We share a bold vision of a vibrant community where every child gets a healthy start and every person receives the care they need throughout their lifetime.

SUMMER 2020

PROGRESS REPORT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CHUCKANUT HEALTH FOUNDATION COVID-19 RELIEF INSIDE
WRAPPING UP 2019
WITH FORMER BOARD PRESIDENT
TIM MCEVOY
After nearly a decade of serving as a Board Member at the Chuckanut Health Foundation, I am writing my last letter to you as outgoing Board President with great optimism for the future of the Foundation and deep gratitude for the 36 years of leadership that has gotten us here.

On behalf of the board, I want to share how honored we are to serve this community through stewardship of the endowment that was formed by the sale of the St. Luke’s Hospital in 1983, a local hospital that was established in the 1890’s and that served the Whatcom community for nearly 100 years. Whether it’s serving the health of individuals as a hospital or investing in the health of the community through the Foundation, the legacy of caring is what we aim to carry on. We couldn’t do this without our partners, our advisors, our neighbors, and our supporters, and we are proud to do this work hand in hand with you.

I’m excited to share with you what we’ve been up to for the past couple of years in this report and we hope you’ll join us in the years to come. We believe that together, we can build a community where every child gets a healthy start, and every person receives the care they need throughout their lifetime.

With gratitude,
Tim McEvoy
Former Board President

LOOKING AHEAD
WITH INCOMING BOARD PRESIDENT
BRYANT ENGBRETSON
On behalf of the entire board I want to thank Tim McEvoy for his leadership as President these past two years, and also thank Dr. David Lynch who has retired from the board after serving in multiple roles over the last 11 years, and Sue Cole who served for 9 years.

As I step into the role of Board President, I also share great optimism for the future of the Foundation. As the Foundation’s fourth executive director, Heather Flaherty enters her second year of leadership. The Foundation is focusing on the health challenges of today, especially for our youth and elderly communities. Additionally, the Foundation remains flexible to the changing needs of our community - already in 2020, we have been able to pivot our focus and resources to support our healthcare workers and organizations around the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the second-tier effects of the economic shutdown.

Thank you for all your support and assistance as we all work to serve our community together.

With optimism,
Bryant Engebretson
Incoming Board President

The weight of uncertainty can be overwhelming. Caring for one another and coming together as a community is one of the best antidotes.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chuckanut Health Foundation is raising funds to help support the following causes: providing care for our caregivers and frontline health care workers; protecting and supporting our seniors and those most vulnerable to this disease; and supporting organizations addressing the social, emotional, and economic consequences of COVID-19 for families and individuals. You will see on page 10 our focus areas and priorities looking ahead - the Chuckanut Health Foundation will continue to address these needs, now in the context of our community response to this pandemic.

In addition to the immediate challenges posed by COVID-19, we are mindful of the long term. The needs of today will be different than the needs of tomorrow and we will be here for Whatcom County when those arise - ready to respond in partnership with our community and with you.

DONATE ONLINE AT
WWW.CHUCKANUTHEALTHFOUNDATION.ORG
OR BY MAIL TO
PO BOX 5641, BELLINGHAM, WA 98227
HEALTHY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

What would it look like in Whatcom County if every child got a healthy start? Working to achieve this is core to the Foundation’s vision, work, and investments. The research is clear: children who have safe and nurturing relationships and environments during childhood tend to have better lifelong health and well-being. There are clear linkages between childhood trauma and adversity and poor health, educational, and behavioral outcomes across the lifespan. When children and families are supported, our entire community is stronger and healthier.

SUBSTANCE USE REDUCTION

We believe that the opposite of addiction isn’t just sobriety - it is also community. We are working to ensure there is a community of support, services, and treatment for those who are struggling with substance use disorder. Progress has been made over the last couple of years - with Medically Assisted Treatment now available in Whatcom County and the recent groundbreaking of a new Crisis Stabilization Center. Chuckanut Health Foundation also believes there is more to do and that by focusing on prevention, intervention, treatment, and after-care services, we can build a system where everyone has access to the care they need.

HEALTHY AGING

Whatcom County is a great place to live, work, and play. We’ve been named one of the top communities to retire in for a reason. But not everyone’s experience of aging in our community is the same. Our older adults and seniors have varied needs and have made it clear that they want to be able to age-in-place, stay active and engaged, and continue to contribute in meaningful ways. The Chuckanut Health Foundation is dedicated to making sure the voices of older adults are heard and represented, and that resources and services are available so our seniors can continue to live healthy, involved, and fulfilling lives.

