



2026 Youth Philanthropy Project Awards

Organization Name	Project Name	Project Summary	Award
Bellingham Public Library	Bellingham Public Library Youth Advisory Committee for Art in Remodeled Spaces	The Central Library will be remodeled in '26-'27. We aim to reclaim the lower level as a fresh and fun place for youth and families. To intentionally give youth a voice and meaningful input on the renovation, we've put together a committee of elementary, middle and high school students to advise on discreet art projects and elements of the newly remodeled spaces. Bellingham youth deserve a refreshed, contemporary library. This space is theirs, and we need their input on how it looks and feels.	\$5,000
Chuckanut Health Foundation for Bellingham Therapeutic Counseling, PLLC	Roots & Resilience: Building Youth Wellbeing Through Safe, Healing, Creative Space	We are seeking funding to launch and sustain small, mindfully facilitated youth process groups virtually and in-person in Whatcom County. We will provide safe, supportive spaces where young people can build emotional resilience, strengthen peer connections, and access proactive mental health support before challenges escalate into crisis. The focus is on helping youth develop self-awareness, coping tools, and healthy relationships, while reducing isolation and stigma surrounding mental health.	\$5,000
Common Threads Farm	Nourishing Families Nutrition Workshop	The Nourishing Families Nutrition Workshop project is a six-week pilot bringing children and caregivers together in low-income housing communities for hands-on nutrition education and cooking. Using the Food Smarts curriculum and youth input from WWU Human Services interns, the program strengthens family bonds, promotes healthy habits, builds social connection, and empowers youth through planning and leadership through trauma-informed care practices.	\$4,449
Community Boating Center	Community Boating Center - Youth Internship	Now in its fifth year, the Community Boating Center's Youth Internship is a vital part of our community. Over nine weeks, youth interns work alongside staff to support summer programs, grow as leaders, and build confidence on the water. Through mentorship, training, and certifications, interns help carry our mission forward while preparing for meaningful workforce pathways.	\$5,000
Ferndale Public Schools Foundation	Seeds of Success: Planting Financial Hope & Opportunity for Ferndale Youth	The Ferndale Prevention Model empowers families through early financial education and community partnerships to break the cycle of generational poverty. 80 Eagleridge kindergartners will receive a base savings deposit inspiring hope for post-secondary education, with families earning matching funds through engagement. This Eagleridge Elementary pilot builds financial resilience, advances equity, and promotes family financial literacy.	\$10,040
Ferndale Youth Collective	Ferndale Youth Lounge	This project creates a safe, welcoming third space for youth ages 11–18 outside of home and school, where they can gather after school and on weekends to connect, play, and build positive relationships with peers and caring adult mentors. Through supervised leisure activities and social connection during high-risk hours, the project reduces isolation, strengthens protective factors, and supports healthy social-emotional development.	\$2,500
Girl Scouts of Western Washington	Girl Scouts Financial Assistance	Girl Scouts of Western Washington (GSWW) respectfully requests funding toward our Financial Assistance (FA) program in Whatcom County. FA is distributed to any youth who wants to be a Girl Scout but cannot pay to do so, reducing the barrier of cost. This ensures that all girls and gender expansive youth have access to the benefits of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, including building a Sense of Self; Positive Values; Challenge Seeking; Healthy Relationships; and Community Problem Solving.	\$5,000

