



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 2
September/October 2010

Welcome! The Community Foundation leads by making positive, sustainable change in Whatcom County. We help foster academic achievement, build economic prosperity, achieve healthy ecosystems, encourage healthy people, support the arts and social enrichment and create vibrant neighborhoods. Our success is connected to the generosity of our donors and the expertise of grantee nonprofits. The Foundation continues to be a hub of activity, and we wanted to share a few inspiring stories from our recent work.

F2S Work Continues - The Sustainable Whatcom Fund Committee Issues RFP

The Foundation recently invited proposals for new and ongoing F2S work. Funds will be awarded from the Foundation's Sustainable Whatcom Fund. This active advisory committee seeks to build our growing F2S network, and will review proposals for up to \$5,000 from around the County for both existing and new projects. For more information stay tuned, or contact: coordinator@whatcomfarmtoschool.org.



New Funds

The Whatcom Peace Fund was recently established by supporters of the Whatcom Peace and Justice Center (WPJC) to help fund their programs and to ensure sustainability of peace activities in Whatcom County. The Center works to create a voice for peace and social justice in the County through partnerships with local community and religious organizations, direct action, public witness, and education on alternatives to violence and war. To learn more about WPJC go to www.whatcompjc.org.

The Geneva Inspirational Scholarship Fund

Highlights

A Remembrance for Philanthropy Day - A Good Life, A Simple Plan

Learn, earn, return. Earl Settlemyer's philosophy was that simple.

National Philanthropy Day is November 18. It is a celebration of one of the most fundamental ties that binds us together: a love of humankind, foibles and all. It is a time when we reflect on the generosity of our community in supporting an impressive breadth of activities that directly or indirectly benefit all of us. For Earl Settlemyer, every day was Philanthropy Day. He passed away in May, 2010. [Read more...](#)



Earl Settlemyer 2008

Celebrate Philanthropy Day!

Come celebrate the 2010 the Washington State's Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) National Philanthropy Day celebration with us in Seattle on November 18th at the Washington State Convention Center! We are thrilled to celebrate the good works of the Moles Family with nomination



Thanks to Dan Kirkman, local students have a new scholarship fund to support them upon high school graduation.

Dan Kirkman, a.k.a. "Super Dan", a much-loved staff member at Geneva Elementary School worked with Foundation staff and BDFS representatives to establish a scholarship fund to benefit Geneva students who graduate from high school between 2016 and 2024. Kirkman decided to establish the fund after receiving a student-inspired gift in the form of a cape and the "unconditional title of Superhero." He worked as a custodian at Whatcom Middle School until the devastating fire landed him at Geneva. His job description changed slightly with the move, incorporating duties that brought him into closer contact with the students. The result was the creation of friendships that will have a lasting effect on both the children and Kirkman.

Kirkman contributes a portion of each paycheck to the fund and is raising additional money from friends, parents of Geneva students and others. *"The students are the motivation behind all of this. It's my hope that this scholarship shows them the unlimited possibilities. Each of us can achieve greatness and brilliance in our lives,"* he explains. The inspiration does not stop there: Kirkman, who cherishes the opportunity to have a positive influence on a child's life, has become an example. An admittedly large man, he made the decision to adopt a healthier lifestyle. Each pound lost equals a donation to the scholarship fund. And he is not alone in this effort. As word of Kirkman's story spreads, others are joining in his weight loss efforts. *"Dan has cast a pebble and the ripples will continue to grow,"* writes James Nardo, a longtime friend who has taken the initiative to shed fifty pounds with Kirkman via long distance workouts shared via Google calendars.

Kirkman knows it is essential to let children know at an early age that others believe in their potential.

Philanthropy News

Charitable Fund Can Help Offset Fees Associated with ROTH IRA Conversion
Tax-deductible charitable contributions made in 2010 can offset taxable "income" created by converting to a ROTH IRA! [Read more...](#)

Whatcom Community Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

Dr. Brenda-Lee Karasik and C. Frederick Miller have joined the ranks of the Whatcom Community Foundation Board of Directors. Brenda lives in Bellingham and is currently working for San Diego State University. She is enthusiastic about working with the Foundation and passionate about community involvement. Fred works in marketing and development at Blackrock Cable and lives with his wife Milissa in Bellingham. Fred is passionate about Whatcom County's vibrancy and is excited to be involved with the Foundation's programs. Welcome!

Community Partnerships

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. Online donations may be made at <http://www.whatcomcf.org>.

New Ferndale Library Project

submitted by the Lummi Nation and the Whatcom Community Foundation with nomination submitted by the St. Luke's Foundation! We will be chartering a bus with the St. Luke's Foundation, leaving that morning from Bellingham at 8:30am and returning by 4pm with a celebratory toast. (The Philanthropy Awards will be from noon to 1:30pm.) If you haven't already, email rsvp@whatcomcf.org to pre-reserve your seat on the bus and/or the celebration.



Whatcom Contingent of the 2009
National Philanthropy Day Celebration

Support Our Vibrant Community Through our 2011 Competitive Grant Round

Our Community Grants Program helps many people and many causes. We invite you to support this process by directing a gift to the grants program to help us fund innovative, collaborative projects throughout the County.

[Make a Donation](#)

Donor Advised Funds Meet Community Needs

In our last e-news we included an alert for projects we were unable to fund from our 2010 competitive grant round. Thanks to several donors we were able to fill in the gap and award \$20,800 in grants to the following organizations:

\$5,800 to Center for Local Self-Reliance for the Caretaker's Garden Development

\$6,000 to Home Port Learning Center for student scholarships

\$2,000 to Alternatives to Hunger for Food Bank Farm and Small Potatoes Gleaning

\$5,000 to NSEA for the Community Outreach Program

\$2,000 to Futurewise Whatcom for urban livability programs

Thank you to our donors who made these grants possible!