We launched our Aging Well Whatcom Initiative in 2017, and in the years since have spent time listening to our community, building partnerships and coalitions, and working to find solutions and ideas to address inequities in areas such as transportation, housing, health care, and community connection. Now it’s time to act on what we found. See our highlight on page 11 for more details about our work with Healthy Aging.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Health care is fundamentally local and starts in our neighborhoods and with the relationships we have. The health care system itself contributes about 20% to health outcomes - what ends up being more important are things like access to sidewalks, clean water and air, opportunities for exercise, healthy food, access to education and meaningful work, and strong relationships. Community health workers are trusted members of communities and are able to provide care and assistance outside of the walls of a clinic.

Often this work helps prevent avoidable readmissions to the hospital and connects people to appropriate care. Supporting the development of this workforce has been a priority for the Chuckanut Health Foundation, with investments in the Whatcom Community Health Worker Network, the Health Ministries Network Faith Community Nurses, and the Whatcom Community College Health Professions Affinity Community Program.

PLACE-BASED INITIATIVES

Collective action to reduce health disparities is most successful when it begins at the local level and when local contexts, concerns, and contributions inform public health and policy-driven decisions and investments.

Investing in local solutions that reduce health disparities and increase health equity is important and effective and helps us shift our thinking from looking at deficits in a community to looking at strengths and assets to build on. We believe the best solutions come from the community and from those closest to the health inequities we are working to address.
INTRODUCING HEATHER FLAHERTY

Heather Flaherty joined as the Executive Director of the Chuckanut Health Foundation in January of 2019. Her first year at the Foundation involved much learning, connecting, and putting the building blocks together to launch into what has been affectionately termed as CHF 4.0.

Heather began her work in community health as the Executive Assistant to the CEO of PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center. Before joining the Chuckanut Health Foundation, she served as Foundation Director for the RiverStyx Foundation and Director of Operations for Raptor Enterprises. She has served on the boards of the Opportunity Council, the Volunteer Center, Western Washington University as a Student Trustee, and the Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement (WAHA). She currently sits on the board for the Western Washington Alumni Association and serves on the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Taskforce of Whatcom County.

Heather holds a Bachelor’s of Science in Community Health and a Master’s in Business Administration, both from Western Washington University. She is excited to take everything she has learned in this community and put it toward her work with Chuckanut Health Foundation.

When Heather isn’t working, you can find her spending time with her husband Drew, friends, and family, walking her dog Eddie, going on hikes, and taking too many photos, mostly of sunsets.

“The future is bright. I am excited about the opportunities before us to advance community health, including partnerships to build vibrancy and health into the fabric of our community. We aim to lift it up where it exists, to learn from others, and to embed equity into all that we do.”

- HEATHER FLAHERTY

GRATITUDE TO SUE SHARPE

As we welcome Heather, we also give warm gratitude to Sue Sharpe, who served as the Foundation’s third executive director from 2009 to 2019. Sue was instrumental in the Foundation’s transformation from a charitable organization to a responsive community leader.

Sue joined the Foundation in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. At the time, the Foundation was presented with a number of financial challenges. Faced with these challenges, Sue and the Board took a step back and re-evaluated what the foundation’s role was in the community. During this time, the Foundation decided to be more strategic in their approach.

“I was proud of our ability to commit to ongoing grant-making at a time when people really needed it,” Sue said. “The Foundation started to see how we could strategically make deep impacts in the community. We realized we could make big things happen by leveraging our partnerships in the community.”

This transition was reflected in the Foundation’s role as a founding member of the Whatcom Center for Philanthropy, joined in this venture by the Whatcom Community Foundation and United Way of Whatcom County. Sue credits this transition with allowing the organization to more easily partner with others to make long-term, sustainable change.

“For me personally at the end of my tenure, there was a breakthrough in the sense that we would always be a partner in local health issues, but we could also take on a leadership position in health issues that needed attention.”