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Make.Shift Art Space	The Make.Shift Pop-Up Committee	The Make.Shift Pop-Up Committee is a paid, youth-led leadership program serving youth ages 15–20 in Whatcom and Skagit Counties, especially areas with limited access to arts and culture programming. Youth work in cohorts of 4-6 to lead event concept development, logistics planning, and promotion of a Make.Shift-sponsored pop-up event, with mentorship and guidance from Make.Shift staff. Youth receive monthly stipends to reduce barriers to participation and recognize their labor.	\$5,000
Mercy Housing - Northwest	Kids on Stage	I run afterschool programs for youth ages 5–18 at an affordable housing complex in Bellingham. Many kids showed interest in acting, so we want to create a theater project together where they write or choose a play, practice lines, make costumes, and perform for families. It provides structured engagement, builds leadership and confidence, strengthens peer and community connections, and fosters inclusivity, belonging, and youth empowerment.	\$5,000
Nooksack Valley School District	Reel Dreams and Student-Led Career Podcast: Youth Voice, Media Skills, and Career Exposure	This project supports youth-led Reel Dreams career videos and a student-run podcast through the FBLA. Students plan, produce, and host interviews with professionals to build real-world media skills, increase career exposure, and strengthen school belonging. By providing structured, meaningful out-of-school engagement with adult mentorship, the project builds protective factors such as purpose, positive peer networks, and supportive adult relationships.	\$5,000
Nooksack Valley School District	Club de Lectura	Club de Lectura is an after-school Spanish reading and mentoring program that pairs multilingual high school students with elementary readers to strengthen first-language literacy, support English language development, and build leadership skills. The project promotes healthy youth development by fostering belonging, positive relationships, cultural identity, academic confidence, and a vision for post-secondary success through mentorship and multilingualism.	\$5,000
Northwest Youth Services	PAD Cultural Food Program	Northwest Youth Services (NWYS) proposes to use this grant to engage youth at the PAD in exploring the diversity of their community through food. Cultural grocery outings, meal choices, and cooking prep will be led and arranged by the youth residents. This program promotes healthy community and cultural connections.	\$5,000
Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho	Whatcom County Teen Council	Teen Council is a youth-led peer education and leadership development program. Each school year, PPGWNI trains and supports 12-13 Whatcom County high schoolers (entering grades 10-12) to promote healthy youth development in school and community settings. These youth peer educators teach their peers, families, and communities about sexual health, safer sex, gender and sexual identity, relationships, and consent; and 2) inspire teens to use their voices to advocate for social justice.	\$5,000
RE Sources	Youth for the Environment and People: Young Leaders, Local Solutions	Youth for the Environment & People (YEP!) is a research-based, youth-led program for grades 9–12 that centers youth-designed local action projects that strengthen youths' sense of self-efficacy. YEP! provides mentorship, leadership development, and community connection—helping young people build confidence, strengthen their voices, and develop the skills needed to create positive local change in ways that directly impact their lives. This grant would support three YEP! cohorts in 2026.	\$5,000
The Resilient Project	The Resilient Project: Monthly Youth Outings and Family Engagement Expansion	TRP provides group outings where youth and families participate together in structured, supervised experiences that promote learning, connection, and healthy development. These outings are guided by youth voice and include educational and cultural activities that build social skills, confidence, teamwork, and curiosity. By learning together in community settings, youth strengthen positive peer relationships, explore new interests, and develop protective factors that support overall well-being.	\$5,000

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Trans-Wa (The Trans Health and Wellness Center of Washington)	Youth-Led Creative Community Spaces for Gender-Expansive Youth in Whatcom County	This project expands Trans-Wa's youth programming through a series of small, youth-informed creative and cultural gatherings at our Gender-Expansive Lending Library in Bellingham's Lettered Streets neighborhood. Youth help shape activities such as book discussions, art and zine workshops, film screenings, and youth-guided resource sharing. Optional pathways invite caregivers of gender-expansive youth to access a drop-in group and resources, strengthening peer, family, and community connection.	\$5,000
Vamos Outdoors Project	Grupo de Bici Juvenil - Vamos Outdoors Project	Vamos Outdoors Project will work with middle and high school youth who have earned bikes through previous Vamos programs to develop a community group and space where youth and families can continue to connect and ride bikes. This group maintains informal involvement by riding their new bikes to other Vamos bike programs and supporting as volunteers and motivating new participants. We would like to formally develop structured opportunities for these youth and their families to build belonging.	\$5,000
Whatcom Family YMCA	Whatcom YMCA's Third Place for Teens	Whatcom YMCA's Free Drop-In Teen program provides a welcoming "Third Place" for teens where middle and high school youth gather daily after school throughout the school year. Guided by teen interests, activities promote health, connection, confidence, creativity, and belonging. In 2024, staff and students created a Teen Advisory Council of Students (TACOS) that meets bi-monthly to provide leadership in planning activities and events for teens, giving voice to future leaders of the community.	\$5,000
Wild Whatcom	LGBTQ+ Youth Outdoors Pilot Project	Guided by the Icelandic Prevention Model, Wild Whatcom is launching a pilot project designed by and for LGBTQ+ youth, and supported by trained adult staff. Recognizing that these teens face disproportionate levels of stress, depression, discrimination, exclusion, and bullying, this program focuses on upstream solutions by advancing leadership, self advocacy, peer and adult support and community-building through free outdoor adventures.	\$5,000

\$96,989