



Whatcom Community Foundation

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE
WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER

Foundation *focus*

*Personalized Service
Local Expertise
Community Leadership*



Lummi Style BBQ Salmon by Maxine Stremler

News from your Whatcom Community Foundation
<http://www.whatcomcf.org/>

Volume 2, Issue 4
September/October 2009

Welcome!

Bellingham Dollars for Scholars Now A Program of Whatcom Community Foundation

The Whatcom Community Foundation Board of Directors and staff are thrilled to welcome Bellingham Dollars for Scholars (BDFS) as a program of the Foundation. Donors will continue to enjoy the BDFS benefits with which they are familiar. The same dedicated, skilled BDFS Board of Directors is now the BDFS Fund Advisory Committee. Glenn Butler, Foundation Board Chair, noted "Bellingham Dollars for Scholars is a great fit for the Foundation's mission. The Foundation can provide valuable professional services and expertise to BDFS. As a result, the advisory committee can focus on raising scholarship funds for Bellingham students. Scholarships are a great way to support students in achieving their academic and career goals."

CHEERS for Bellingham Scholars – an Event You Won't Want to Miss!

Please join us for an evening of wine tasting, hors d' oeuvres, & entertainment to support scholarships for high school grads from

Bellingham: Saturday October 10th, 7pm to 10pm at the Depot Market Square hosted by Bellingham Dollars for Scholars a program of Whatcom Community Foundation. Cost is \$50 per person by October 7th and \$60 per person thereafter (must be over 21 years of age). Limited seating. Please email Missy Belles mbelles@whatcomcf.org to RSVP.

Community Partner Updates

The Foundation is the fiscal sponsor for the following community projects. Contributions may be made to the Whatcom Community Foundation, 119 Grand Avenue, Suite A, Bellingham, WA 98225. Please specify the project name in the memo section of your check.

Highlights

Foundation Receives Challenge Grant

[Since grant documents have yet to be signed, we must withhold some details. That said, we are too excited to keep this entirely quiet!]

The Foundation has been awarded a \$75,000 challenge grant! The grant proceeds will target four specific fields but matching dollars may be unrestricted or directed to a specific field of interest. All funds will be awarded through the Foundation's annual competitive grant round.

In an effort to provide financial support to grant recipients earlier in 2010, the time frame of the annual round will be accelerated. Please look for updates regarding submission deadlines; dates and guidelines will be posted on the "[How to Apply](#)" page of the Foundation's website.

Saint Luke's Foundation to be honored with Outstanding Philanthropic Foundation Award

Board and staff members of Whatcom County's own St. Luke's Foundation will spend the afternoon of November 13th among friends and supporters as they accept an award for their exceptional good works at this year's National Philanthropy Day awards luncheon in Seattle. The annual event is sponsored by the

Ferndale Library Project

Information about the Project is always available on the New Ferndale Library Project website at <http://www.newferndalelibrary.org/>.

Campaign for the Arts - save the date: November 13th!

Please join us to celebrate the grand opening of the new Whatcom Museum! Please call Whatcom Museum of History and Art at 360-778-8930 to purchase your ticket. Also, thanks to sponsorship by Key Bank, the Nov. 14 opening at noon will be a free day for the public! The building dedication and ribbon cutting will be at 11:00am.

The Whatcom Museum's new Lightcatcher Building is located at the corner of Grand and Flora in downtown Bellingham. The Lightcatcher Building, named for its spectacular elliptical 34-foot glass wall, will feature multiple exhibit spaces in new, state-of-the-art climate controlled galleries. The new galleries will allow the Museum to host exhibitions from other museums, including the Smithsonian Institute.

The new museum building will also feature a unique and family friendly interactive gallery, formerly known as the Children's Museum. This beautiful, dynamic new space will connect people of all ages, including toddlers, with art related activities that also have a connection to our environment.

The Lightcatcher Building is also eco-friendly. The new building is LEED (Leadership in Engineering and Environmental Design) silver standard certified and includes a "green" roof, providing a venue for the Museum to offer programs around sustainability and conservation.



Competitive Grant Round Dates

Please note that the 2010 Whatcom Community Foundation grant round deadlines will be earlier this year. Keep an eye out for notification via email and/or news publication.

2008 Grant Recipient Update

Lummi Nation Ventures Community Partnership -Building

Bridges Through Cultural Arts - One of the Foundation's core interests is promoting a sense of community among all the cultures represented in Whatcom County. This was also one of two primary objectives of the Foundation grant awarded to the Lummi Cultural Arts Association (LCAA) through the Lummi Nation's Ventures Community Partnership in 2008. In addition to promoting a sense of broader community through the cultural arts, the grant was also designed to provide members of the LCAA with an opportunity to show and sell their artwork and crafts.

