

# Strengthening Our Communities



**First Federal**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
A Private Charitable Corporation

**2020**  
Annual Report

# To Our Communities

The year 2020 was, for most of us, overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, as it wreaked havoc on individuals, families, and communities worldwide. The regions that First Federal Community Foundation supports were not exempt. Our healthcare systems, schools, businesses, community institutions, and community members were stressed as never before.

Yet, as the pandemic tightened its grip on every aspect of our daily lives, the organizations featured in this annual report responded swiftly to mitigate its impact. These nonprofits were creative, agile, resourceful and resilient in assessing and addressing immediate and critical community needs and working to rebuild lives and economies. They served as a lifeline to keep our communities afloat during this troubled time.

We at First Federal Community Foundation are honored to have provided grants to these organizations in 2020—more than 40, with total contributions of \$765,000—to support them in fulfilling their critical mission and furthering our shared commitment of strengthening our communities.

***“We dedicate this Annual Report to the nonprofits that helped our friends and neighbors in Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap and Whatcom Counties weather the storm that was 2020. We extend our appreciation for the positive and significant difference they make. Together, we are strengthening our communities.”***

**– Norman J. Tonina, Jr., President of the Board**

Since our inception in 2015, through the year 2020, we have funded more than \$4.4 million in grants. In 2020 alone, the Foundation contributed \$765,000 to organizations focused on addressing housing and food insecurity, childcare and support for virtual learning, efforts to stimulate economic recovery, and more in Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap and Whatcom Counties.

The Board of Directors of First Federal Community Foundation is grateful to First Fed for their foresight and generosity in establishing our Foundation, and we are honored to carry on First Fed’s legacy of improving the quality of life in our communities and investing in our shared future. Never has this mission been so necessary and so critical.



**Pictured from left to right:** Craig Curtis, Board Member; Cindy H. Finnie, Board Member; Jan Simon, Executive Director; Norman J. Tonina, Jr., President of the Board; Karen McCormick, Board Member; Matthew P. Deines, President and Chief Executive Officer, First Fed. Not pictured: Joyce Ruiz, Board Secretary; Candi Avery, CPA, Board Treasurer.

For information on the Foundation’s financials, [click here](#).



# Our First Six Years of Giving Back

**The Foundation's giving—\$4,441,500 in our first six years—is an investment in and commitment to our shared future.**

First Federal Community Foundation, a private charitable corporation, began making grants in 2015, thanks to a generous gift valued at nearly \$12 million from the parent company of First Fed, when the bank was converted to a publicly traded company.

First Fed's gift underscored its commitment to continue its nearly 100-year tradition of giving back to its communities. In that same spirit, First Federal Community Foundation is committed to creating broad impact and improving the quality of life in those communities where First Fed, the Foundation's sole donor, maintains full-service branches.

We are grateful to First Fed for making our giving possible. We are inspired by the dedication, creativity, and tenacity of the organizations we fund, and we are honored to support them.

***"For the fourth consecutive year, First Fed Bank and Foundation were recognized by the Puget Sound Business Journal as one of the top four mid-sized corporate philanthropists in Washington State. Receiving this corporate citizenship award for our contributions in 2020 is a great affirmation of our commitment to the communities we serve."***

– Matthew P. Deines, President and CEO, First Fed



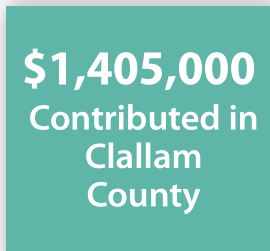
**\$423,500**

Contributed  
to Regional  
Projects



**\$1,021,300**

Affordable  
Housing  
Grants



**\$1,405,000**  
Contributed in  
Clallam  
County



**\$535,000**  
Economic  
Development  
Grants



**\$1,078,000**  
Contributed in  
Jefferson  
County



**\$2,025,000**

Community  
Development  
Grants



**\$837,000**

Contributed  
in Kitsap  
County



**\$160,000**  
COVID  
Emergency  
Response  
Grants



**\$698,000**

Contributed in  
Whatcom  
County



**\$700,200**  
Community  
Support  
Grants

# Priorities for Giving

First Federal Community Foundation supports projects and programs that improve the quality of life in Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, and Whatcom Counties. We are committed to creating broad impact that benefits low- to moderate-income, disadvantaged and/or marginalized persons or families; provides community support; addresses the availability of affordable housing; and contributes to both community and economic development.

In 2020, we added a new priority to address the urgent, critical needs caused and exacerbated by COVID-19.



