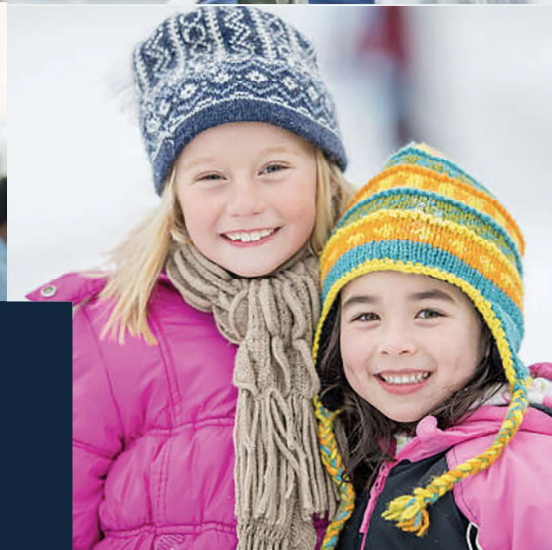


Sustaining Our Communities



First Fed
Foundation
2021 Annual Report

To Our Communities

While the world began to reopen in 2021 and we started adjusting to “the new normal,” for many of our friends and neighbors in Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, and Whatcom Counties, “normal” life involved great hardship and extreme difficulty.

The number of people in need of medical and mental health services, housing, and food grew exponentially, as did the need for emergency assistance to cover necessities such as utility bills, car maintenance, and childcare, as well as debilitating unforeseen expenses.

Additionally, the organizations that serve as lifelines for our communities found themselves challenged as never before. One nonprofit leader shared her experience, saying, “I have had the privilege of working with homeless families as an Executive Director for 12 years, and the past two years have been the hardest by an almost incomprehensible margin.”

For example, at the end of 2019, there were 30 families on her organization's housing waiting list. One year later, that list expanded to 130 families. As she noted, “When the pandemic caused the first shutdown, we scrambled to find ways of staying connected with our families. But the need ballooned during one of the highest years of staff turnover we have ever seen.”

In this annual report, we highlight the heroic organizations that helped our communities weather the storms of 2021, that envision a more hopeful future, and provide the tools and support to attain it. These nonprofits are creative, agile, resourceful, and resilient, and we are proud to have awarded them a total of \$860,000 for projects and programs that sustained our communities with housing, help, and hope.

Our Leadership



“We at First Fed Foundation are committed to supporting organizations that provide assistance now, as it’s needed, while also building a brighter future for individuals and families in Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, and Whatcom Counties. We are proud and privileged to partner with them in sustaining our communities.”

— Norman J. Tonina, Jr., President of the Board



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In 2022, we changed our name to First Fed Foundation to align with First Fed, the bank that established the Foundation and makes our giving possible. Going forward, First Federal Community Foundation will be known as First Fed Foundation—and we could not be prouder to be associated with the visionary bank that sustains our communities.

Sustaining Our Communities Since 2015

First Fed Foundation (formerly First Federal Community Foundation), a private charitable corporation, began making grants in 2015, thanks to a generous gift valued at \$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 Fed Foundation is committed to creating broad impact and improving the quality of life in Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, and Whatcom Counties.

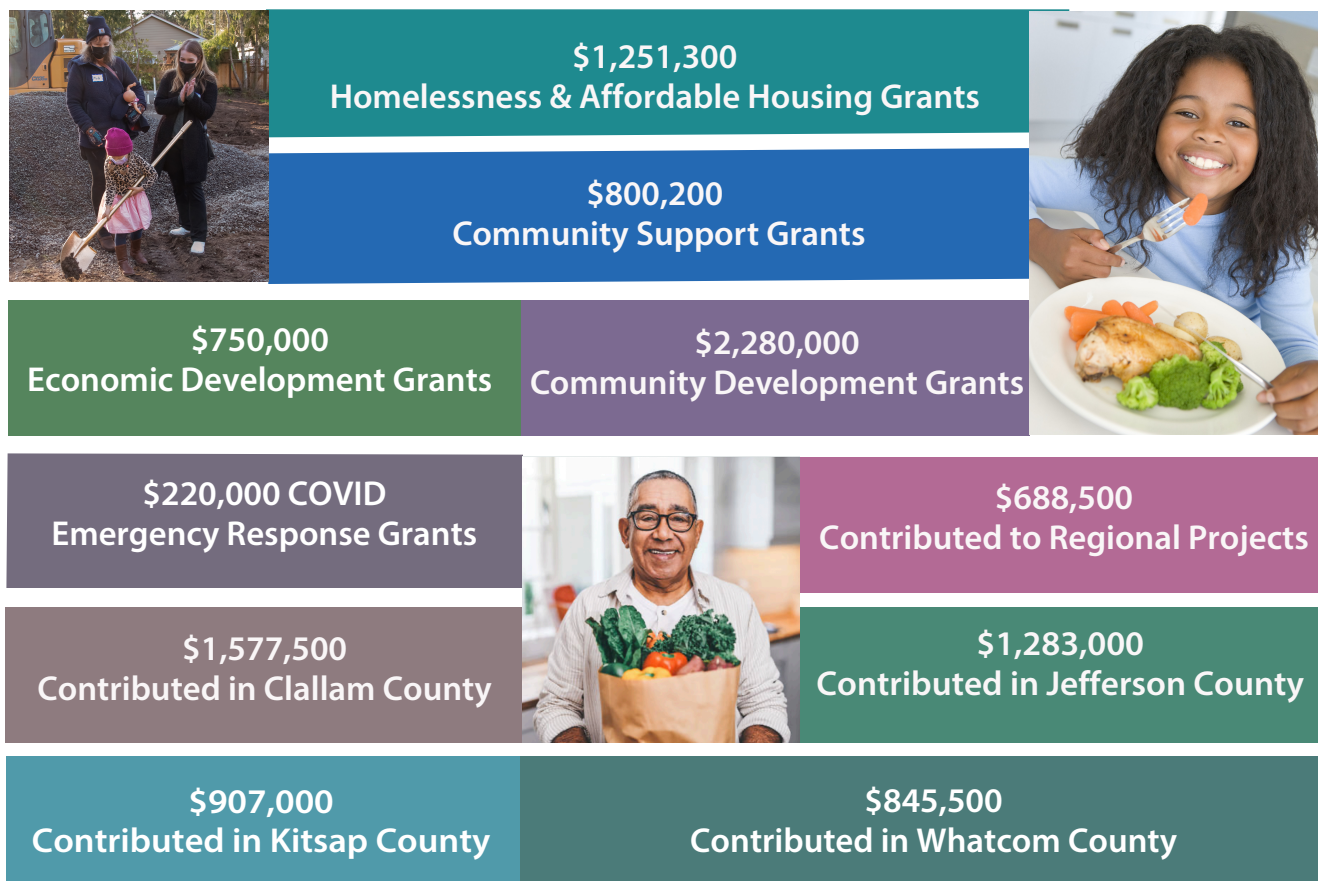
We are grateful to First Fed for the foresight and generosity in establishing our Foundation. We are inspired by the dedication, creativity, resiliency, and tenacity of the organizations we are privileged to fund, and we are honored to partner with them in sustaining our communities.