- SUE SHARPE
REMEMBERING JEANNE BROERTERON
A great loss for us in 2019 was the death of Jeanne Broerterton, longtime friend and Chuckanut Health Foundation Board member. As a master's-level nurse and educator, Jeanne was involved in childbirth education, lactation specialty consultation, mindfulness and meditation classes, and faith community nursing education. Jeanne was a knitter, and she took advantage of this passion to start the local prayer shawl ministry, which gave prayer shawls to individuals dealing with illness and injury. She was a tireless voice for the nursing scholarship program and for our Faith Community Nurses. Through her involvement with the foundation, Health Ministries Network, and the Northwest Life Passages Coalition, Jeanne was a champion for education and community health. Deeply saddened by her passing, we reflect gratefully on how fortunate we were to have Jeanne's leadership, and how we can honor her gifts to the community.

HONORING A COMBINED 41 YEARS OF SERVICE!
We are grateful to departing board members Dave Lynch, Leslie Farris, Sue Cole, and Tim McEvoy for their many years of service, leadership, and contributions to the Chuckanut Health Foundation and to our community.

DAVID LYNCH - 11 YEARS OF SERVICE
“I am proud of the way we are able to partner with individuals and agencies in our community to achieve real improvements in community health.”

LESLE FERRIS - 11 YEARS OF SERVICE
“I am proud of Chuckanut’s authentic relationships and its responsible stewardship of its resources. It has been a privilege to be a part of this work.”

SUE COLE - 9 YEARS OF SERVICE
“I’m most proud of the investments we’ve made in community health. It really takes all of us working together and I’m proud that no project is too small and no idea is too big for Chuckanut Health Foundation to help with.”

TIM MCEVOY - 11 YEARS OF SERVICE
“I am pleased that we continue to provide scholarships to so many individuals pursuing a career in the medical field. These past couple of years we focused a lot of attention in healthy aging and have made great progress in this area.”
The work of advancing individual and community health cannot happen without our partners. We are proud to stand beside so many amazing organizations and leaders who make our community a better place to walk, play, work, recreate, live, and thrive in.

### 2018-2019 GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS

**ORGANIZATIONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WHATCOM COUNTY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Grants Given in 2018-2019</th>
<th>Average Amount Given per Organization</th>
<th>Average Amount Given per Grant</th>
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<th>Range of Grants Given</th>
<th>Local Organizations Supported</th>
<th>Total Grants Given</th>
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<td>81</td>
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### ANIMALS AS NATURAL THERAPY

For many who have experienced loving an animal, whether it’s a cat, dog, horse, or rabbit, it’s easy to understand the gifts and benefits a relationship with an animal can bring. Your dog is always happy to see you. Your horse will always keep your secrets. These relationships can bring meaning and purpose, and for some young women in the New Horizons program at Animals as Natural Therapy, animals can bring deep healing and teaching about healthy boundaries, self-respect, trust, and love.

Animals as Natural Therapy provides animal-assisted support and treatment programs for young people and military veterans all over Whatcom County. The organization’s New Horizons Program provides animal-assisted therapeutic services to teens fighting chemical dependency. Each year, the program helps around 45 teens between the ages of 14-18. Many of these youth have been victims of domestic violence or abuse and all struggle with their mental health.

In mid-2019, we awarded a $30,000 grant to expand the New Horizons Program. With the grant, the organization can reach an additional 20 youth per year. This has opened the door to new partnerships with other youth-focused community organizations in an effort to expand the program’s reach.

The grant also allowed the organization to increase dedicated staff time to program outcome measurement and data collection. This will allow the organization to apply for funding that was previously inaccessible.

*By leveraging our success from the Chuckanut Health Foundation’s investment, we envision the New Horizons Program thriving for years to come.*

- Sonja Wingard, Executive Director

### UNITY CARE NW

People in areas outside of Bellingham face many challenges when trying to access health services. Among these barriers are transportation issues, financial difficulties, and a lack of qualified healthcare providers. Unity Care NW, a local non-profit community health center, wanted to expand their services and build a new clinic to break down these barriers.

In 2018, Chuckanut Health Foundation granted Unity Care NW $100,000 to aid in the construction of a new 23,000 square foot facility in Ferndale. The North Whatcom Health Center opened in July 2019 and includes 12 dental operatories, an on-site pharmacy, and the most comprehensive behavioral health services in Whatcom County, outside of Bellingham.

