



Whatcom Community Foundation

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE
WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER

Foundation *focus*

*Personalized Service
Local Expertise
Community Leadership*



Whatcom Museum's Coccolithophores

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

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Welcome! We wish you the best of the season - the warmth of family and friends and the true spirit of philanthropy: the love of our fellow man. The Foundation is most grateful to be a part of your generous community support. Thank you and Happy New Year!

Students Initiate Whatcom Middle School Fund Following Fire



Whatcom Middle School sixth graders Rachel and Kim Dorr were, like many of their fellow students, affected by the closure of their school following a devastating fire on November 5th. They decided to find a way to help. "The teachers give us so much and we want to give back to them and the school," said Rachel. Her twin sister Kim added, "A community grows stronger when everyone comes together to make a difference." The girls discussed fundraising ideas for the Whatcom Middle School Fund with their mother, Jennifer Dorr, a board member of the Whatcom Community Foundation (Foundation) where the fund is managed.

Thanks to Rachel, Kim and their mother, the Foundation is collaborating with the Bellingham Public Schools Foundation, the Whatcom Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association (WMS PTSA) and others to support fundraising efforts to benefit the students and teachers affected by the tragic fire that damaged Whatcom Middle School in the early morning

hours of November 5th. Jennifer Dorr remarked, "Our kids have so much to offer during this time of rebuilding. It's important that we provide opportunities and support for them to take action through philanthropic and volunteer activities."

Highlights

Saint Luke's Foundation honored with Outstanding Philanthropic Foundation Award

Bellingham's St. Luke's Foundation spent the afternoon of November 13th with friends and cohorts accepting an award for their exceptional good works at the 2009 National Philanthropy Day awards luncheon. The annual event is sponsored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Washington Chapter. Sue Sharpe, Executive Director and Dennis Williams, Board President of Saint Luke's Foundation, accepted the prestigious honor on the organization's behalf.



Saint Luke's Foundation Staff and Board members at the 2009 awards event.

Saint Luke's has a long and distinguished history of philanthropy and community service throughout Whatcom County. In its 25 year history, St. Luke's has awarded more than \$13 million in community health-related grants and nursing scholarships in Whatcom County. The St. Luke's board of directors, former and current executive directors Jim Roberts, Chuck Beard and Sue Sharpe and long time staff member Suzanne Ponson were joined by more than 50 supporters from Whatcom County for the celebration.

The AFP Washington Chapter's National Philanthropy Day event is

Contributions total almost \$30,000! Donors from all across Washington state have made gifts ranging from \$0.50 to \$1,000. The Bellingham Public School Foundation has already issued grants to teachers, enabling them to replace supplies lost in the fire. Additional grants will be made in the coming months with a portion of the Fund reserved for when the school re-opens.

The Foundation was honored to be recognized along with Bellingham fire fighters and police, the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, school district staff, the WMS PTSA and others with a Shining Star Award from the Bellingham School Board at their December 10th meeting.

Foundation Seeks Matching Gifts for Major Gates Foundation and Convergence Partnership Grants

2009 was a big year for grants to the Foundation! The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation awarded Whatcom Community Foundation \$75,000 to help fund special fields of interest for this year's grant making. The Foundation also received a generous 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 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 fund goals. The 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

In total, these grants will put more than \$750,000 to work in Whatcom County in 2010 and 2011. Please click [here](#) to donate now!

Local Healthcare Innovation Grants Awarded

The Foundation's MBI Health Innovation Fund awarded two grants totaling \$57,050 to address healthcare challenges at the local level. This is the second competitive grant round this year for the Fund. The MBI Health Innovation Fund (Fund) was established by Mount Baker Imaging to support bold, creative work to improve the delivery of local primary healthcare services and prevention.

Critical Junctions (CJI) received \$22,050 in support of Diabetes Connection: enhancing diabetes self management through peer coaching by using measures of "patient activation and diabetes self-efficacy." Diabetes Connection will match persons struggling with managing their diabetes with peer coaches, confident in their skills and knowledge about minimizing the impact of diabetes on their daily lives.

Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access (WAHA) received \$35,000 in support of plans to conduct a comprehensive assessment of primary care access in Whatcom County. The outcome of the project will be to develop a sustainable community approach that improves primary care access.

Community Partner Updates

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.

The New Ferndale Library Project

The New Ferndale Library Project turned its first shovel of dirt on December 9th. Project co-sponsors, the City of Ferndale, Whatcom County Library System and the Foundation, along with other library supporters celebrated the installation of a sign announcing the site for the new facility. The sign includes a capital campaign "thermometer" that

the largest in the nation, attracting more than 1,200 people each year. The 2009 awards make St. Luke's the fifth honoree from Whatcom County. Previous Outstanding Philanthropist Award recipients include: the Haggen and Morse families (Family), Village Books (Small Business) and Anders Crabo and Colin Flynn (Youth).

Whatcom Community Foundation 2010 Grant Round Underway!

As the entire planet is aware, the financial markets wreaked havoc on investments of individuals and organizations alike over the last year. The Foundation is thrilled to have funds available to grant through our competitive process thanks to two funding opportunities and many individual donors matching those grant awards. We continue to fundraise for the coming year, so please visit the Foundation's website regularly to monitor any updates.

