



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 volume 1, issue 3

www.whatcomcf.org

Welcome to *Foundation Focus*. The Foundation family has suffered a great loss since the last issue, but there have been a number of positive happenings as well. As always, we appreciate your feedback. Please look for your next issue in September.



Former CEO Leaves Behind Many Friends & Exceptional Legacy in Whatcom County

Former Whatcom Community Foundation president and CEO, Calene LeBeau passed away on Friday, August 15 surrounded by her family. Calene valiantly battled cancer that recurred in late 2006. Although an area resident for only a few years, she had a

tremendous impact on the Whatcom County community. The assets of the Foundation, which she dearly loved, grew substantially as a direct result of her efforts. As Foundation Board Chair and donor, Glenn Butler put it, "she's the only person I've ever met who inspired you to say 'thank you' after she asked you for money."

Calene cultivated a devoted community of friends, including the Foundation Board and staff, in her short time in Bellingham. She became a member of the Rotary Club of Bellingham and several walking groups and was a welcome guest in many homes. She cherished the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest, taking advantage of every opportunity to experience and savor it. Following news of her illness, many of her friends drove her to and from treatments in Seattle, lifting her spirits during times of great physical and emotional stress. Not surprisingly, the conversations en route often tended to philanthropy. Calene loved this place and was committed to making it even better in every way she could.

Calene leaves behind three adoring sons (Hunter, Austin and Cash Cameron), four siblings, her father and countless friends from here to Texas. Her sons plan to spread her ashes on Mount Baker so she is put to rest in the place she called home.

It is with immense sorrow that we say farewell to Calene. Her grace and passion for giving are a legacy from which the Foundation and the entire community will continue to benefit. She was truly the embodiment of the Rotary motto, "service above self." Thank you to those who shared their time and friendship with Calene. The Foundation Board and staff are grateful to you. We look forward to carrying on the important community building work for which Calene had such great facility and love.

In recognition of Calene's commitment to the Foundation, the Board has established the Calene Cameron LeBeau Memorial Fund. It was Calene's wish that gifts be made to the Fund in lieu of flowers. Checks may be made payable to: Whatcom Community Foundation, 119 Grand Avenue, Suite A, Bellingham, WA 98225. Please note *Calene Cameron LeBeau Memorial Fund* in the memo section. Credit card donations may be made by calling the Foundation at 360.671.6463 or electronically through the Network for Good at <https://www.networkforgood.org/donation/MakeDonation.aspx?ORGID2=911726410> (please include the Fund name in the Designation field).

Unprecedented Gift Supports

Highlights

July/August 2008

AFP Announces Philanthropy Award Winners: Two Whatcom County Honorees

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

We are pleased to announce that there will be two Whatcom County nominees honored! **Village Books** is this year's Outstanding Philanthropic Small Business and **Anders Crabo and Colin Flynn**, founders of the Bellingham Youth Philanthropy Fund of Whatcom Community Foundation, will be recognized as this year's Outstanding Youth Philanthropists. Past Whatcom County honorees include the Morse and Haggen families.

Award recipients will be honored at the annual National Philanthropy Day awards luncheon on Thursday, November 20, 2008, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel. Tickets for the luncheon and transportation via bus can be arranged through the Foundation at (360) 671-6463 or email us at wcf@whatcomcf.org.

Scholarships and Awards



Nathan Mitchell Turner
of Baker View Christian School
accepting his Cole Student of the Year Award

Foundation Services

In June and despite a slowing economy, an anonymous donor contributed \$375,000 to support the valuable services provided by the Foundation. The bulk of the donation was added to the Foundation Services Endowment Fund which supports the Foundation's work to encourage charitable investment in our community and to serve as a catalyst for healthy community change. "We could not be more thrilled," said Foundation Board chair Glenn Butler. The donation was "unprecedented," according to Butler. "This is the first time an individual has made such a generous gift specifically to support the fundamental work of the Foundation," he said.