As of April 4, 2020, the medical clinic has seen 2,691 unique patients. Additionally, 3,314 people have accessed dental services and another 400 have utilized their behavioral health services. When the clinic is fully staffed in 2022, it will provide services to 9,500 people in North Whatcom annually.
KORNERSTONE KIDS

Kornerstone Kids is a non-profit pediatric therapy center that provides services to children with special health needs aged 0 to 18 in Whatcom County. Services include speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and developmental delay assessments.

In February 2018, the Chuckanut Health Foundation awarded a $70,000 grant to Kornerstone Kids which funded the expansion of the center's therapy space and the hiring of four new full-time therapists and a nurse practitioner. With these expansions, Kornerstone Kids is now the largest pediatric therapy provider north of Everett.

Since expanding, Kornerstone has been providing about 1,800 therapy appointments a month -- 1,000 more appointments per month than before the grant. Kornerstone estimates that it will provide over 20,000 medical appointments for children in 2020.

“The grant from Chuckanut Health Foundation allowed Kornerstone to expand their physical space and therapy team,” said Greg Penner, owner of Kornerstone Kids. “Without this grant the majority of these children would not have received care due to access limitations.”

NORTHWEST YOUTH SERVICES

Northwest Youth Services is the only non-profit organization in Whatcom County specifically dedicated to providing services to homeless and at-risk youth between the ages of 13 and 24.

In 2019, we awarded a $25,000 grant to Northwest Youth Services in support of the construction of a day-use drop-in center for at-risk, runaway, and homeless youth. The center, which opened in early 2019, provides basic needs items like food, clothing, and gear for sleeping outside, and connects youth with other resources that will help them end their experience of homelessness.

Between March and November of 2019, 305 youth were served at the Ground Floor drop-in center - surpassing their original goal of 280 individuals.

“Northwest Youth Services provides a safety net for youth in our community,” said Jenn Daly, Director of Development & Communications. “Each youth we meet has a different set of circumstances that led to homelessness, and a different set of barriers to meeting their goals. We strive to meet youth where they are at, build a connection, and work with them to envision a future that they are excited about.”

2018-2019 GRANTEES

Animals as Natural Therapy
ARC of Whatcom County – Whatcom Taking Action
Bellingham Central Lions Club
Bellingham Mountain Rescue
Bellingham Theatre Works
Bellingham Technical College Foundation – Dental Lab
Catholic Community Services
Common Threads
Communities in Schools of Whatcom and Skagit
Compass Health
Dementia Support Northwest
Elder Service Providers
Every Child Initiative of the Whatcom Center for Philanthropy
Glacier Skate Association
GRACE Program (Ground-Level Response and Coordinated Engagement) / Whatcom County Human Services
Health Ministries Network
Interfaith Coalition
Kornerstone Kids
Kulshan Community Land Trust
Laurendeau Cancer Care Fund
League of Women Voters
Lhaq’temish Foundation – Lummi Dental Clinic
Lydia Place
Max Higbee Center
Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood
NW Children’s Foundation
Northwest Youth Services
Opportunity Council
Our Treehouse
Philanthropy NW – 2020 Census Support
Project Homeless Connect
Rebound of Whatcom County
Recreation Northwest
Skookum Kids
Sustainable Connections
United Way of Whatcom County
Unity Care NW
Western Washington University – Nursing Scholarships
Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement
Whatcom Center for Early Learning
Whatcom Community College
Whatcom Community Foundation – Immigrant Family Relief Fund
Whatcom Community Health Workers Network
Whatcom Council on Aging – Meals on Wheels and More
Whatcom County Health Department
Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center
Whatcom Family and Community Network
Whatcom Human Rights Taskforce
Whatcom Rowing Association
Wild Whatcom
York Community Farm
ARIEL MILLER
RAM CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYEES ENDOWED NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

Ariel was the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 recipient of the Ram Construction Employees Endowed Nursing Scholarship for $1,500 while she was completing her Associate Degree in Nursing from Bellingham Technical College.

“With the grant I could focus on studying and school work, not trying to balance everything,” Ariel said. “It was a game changer to receive this support. I am forever grateful to the Foundation for all their help.”

Since graduating from the program in March 2019, she started working at Skagit Valley Hospital in their mental health unit. At the same time, she was admitted to the University of Washington Bothell’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. In the future she’d like to pursue a master’s degree in nursing.

“My goal is to identify areas the community needs additional resources and organize free workshops to provide those services. I am confident that through continued education, work experience, and collaborative leadership I will establish a positive change in the health of my community.”

