



# 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 3, Issue 5  
May, June, July 2011

### Welcome!

#### Whatcom County & Foothills Community Lose a Leader

Linda Dorsett was a dedicated, active community leader. Linda passed away in a tragic accident in Maple Falls on June 17th, 2011. She was passionate about helping people, organizations and communities to reach their highest potential. She drew on her experiences as a consultant, executive director, psychotherapist and author to guide people through the process of change. Linda will be remembered as a tireless advocate and leader especially on behalf of rural areas, particularly East Whatcom County.



The Linda Dorsett Memorial Fund benefits the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center in Kendall. To donate to this fund please click on our donate button below or send a check to the Foundation. Please note the fund name in the memo section of your check. If donating online, please note the name of the fund in the "special instructions" box. To read the press release click [here](#)

[Make a Donation](#)

#### Bellingham Dollars for Scholars (BDFS) Holds Annual Awards Celebration

BDFS volunteers along with Foundation Board members and staff recognized 90 outstanding students and awarded more than \$78,000 to Bellingham School District seniors on May 31st.



*2011 BDFS Scholarship Recipients*

"This scholarship has acknowledged all the effort I've put into the last 12 years of my life. It has also motivated me to continue working hard at earning a business degree, and ultimately building a passionate career," says Ryan Strong, recipient of the Fielding Formway Scholarship.

The complete listing of the many scholarships provided by our generous community members and recipients earning the scholarships is available [here](#). Donations for next year's scholarships are being accepted; please [contact](#) the Foundation for information.

### Highlights

#### 2011 Foundation Grant Round



*Left to right, Sati Mookherjee, MD & Dr. Brenda-Lee Karasik, WCF Board Members, awarding competitive grant to Janie Pemble & Mary Baldwin, of Visiting Nurse Home Care for the Friendly Visitors program*

Fifteen years ago Whatcom Community Foundation made its first grant to Nooksack Valley School District. Since then, the Foundation has provided more than \$8.8 million in grants to build a stronger Whatcom County community. We recently announced the 26 local projects and programs funded through the Foundation's 2011 competitive grant round. This year the grant funding was made possible largely thanks to community donations, Foundation fund holders, and the Convergence Partnership, a consortium of national funders. [Read more.](#)

#### New Board Member Profile - Jennifer Hine

Jennifer Hine joined the Foundation Board of Directors in 2010. She has served as the Executive Director of Washington Campus Compact since 1995. Washington Campus Compact is a coalition of college and university presidents who have committed their institutions to helping students become engaged citizens; advancing the civic and public purposes of education; and strengthening communities.





Please join us for an evening of wine tasting, great food & entertainment to support scholarships for Bellingham's high school grads on September 17, 2011 at the Bellingham Golf & Country Club, 3729 Meridian Street, from 6pm -10pm. Cost is \$75 per person. To purchase tickets online click [here](#), or mail your check to Whatcom Community Foundation and write CHEERS in the memo section.

## Whatcom Community Foundation Included in Two Top 100 Lists!

The Foundation has earned spots on two of three prestigious Community Foundation Top 100 Lists that were released in early June. Of the more than 700 community foundations in the United States; the Whatcom Community Foundation is ranked sixth among most active grantmakers and 75th in gifts per capita.

According to Foundation President & CEO Mauri Ingram, "These rankings illustrate our community's bias for action: we are putting a significant percentage of our assets to work in Whatcom County." She added, "Ranking in the top 100 based on gifts per capita speaks volumes about the generosity of the donors in our community." [Read more.](#)

## Foundation Receives Nonprofit Capacity Building Grant

[Philanthropy Northwest](#) (PNW) recently announced that Foundation was one of nine recipients of its Community Foundation Initiative grants. Thanks to generous underwriting from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, PNW granted one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000) to help build the capacity of nonprofit organizations throughout the state. An advisory committee of Northwest leaders with community foundation and nonprofit expertise developed the criteria and reviewed the grant applications.

Grant awards ranged from \$13,000 to \$25,000. While the projects vary in size and focus, each project reflects the recipient's unique strategy for building community and supporting nonprofit capacity in their area. The grants support a wide variety of strategies, including programs to address recruitment and training for nonprofit boards, support for collaborations among nonprofits; and professional development for nonprofit staff.

The capacity building grant will support our local efforts to build Whatcom County's nonprofit sector, particularly in light of the economic downturn.

Philanthropy Northwest is a nonprofit membership association serving foundations, corporations and individuals in the six states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. Philanthropy Northwest's mission is to promote thoughtful and strategic philanthropy that strengthens communities and improves the quality of life for all.

