



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nonprofit Network Comes Home

Bellingham, WA – Local nonprofits will continue to benefit from opportunities to build their skills and network. The Whatcom Community Foundation (Foundation) readopted the Whatcom Council of Nonprofits (WCN) as a Foundation program following the closure of the Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities (Coalition). WCN was created with support from the Foundation in 1999. WCN was designed to build relationships, share resources, and communicate the vital roles of nonprofit organizations in Whatcom County. The program was dormant for several years until a group of Leadership Whatcom participants revived it, finding a new home for it with the Coalition which also launched Leadership Whatcom. When the Coalition closed its doors at the end of 2010, the Foundation’s Board was approached about taking WCN in as one of its programs. According to Joyce Pedlow, Foundation Board Chair, “The Foundation Board sees great value in WCN and recognizes its essential role in supporting area nonprofits. It’s an excellent complement to the Foundation’s work.”

Nonprofit organizations will continue to enjoy the same dedicated, skilled WCN Steering Committee, now an advisory committee to the Foundation guiding the WCN program, Trula Nicholas, WCN Advisory Member commented, “We are looking forward to working more closely with the Foundation so that we can provide even greater support and learning opportunities to the County’s dedicated nonprofit sector.” Pedlow added, “The Foundation Board and staff are excited to support WCN. Staff will support and add to the existing program offerings. As a result, WCN volunteers can focus their energy on developing their ideas for expand the program to better serve the nonprofit community’s volunteer leadership and staff.”

WCN’s provides numerous services to local nonprofits:

- The efficiency of a single point of contact for resources and information for the nonprofit sector
- Bi-monthly electronic newsletter with the most up-to-date information on nonprofit events, education and training, local nonprofit job listings, recognitions and awards, and resource sharing opportunities
- Peer-learning opportunities to celebrate connections, build skills and share ideas
- On-line shared calendar for scheduling and coordinating events
- Special-interest roundtables such as the executive director and social media roundtables

WCN is also sponsored by the Mary Redmond Foundation and the Bellingham Public Library. The Foundation is actively seeking additional sponsors to support this program. Please contact Pamela Jons or Mauri Ingram for more information 360-671-6463.

To learn more about the Foundation, please visit www.whatcomcf.org.