RENEE AUMELL
DAVID F. GODDARD ENDOWED NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

Renee was already establishing herself as a future leader in our community’s healthcare scene when we awarded her a $1,500 scholarship in 2018 to help in her pursuit of an Associate Degree in Nursing from Bellingham Technical College. Before starting her degree, she worked and volunteered in the healthcare field for six years, serving in places like PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center, Alderwood Park Health & Rehabilitation, and SeaMar Community Health Center. She has also been an advocate for nurses’ rights and has lobbied on behalf of nursing in Olympia.

“My goal is to identify areas the community needs additional resources and organize free workshops to provide those services. I am confident that through continued education, work experience, and collaborative leadership I will establish a positive change in the health of my community.”

JOSHUA WIEDERHOLD
JEANETTE MORSE ENDOWED NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

While in the nursing program at Whatcom Community College, Josh was awarded a $1,500 Jeanette Morse Endowed Nursing Scholarship. He graduated in June 2019 and passed his licensure exam in July. Hired into the PeaceHealth New Graduate Nurse Residency Program and working in the Emergency Department at St. Joseph Medical Center, he has found his first job to be stimulating and challenging. He is proud to have accomplished his goal of continuing to serve our community as a nurse and is grateful for the help that Chuckanut Health Foundation donors have provided.

“I feel like I am making a difference by doing this work. It is very rewarding. I want to keep learning and making an impact on my community.”

ANNA-HOPE ST. JOHN
FARRIS FAMILY NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

$1,500 in 2016, $5,000 in 2017, and $3,500 in 2018

RHIANA BREEDLOVE
JANET & CHARLES KLINGENSMITH MEMORIAL ENDOWED NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

$1,500 in 2018 and $1,500 in 2019

SINCE 1993, CHUCKANUT HEALTH FOUNDATION HAS AWARDED $367,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO 139 STUDENTS. APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED EACH YEAR FROM APRIL 15 - MAY 20.

YOU CAN FIND MORE DETAILS BY CALLING 360-671-3349 OR VISITING WWW.CHUCKANUTHEALTHFOUNDATION.ORG
CONTINUING WAHA’S LEGACY

In July of 2019, the Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement (WAHA) ended operations after nearly two decades of providing services. With a mission of connecting people to care and working to improve the healthcare system, WAHA served our neighbors through programs such as insurance enrollment and navigation, advance care planning, and assistance with medical financial aid. Many community members knew WAHA as a place where there was “no wrong door” to find support in accessing resources and care.

Since WAHA’s closure, several programs have found new homes in our community: Medicaid and private insurance navigators can be found at Unity Care NW and SeaMar community health clinics, Medicare counseling is offered through the Opportunity Council, and advance care planning services are now provided by the Northwest Regional Council.

The Chuckanut Health Foundation, in partnership with PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center and the Whatcom County Health Department, worked to establish WAHA 17 years ago to address access to healthcare in Whatcom County. That work doesn’t end with the closing of WAHA’s doors. A fund has been established at the Foundation to support projects that continue this work through advocating for patients, removing barriers to care, and working toward health systems change.

For information about donating to the WAHA Fund, please visit www.chuckanuthealthfoundation.org or call 360-671-3349.

PUTTING THE “CARE” BACK IN HEALTHCARE

HEALTH MINISTRIES NETWORK

A scary health diagnosis. An unexpected fall. The loss of a loved one. Recovery from a scheduled surgery. A mental health crisis. These events can happen to any of us at any time. Knowing you have a community that cares about you and that there is someone who will go to your appointment with you, pick up groceries or prescriptions, or simply call to check in on you can make a big difference in healing and recovery.

Health Ministries Network is a non-profit organization that encourages all local faith communities to take a holistic approach to health by integrating health education and support into their spiritual practices and communities.

“In the work of Health Ministries Network has saved the local healthcare system more than $312,815 in 2019 alone by providing 7,530 hours of care for individuals in our community, and immeasurably more in savings through reduced hospital readmissions and better health outcomes as a result of that care.” said Amelia Vader, Executive Director of the network.

“Faith community nurses serve their congregations and congregants, often working quietly and humbly in the background and in people’s homes, but the presence and caring they provide is profound.”

In 2018, the network provided support and education to 115 faith community nurses across 4 counties. These nurses volunteered 8,263 hours of care, valued at $289,000.

