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Foundation

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Ferndale Teacher & Family Establish Scholarship Fund

Bellingham, Washington – December 15, 2009 – Sam Wood, a kindergarten teacher at Eagleridge Elementary School in Ferndale, wants his students to continue their education. Thanks to a family tradition of philanthropy, Mr. Wood’s dream is now a reality. Naomi Wilkins, Mr. Wood’s grandmother, made the lead gift to establish the Mr. Wood & Family Scholarship Fund of the Whatcom Community Foundation (Foundation).

“Teaching has been the career of my dreams,” said Mr. Wood. “I am incredibly fortunate to have wonderful students that touch my heart. I consider myself very lucky to have participated in my students’ first steps in education. My family and I hope that the scholarship fund will provide some financial support to those students who plan to continue their education. We also hope that it encourages students that are undecided to discover the career of *their* dreams through education.”

Mr. Wood has been teaching for seven years. The first class eligible for the Mr. Wood & Family Scholarship will graduate in 2016. “Our hope is that other family members, friends and even parents of my students will add to the fund.” Students of Mr. Wood who complete high school or an equivalency exam and plan to continue their education at a two- or four-year institution or through a certificate program are eligible.

The Foundation is honored to be a part of the Mr. Wood & Family Scholarship. Foundation president and CEO Mauri Ingram noted, “We’ve had the privilege of working with three generations of Sam’s family. Their passion and commitment to supporting his students is inspiring.” For more information about the Mr. Wood & Family Scholarship Fund, please visit the Foundation website at www.whatcomcf.org/our_funds.

The Whatcom Community Foundation, founded in 1996, is a dynamic vehicle for philanthropy and community building in Whatcom County. The Foundation currently holds more than 100 funds totaling more than \$9 million to benefit Whatcom County not-for-profit organizations in all areas of service to the community. The Foundation has granted more than \$2 million to numerous local nonprofits since July 1, 2008. It also provides services to donors who wish their charitable giving to be as effective as possible.

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