



# 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/>

Volume 1, Issue 5  
November/December 2008

Welcome! There is much activity at the Foundation thanks to the generosity of donors and the many creative community members working to strengthen and enhance our collective quality of life.

### Watch Your Mailbox

The Foundation's annual report will be mailed soon, if you just can't wait click [here](#) for an electronic version! It is filled with exciting information about the news and accomplishments from our 2008/2009 fiscal year. As you consider your year-end giving, we hope you will keep the Foundation in mind. As you'll notice in the Highlights section ("Uncle Sam Lends a Hand"), septuagenarians (with at least six months under their belts) and beyond have an added incentive.

### Businesses Large and Small Thinking Big About Giving

Businesses throughout Whatcom County are thinking boldly and creatively about investing a portion of business profits in important community work. We're thrilled to introduce you to these extraordinary examples. You'll find stories about two more standouts in philanthropic leadership from our local business community in our annual report.

### Grant to Hospice from NW Radiologists Fund

NWR established a fund at the Whatcom Community Foundation in 2007. Dr. Peter Buetow, a partner in NWR and board member of the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation, remarked, "As a partnership, NWR wants to make a meaningful contribution to the community. Establishing the Fund was a great way to do that. As healthcare practitioners, we know all too well the emotional distress terminal illness can cause for patients and their loved ones. The services that Whatcom Hospice will be able to provide with a residential facility will help the organization do even more to ease that distress. We're thrilled to be a part of the capital campaign."

## Highlights

### Uncle Sam Lends a Hand

On Oct. 3, 2008, Congress passed and President Bush signed the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (H.R. 1424), legislation that includes a **two-year extension of the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) charitable rollover**. The provision, originally enacted as part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA), permits IRA owners starting at **age 70½ to make tax-free charitable gifts totaling up to \$100,000 per year from their IRAs** directly to eligible charities. The provision applies to tax filings for 2008 and 2009 and is retroactive to January 1, 2008.



If you qualify, we urge you to take advantage of this exceptional tax benefit while simultaneously contributing to the growing need for charitable giving in the coming year. Please also pass this news on to eligible family members, friends and associates. Contributions may be made to public charities (supporting organizations, donor advised funds and private foundations, except in narrow circumstances, are *not* eligible recipients). For more information click [here](#) or contact your tax advisor.

### Homeport Students Spread Cheer

The Foundation Board and staff extend our sincere thanks to Homeport Learning Center (<http://www.homeportlearningcenter.com/>). The center provides a transitional education program for adjudicated and at-risk youth in Whatcom County. One of the program's signature elements is developing woodworking skills for boat building. This year at our request, the students at Homeport put those skills to work preparing wooden tree stands and attaching them to holiday trees. Each year the Foundation Board, Advisory Board, staff and their

"Receiving a contribution of this size to the Hospice campaign, particularly in this economic climate, is wonderful," said St. Joseph Hospital Foundation Board president Joanne Robinson. "We're grateful for this level of leadership and support from members of the medical community." Whatcom Hospice is a program of St. Joseph Hospital. Its new twelve-suite facility will be located on Douglas Avenue on the south side of Bellingham. The campaign goal for the Hospice project is \$5.3 million.

The Northwest Radiologists Fund is a donor advised fund of the Foundation. The partners of NWR make recommendations to the Foundation about how the funds should be granted. Buetow added, "This is the second grant we've recommended to the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation, the first being for general support. We see ourselves as an integral part of addressing all the healthcare issues in our community and the Fund is our vehicle for investing in solutions."

In last year's annual report we had the pleasure of featuring NWR's bold venture into organized giving

[http://www.whatcomcf.org/pdf/WCF\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2006-07.pdf](http://www.whatcomcf.org/pdf/WCF_Annual_Report_2006-07.pdf)



(left to right)

Peter Buetow, Partner, Northwest Radiologists & St. Joseph Hospital Foundation Board member

Mauri Ingram, President & CEO, Whatcom Community Foundation, present the grant award check to

Joanne Robinson, President, St. Joseph Hospital Foundation Board of Directors, and

Anna Williams, President, Whatcom Hospice Foundation Board of Directors

### MBI Health Innovation Fund

In November, Mount Baker Imaging (MBI) contributed \$250,000 to the Foundation. The gift established the MBI Health Innovation Fund to support bold, creative work in the field of primary healthcare delivery in Whatcom County.