Events/Happenings

Mission Possible: Leading with Strength and Responsibility

On October 19th the Whatcom and Skagit Community Foundations co-sponsored their 2nd annual event for professional advisors and nonprofit senior staff and volunteer leadership. The morning session focused on charitable giving and was designed for Professional Advisors including attorneys, accountants, certified financial planners and insurance agents. Bill Zook, Vice President and Director of PG Calc's Seattle Office conducted the seminar. The afternoon

The capital campaign continues in full swing. Most recently Sanitary Service Company donated \$25,000 to the new library project, and the McEachern Charitable Trust awarded the project a \$40,000 grant. Both of these gifts are being matched by Whatcom Community Foundation. Contributions to the Ferndale library totaling up to \$1 million and made by December 1st will be matched. To date, \$3.1 million has been raised for the capital campaign to build the new library, which is estimated to cost about \$5.1 million.



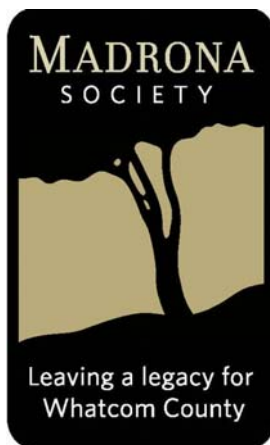
We want to share two stories that happened last month at the Ferndale library. On one day a teenager came into the library looking for activities and a safe space where he could try to connect with other young people. He had just extricated himself from a gang. The youth librarian was able to connect him with several activities, resources and listen to his struggles. Just a few days later two children were at the library and no one came to pick them up when the building closed at 5pm. Librarians stayed with the children after hours trying to track down their parents and get them home. Ultimately the children had to go wait at the police station for someone to find them.

These stories give a window into the changing role that libraries play in communities, and the life boat of services they actually offer. In smaller communities like Ferndale there are few places where individuals and families can gather, explore, learn, have fun and build community. The new library will provide a welcoming, safe and stimulating environment for all patrons.

Campaign for the Arts

Thanks to great support from the community, the final pledge payments are coming in for the Mount Baker Theatre and the Lightcatcher Building capital campaigns, and the Campaign for the Arts Board will convene for a final meeting in mid November. In the next few months, permanent donor recognition walls will be installed at both facilities to recognize the commitments our community has made to make these endeavors successful.

Joe & Judy Coons
George & Mary Ann Drake
Jean Gorton
Marge Laidlaw & Scott Wallace
Terry & Myra Harmer
Martin & Gail Haines
John D. Stephens
Sibyl W. Sanford
Larry Berghoff
John Watts & Joan Casey
Owen Olsen
Gary & Ann Blanken
Gail Weiss & Dennis Smith
Chuck & Dee Robinson
Stephen A. Peters
Rick & Linda Luke



session was open to nonprofit staff, managers and board members interested in leading their organizations with strength and responsibility. This session featured Mary Gleason and Joe Coons who shared informative and inspirational lessons from the field about nonprofit leadership, fiscal responsibility, fundraising and accountability.

Taste Washington Day a Great Success!

Wednesday, September 29 was a special day at public schools in Whatcom and Skagit Counties to celebrate local food. The Sustainable Whatcom Fund (SUSW) and Advisory Committee of Whatcom Community Foundation played a major role in this project by granting funding to numerous Farm-to-School (F2S) projects throughout the county and providing volunteer and technical support through the Whatcom F2S Support Team.



The day provided schools an opportunity to serve locally produced food in their meal program. The Bellingham district went all out, serving an entire meal cooked fresh using all Washington-grown ingredients. This effort was inspired and supported by the work of a 15-member District Farm-to-School Advisory Group. The Advisory group is chaired by Food Service Director, Mark Dalton, and includes teachers, students, food service staff, parents, farmers, and community members, and is funded by the SUSW.

Taste Washington Day was the Advisory Group's first big event. They helped the Food Services program identify sources for local food items, developed materials for publicity and education, and recruited teams of volunteers to help at each school on Taste WA Day. Their efforts resulted in a 32% increase in participation in the lunch program that day, clearly demonstrating the school community's desire for healthier, fresh, local school lunches. Everyone involved will now take what they learned from this successful experience and develop strategies for offering fresh, healthy, meals with locally produced foods on a regular basis.

To view a short video about this celebration from KVOS click [here](#).

Walton Beverage Local Refresh Project - Refresh Everything!



Refresh Awards September 14, 2010

Walton Beverage and Whatcom Community Foundation were so impressed with the community engagement and the projects seeking funding that more money was added to the fund! Awards totaled \$36,000 and benefited more than twenty organizations. To read about the award winning projects click [here](#).

Celebrate Scholarships!

Cheers! BDFS kicked off a new year with their annual signature fundraising *Cheers* event on October 2nd, at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club. It was a fun and inspiring evening of wine tasting, a Lummi Island Wild salmon dinner and powerful guest speakers.

Art & Marti Caputi

Margaret & Marc Curtis

Brian & Marya Griffin

Mauri Ingram & Lee Eberhardt

Katti Esp

Brenda-Lee Karasik

Francis Joseph Lang*

Naomi Wilkins

Karl & Edwina Kleeman

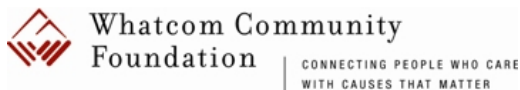
Carrie Coppinger Carter

Daniel Kirkman

Fredericka H. Bond*

5 Anonymous

*Deceased



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.

Whatcom Community Foundation
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Make a Donation

E-mail: wcf@whatcomcf.org
<http://www.whatcomcf.org/>