By priority, the Foundation's contributions of \$765,000 in 2020 included \$205,000 to organizations providing affordable housing; \$155,000 for community support; \$145,000 to organizations focused on stimulating economic development; \$100,000 for community development; and \$160,000 to address immediate needs caused and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Arc of the Peninsulas' Full Circle Meals Program delivered more than 50,000 free meals to residents and organizations in need in Kitsap County—including high risk elderly residents at Retsil Veterans Home—and sustained 35 restaurants and their employees.

## COVID Emergency Response

**Eight organizations were awarded \$160,000 in COVID Emergency Response grants.**

**Clallam Community Foundation (United Way of Clallam County):** \$25,000 for the COVID-19 Fund.

**Jefferson Community Foundation:** \$25,000 for the COVID Emergency Response Fund.

**Jefferson Healthcare Foundation's Healthcare Worker Assistance Fund:** \$10,000 in financial aid to relieve some of the burden of childcare costs.

**Jefferson, Kitsap, and Clallam Counties Food Access Project:** \$12,000 to extend the dollar-for-dollar match for shoppers using SNAP and other food assistance currencies at Farmers Markets in Jefferson, Kitsap, and Clallam Counties.

**Kitsap Community Foundation and United Way of Kitsap:** \$25,000 for the Unity in the Community Fund.

**Olympic Medical Center Foundation in Port Angeles:** \$16,000 for COVID-19 testing equipment, increasing the region's rapid testing capabilities for residents across the North Olympic Peninsula.

**The Arc of the Peninsulas:** \$22,000 to provide meals to the underserved and those on the front lines during the COVID crisis, while supporting the Kitsap restaurant community and helping to restore the local economy.

**Whatcom Community Foundation:** \$25,000 for The Resilience Fund.

# Affordable Housing

**Six organizations shared \$205,000 in Affordable Housing grants in 2020.**



Serenity House, which serves as the lead housing agency for very-low-income clients in Clallam County, was awarded a \$30,000 Affordable Housing grant from First Federal Community Foundation.

As its name suggests, Serenity House offers a place of support and safety for those seeking housing and shelter—whether short-term or long-term. Founded in 1983 with a mission of fighting homelessness, this nonprofit supports people at all stages of their housing journey, guiding them toward permanent housing solutions. Serenity House provides referrals, case management, shelters, youth services, and housing and prevention programs.

To keep its facilities running smoothly, the Serenity House maintenance team services four apartments with 75 units of low-income housing, a night shelter, three offices, a youth drop-in center, and the agency's Thrift Store, all located across Port Angeles, Sequim, and Forks. Without a doubt, reliable transportation is a must. First Federal Community Foundation's \$30,000 grant made it possible for Serenity House to replace its aged and well-traveled passenger vehicle with a new, reliable service van to respond to more than 150 calls per month, while also providing the maintenance team with a place to safely store tools and materials during and between service calls.

## **The Foundation also awarded Affordable Housing grants to:**

**Bayside Housing & Services:** \$25,000 for essential services, including transitional housing and meals, and case management assistance, for two Jefferson County families of three.

**Jefferson Community Foundation's Housing Solutions Network:** \$25,000 to protect and expand the availability of affordable workforce housing by training new landlords, connecting them to local lenders for renovations, and matching them to renters.

**Kitsap Rescue Mission:** \$50,000 to equip the Mission's new facility with kitchen equipment and appliances, shelter beds for 80, and office furnishings for case management staff.

**Lydia Place:** \$50,000 to build Whatcom County's Heart House, an 11-unit permanent, supportive, low-income housing project for homeless mothers with children from prenatal through age 5.

**Parkview Services:** \$25,000 to provide no-cost HUD housing counseling services to prevent foreclosures for approximately 40 struggling homeowners in Whatcom, Kitsap, Clallam, and Jefferson Counties.



# Community Development

**The Foundation awarded two organizations a total of \$100,000 in Community Development grants.**



Whatcom Family YMCA's new early learning facility will serve 44% more low- to moderate-income children.

**Trinity United Methodist Church:** \$50,000 to make the building, which serves as the only infant and drop-in childcare facility in Port Townsend, fully ADA-compliant.

**Whatcom Family YMCA:** \$50,000 to support the construction of a new and larger early learning facility to alleviate Whatcom County's severe childcare shortage.

# Economic Development

**Three organizations shared \$145,000 in Economic Development grants.**



Photo: Erin Smith



Photo: Deja Vu Photography

The Port Townsend Main Street Program's grant from the Foundation supports events designed to bring visitors and spending to the historic business districts.

**Key City Public Theatre:** \$30,000 to address COVID-related safety issues and reopen the Theatre, which contributes to the sustainability of Port Townsend's historic districts.