MBI is a partnership between Northwest Radiologists and PeaceHealth, the parent organization of St. Joseph Hospital. Nancy Steiger, CEO of PeachHealth's Whatcom Region, remarked, "It's important for the medical community to organize around charitable giving. Healthcare providers have a unique appreciation for the pressing needs in our field. We need to combine our resources to help address those needs."

Northwest Radiologists partner and Mount Baker Imaging board of directors' president Lars Crabo added, "The partners at Northwest Radiologists opened a fund with the Whatcom Community Foundation in 2007. After recommending grants to support St. Joseph Hospital and the Whatcom Hospice capital campaign, we wanted to leverage our giving even further. Working through MBI was the logical next step. We are thrilled that our partners at PeaceHealth share our vision. MBI's primary business of radiology is a small part of medicine while primary care is the cornerstone of a healthy community. Our community is positioned to be an ideal proving ground for innovation."

The fund advisory committee is currently being organized. Additional information about grant proposals and submittal dates for this groundbreaking fund will be forthcoming in the New Year.

families get together to celebrate the season. We bring holiday ornaments and lights to a potluck dinner. The decorations are packaged and taken, along with a petite evergreen tree, to the families at Dorothy Place. We are grateful to Homeport director Ralph Smallwood and the students at Homeport for their help in sharing the spirit of the season with Dorothy Place residents.

### 2009 Philanthropy Day Awards

This year's Philanthropy awards celebration saw over 1,200 attendees from all over Washington State. Whatcom County attendees included students from the Lummi Youth Academy headed by tribal elder, Darrell Hillaire; representatives from Western Washington University, Whatcom Community College, Bellingham Technical College and Whatcom Community Foundation; and family and friends of Outstanding Small Business award winners Chuck and Dee Robinson (*above photo*) and Outstanding Youth honorees Anders Crabo and Colin Flynn. The Lummi students presented a ceremonial drum to Anders Crabo and Colin Flynn.



Lummi Youth Academy presenting ceremonial drum to Colin Flynn and Anders Crabo at AFP Awards Celebration

The Washington Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) has sponsored the annual awards since 1989. The awards recognize outstanding philanthropic achievement in Washington state by an individual or couple, family, corporation, small business, foundation, organization and youth.



(l to r) WCF Board Chair, Glenn Butler  
WCF Vice Chair, Bob Morse



(l to r) Anders Crabo, Mary Flynn, Colin Flynn

## 2009 Competitive Grant Round



The Foundation's 2009 competitive grant round is just around the corner. This is our annual opportunity to review proposals from the many organizations doing outstanding work on behalf of our community and put Foundation resources to work. Last year the Foundation granted a total of \$64,646 to various applicants seeking to enrich different aspects of our community. This year the Foundation has \$49,646 to grant.

### Donors

Stock market performance has affected millions of individual investors and organizations. The Foundation is no exception. We calculate the funds available for the competitive grant round at the end of each fiscal year (June 30). This year, the **competitive grant pool available for 2009 is \$37,646, 42% lower than last year.** Fortunately, we received a grant from the Jennie S. Baker Fund of the Seattle Foundation that will augment the grant pool in a specific field of interest. Even with this grant, the pool will be **33% below 2008.**

Last year we received a record 82 letters of interest. For many nonprofit organizations the current economic situation means greater demand for their services and potentially reduced revenue. Please consider making an unrestricted gift to the Foundation's Grants Fund. Unrestricted funds allow the Foundation the flexibility to allocate monies based on needs and the strength of proposals. Field of interest gifts and recommendations from advised funds are also welcome.

If you are interested in joining the Foundation's Grants and Program Committee as a volunteer, please call us at (360) 671.6463. It is a fascinating and meaningful way to learn more about the many innovative and effective programs and projects underway in Whatcom County.