For bi-weekly updates on the most current Whatcom Council of Nonprofits (WCN) and nonprofit news, sign up to receive the WCN eNews in your inbox every other week! Here's your free source of information on events, education and training opportunities, resource sharing, nonprofit job listings, funding opportunities and more.



Additionally, nonprofits can submit their events to an online calendar (<http://calendar.wcnwebsite.org/calendar.php>). The calendar serves the entire community by publicizing nonprofit sector events as well as helping organizations to schedule events so that they do not compete with each other.

Be the first to receive the newest information by subscribing to the bi-weekly WCN eNews! Do so by emailing [WCN Contact](#).

## Community Foundation Staff Attend 2011 Native Philanthropy Institute

Foundation CEO Mauri Ingram and Pamela Jons, Director of Advancement and Programs, attended the 2011 Native Americans in Philanthropy's Native Philanthropy Institute (NPI) held in Tulalip, WA. The NPI engaged more than 145 national participants from Native communities, Tribal giving programs, Native and non-Native nonprofits, foundations and philanthropic associations for dialogue, interaction and co-learning centered on the conference theme of Weaving Leadership, Indigenous People and Resources. "Culturally-focused philanthropy involves a great deal of nuance," noted Ingram. "It's exciting that communication and collaboration among Native and non-Native communities are improving. We are all doing a better job of learning from each other and working together."

Jennifer's strengths lie in her ability to strategically develop and sustain programs that mobilize college students to address some of today's most critical challenges. Prior to joining Washington Campus Compact, she has had extensive experience consulting with businesses to strengthen management and organizational structures. She has served on numerous boards at the national, state, and local levels including nine years on the Washington Commission for National and Community Service overseeing AmeriCorps programs in the state. Jennifer has been recognized for her work as one of the top "150 Victories for Humanity" by Antioch University in Seattle. This list recognizes the amazing and selfless accomplishments of Pacific Northwest residents who, through their work or volunteerism, have made a difference in the lives of others.

## Grantee Story Bellingham Childcare & Learning Center

*Right - Christianna, Jady and Madeline enjoying their time at BCLC (real names withheld for privacy)*



In 2010 Bellingham Childcare and Learning Center (BCLC) received an \$8,000 grant from the Foundation to provide tuition assistance to low-income families. They offer a safe, stimulating, and developmentally appropriate learning environment for infants and children one month to five years of age. Many of their low-income clients are single women with children. These families often face significant economic, social, and emotional challenges. Not the least of these challenges is the availability of affordable services for their children so that they may work, attend school, or pursue job training opportunities. For single parents, the loss of affordable childcare can mean an end to productive employment, technical training and/or higher education.

Below is a letter from one of the families:

*In October of 2010, my family reapplied for assistance through DSHS and the Opportunity Council for energy and childcare benefits. Near the end of November, we were notified that our benefits were denied. We discovered that we were denied benefits because the poverty level had lowered and we now fell just \$100 over that level. Before being denied, we were receiving an average of \$700 per month worth of benefits.*

*With energy costs rising due to the cold weather and the holidays approaching fast, we had nowhere to turn. How would we come up with an extra \$700 to keep our heat on, our daughter in care, plus provide our daughter with a few gifts under the tree? We no longer qualified for any extra assistance programs like the community toy store, which offered an opportunity for families to purchase gifts for their children at a discounted rate.*

*I was made aware that I could apply for assistance with my childcare costs through the BCLC financial assistance program. I wrote to the Board of Directors and explained my situation. I was*

## Raising a Philanthropist

Families are placing a greater emphasis on teaching their heirs about philanthropy as the largest wealth transfer in history approaches. Read current article [here](#) (*The Wall Street Journal*)

## Use your IRA for Good in Our Community

### IRA Rollover Extended

Congress extended the Charitable IRA Rollover for 2010 and 2011. This means individuals 70½ or older can directly transfer funds from an IRA (up to \$100,000) to qualified charities, like the Foundation, without incurring income tax on the amount transferred. The law is designed to encourage charitable gifts by making it possible to donate IRA assets directly to qualified charities – simply and without tax complications. Funds transferred in this way do not generate taxable income and do not qualify for a charitable deduction.

### What are the Benefits of a direct transfer IRA Gift?

- 1. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you will receive the benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.
- 2. The transfer may count against your unsatisfied required minimum distributions.
- 3. It is a terrific way to support your community and your Community Foundation.