**Port Angeles Waterfront Center's Field Arts & Event Hall:** \$50,000 to achieve the cost and energy-saving benefits of LEED Certification for this facility which will leverage the jobs, taxes and revenues resulting from millions of people visiting the Olympic Peninsula annually.

**The Port Townsend Main Street Program:** \$65,000 for an events and marketing campaign that supports the sustainability of local businesses by attracting visitors and spending to the business districts that have been hard hit by the pandemic.

# Community Support

**The Foundation awarded 18 organizations a total of \$155,000 of Community Support funding.**

**Bainbridge Artisan Resource Network:** \$5,000 to provide meals to people experiencing food insecurity on Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap.

**Bainbridge Island Boys and Girls Clubs:** \$5,000 for full-day childcare services, remote learning support, peer connection, physical activity, and social-emotional growth opportunities.

**Blue Skies for Children:** \$5,000 for bicycles and helmets, school-related computers and flash drives, tutoring and more for approximately 40 children who are homeless, low-income, or in foster care in Whatcom County.

**Boys & Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula:** \$10,000 for increased staffing, upgraded technology and new equipment to provide safe, educational support for more low- to moderate-income, disadvantaged children.

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County:** \$10,000 for scholarships for 40 children from low-income families to receive additional academic, emotional, and social support in safe, equipped and supervised distanced learning sites.

**Catholic Community Services of Western Washington:** \$5,000 to install life-saving safety equipment, including ramps, grab bars, and handrails in the homes of the elderly and those with disabilities in Kitsap, Clallam, and Jefferson Counties.

**Communities In Schools of Whatcom County:** \$10,000 to increase trauma-informed tele-mentoring for in-risk and at-risk, homeless, and extremely low-income students.

**Kitsap Conservation District:** \$5,000 to provide fresh fruits and vegetables from local farms for distribution by the Kitsap County Food Bank Coalition, while also supporting the local farm economy.

**Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center:** \$5,000 to provide rent, energy, legal and food assistance for immigrant families affected by COVID-19.

**Morningside:** \$5,000 for a skill-building, weekly job club preparing Clallam County students with disabilities for work, inclusion, and independence after high school graduation.

**Northwest Youth Services:** \$10,000 to provide mental health and substance use disorder treatment for Whatcom County's low-income youth and young adults experiencing housing instability and homelessness.

**Olympic Angels:** \$5,000 to engage 80 new community volunteers to provide long-term relational support with 30 new foster families in Jefferson and Clallam Counties.

**Puget Sound Voyaging Society's Community Boat Project:** \$5,000 for a job, leadership, and life skills training program, with paid internships for post-high schoolers in Jefferson County.

**Scarlet Road:** \$5,000 to increase case management hours and serve more survivors of sexual exploitation in Kitsap County.

**Skookum Kids:** \$5,000 to support weekly one-on-one mentoring for 60+ Whatcom County foster kids.

**Soroptimist International of Port Angeles Jet Set:** \$5,000 to provide grants to disadvantaged Clallam County women to improve their education, skills, and employment prospects.

**The Answer For Youth:** \$5,000 to provide access to computer labs, tutoring, job skills training and job search assistance to homeless, disadvantaged, and marginalized youth and young adults in Clallam County.

**Wild Bird Charity:** \$10,000 for nutritious, kid-friendly, easy-to-prepare weekend meals for children who qualify for free or reduced meals in school districts in Whatcom County.

# Our Ongoing Commitment

*"Since 2015, when First Federal Community Foundation was funded with a generous gift from First Fed, we have awarded nearly \$5 million to nonprofit, tribal, and government agencies in Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap and Whatcom Counties. The Foundation's partnership with these dedicated organizations to bring resources to those in need has never been more crucial."*

– Karen McCormick, Board Member, First Federal Community Foundation



As we publish this 2020 annual report in June 2021, our communities continue to experience a sea change.

In Washington, nearly 59 percent of the population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. More businesses are reopening and rehiring. Schools are preparing to welcome students for in-person learning. Slowly, a sense of normalcy is beginning to return.

Still, we know that those who were most affected by the pandemic—along with the nonprofits that support them—are approaching the coming year with trepidation.

That's why First Federal Community Foundation contributed \$452,500 to 19 nonprofits in just the first six months of 2021. These grant recipients are demonstrating resilience in the face of extreme challenge and are providing essential services and basic support for individuals and families in need in our communities.

First Federal Community Foundation remains steadfast in our commitment to supporting organizations that are agents of care and change in our communities as we recover from a year unlike any other. We are honored to work together with them as we strengthen our communities—today and into the future.



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