



Whatcom Community Foundation

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE
WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER

Foundation

personalized
service
local
expertise
community
leadership

focus



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

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Welcome! Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the many creative people and organizations working to strengthen and enhance our community, there is much exciting activity at the Foundation

Small Foundation Grant to Lummi Youth Academy Serves Student Needs

Over the holidays, many choose to “adopt a family” and provide gifts to those in need during the holiday season. This year, Foundation Board members and staff adopted the students of the Lummi Youth Academy (LYA). Thanks to the money raised, The Foundation granted \$500 to provide much needed winter clothing LYA students.

The LYA mission is to “help our community’s children expand their development through skill building strategies in order to achieve higher educational goals and to help them become future positive family role models.” According to Project Coordinator and former Lummi Nation Chairman, Darrell Hillaire, LYA teaches the value of hard work and respect. “We teach hard work by always starting and finishing our chores, seeing what needs to be done and doing it, and by never giving up on ourselves and others,” noted Hillaire.

Following a recent visit to the LYA, a Foundation donor remarked, “What an incredible afternoon! The kids are obviously the priority. I am so pleased I had the opportunity to meet some of the students – it’s clear the Academy will provide the support they need to overcome their challenges.”

Currently, LYA is hard at work raising funds for the Collective Leadership Forum in Seattle and the Native Leadership Conference in Spokane this spring. For more information about LYA or to make a donation, please visit <http://lummiyouthacademy.org/> or call 360.758.2026.

Highlights

New Board Member Profiles

At the Foundation’s Board of Directors’ strategic work session in late January, we were thrilled to officially introduce three new members to the Board: Lesli Brewster, Betty Krejci and Joyce Pedlow. These women bring with them a breadth of knowledge and experience in development and philanthropic work that they are eager to share with the Foundation and the community. We hope you will join us in welcoming them to the Foundation Board.

Lesli Brewster

As co-owner of The Sportsman Chalet for ten years and executive director of the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra for 4 ½ years, Lesli has had years of sales and marketing experience. As a realtor here in Whatcom County, Lesli knows the importance of understanding client’s needs. In addition to her membership on the Foundation Board she also serves on the boards of the Northwest Ski & Recreation Club and the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra. Lesli believes that good relationships are achieved by establishing trust and mutual respect and looks forward to working with the entire Foundation team. Lesli will devote her expertise to the Foundation’s Development Committee.



Betty Krejci

Betty has over 20 years of experience working in higher education for Iowa State University, the University of Illinois and Purdue University. In 2002, she began her career in development at Purdue University and eventually found her way to Western Washington University in 2004 as the Director of Development for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and Fairhaven College. In 2008, she became Director of Estate Planning for the Western Washington University Foundation. Betty and her husband Jim live in Ferndale.



LYA students and LYA Program Coordinator Darrell Hillaire with Outstanding Philanthropic Small Business Award Winners Chuck & Dee Robinson of Village Books at the 2008 AFP Philanthropy Day Awards.

Joyce Pedlow

Now retired, Joyce was the Human Resources Director at the Bellingham Herald. These days Joyce likes to spend her time enjoying the beauty of our surroundings by sailboat and putting her years of experience to work as a volunteer. In addition to her membership on the Foundation's Board, Joyce is also a board member for the ARC of Whatcom County. She previously served on the boards of the Whatcom Literacy Council and Mt. Baker Chapter Society of Human Resource Management Boards. Joyce will focus her time and talents on the Foundation's Grants and Program Committee.



2009 Competitive Grant Round Info

This year the Foundation received 59 Letters of Interest for our 2009 Competitive Grant Round. While the decision-making process was difficult, the Foundation's Grants and Program Committee invited 29 organizations to submit full applications for review.

The Foundation currently has \$49,646 to grant to local organizations that are dedicated to enriching the lives of Whatcom County residents. Last year the Foundation was able to grant almost \$70,000 to nonprofit organizations in our community though our competitive grant round (last year's total giving, which includes donor advised grants, was more than \$800,000!). The uncertain economy continues to result in greater demands being placed on local nonprofits for services, particularly in human services. As a result, the Foundation continues to seek additional contributions for our 2009 Competitive Grant Round.

