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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Whatcom Community Foundation awards more than \$447,000 in grants and scholarships

Bellingham, WA- May 15, 2018 The Whatcom Community Foundation is excited to announce the recipients of its annual Whatcom Dollars for Scholars and Funds for Whatcom County grant rounds. Together, the programs distributed more than \$447,223 to outstanding youth and community partners.

Whatcom Dollars for Scholars: This scholarship program invests in student potential. This year, the program awarded more than \$196,000 to 95 local high school students. Student scholars represent a variety of Whatcom County high schools; a committee of community volunteers select annual awardees. Scholarship criteria varies, awards include economic need, community service and academic performance. A list of 2018 scholarship recipients can be found at whatcomcf.org/community-impact/scholarships

Funds for Whatcom County: Local organizations receive grants up to \$10,000 for projects designed to connect people, ideas and resources so that everyone who lives here thrives. Thirty-four Whatcom County based ideas and the organizations behind them will receive a total of \$251,223 in seed funding to support innovative ways to meet our community's needs, from education, environment, the arts to economic development. Examples include:

- **Hi! Tech** —This multi-generational program partners sixth graders with seniors to teach the basics of electronic communication.
- **Downtown Bellingham Partnership** —Alley Activation project enhances typically overlooked streetscapes through art and lighting.
- **Girl Strong Foundation**—Girl Strong recruits and supports women coaches through training, networking, and coaching.

“Whatcom County has so many creative and dedicated community partners making this a better place to live, work and play,” said Mauri Ingram, CEO Whatcom Community Foundation. “That makes the grants committee’s job incredibly difficult. We look forward to seeing these projects touch lives and build connections across our community.” [Click here for a summary of all 2018 funded projects](#)

Fueled by the generosity of many local donors, the Whatcom Community Foundation has invested nearly forty-one million in Whatcom County since 1996. For more information about the Funds for Whatcom County or other initiatives, please contact the **Whatcom Community Foundation at (360) 671-6463 or visit whatcomcf.org.**

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