



Whatcom Community Foundation

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WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER

Foundation *focus*

Personalized Service

Local Expertise

Community Leadership



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

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Welcome! Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the many creative people and organizations working to strengthen and enhance our community, there is much exciting activity at the Foundation. So much so that this issue is two issues in one!

Los Niño's Fund

In response to the immigration raid on Feb. 24, 2009 at Yamato Engine Specialists in Bellingham, the Foundation is partnering with two community organizations in establishing the Los Niños Fund, to provide humanitarian aid to the families with children that were effected by the raid. More than 30 children are involved, ranging in age from infants to teenagers.

"We were fortunate to be able to model the Fund on a similar effort in New Bedford, Massachusetts," said Foundation CEO Mauri Ingram. "The Community Foundation of Southeast Massachusetts (CFSEMA) has been generous in sharing their experience with us. These children have urgent needs and the CFSEMA made it possible for us to move relatively quickly."



Highlights

2009 Competitive Grant Round

The Foundation awarded grants totaling \$54,899 to fourteen Whatcom County charitable organizations through our annual competitive grant process. "This is always a challenging and gratifying process," noted Rogan Jones, Foundation Board member and chair of the Grants Committee. "These organizations are doing great work. We always strive to meet even more of their needs."

The Foundation was especially pleased to learn that this year's grants leveraged additional funds for grantees. Thanks to a \$5,071 grant from the Foundation, Sun Community Service was able to meet their challenge grant with United Way. This two for one match means the organization will receive \$10,000 from United Way! Sun Community Service provides transitional housing to people with mental health issues based on qualified referrals.

The Jazz Project received a \$2,201 grant from the Foundation for the Piano Liberation Organization (PLO). A generous donor made up the difference and attended the grant awards event to celebrate with the recipients! The PLO provides pianos to children in need through long term, no-fee leases. There are currently more than 75 pianos in liberated circulation.



Jud Sherwood of The Jazz Project accepts a check

The Los Niños Fund is working with Community to Community Development and Catholic Community Services to provide funds for housing, food and utility needs and other assistance. More than \$5,000 has been granted from the Fund to provide immediate relief to eligible families. After the needs of these families have been met the Los Niños Fund will be available to provide assistance for similar situations in the future. Donations to the Los Niño's Fund may be made payable to Whatcom Community Foundation (please note 'Los Niño's Fund' in the memo section) and delivered to the Foundation at 119 Grand Avenue, Suite A, Bellingham, WA 98225. For more information please call the Foundation at (360)671-6463. To read the press release, [click here](#).

Whatcom Farm Incubator Fund

An anonymous donor established the Whatcom Farm Incubator Fund to support the development of the Whatcom Farm Incubator (WFI), a collaboration of Sustainable Connections and Kulshan Community Land Trust (KulshanCLT). These two organizations are teaming up to create a land-based farm incubator in Whatcom County. The WFI has great potential to expand markets and opportunities for local farmers while raising awareness for protection of agricultural lands. This project will strengthen community among farmers and help raise awareness for food justice and foodshed issues. The WFI advisory committee is comprised of experienced farmers, agriculture specialists and other local agriculture supporters. The WFI Fund is advised by a separate committee of the Foundation.

The WFI is modeled after other programs around the country, including: Intervale (<http://www.intervale.org/>) in Burlington, Vermont, FarmStart (<http://www.farmstart.ca/>) in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, and Alba (<http://www.albafarmers.org/>) in Salinas, California.

For more information on this fund [click here](#) or contact [Sustainable Connections](#) or [Kulshan Community Land Trust](#) for additional project information.

Alex Pempe Youth Runner's Fund

The Alex Pempe Youth Runner's Fund (Fund) was established in honor of long distance runner Alex Pempe. The Fund supports programs that assist economically disadvantaged competitive youth runners in Whatcom County to purchase equipment, support training and preparation for competition and participation in competitions.

