



Whatcom Community Foundation

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE
WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER

Foundation *focus*

Personalized Service

Local Expertise

Community Leadership



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

Volume 2, Issue 3
July/August 2009

Welcome! Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the many creative people and organizations working to strengthen and enhance our community, it's an exciting summer at the Foundation.

Highlights

MBI Health Innovation Grants

The Whatcom Community Foundation awarded three grants totaling \$179,000 to support improvements in the delivery of local primary healthcare services and prevention. The grants were made from the Foundation's MBI Health Innovation Fund (Fund), established to support bold, creative work in the healthcare field.

- Mount Baker Planned Parenthood (MBPP) was awarded \$49,000 in support of its Patient Access-Process Improvement Project. MBPP is participating in Stanford University's d.school training, learning to apply design methodologies to improve the patient experience while increasing efficiencies. The grant will support MBPP staff in collaborating with service providers and patients to understand and implement the ideal patient visit experience.
- Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities (Coalition) received \$30,000 in support of Whatcom ACHIEVE (Action Communities for Health, Innovation and Environmental Change). Whatcom County, through the Coalition in partnership with the Whatcom County Health Department, is one of 43 communities participating in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's collaborative community planning initiative. The goal is to change policies and systems to better support physical activity, good nutrition, and reduce obesity, tobacco use and chronic disease. The award recognizes the powerful effect innovation can have on prevention. It also honors the value of a community "ombudsman," coordinating efforts among a variety of partner organizations.
- Critical Junctures Institute (CJI) received \$100,000 in support of strengthening the medical home model of primary care by improving the health of Whatcom County's complex care patients. CJI is partnering with the Family Care Network (FCN) and the University of Washington's Department of Family Medicine to research FCN's working model to efficiently and effectively manage the needs of patients with multiple chronic conditions. It is estimated that these 10 percent of patients utilize two-thirds of health care resources. The project team's work is particularly impressive given the potential for local as well as national benefit, as expanding the medical home concept in

Funding Opportunities

Every year the Foundation is forced to deny strong grant applicants with worthwhile causes due to limited resources and high demand for funding; this year was no different. The Foundation would like to share a couple of organizations that did not receive grants this year through our competitive grant round that stood out to us and are still seeking funding.

- **Rebound of Whatcom County** works with children with special healthcare needs through such services as summer day camp, parent education, after school care with an academic focus, and support groups for kids and parents. About 95% of the children that attend Rebound's day camp and after school care are low-income children with emotional and behavioral issues that require special considerations. While Rebound staff and volunteers specialize in supporting and mentoring these at-risk children, they are seeking the additional support of Behavior Specialist. For more information about Rebound of Whatcom County visit <http://www.rebuondwc.org/> or to find out how to make a contribution contact Sharon Aller at 360-714-0700.
- **Kids Council Northwest's** mission is to *provide peer support and resources to youth experiencing grief and loss from the death of a parent, caregiver or sibling*. Children and youth who experience the death of a parent, primary caregiver or sibling often feel isolated and may have difficulty in school or suffer from depression. Currently, the special needs of grieving children and their families are not addressed by any other existing bereavement programs in Whatcom County. Kids Council Northwest (KCNW) is seeking funds to support *The TreeHouse*; a safe haven for children, youth and families to find nurturing support when a loved one dies. For more information about KCNW visit www.freedman-associates.com/kids.html or to contribute contact Elizabeth Snyder at 360-734-2664 ext.12.

If you are interested in supporting the work of either of these

primary care practice is a key feature of health care reform proposals.

The Fund was established in late 2008 with a \$250,000 donation to the Foundation from Mount Baker Imaging (MBI), a partnership between Northwest Radiologists and PeaceHealth. "It's wonderful to be part of a community where these kinds of philanthropic partnerships are possible," said Nancy Steiger, Chief Mission Officer of PeaceHealth's Whatcom Region. Foundation Board Chair Glenn Butler noted, "MBI's gift is an impressive philanthropic leadership move and we're grateful to be a part of it."

Fund Advisor, George Dyson, added, "In addition to the exciting work that's being funded, one of the most innovative things about the Fund is that it is healthcare funding without a lot strings attached." The next grant round is underway now (submission deadline is October 2, 2009 at 10am). For more information regarding the MBI Health Innovation Fund's second grant round visit <http://www.whatcomcf.org/> or call 360.671.6463.