### Applicants

Information about how to apply is available on the [Foundation website](#).

Letters of interest for 2009 must be received by **5 pm Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>**. The Foundation encourages creativity and imagination in the preparation of grant requests. We look forward to investing in work that will create ongoing benefits for our community.

## Community Partner Updates

*The Foundation is the fiscal sponsor for all of 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.*

### Campaign for the Arts – MBT Prepares for Gala Reopening!



The Mount Baker Theatre will reopen on December 6<sup>th</sup> with Gala performer Bernadette Peters. Tickets are available at <http://www.mountbakertheatre.com/>. As a 'thank you' to the community, the Theatre is hosting an open house on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 - 5:30 pm. Guests may take guided tours of the Theatre and enjoy refreshments.



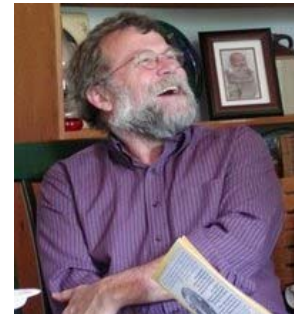
(l to r) Colin Flynn, Anders Crabo, Carolyn Coughlin and Lars Crabo



Whatcom County Philanthropy Day Supporters

## Governor Honors Tom Hunter

Governor Christine Gregoire declared Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, "Tom Hunter Day: A Day for Singing" in honor of the late well loved founding board member of the Foundation, minister, songwriter and educator. Tom passed away in June, 2008 following a brief battle with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.



## Local Papers Get in the Spirit

The Tribune Readers Care Fund of the Whatcom Community Foundation is in its third year and this year has expanded from the Lynden Tribune to include the Ferndale Record Journal. This year the Foothills Gazette has also established the Foothills Gazette Community Fund of Whatcom Community Foundation. Both of these funds will be supporting local food banks. For more information please check your local paper or visit their below websites:

[www.foothillsgazette.com](http://www.foothillsgazette.com)

[www.lyndentribune.com](http://www.lyndentribune.com)

[www.ferndalerecordjournal.com](http://www.ferndalerecordjournal.com)



The "silent phase" of the Campaign for the Arts has garnered more than \$5.2 million thus far! These funds helped to re-open the historic Theatre and transform the Arts District gateway at Holly and Bay streets. The exciting new Whatcom Museum facility is the next element to be completed.

To follow the campaign's progress visit <http://www.artsdistrictbellingham.ne> for more information.

### **Witter Pavilion: From a Rendering to Three Dimensions**

Construction is closed for the season, but contributions are not weather dependent! .

### **New Ferndale Library Project**

More than 600 people have responded to the survey distributed to the City of Ferndale's utility customers and surveys are still being counted. The responses and comments will be helpful in determining what people value about the library and what they would like to see improved as well as any concerns they have about the project. The Project steering committee is grateful for such a high response rate; the information and ideas will be valuable as facility planning continues and fundraising to supplement the \$1 million leadership gift begins.

The Library Project steering committee would like to thank the City for including the survey in its regular utility billing. Another thanks to the Ferndale City Council for passing a resolution supporting the New Ferndale Public Library at their December 1 meeting. Community projects are complex; we are grateful for community partners like the City of Ferndale for helping to move the New Ferndale Library Project forward. To keep up to date with this project, including reading survey responses, please visit <http://www.newferndalelibrary.org/>.

### **Judson Memorial**

The Phoebe and Holden Judson Memorial received a \$5,000 contribution in November. In addition, local sculptor Bob McDermott, creator of The Vigil in Blaine, Dirty Dan Harris and most recently the heroic bust of C.X. Larrabee in Fairhaven, gave a presentation about his design and sculpting process at the Lynden Pioneer Museum in October.

### **Sue C. Boynton Poetry Contest**

Thanks to a Small and Simple grant from the City of Bellingham this year's Sue C. Boynton Poetry Contest winners' work is on display – rain or shine – outside the main branch of the Bellingham Public Library (see photo in masthead).

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