"The donor has a great appreciation for the potential of our community and recognizes the important role the Foundation plays in reaching that potential," noted Mauri Ingram, Foundation President and CEO. "We are honored and grateful to be the recipient of such a generous investment in the organization's ability to address the numerous opportunities and needs in our community. The donor derives immense pleasure and satisfaction from charitable giving and it is infectious."

The gift is an example of the changing charitable landscape in Whatcom County. "Donors are more and more sophisticated in their giving. For example, one of our fundholder families allocates ten percent of all their gifts to the Foundation specifically to our Foundation Services Fund. Like our anonymous donor, they appreciate the value of the Foundation's broader work in the community and they actively support it as part of their routine giving," said Ingram. "Our goal is for every donor to adopt a similar giving strategy." Thanks to the recent gift, the Foundation Services Endowment Fund is now more than \$1.3 million.



Foundation Board Vice Chair Bob Morse at 2008 Grant Awards, one of several Foundation Services events

Please visit our Website at http://www.whatcomcf.org/news_publications.html#PressRelease for the complete press release.

Witter Pavilion



Construction of the Witter Pavilion (also known as The Porch) in Boulevard Park has begun! The Witter Pavilion Fund was set up as a Foundation fiscal sponsorship in 2007 to celebrate the life of Mark Witter, beloved craftsman and musician. The Porch will serve as a venue for the community to gather to enjoy music, dance, and visit with one another. All of the funds and in kind contributions needed to complete the structure, designed by Fund founders Cascade Joinery, have been raised. Organizers continue to raise contributions for the Fund in order to expand Mark Witter's legacy through other programs.

For more information, please visit <http://www.theporchlive.org/> or http://www.whatcomcf.org/our_funds.html#Fiscal

The Foundation recognized thirteen students through its three scholarship and award funds year.

The Cole Student of the Year Award was presented to five hardworking and motivated middle school students. "We wanted to recognize students who work hard and maintain a positive attitude," noted Sue Cole. "Those qualities are valuable to the student and they serve to inspire everyone around them. That is certainly true of this year's recipients."

Six middle school students from Lynden with a passion for science and creativity received scholarships from the Clayton D. Millage Scholarship Fund. The Millage Fund scholarship paid for tuition to a variety of science related summer camps. Clayton D. Millage was a horticulture and general science teacher at Lynden Middle School from 1994 until 2005. He lost his battle with cancer in 2006. One of his greatest joys in life was inspiring young minds explore new interests, think "outside the box" and challenge themselves mentally.

The Roy Georgeff Scholarship Fund granted awards to two graduating seniors. The Roy Georgeff Scholarship Fund of Whatcom Community Foundation was established in July 1999 to recognize graduates of Lynden High School and Lynden Christian High School with outstanding academic performance, as well as school and community involvement.

Foundation's Showtime Fund Issued Grant to Pickford Film Center Capital Campaign

The Showtime Fund of Whatcom Community Foundation recently granted more than \$120,000 to the Pickford Film Center Capital Campaign. "The Pickford Film Center will provide a wealth of expanded programming for all ages and ensure that independent cinema continues to flourish in Bellingham" noted Alice Clark, Pickford executive director. "This grant is especially meaningful as we continue with our Capital Campaign. Thank you for stepping forward and demonstrating how important the arts are to a thriving community."

Philanthropy Summit Note

Philanthropy Highlights

The second in a series of articles by Missy Belton on the Council on Foundations' 2008 Philanthropy Summit

Increasing Philanthropy's Impact

Participants discussed how the philanthropic sector can collectively act for even greater impact. Themes, in order of priority, are:

- Create strategic partnerships/collaborate across sectors/"Get egos out of the way"
- Find ways to impact public policy
- Take risks/"Be bold"/"Invite innovation while supporting excellence"
- Share knowledge & ideas across silos & organizations
- Value & engage new voices (stakeholders & citizens)
- Speak clearly about the value of philanthropy
- Increase transparency (payouts, grants, diversity, measures of success, failures)



Existing Ferndale Library, in need of additional space for books, library programs, parking and more

New Ferndale Public Library Project

The New Ferndale Public Library Project Steering Committee is gathering ideas and information from the community. The Committee includes representatives from the City of Ferndale, the Whatcom County Library System and the Foundation and works closely with the staff and Friends of the Ferndale Library. The goal of the Committee is to meet the Ferndale community's library needs for the next 50 years.