The Foundation is grateful for the opportunity to partner with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and The Healthy Eating, Active Living Convergence Partnership for this year's competitive grant round funding.

Whatcom Community Foundation invites Whatcom County Non Profits to submit Letters of Interest for the 2010 competitive grant round, including two special funding opportunities

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant Initiative - \$63,750

The Gates Foundation is working with ten community foundations throughout Washington State to increase local assistance for families facing economic challenges and other setbacks as a result of the recession. This pool of funds will support organizations working to:

- Increase access to existing public benefits,
- Prevent and reduce violence in Whatcom County,
- Strengthen communities and build strong families, and
- Strengthen food distribution systems and fight hunger.

The Healthy Eating, Active Living Convergence Partnership Grant and the "Well Whatcom" Field of Interest Fund Initiative - \$35,000

The Healthy Eating, Active Living Convergence Partnership is a consortium of funders who have come together with the shared goal of changing policies and environments to better achieve the vision of healthy people living in healthy places. Funders include The California Endowment, Kaiser Permanente, Kresge Foundation, Nemours, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention serve as technical advisors to the Partnership.

Well Whatcom Fund – The Foundation is confident that by employing a variety of creative strategies the community can make meaningful progress toward the goal of individual and community wellness. Nonetheless, ongoing efforts will always be required. To that end, the Foundation has established the Well Whatcom Fund, a field of interest fund, to support ongoing Healthy People, Healthy Places work in the community.

Primary Care Health Innovation - \$7,800

Thanks to a generous donation from Mount Baker Imaging, the MBI Health Innovation Fund supports bold, creative work in the field of primary healthcare delivery and innovation in Whatcom County.

Other Fields of Interest - \$31,875

Proposals in all others areas.

As additional funds become available, including those for other fields of interest, this information will be updated.

Note: Please refer to the Foundation's [Grant Policies and Principles](#) when applying for these grants. **Please also note the new procedure for grant requests of \$1000 or less [here](#).**

A conference call/webinar will be held on (December 30, 2009 at

incorporates a colorful stack of books in place of the typical mercury to illustrate the campaign's progress toward its \$5 million goal.



The new library will be located west of Ferndale's City Hall. Gifts and pledges to date, including the generous \$1 million anonymous contribution to the Foundation and the Ferndale City council's commitment of \$1 million in cash toward the project, total more than \$2.75 million. This \$5 million goal includes land acquisition, preliminary construction, furniture, equipment and other project costs.

For more information about the New Ferndale Library Project, please visit <http://www.newferndalelibrary.org/>

Campaign for the Arts - Whatcom Museum Gala and Grand Opening



The new Whatcom Museum of History and Art welcomed supporters to their grand opening gala on November 13th (also National Philanthropy Day) and opened its doors to the public Saturday, November 14th. More than 4,000 people enjoyed opening day!

The Whatcom Museum's new Lightcatcher Building is located at the corner of Grand and Flora in downtown Bellingham. The Lightcatcher Building, named for its spectacular elliptical 34-foot glass wall feature multiple exhibit spaces in new, state-of-the-art climate controlled galleries. The new galleries will allow the Museum to host exhibitions from other museums, including the Smithsonian Institute. One of these displays is a site-specific art installation by Seattle-based artist called *Bloom: The Elephant Bed*. With immense, bell-shaped sculptures suspended from the ceiling, Grade's piece takes full advantage of the 26 foot high gallery ceiling inspired by the white, limestone shells of microscopic ocean organisms called *coccolithophores* (see photo in the Foundation *focus* masthead).

Bellingham Sailing Foundation Dock Project

The Bellingham Sailing Foundation, an unincorporated local volunteer group working with the Bellingham Yacht Club, applied to the Foundation for a fiscal sponsorship to construct and install a dock on Port of Bellingham property (Zuanich Park Day



10am) to share information about the various funding opportunities and to answer any questions. Please click [here](#) for webinar details or contact Missy Belles at the Foundation at 671-6463 or mbelles@whatcomcf.org.

Foundation Donates Trees and Decorations to Three Local Agencies



(L to R) Sue and Bert Webber, Kelly Grotke and Kristen Good

Former Board Member, Sue Webber and husband Bert hosted the annual Foundation tree party where the Foundation Board, advisors and staff prepare 22 small Christmas trees and decorations. This year's trees were delivered to Dorothy Place, Lydia Place and Agape Home for Women and Children. Sue and Bert delivered the trees. Accepting the Dorothy Place delivery where case managers, Kristen Good and Kelly Grotke (above), excited to pass them on to their current residents. Dorothy Place is a secure 21-unit facility in Bellingham that provides support services and transitional housing specifically for single women and women with children who are survivors of domestic violence

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.



Dock).

The Dock Plaza project will benefit the community by providing valuable improvements to an existing public access dock that will be enjoyed by residents, particularly young people learning to sail, as well as visitors. The Dock is slated for installation in the spring. Craig Henderson, owner of Bullfrog Boats, is the project manager.

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