



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/>

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Welcome! As the days lengthen, we notice more and more people enjoying the beauty and bounty of our community. We welcome back the farmer's markets throughout the county, revel in the downtown Bellingham gallery walks, and look forward to even more sunny days ahead. This is a wonderfully busy time at the Foundation. We hope you'll find inspiration in this issue!

Local Farmers Benefit From \$27,400 Grant to Purchase Hoop Tunnels to Extend Growing Season

On Thursday, April 29th 'high hoops' - season extending tunnels that cover plant rows, retain heat and make it possible to grow in our climate for additional months – were delivered to eight local farms. The grant was made to Sustainable Connections, the projects fiscal sponsor, from the Foundation's Sustainable Whatcom Fund. The hoops are part of a coordinated effort among several local farmers to test the equipment and share information with the goal of extending the growing season.

According to Billy Tate of Moondance Farm, a project participant, "The high tunnel project is a great example of the community's interest and support in our local food system and looking at ways in which we can strengthen it. This project should be a great learning experience for farmers and the community alike." Tate added, "The high tunnel project is aimed at growing more food locally by extending our seasons. It will increase the amount of locally grown fruits and vegetables available during a greater portion of the year. Hats off to the Whatcom Community Foundation's Sustainable Whatcom Fund Advisory Committee for thinking forward and supporting a project that directly contributes to strengthening the business model for a segment of the farming community."

Participating farms, most of which have Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs and sell at the Bellingham Farmers Market, are: Osprey

Highlights

Gates Match

This year we were able to hold the largest competitive round of grant funding in our history in a large part thanks to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. If you have not made a gift to the grants program this year, there is still time to have your donation to this campaign matched dollar for dollar. Funding will support local programs providing services to local people in a time of great need.



please designate "Gates Match"

Bellingham Dollars for Scholars (BDFS) Co-Founder Debbie Granger Nominated for Volunteer of the Year

Hill Farm, Moondance Farm, Holistic Homestead Farm, Growing Washington, Nooksack Nine Farm, Rabbit Field Farm, Cedarville Farm and Terra Verde Farm. Click [here](#) to hear the May 7th KGMI radio podcast about Hoop Tunnels.



L to R Goeff Martin (Osprey Hill farm) Billy Tate (Moondance farm), and in the background Amy Fontaine (Terra Verde farm) at the Tera Verde Farm hoop

Future of Business Conference

We are most grateful to Larson Gross for donating the booth space at Sustainable Connections' *Future of Business Conference* on April 30th (see photo). We enjoyed lively discussions with attendees about our work in the community. The booth also provided an opportunity to highlight the local businesses that work with the Foundation as part of the charitable giving. Among them are Fairhaven Runners and Walkers, NorKa Recreation, Mount Baker Imagining, Northwest Radiologists, Village Books, Lynden Tribune, Ferndale Record Journal and the Foothills Gazette. We hope you'll join us in thanking these local business owners and their staff for their generosity and community support.



The Foundation is the fiscal sponsor for the following community project. 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 - Walmart granted \$1,000 in April to the Friends of the Ferndale Library for the Capital Campaign. This brings the total amount raised to more than \$2.8 million! For more information on the New Ferndale Library Project please go to <http://www.newferndalelibrary.org/>.

Small Grant Makes Big Impact

This year the Foundation granted \$1,000 to the Bellingham/Assumption



Debbie Granger and friend Bob Jewell reefnet fishing off Lummi Island

Congratulations to our very own Debbie Granger, one of three regional finalists for Scholarship America's Volunteer of the Year! This is a tremendous honor and extremely well deserved. The awards are presented at the 8th Annual Light the Fire for Education event in Seattle on May 6, 2010. Thanks to Debbie and numerous other dedicated BDFS volunteers, hundreds of graduates from Bellingham's public schools have received a valuable financial boost to continuing their education. They also receive support and guidance along the way. In its first year as a program of the Foundation, BDFS will award more than \$65,000 in scholarships!

Congratulations Debbie for your exceptional work and tireless commitment to BDFS!