Property acquisition is a high priority. Several sites in the downtown Ferndale area are under consideration. A project website is currently being developed and a variety of community surveys and meetings will be conducted during the fall. There will be a Project booth on Main Street at the Ferndale Street Festival (<http://www.ferndale-chamber.com/festival.php>) on Saturday, August 23rd. To learn more about the New Ferndale Public Library Project, contact project development manager Richard Cville (richard@whatcomcf.org).

Major Gifts Fuel Campaign for the Arts



Mount Baker Theatre and Whatcom Museum of History & Art

The Campaign for the Arts (CFA) Fund received several generous and important gifts in the last few months; exciting news as the Arts District continues to take shape. The **Joyce and David Morse Sr. Family** is contributing \$100,000 to the CFA. The gift is a continuation of family's giving history which inspired their recognition by the Washington Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals as Philanthropic Family of the Year for 2007.

Locally owned **Peoples Bank** and its **Chairman of the Board Irwin LeCocq**, along with his wife **Frances** also contributed \$100,000 to the CFA. The LeCocq's longtime involvement in civic ventures, including various family members' service on the board of directors of the Mount Baker Theatre and Whatcom Museum of History & Art, informed their views on community investment. "As a local bank that has been in business since 1920, we understand the value of investing in community resources. Civic endeavors, such as the Campaign for the Arts, will only continue to pay back on the initial investment in terms of the cultural enrichment and economic benefit the Arts District will bring to area residents," remarked Mr. LeCocq.

WECU (Whatcom Educational Credit Union) granted \$50,000 to the CFA. WECU's donation will fund one of two Rainwater Harvest exhibits in the new Museum building. The exhibits illustrate the facility's capacity to store and re-use rainwater for daily building operations, reducing the

- Embrace new technologies to aid collaboration

Message to the Next U.S. President

The second topic of discussion was how the sector can make the most of the transition to a new U.S. President. Participants developed messages to send to the next U.S. President about how he can use the strength, capacity, and leadership of the philanthropic sector to address a wide range of problems. Their messages, also prioritized, were:

- Respect our role - philanthropic funds cannot replace government funds - "We are not about picking up the shortfall"
- Bring philanthropy to the table/create a cabinet-level position for philanthropy
- Leverage philanthropy's expertise, flexibility, & innovation - "We're a laboratory for government"
- Allow us to innovate - don't micromanage & over-regulate the sector
- Help grow philanthropy - tax code should make charitable giving a tax credit, not a deduction
- Work with the philanthropic sector to build bridges internationally
- Communicate regularly with the sector - "Come speak at the Council on Foundations Conference!"

Giving Grows in Whatcom County



Giving in Whatcom County from 2002-2005 has continued to increase. The total amount of money given to charities by tax filers in Whatcom County who itemize charitable deductions was over \$65 million in 2002, which grew to an outstanding \$85.8 million in 2005. In Whatcom County the average contributing itemizer gave \$3,220 to charity in 2002 and in 2005 gave \$3,742. In the state of Washington the average was \$3,412 in 2005 and Nation wide, \$3,792. In 2004 and 2005, Whatcom County residents gave an average of 4% of their adjusted gross income to charity, up from 3.7% in 2002.

amount of water the Museum will need to draw from the City's water service and providing a working model for Museum visitors in an unusual venue - the restroom! WECU has adopted Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver standards in designing all its new branches. The grant is evidence of WECU's commitment to responsible building practices, education and a creative marriage of the two that will benefit current and future generations.

Funds raised to date total more than \$5.1 million of the CFA's \$8.6 million goal. More major gifts will be covered in future issues of *Foundation Focus*. Thank you to these and all the generous CFA supporters!

Community partnerships for which the Foundation is accepting gifts:

- 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)
- The [Witter Pavilion](#) (also known as The Porch at Boulevard Park)
- Fairhaven Village Green

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

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