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.

Celebrating Lynden's "First Family"

Momentum is building for the Judson Memorial, a project under the umbrella of the Foundation. The bronze replica of Lynden founders Holden and Phoebe Judson is slated for installation in the park area off Main Street near the new Lynden City Hall.

Local sculptor Bob McDermott will create the piece from his design. However, the project is still shy of its targeted budget that will allow McDermott to bring the work to life.

organizations or would like to learn more about other proposals the Foundation was unable to fund this year, please contact us at 360.671.6463 or mbelles@whatcomcf.org.

New Foundation Video on YouTube

Thanks to generous support from Hand Crank Films and others, the Foundation recently completed an informative 10-minute video! You'll hear from donors, grantees, fund holders and other community partners about the. We encourage you to check to take a few minutes to enjoy it and to share the link with others who might not be familiar with the Foundation. Visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45Il_iWWgNO or search "whatcom community foundation" on YouTube.

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.

The Madrona Society currently has 40 members. However, those are 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

The Judson Memorial was recently featured at the Gem City Picnic fundraiser and at a booth at the Northwest Washington Fair. To make a contribution to support the project, please contact the Foundation at 360.671.6463.



HOLDEN AND PHOEBE GOODELL JUDSON MEMORIAL STATUE
JUDSON PARK AND CITY HALL AT LYNDEN, WASHINGTON

Rendering by Rick Mullen

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

The finishing touches are being added to the Whatcom Museum's new Lightcatcher Building 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

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 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.*)

The morning session for professional advisors is \$30. 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 save the date flyers click [here](#) for the Professional Advisors seminar and click [here](#) for the Nonprofit seminar.

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: Bank of the Pacific, Larson Gross, Metcalf Hodges, the Upper Skagit Tribe and Russell Investments. We are also pleased to be welcome Whatcom Community College and Skagit Valley College as co-hosts.

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.

Joining with the Old City Hall Building and Syre Education Center, the new Lightcatcher Building will be the third addition to the Whatcom Museum campus. Information about the grand opening celebration scheduled for mid-November will be forthcoming.

2009 Charitable Contributions Solicited for Whatcom Community Foundation's Competitive Grant Round

December 31, 2009 is the last day to make your annual tax deductible charitable contribution. The Foundation is in critical need for competitive grant round funding and invites you to donate to the Unrestricted Competitive Grants Fund for this year's competitive grant round. Please click [here](#) to donate now! If you would rather donate to a field of interest fund such as the environment, the arts, education, children with special health care needs, mental health or youth and families, please indicate your preference with your donation. Please click [here](#) to view past grantees from Whatcom Community Foundation's annual competitive grant rounds.

The Foundation's 2008 grant round reports and

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

Save the Date for AFP Philanthropy Awards Friday, November 13, 2009

This year's Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), Washington Chapter National Philanthropy Day Celebration is slated for Friday, November 13, 2009. Whatcom County will be represented yet again at this statewide awards celebration!

For more information please click [here](#). If you are interested in traveling to the event with us on a chartered bus, please contact Missy at the Foundation at (360)671-6463 or email mbelles@whatcomcf.org. The event will be held at Seattle's Washington State Convention Center. (more details to follow in the next Foundation *focus*)

Whatcom County's AFP Past Awardees

photos have recently been submitted and we would like to share some of the exciting projects between May of 2008 and May of 2009 that your Foundation helped to fund:

"Billie" participating in Blue Skies for Children's 2008/9 Little Wishes Enrichment Program, which provides low-income and foster children with an opportunity to be involved in extra curricular activities such as martial arts, team sports, music and art lessons



Chuck and Dee Robinson of Village Books, 2008 winner for Outstanding Philanthropic Small Business



Whatcom Literacy Council's 2008/9 project in support of strengthening literacy volunteer recruitment efforts in communities outside of Bellingham in the North Fork area especially in Maple Falls, Kendall and Blaine



Anders Crabo and Colin Flynn, 2008 Outstanding Young Philanthropists



The Morse Family, 2007 winner for Outstanding Philanthropic Family

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

E-mail: wcf@whatcomcf.org
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