Google



As you may be aware, Google plans to build and test ultra high-speed broadband networks in a small number of trial locations across the United States. The City of Bellingham submitted an "application" into this competitive process and the Whatcom Community Foundation was one of several key entities featured:

To view The "Hook" video, click [here](#).

To view one of seven individual community member testimonials - click [here](#).

Grantee Award Event

This year's Grantee Award Event is set for May 18th from 2:30pm to 4pm at Squalicum Boathouse - open to the public, please come and join us as we celebrate this year's competitive grant recipients. In total, 24 programs will receive \$132,600. We are especially grateful for the funding support of the grants this year from community

Community Meal Program (BCMP) during its competitive grant round in February. BCMP started in 1983 with a small group of people providing a monthly meal for anyone in need and served 100 to 150 meals in the beginning. As the program grew, the group was graciously granted use of the Assumption Catholic Church gym facility. Twenty six years later, they are still operating and sponsor ten meals per year. In 2009 they served 6,544 meals. The Foundation grant allowed this group of 60 volunteers to serve almost 700 people on February 28, 2010.



(above) a few of the many volunteers at the February 28th Community Meal

Local Funders Spearhead Survey of Local Needs

This month the Whatcom Community Foundation, United Way of Whatcom County, and the St. Luke's Foundation and other members of the Whatcom Funders Alliance will conduct a survey of local non-profit organizations gathering information on the effects the economic downturn is having on the nonprofit community and the people they serve. Our goal is to gain a better understanding of emerging issues and changing needs of our community. We will share the survey results locally and regionally with other funders and the community at large. "It's exciting how many regional funders have expressed interest in the survey results," said Mauri Ingram, Whatcom Community Foundation CEO. "It's an indication that funders are eager to be responsive and thoughtful about the types of support they provide."

The Convergence Partnership Offers Healthy People Healthy Places Webinar Series

Where people live, work and play affects their health. The systems that shape communities—from how food is grown, processed, distributed and sold, to whether neighborhoods are built with sidewalks and parks to transportation systems—can all affect health. Some communities' systems need improvement in order to allow residents to lead healthy lives and prosper. These changes require collaboration from an informed, passionate, fair-minded group working across multiple fields. We would like to invite you to a series of nation-wide webinars that will offer examples, information, tools, and connections with those creating healthy places through multi-field, equity focused environmental policy change.

All calls are on Tuesdays, 11:00-12:00pm PST. Register by visiting the Convergence Partnership home page at <http://www.convergencepartnership.org/> or by clicking [here](#).

May 25 – Successful Partnerships: Strategies for Multi-field and Cross-Sector Collaborations. This session explores how to partner across a broad spectrum of fields from health to urban planning, transportation, food and sustainable agriculture, and community/economic development to build thriving communities.

June 29 – A Path from Hope to Change: Implementing Equity-focused Principles and Strategies. It's critical to focus on low-income people and

members and two of our major funding partners: the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Convergence Partnership.



Jud
Sherwood Receiving Grant Award in 2009 for the Piano Liberation Organization (PLO) from Foundation Board Member Kevin DeYoung

Madrona Society

How will you be remembered?

It seems that almost every month we meet someone in the community who has named the Whatcom Community Foundation in their will with a bequest. These generous, thoughtful people are part of our Madrona Society. Named for our beloved local Madrona trees, members add stability to our community by thinking beyond themselves and their lifetimes.

Individuals and families who include the Foundation in their estate planning do so for a variety of reasons. At the heart of their decision is their connection to our community and to the Foundation's mission of connecting people who care with causes that matter. We are committed to provide a simple, powerful and highly personal approach to legacy giving that meets your philanthropic goals. Please contact us at 360-671-6463 if you are interested in learning about how to leave a legacy for Whatcom County



communities of color whose environments often do not allow for healthy choices. In this session, participants will learn how equity-based strategies and principles can form the basis of environmental policy change.

Details of the July and September webinars are available on the Convergence Partnership website.

For questions about the series, please contact Shireen Malekafzali, Shireen@policylink.org