To take advantage of this opportunity, donors must complete the gift transfer by December 31, 2011. Check with your IRA administrator or financial advisor to determine if this charitable gift opportunity makes sense for you. Ask your IRA administrator to:

- 1. Outline the process for authorizing a direct transfer from your IRA to a qualified charity.
- 2. Provide the forms required to initiate a gift from your IRA account.
- 3. Describe the turnaround time required to ensure that your IRA gift can be completed to meet your planning tax needs

The Whatcom Community Foundation welcomes your IRA donation of any size. We can help you put your gift to work providing grants to nonprofits or providing scholarships for students. If your IRA gift is \$5,000 or more, you can start a named fund at the foundation that will help your community. Scholarships for students, grants to a variety of nonprofits or grants to specific nonprofits that you support now are among your options. Please contact Mauri Ingram or Pamela Jons if you would like to discuss this option further. 360-671-6463.

Resources for more information on the IRA charitable rollover:

[Planned Giving Design Center](#)  
[Council on Foundations](#)  
[Partnership for Philanthropic Planning](#)



**CONNECTS** people who care with causes that matter

**SERVES** as a leader, catalyst and resource for philanthropy

**PLAYS** a key role in identifying and solving community challenges

**CONDUCTS** strategic grant making that benefits all of our community in fields such as social services, education, health, the environment and the arts

**PROVIDES** flexible and cost-effective ways for generous individuals, families, and companies to contribute to their community now and for all time

**SUPPORTS** capital projects benefiting Whatcom County

**MANAGES** charitable funds on behalf of individuals, families and businesses

**WORKS** with individuals, families and companies to leave a legacy of giving

**BUILDS** and holds a permanent and growing endowment for the communities changing needs and opportunities.

*granted a reduction in my tuition. I think I cried when I was approved, I was so thankful! It was the one thing that saved me and my family much stress and despair through the winter season. We are now getting back on our feet and feel confident that we can take on the extra financial burden when our last month of assistance comes to an end. We are so grateful that this service was available to us in our time of need. Without it, I do not believe we would be able to dig ourselves out of the financial hole we were in and prepare ourselves for future expenses.*

*Whole heartedly, my family gives many thanks for the assistance we have received. My hope is that other families can continue to get the help they need to conquer their financial situations. This is a difficult time for many of us, and providing support and assistance to those in need, will help to build confidence and give families the strength to get through these tough times.*

*Thank you for all you have done for us and others!*

## Save the Date!

November 18th in Seattle  
 Celebrating Washington State's  
 Faces of Philanthropy

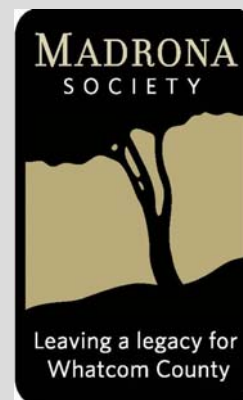


This is our National Philanthropy Day!

It is our opportunity to honor the people and organizations making a difference in our community for a National Philanthropy Day award!

Awards recognize philanthropic individuals, families, organizations and businesses. The Foundation helps to coordinate transportation for the Whatcom County contingent; it's a festive way to travel! Please mark your calendars to join us!

Joe & Judy Coons  
 Thomas W. Crowell \*  
 George & Mary Ann Drake  
 Jean Gorton  
 Marge Laidlaw & Scott Wallace  
 Brian & Marya Griffin  
 Terry & Myra Harmer  
 Katti & David Esp  
 Martin & Gail Haines  
 John D. Stephens  
 Fredericka H. Bond \*  
 Sibyl W. Sanford  
 Glenn & Janice Butler  
 Larry Berghoff  
 John Watts & Joan Casey  
 Owen Olsen  
 Gary & Ann Blanken  
 Gail Weiss & Dennis Smith  
 Libby Hazen  
 E. Frederic & Milissa Miller  
 Margaret & Marc Curtis  
 Chuck & Dee Robinson  
 Lee Eberhardt & Mauri Ingram  
 Stephen A. Peters  
 Rick & Linda Luke  
 Brenda-Lee Karasik  
 Art & Marti Caputi



Joyce & John Pedlow  
Francis Joseph & Dorothy Lang \*  
Karl & Edwina Kleeman  
Naomi Wilkins  
Carrie Coppinger Carter  
Daniel Kirkman  
Laurie McClain  
Frank Champagne  
Roy Georgeff\*  
Meg Metzger  
  
7 Anonymous  
  
\*Deceased

Whatcom Community Foundation  
119 Grand Avenue, Suite A  
Bellingham, WA 98225 Tel. 360-671-6463

E-mail: [wcf@whatcomcf.org](mailto:wcf@whatcomcf.org)  
<http://www.whatcomcf.org/>

[Make a Donation](#)