"Our Goal is to help financially needy runners stay healthy and get to the competitions they need" said Chris Friday, the Foundation's advisor to the Fund. "The Fund ensures that any student who has a desire to run, has the opportunity".

The Fund will grant money to organizations like Blue Skies for Children that provide programs and services consistent with the purpose of the Fund. For more information on how to apply, contact Blue Skies for Children at (360)756-6710 or email info@blueskiesforchildren.org. Contributions to the Alex Pempe Youth Runner's Fund may be made to Whatcom Community Foundation, 119 Grand Avenue, Suite A, Bellingham, WA 98225. Please include Alex Pempe Youth Runner's Fund in the memo section.

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.

Witter Pavilion: Dedication Concert

The finishing touches were added to the The Porch at Boulevard Park (also known as the Witter Pavilion) this spring. "Our goal was that Mark would be remembered for the things he loved to do: his music, his woodworking and his sense of community," said Jeff Arvin, co-owner of Cascade Joinery and the Foundation's advisor to the project.



Jud Sherwood of The Jazz Project accepts a check from Foundation Board member Kevin DeYoung

Friends of the North Fork Community Library received a \$12,000 challenge grant from the Foundation to support construction of a new library facility to serve the Foothills community. Community members have committed significant in-kind contributions as well as funds to the project. The Friends of the North Fork Community Library have one year to gather donations to match the grant and double this number to \$24,000 or more!

Other grant recipients include: Blue Skies for Children, Broadway Neighborhood Youth Center, FACES Northwest, Friends of the Deming Library, Marianne's House, Northwest Therapeutic Riding Center, Old Town Christian Ministries (for Amy's Place), RE Sources, Van Zandt Community Hall Association, Whatcom County Re-Entry Coalition and Whatcom Symphony Orchestra.

The completion of the 2009 grant round brings the overall investment of the Foundation in the community to more than \$5.3 million since its first grant was awarded in 1997. The Foundation has received gifts of over \$17.7 million from more than 3,400 donors in its history, and now holds 102 funds to benefit a wide variety of nonprofit activities in Whatcom County. For more information on this year's grant recipients and their work visit our web site at <http://www.whatcomcf.org/> or contact the Foundation at 360.671.6463 or via email at mbelles@whatcomcf.org.

North Fork Community Library Fund

As a result of the Foundation's work with the new Ferndale Library Project, the Friends of the North Fork Community Library (Friends) became familiar with the Foundation's work. At the request of the Friends, the Foundation Board created a new fund designated for the North Fork Community Library's capital project.

"We were interested in working with the Foundation because they enable us to reach more donors than we would be able to on our own" said Branch Manager Georgina Furlong-Head. "A library is so important to a rural community such as ours, and the power and pride of building that library is shared by everyone." The Foundation family is thrilled to support the Friends and the rest of the Foothills community in reaching their goal of a new library facility.

Donations to the North Fork Community Library Fund may be made payable to Whatcom Community Foundation (please note 'North Fork Community Library Fund' in the memo section) and delivered to the Foundation at 119 Grand Avenue, Suite A, Bellingham, WA 98225. For more information please call the Foundation at (360)671-6463.

Cole Student of the Year Awards

Seven hardworking and motivated middle school students were recognized with the Cole Student of the Year Award this month. The Award is given annually to local middle school students who stand out among their peers because of their hard work and inspiring attitude.





The new landmark venue was appropriately dedicated with a lively concert on June 20th. The park was filled with hundreds of people of all ages savoring the sounds of the Bellingham Youth Jazz Band presented by The Jazz Project featuring the Mark DuFresne Band accompanied by Friends of Mark Witter. Well known local artist Tom Wood's work now graces the Porch.



Campaign for the Arts

Construction continues to progress on 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 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. To attend Downtown Aglow, a party to launch the new Lightcatcher building and enjoy an evening full of fun and surprises contact Ellie Leaf at 360.778.8939 by July 17th.