Tribune Readers Care Fund & Foothills Gazette Community Fund

The 2008 Lynden Tribune and Ferndale Record-Journal Readers Care Fund culminated with a record \$13,270 was raised for Lynden's Project Hope Food Bank and the Ferndale Food Bank. A challenge grant from the Eleanor and Henry Jansen Foundation was a tremendous boost, matching the first \$2,500 in reader's contributions. Mike Lewis, publisher of both the weekly newspapers considers the Readers Care Fund of the Foundation to be a blessing for those in need. "Whatcom County has just gone through a devastating flood and the needs in this community are greater than ever; we are proud and privileged to have helped facilitate the Readers Care Fund efforts in 2008," he said.

Inspired by the accomplishments of the Readers Care Fund, the Foothills Gazette publisher Becca Schwartz decided to initiate a fund to benefit the Foothills community. The Gazette opened the Foothills Gazette Community Fund through the Foundation. This year the Fund raised almost \$1,000 for the Everson-Nooksack Food Bank and the Foothills Food Bank. An outstanding first year result!

Whatcom County is fortunate to have community-owned publications that consider themselves a part of the community well beyond the scope of their business. Their hard-work and dedication is a tribute to their publishers, staff and the generous readers who support their efforts. This year's readers' funds demonstrate what is possible when we challenge ourselves and our community!

Peters was a hit and a gracious guest, speaking with numerous CFA donors and Theatre supporters throughout the evening. The improved lighting, acoustics, and climate control proved to meet modern audience standards while preserving the historical integrity of the Theatre, making this spectacular evening truly the event of the year.

The Campaign has successfully connected with donors' passion for the Theatre and the Whatcom Museum, two Arts District icons, by raising \$5.2 million to date. The \$8.6 million goal contributes to bricks and mortar as well as endowments that will help to support the work of both institutions in perpetuity. When the Campaign is complete, the community will have two spectacular facilities, one historic and one new. Both will offer an abundance of opportunities for entertainment and education. They will also serve as an economic engine for our community.

For more information on the Campaign visit <http://www.artsdistrictbellingham.net/>. To make a contribution to the Campaign for the Arts, please send checks to the Whatcom Community Foundation, 119 Grand Avenue, Suite A, Bellingham, WA 98225. Please include "CFA" in the memo section of your check.

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 800 people responded to the survey distributed to the City of Ferndale's utility customers, an incredible return of more than 20%! 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. Mayor Jensen appointed the Project steering committee as the task force to advise the city council on site selection. The task force is working with the Whatcom County Library System's facilities committee to ensure that the site



Woodstock Farm

As an endowment, the BYP Fund will live on for years to come supporting local, environmentally focused nonprofit organizations, like Woodstock Farm Conservancy, in Whatcom County. The Foundation is currently seeking to involve new students interested in fundraising and/or serving on the Fund advisory committee which will make recommendations on future organizations to support. Hopefully getting connected with students needing to fulfill their Culminating Projects will be mutually beneficial in helping the Foundation find interested committee members. We look forward to the potential of this exciting project!

Nonprofit Survey

The Foundation is coordinating a survey of local nonprofits to determine the effects of the economy on their ability to meet service demands. We will use the results to help us determine how best to work with our donors and other local funding entities to meet those needs, and to identify ways in which we might support their organizational needs through training and other means. Survey highlights will be published in the next issue of *Foundation Focus*.

selection criteria meet library user needs while being consistent with the community's planning goals. The capital campaign committee is organizing and looks forward to adding to the \$1 million leadership gift at the Foundation.

The New Ferndale Library Project steering committee would again like to thank the City for including the survey in its regular utility billing. To view survey responses and learn more about the project, please visit <http://www.newferndalelibrary.org/>.

Judson Memorial

Fund advisor Mary Michaelson recently made a presentation about her work at the Whatcom Museum. Her presentation was titled, "Finding Aunt Phoebe: My Search for the True Life of Phoebe Goodell Judson." Ms. Michaelson has written a book about the life of the woman often called the Mother of Lynden.

Sue C. Boynton Poetry Contest

The 2009 Sue C. Boynton Poetry Contest is getting underway. Poets young, old and in between, seasoned or novice can anticipate another evening of exceptional works from Whatcom County residents. For a little inspiration, the work of last year's winners is on display – rain or shine – outside the main branch of the Bellingham Public Library. Submission guidelines are posted on our web site at <http://www.whatcomcf.org/>.

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