In 2019, the network established a diversity scholarship in an effort to expand the faith communities served with more intentional recruitment of nurses serving Sikh, Latinx and Native communities.

As humans, we all need someone to care about us, and our Faith Community Nurses are tireless in providing care for our communities in this way.

For every $1 invested in Health Ministries Network, Faith Community Nurses provided $6.17 of skilled, health-related holistic care and support.*

*Based on the Washington State Employment Security Department’s 2019 reported hourly wage for registered nurses of $41.55

Chuckanut Health Foundation is proud to be the fiscal sponsor of Health Ministries Network.
THE ROAD AHEAD:
VISION FOR 2020

ADDRESSING ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION IN OUR YOUTH

Anxiety and depression do not discriminate, affecting the lives of many in our community, including our youth. In Whatcom County, youth anxiety and depression is on the rise. This has long-term impacts on health outcomes and the Chuckanut Health Foundation is working to make sure all youth and families can access mental health resources if and when they need them.

1 in 6
U.S. youth aged 6-17 has experienced a mental health disorder. This trend is found here at home, too.¹

35%
of high-school aged youth in Whatcom County felt sad or hopeless for longer than two weeks in the past year.²

8.6%
of those youth attempted suicide in 2018.²

52%
of high-school aged students were not able to stop or control their worrying in the two weeks before the survey was administered.²

Established in 2017, the Todd McClure Healthy Youth Initiative honors the life of Todd McClure, a Bellingham resident who passed away at the age of 27. Carrying on Todd’s legacy of compassion and a search for knowledge, and in recognition of his personal experiences with anxiety and depression, the McClure Family and the Chuckanut Health Foundation are working together to bolster a community response to address youth mental health needs and concerns. As we build this initiative, we will be sharing our learnings, progress, and ways to get involved on our website and invite you to join us in these efforts.

FISCAL MAPPING FOR A HEALTHY START

We believe in building a community where every child gets a healthy start. Part of that healthy start is making high-quality childcare and early learning available to all children and families. This is not only a community health concern, it’s an economic concern too. When families have access to safe and reliable childcare, parents can participate in the workforce at greater rates. When children receive high-quality early education, they are healthier, more likely to perform better in school, earn higher incomes as adults, and are less likely to be involved in the criminal justice system. In short, this is an issue that affects us all, whether we have children of our own or not.

In 2019 several community partners came together to create and advocate for a Whatcom County Child and Family Action Plan, and it is with great excitement that we share that the plan was approved by the Whatcom County Council in early 2020. With support from the United Way of Whatcom County, the Mt. Baker Foundation, and the Whatcom Community Foundation, the next phase of this work is creating a “Fiscal Map” to explore funding opportunities and to help our community answer the following question: What will it take to close the gap on access to high-quality childcare and early learning in Whatcom County?

COMMUNITY STATISTICS WE ARE AIMING TO IMPACT

One year of infant care is more expensive than one year at WWU.

- 2018 Median Annual Cost of Center Child Care for an Infant = $13,104
- 2018 WWU Tuition, Fees, and Books = $9,325

13,308 children 5 years old or younger in Whatcom County.
8,070 children of that age group for whom all the parents in their households work full-time.
3,608 licensed childcare slots.

Leaving 4,462 children in Whatcom County who are potentially left without the option to attend licensed childcare when their family members go to work.

44% of Whatcom County’s youngest children live in families that lack economic security.

39% of adults in Whatcom County say they do not have community support.

18% of adults in Whatcom County say they do not have someone they trust to take care of their kids.

6 out of 10 children do not have access to affordable quality childcare in Whatcom County.

¹Data taken from Whatcom Working Toward Well-being, 10/4/2017, Whatcom County Health Department & from Child Care Supply, Demand, and Cost in Whatcom County, 10/18/2019, Opportunity Council and Child Care Aware.
A COMMUNITY VISION FOR AGING WELL

The Aging Well Whatcom Initiative was launched by the Chuckanut Health Foundation in December 2017 with the goal of making Whatcom County a community where all of us are able to age well. Pulling together a table of experts, providers, and community leaders, we embarked on 18 months of research, discussion, and deep listening to our community. On September 27, 2019, over 185 individuals and 89 organizations joined us at the first ever Aging Well Whatcom Summit.

