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## Foundation Figures

At its May meeting, the Foundation Board approved a spending rate of 4% for endowed funds for the fiscal year 2008/2009. The spending rate will be applied to endowed Foundation funds with sufficient monies available for grant purposes. The Foundation's Investment and Finance Committee recommended the rate based on the organization's goal of preserving the spending power of endowed funds over time.

Quarterly investment performance information is posted on the Foundation website for your convenience: [http://www.whatcomcf.org/investment\\_performance.html](http://www.whatcomcf.org/investment_performance.html)

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look forward to their future accomplishments - there will be many. Hats off to Anders and Colin for creating a *lasting legacy* for their peers and for their community!



Riding along the Columbia River

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