



Whatcom Community Foundation

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE
WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER

NEWS RELEASE

June 14, 2010

Contact: Mauri Ingram or Pamela Jones
(360) 671-6463

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **Community Foundation Awards Record Amount to Local Non-Profits**

The Whatcom Community Foundation (Foundation) awarded a record dollar amount in competitive grants this year. The Foundation awarded \$132,600 to 24 community organizations through its annual competitive grant process. “These initiatives are part of what defines Whatcom County,” noted Rogan Jones, Chair of the Foundation’s Grants and Program Committee. “The Foundation is here to provide and leverage additional support for the valuable work being done by our community’s nonprofits.”

“This year marks the largest Foundation grant round yet!” remarked Bob Morse, Foundation Board Chair. “Thanks to our local donors and two major grants, the 2010 awards bring the Foundation’s grants for this fiscal year to more than \$2.26 million.”

Organizations receiving competitive grants include: Animals as Natural Therapy, Assistance League of Bellingham, Bellingham Child Care & Learning Center, Bellingham Technical College Foundation, Blue Skies for Children, Boys and Girls Clubs of Whatcom County, Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County, Ferndale Resource Center, Ferndale Food Bank, Hope House Multi Service Center, Intercommunity Mercy Housing, LAW Advocates, Marianne's House, Mount Baker Planned Parenthood, Northwest Regional Council, Opportunity Council, Re-Entry Coalition (Whatcom County), South Fork Community Association, Sun Community Service, Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access, Whatcom Center for Early Learning, Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center, Whatcom Volunteer Center and Womencare Shelter.

This year the Foundation’s grant round was made possible largely thanks to grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Convergence Partnership. In response to the recent economic upheaval, the Gates Foundation grant provided support for organizations working to address hunger, violence, access to public benefits and to strengthen families and communities. The Partnership grant supports local efforts under the theme of Healthy People, Healthy Places. The Partnership is a

consortium of funders that includes The California Endowment, Kaiser Permanente, Kresge Foundation, Nemours, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Whatcom Community Foundation connects people who care with causes that matter. Since its inception in 1996, the Foundation has awarded grants totaling more than \$7 million dollars to local organizations working to strengthen and enhance Whatcom County. The Foundation has received nearly \$20 million in gifts from more than 3,800 donors and now holds 171 funds to benefit a wide variety of charitable and educational activities in Whatcom County.

For more information, visit www.WhatcomCF.org or call (360) 671-6463