A Blueprint for Aging Well was debuted at the event, bringing our community together in a shared vision. The summit also provided a profound opportunity to receive feedback from our community partners and to understand the priorities of the work moving forward.

“To me it’s really exciting that our community now has a framework to guide efforts to make Whatcom County a better place to grow old,” said Aging Well Whatcom’s Facilitator, Lara Welker. “I love that the Blueprint is homegrown, and that implementing it will create opportunities for different people and organizations to work together in ways they haven’t before.”

The summit was only the beginning. Equipped with valuable insight from our community, we are moving forward with implementing what we’ve learned. We will be pulling together organizations, businesses, elected officials, and community members who are interested in making change, and taking action on the strategies that were identified by summit participants as highest priority.

You can learn more and find out how to get involved at www.AgingWellWhatcom.org.

“*Whatcom County’s older adults need expanded supports and opportunities to live well, and the entire community needs the resources that older adults have to share: experience and wisdom, time and energy, and social, political, and economic power. It’s about the quality of life, and quality of community, for all of us.*”

- LARA WELKER, AGING WELL WHATCOM COORDINATOR

AGING WELL WHATCOM BLUEPRINT SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

The Aging Well Whatcom Summit was instrumental in sharing the needs of the aging community and opening up the conversation about local strategies and opportunities.

The Blueprint addresses the immediate needs in our community in the areas of cultural shift, housing, intergenerational community, information & navigation services, transportation, and wellness & healthcare.

Aging Well Whatcom Coalition members represent a wide range of sectors including public, private, and governmental. 2020 will mark the first year of commitment to act on the strategies presented in the Blueprint.
Thank you to our supporters for joining us in creating our community of health.

“The power of community to create health is far greater than any physician, clinic, or hospital.”
- MARK HYMAN, MD

CHUCKANUT HEALTH FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

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FROM OUR TIME AS ST. LUKE’S HOSPITAL TO THE CHUCKANUT HEALTH FOUNDATION, COMMUNITY WELL-BEING HAS ALWAYS BEEN PRIORITY #1

The first seeds of the Chuckanut Health Foundation were planted back in 1892, when community-owned St. Luke’s Hospital first took root in the budding young city of New Whatcom. After passionately serving its people for nearly 100 years, St. Luke’s closed its doors in 1983 and established the St. Luke’s Foundation with proceeds from the sale.

Departing Chuckanut Board member Dr. Dave Lynch was a staff member at St. Luke’s before its closure and was asked to join the Foundation by long-time colleague and then-Executive Director Sue Sharpe: “I was very hopeful that we could carry forth the memory of that wonderful place through new works by the Foundation,” he shared, “Of course, we wound up changing the name, but after 35 years, it was time. I hope that we never forget our St. Luke’s legacy!”

Changing its name to Chuckanut Health Foundation in 2013, the organization continues to honor its heritage by investing in the critical health needs of Whatcom County and its people. Independently governed by a board of local leaders deeply rooted in the community, it has stewarded over $17 million in assets to ensure vital funding of local health services and health education activities. Through mission-aligned grants and professional scholarships, the Foundation supports projects such as support for mental health and substance abuse, expanding comprehensive services for seniors, emergency medical services, and crisis intervention.

Today, Chuckanut Health Foundation is the only organization in Whatcom County focused exclusively on investing to strengthen and advance individual and community health through ongoing assessment and effective partnerships that respond to ever-changing health needs.
For 36 years, the Chuckanut Health Foundation has invested in Whatcom County. We do this work in partnership with our donors, supporters, advocates, leaders, volunteers, neighbors, and friends.

As investments grow and flourish, we celebrate the progress, even while recognizing that there is much more we can do. We’re ready to take on that challenge. We’re ready to build a healthier tomorrow. We’re honored to continue building on the legacy of the St. Luke’s Hospital through the work of the Chuckanut Health Foundation.

- HEATHER FLAHERTY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHUCKANUT HEALTH FOUNDATION

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF OPTIMISM
HONORING OUR ROOTS IN THIS COMMUNITY AND HOLDING TRUE TO OUR MISSION

CHUCKANUT HEALTH FOUNDATION
OVER THE YEARS

1,014 grants
given to 206 organizations, initiatives, and community events serving Whatcom County.

$17,300,445
in total giving

TO MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION, CALL 360-671-3349 OR VISIT WWW.CHUCKANUTHEALTHFOUNDATION.ORG
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