



Whatcom Community Foundation

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **Whatcom Community Foundation Receives Grant from Seattle Foundation**

Whatcom Community Foundation received a \$12,000 grant from the Jennie S. Baker Fund of the Seattle Foundation. The grant will supplement the Whatcom Community Foundation's annual competitive grant round. "This grant came at a critical time for us," said President and CEO Mauri Ingram. "Due to the market downturn, our competitive grant funds for 2009 will be much lower than last year. Thanks to this grant, the \$49,000 pool of funds available is down 33% compared to last year's \$64,000 rather than 42%."

The Community Foundation is one of two in Washington State to receive grants from the Jennie S. Baker Fund. "The Seattle Foundation decided two years ago that rather than undertaking all the due diligence required to allocate monies from this fund, which is specifically for distribution outside of King County, they would choose two other community foundations serving primarily rural populations," said Ingram. "They understand the efficiency of working through local counterparts because it is an integral part of our work to know our communities. It doesn't make sense for the Seattle Foundation to devote their resources to research in which other community foundations would likely be involved anyway. We are grateful that they like the work we're doing and want to support it."

Each year, the Whatcom Community Foundation invites grant proposals from local nonprofit organizations. Applications are vetted and funds allocated based on a variety of criteria. Funds from the Jennie S. Baker Fund are targeted to several uses. Grants will be made to selected nonprofit applicants seeking assistance with capital campaigns, facility renovations or equipment purchases for their programs to support low-income children and seniors in Whatcom County.

For more information about the Whatcom Community Foundation's upcoming competitive grant round, visit http://www.whatcomcf.org/how_to_apply.html or call (360) 671-6463. Contributions to the Foundation's Competitive Grants Fund may be made to Whatcom Community Foundation, 119 Grand Avenue, Suite A, Bellingham, WA 98225. Please include "Competitive Grant Fund" in the memo section of your check.

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