



Whatcom Community Foundation

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PRESS RELEASE: Community Foundation Awards \$101,309 in New Grants

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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 to support organizations. Today they announced that their 2011 competitive grant round will fund twenty six projects in Whatcom County through grants of \$101,409. 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.

Included in these grants is support for **Whatcom Literacy Council** to provide learning opportunities for the parents of Roosevelt Elementary School who want to improve their reading, writing, speaking and comprehension skills. Funding will also help **Northwest Indian College** support their traditional foods project that is testing an approach to improved food behaviors emphasizing lifestyle changes based on traditional healthy diets. **Bellingham Bay Boating Center** will receive a grant to increase cold-water safety awareness in the Bay, which includes community trainings and installing a webcam at Post Point. Other funding will support **Brigid Collins House** to work on a collaborative approach training adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse, and motivate them to courageous action.

Additionally, **Whatcom Family and Community Network** will receive funds to expand its innovative gang prevention work into four neighborhoods. The **Bellingham Railway Museum** will use funding to partner with Bellingham Parks Department to provide guidebooks and trail signs along three historic railroad routes for the public to enjoy scenic walks coupled with education about the history of our railroads. The **South Fork Valley Community Association's** grant will help them to provide educational, social and recreational programs connecting people in the South Fork Valley. Funding will enable both the **Ferndale Community Resource Center** and **Mount Baker School District** to offer a program found over several decades to make a difference in youth vulnerability and deviant behaviors by focusing on skill-building for parents, youth and families in their respective communities.

Other organizations receiving competitive grants include: Plantation Rifleman Club; Downtown Bellingham Partnership; FACES Northwest; Western Washington University's Autism Program; North Cascades Institute; FutureWise Whatcom; NAMI of Whatcom County; People for Puget Sound; YMCA; Clay for Earth Productions; Lummi Youth Academy; Alzheimer Society of Washington; and, Visiting Nurse Home Care.

The Grant awards event is free and open to the public on May 9th from 9:30am to 11am at the Squalicum Boathouse on Zuanich Point in Bellingham. Please rsvp to rsvp@whatcomcf.org if you plan to attend as seating will be limited.

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