Sue C. Boynton Poetry Contest

The fourth annual Sue C. Boynton Poetry Contest was held on May 13th. The event attracted Whatcom County residents of all ages and stripes to share their poetry talents. The Contest honors the life of beloved Whatcom County poet, Sue C. Boynton, and continues to showcase the impressive works of other Whatcom County residents. To hear the podcast of this year's contest click [here](#). The poem below is one of the Walk Winners. It was written by a student and, along with other winning works, will be displayed for the next year on Whatcom Transportation Authority buses and along the Sue C. Boynton Poetry Walk at the main branch of the Bellingham Public Library.

The Foundation is proud to have been the Contest fiscal sponsor. "Committee Chair Luther Allen, Susan Erickson and Contest founder George Drake have been a pleasure to work with," said Foundation CEO



Jordan Buitenbos

Foundation donors Sue and Craig Cole established the Cole Student of the Year Fund as an endowment at the Foundation in 2000. As dedicated and effective leaders in our community, the Coles know the importance of these qualities not only to a student's success but to everyone with whom they come in contact. This year's Cole Student of the Year Awardees are:

- Dylan Bass, Meridian Middle School
- Jordan Buitenbos, Cornerstone Christian School
- Maddie Thomson, Assumption Catholic School
- Andrew Jonathan Howard, Baker View Christian School
- Olivia Raymond, Whatcom Day Academy
- Rachael Mckinstry, Blaine Middle School
- Manmit Kayr Dhami, Horizon Middle School

MBI Health Innovation Fund

The Foundation received several grant proposals from local nonprofits to innovatively address primary healthcare needs in Whatcom County. Grants will be made from the Foundation's MBI Health Innovation Fund (Fund).

The Fund was established by a generous \$250,000 donation to the Foundation from Mount Baker Imaging (MBI), a partnership of Northwest Radiologists and PeaceHealth. Foundation Board President Glenn Butler noted, "MBI's gift is an impressive philanthropic leadership move and we're grateful to be a part of it." The Fund was created to support bold, creative work in primary healthcare delivery and prevention techniques in Whatcom County and is advised by a committee comprised of individuals from around the region with a breadth of education, experience and professional knowledge appropriate to advise the Fund. Fund Advisors include:

Sandy DeGroot, RN, MSN, ARNP, Bellingham, WA
George Dyson, Author and Historian, Bellingham, WA
Kristen West, CHOICE Regional Health Network, Olympia, WA
Sabrina Wong, PhD, MSc, BSN, Core Faculty, Centre for Health Services and Policy Research, University of British Columbia, B.C., Canada

Grants will be issued by the end of June. For more information regarding the MBI Health Innovation Fund visit our web site at <http://www.whatcomcf.org/> or call 360.671.6463.

Nonprofit Survey

The Foundation is working with the St. Luke's Foundation and United Way of Whatcom County to coordinate a survey of local nonprofits. The survey will help funding organizations determine the effects of the economy on the ability of local nonprofits to meet service demands. In addition to information about financial needs, respondents will be asked about other key performance elements such as technical assistance. The results will help the three partnering organizers determine how best to work with our donors and other funding entities - local

Mauri Ingram. "We are excited to see the Contest move to a permanent home with other local poetry groups, forming an independent nonprofit. The event is truly extraordinary and we're already looking forward to next year."



Sarah Hill reading her poem *Forever Breeze*

Forever Breeze

The snow and hail pound icy roads
 The breeze whistles
 The sun shines and the flowers bloom
 The breeze whispers
 The rain stops and the days grow long
 The breeze cools
 The leaves cover the ground and hot chocolate is brewed
 The breeze bites

No person nor thing can stop it
 No season nor storm can be without it
 For it is, forever breeze

-Sarah Hill

and otherwise - to meet those needs. Stay tuned for upcoming survey highlights.



2009 Competitive Grant Awards



Chris Friday speaks about the Alex Pempe Youth Runners Fund at a recent Foundation event

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