“Extraordinary opportunities to shape a community come around once or twice in a lifetime. The Art District and the Bellingham Bay waterfront are those opportunities in my lifetime.”

Foundation Focus

July 2007-June 2008

The Foundation reached new heights in the last year thanks to the generosity of our donors and the enthusiasm of many people. Inside you’ll find a year’s worth of exciting news of the $4.2 million in grants distributed through our competitive grant program, new accomplishments of our partners, and stories of the Foundation’s achievements in the community.

In October, we welcomed two new members to the Board of Directors. Betty Krejci and Lesli Brewster have already brought new talents, fresh perspectives and great energy to the Foundation. Fortunately, outgoing members, Karen Funston, John Moles and Earl Settlemyer are being welcomed to the Foundation’s Advisory Board by other past Foundation board members. The Foundation’s Advisory Board ensures that the invaluable skills, experience and wisdom of former board members are not lost to the Foundation, but are available as we need them.

Thanks to the generous efforts of all partners, it’s been an exciting year. This annual report is dedicated to all our partners current throughout the year. It has been well received and we appreciate the many readers who provided feedback.

In this report, we introduce Foundation Focus, a newsletter, to keep donors, the nonprofit community and other partners current throughout the year. This has been well received and we appreciate the many readers who provided feedback.

The Art of Giving

1111 Dockside

Foundation Advisor Board

In addition to five standing committees, the Advisory Board meets twice annually to review new applications as well as consolidation and revitalization opportunities. Office hours may be scheduled by appointment with a member of the Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board includes a Catacombs Society, a Foundation Advisory Board and a Campaign for the Arts Foundation. WCF funds held for others. The Campaign for the Arts Foundation is a separately incorporated 501(c)(3) public charity.

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Community Partnership

LYNDON TRIBUNE READERS CARE FUND

Mike Lewis, third-generation publisher of the Lynden Tribune, had this to say: "It creates a culture of philanthropy among the people who support us. It gives people a sense of being invested in the community. By creating this fund, the Tribune becomes a vital part of the community, not just a source of news and information." Mike Lewis is the Publisher of the Lynden Tribune and the Fund was created to help the Tribune continue its dedication to community involvement and support.

Grant Recipient

VAN ZANDT COMMUNITY HALL ASSOCIATION

The nonprofit VanZandt Community Hall Association (VZCHA) is committed to building community by providing a place for community gatherings in the center of the community. VZCHA was established more than twenty years ago to steward and promote the VanZandt Community Hall. The building and grounds are a gathering place for community events and activities.

Community Partnership

WITTER FOUNDATION

Renowned real estate agent Tom Witter was the inspiration behind this community recreation fund. Tom Witter was a lifelong resident of Whatcom County and made significant contributions to the community throughout his life. The Witter Foundation was established to honor his legacy and support community recreation initiatives.

Grant Recipient

LYDIA PLACE INC.

Lydia Place serves as a catalyst for community action and commitment to the needs of the homeless in Whatcom County. The Lydia Place Fund is dedicated to supporting the growth and development of this important community organization.

Community Partnership

Whatcom Foundation

Whatcom Foundation was established in 2001 to address the needs of Whatcom County through grants and donations. The Foundation has supported a wide range of community initiatives and organizations.

The Foundation has three main components: the Whatcom Community Trust, the Whatcom Community Foundation, and the Whatcom Community Fund. The Foundation is committed to providing a strong foundation for the growth and development of Whatcom County and its people.

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