One of the grant activities included the participation of Lummi artists in the

Association of Fundraising Professionals Washington Chapter. Liz Jennings, Executive Director for the Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities, was the driving force behind this nomination. Sue Sharpe, St. Luke's Executive Director, will be accepting this prestigious award on behalf of the organization.

St. Luke's has a long and distinguished history of philanthropy throughout Whatcom County. For more than 25 years they have contributed to a variety of endeavors, awarding more than \$13 million in grants and scholarships. The organization's generous and thoughtful investments in our community have enhanced the lives of thousands of individuals.

Luncheon tickets may be purchased through Whatcom Community Foundation or St. Luke's Foundation. Transportation via charter bus is also being arranged by the Saint Luke's Foundation and Whatcom Community Foundation; an additional change will apply. For more information, contact Missy Belles at the Whatcom Community Foundation: 360-671-6463 or email mbelles@whatcomcf.org or click [here](#). The event will be held at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle.

Madrona Society

The Madrona Society of the Foundation is a group of donors who have named the Foundation in their wills with a bequest. We dubbed our legacy members the

Madrona Society for several reasons. Like Society members, the madrona tree is deeply rooted in its place. Those roots add stability to the tree's surrounding environment, as Madrona Society members do to our community. In addition, healthy saplings can sprout from the fallen tree's trunk, providing a base for growth and nourishment for new life.



Madrona trees are truly beloved in the Pacific Northwest. That's the way we feel about our legacy donors. In upcoming issues of Foundation *focus*, you'll learn more about some of the Madrona Society members and the legacy they hope to leave.

The Madrona Society currently has 40 members. However, that number represents the people we *know* about. If you have already included the Foundation in your estate planning, please let us know. The more we know about your wishes the more successful we can be in fulfilling them. If you are interested in becoming a Madrona Society member, please contact us at 360.671.6463. We will be happy to work with you and your legal and/or financial advisor to meet your goals for charitable giving.

October 1st Event focuses on Philanthropy in the Current Economy
The Foundation is collaborating with the Skagit

centennial celebration of Friday Harbor on San Juan Island, part of the aboriginal homeland of the Lummi. The event included the landing of a Lummi canoe and a welcome by the Mayor of Friday Harbor, followed by a presentation by the Lummi to the residents and visitors of San Juan Island. Over the course of three days, the Lummi artists showed and sold their art, participated in presentations to the community, and, most importantly, felt welcomed back to a homeland. For many, it was their first visit to the island.



Woven cedar baskets by Ernestine Gensaw, 2008

The landing of the canoes, witnessed by dozens of Island residents, was also an important experience for Shasta Cano-Martin, President of the LCAA. "As we were coming to land the canoe, you could feel the warmth of the land welcoming us home. We came to shore and people there greeted us as the original people of the land. That meant a lot to me and to everyone in our canoe and on the shore."



Community Foundation to present programs for professional advisors and nonprofit organizations to assist clients and develop fundraising strategies in a challenging economy. The event will be held on Thursday, October 1st at the [Skagit Valley Casino Resort](#). The morning session is designed for professional advisors working in financial, tax and estate planning. The afternoon session is intended for nonprofit professional staff and volunteer leadership.

Neal Myerberg and Barry Shain, principals with Myerberg Shain & Associates are the featured speakers. In addition to the practical, informative program, the event will provide an opportunity to meet with colleagues and learn more about available resources. There will be a drawing for a luxurious getaway to The Willows Inn on Lummi Island during lunch. (*Please note, must be present to win.*) Philanthropic leader and Foundation donor David Syre is the featured lunch speaker.

The cost of the morning session for professional advisors is \$30 per person. The afternoon session for nonprofit organizations is \$25 per person. Both fees include event registration, luncheon with speaker and all materials. (Continuing education credits are available for professional advisors.) Advance payment is required. To view the invitations click [here](#) for the Professional Advisors seminar and click [here](#) for the Nonprofit seminar. To RSVP, please email Missy Belles at mbelles@whatcomcf.org.

We are grateful to our sponsors for supporting the Whatcom and Skagit Community Foundations in our efforts to provide timely, valuable information and resources to our donors and the many organizations working to strengthen our communities. Program sponsors include: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bank of the Pacific, Larson Gross, Metcalf Hodges, the Upper Skagit Tribe, Russell Investments and Myerberg Shain & Associates. We are also pleased to be welcome Whatcom Community College and Skagit Valley College as co-hosts.

For more information or to make a reservation, please contact Missy Belles at mbelles@whatcomcf.org or 360.671.6463.

Whatcom Community Foundation
119 Grand Avenue, Suite A
Bellingham, WA 98225 Tel. 360-671-6463

E-mail: wcf@whatcomcf.org
<http://www.whatcomcf.org/>