

News Release

WHATCOM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Whatcom Community Foundation Awards \$64,646 in Grants to Local Non-Profits

Whatcom Community Foundation (Foundation) has awarded grants totaling \$64,646 that benefit twenty community organizations through its annual competitive grant process. “The level and breadth of great work underway in the local not-for-profit community is impressive,” remarked Glenn Butler, Board Chair of the Foundation. “Our donors value the Foundation’s investment in that work and the positive, enduring effect it has on the health and resilience of Whatcom County.” With the award of these grants the Foundation has made over \$730,000 in grants this year to worthwhile community projects.

Of the 81 organizations that submitted letters of interest, 35 were invited to submit full grant applications. The Foundation streamlined its process this year to reduce the amount of time and energy required of applicants overall and particularly for those that would not be invited to submit a full application. “Although we are actively working to grow our assets, the community’s needs outstrip our available resources. As a result, there are many strong applications we are unable to even consider. Nonprofits generally do an outstanding job of managing their scarce resources well. We wanted to respect that and ensure that only applicants being invited to continue in the process would be asked to dedicate the time and energy necessary in preparing a full application,” noted Karen Funston, chair of the Foundation’s Grants and Program Committee.

Groups receiving grants included: Alternatives to Hunger, American Red Cross, Archdiocesan Housing Authority, Bellingham Technical College, Blue Skies for Children, Communities in Schools of Whatcom County, Interfaith Coalition, Lummi Ventures Community Partnership, Lydia Place, Neighborhood Youth Centers, Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, Northwest Youth Services, RE Sources, Start Here Community Arts, Van Zandt Community Hall Association, Washington State University, Western Washington University Center for Service-Learning, Whatcom Center for Early Learning, Whatcom Literacy Council and Whatcom Symphony Orchestra. The specific programs and projects supported and amount of funding will be available soon on the Foundation’s website at www.whatcomcf.org.

The Foundation uses income from endowed funds established by generous local donors. As the number of Foundation donors continues to grow our ability to broaden and deepen our community support is enhanced, as is the community’s ability to address opportunities and needs.

The completion of the 2008 grant round brings the overall investment of the Foundation in the community to more than \$3.3 million since its first grant was awarded in 1997. The Foundation has received gifts from more than 3,100 donors in its history, and now holds 90 funds to benefit a wide variety of nonprofit activities in Whatcom County.