"While the last two years have been incredibly challenging and, at times, heartbreaking, our First Fed community has stepped up to make a difference. In 2021, our First Fed team contributed 4,457 volunteer hours, and our bank and foundation together donated more than \$1 million to nonprofit organizations. This is the power of community, and I am both humbled and inspired to be part of this effort."

– Matt Deines, President and CEO, First Fed

In our first seven years, First Fed Foundation has awarded grants totaling \$5,301,500 to nonprofits that provide housing, help, and hope for our communities.



For information on the Foundation's financials, [click here!](#)

Priorities for Giving

First Fed Foundation supports projects and programs that improve the quality of life in Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, and Whatcom Counties.

Committed to creating broad impact that benefits low- to moderate-income, disadvantaged and/or marginalized individuals and families, we fund efforts that provide a range of community support, address homelessness and the availability of affordable housing, and contribute to both community and economic development.

In 2021, as in 2020, we extended our grantmaking to include efforts to address the urgent, critical needs caused and exacerbated by COVID-19.

COVID Emergency Response

Three organizations received a total of \$60,000 in COVID Emergency Response grants.



Jumping Mouse's clinic leadership team, pictured here, along with their colleagues, help kids heal past and present hurts and discover lasting resolutions through expressive mental health therapy. The Foundation's grant funded tech support and equipment, freeing staff to focus on supporting children and their families.

Jefferson Healthcare Foundation: \$20,000 provided 3,000 pounds of food to clinic and emergency room patients experiencing acute hunger and food insecurity, and provided support for childcare for more than 60 children while their parents delivered essential health services in 20 different departments throughout Jefferson Healthcare.

Jumping Mouse Children's Center: \$15,000 funded the equipment and tech support necessary to protect client data, expand telehealth services, and allow staff to focus on providing vulnerable children and their families in Jefferson County with long-term mental health care.

Western Washington University Foundation: \$25,000 for the Student Emergency Fund helped 37 students stay in school by providing emergency support for food, rent, utilities, tuition, medical care, computers, textbooks, and more.

Housing & Homelessness

Six organizations shared \$330,000 in grants to provide shelter for the unhoused and expand access to affordable housing and homeownership.



The Community Boat Project's interns build tiny homes for Jefferson County's unhoused community members.



Nic and family receive the keys to their new Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County home.

Habitat for Humanity of Clallam County: \$100,000 to purchase 4.5 acres of property within Sequim city limits, on which Habitat will build 30-40 new, permanently affordable homes for ownership by Clallam County residents.

Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County: \$50,000 to establish the infrastructure—including streets, sewer, and utility hook-ups—for 20 units of permanently affordable homes for ownership by Jefferson County residents.

Kitsap Community Resources: \$50,000 to fund the construction of the Manette Project, which will provide affordable housing and case management support for nine low-income, formerly or currently homeless families with children.

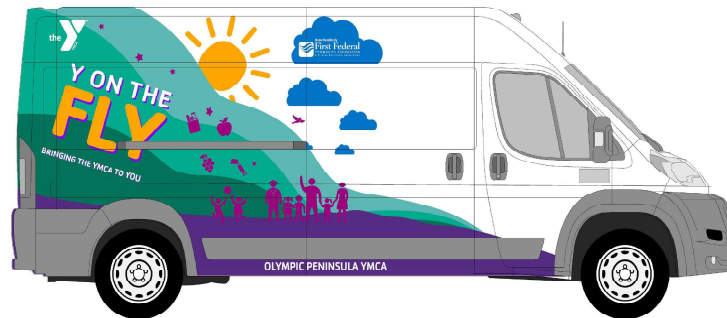
Parkview Services: \$50,000 to provide no-cost, pre-purchase homebuyer education, housing counseling, and down payment assistance to low- and moderate-income people with intellectual or developmental disabilities in Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, and Whatcom Counties.

Peninsula Behavioral Health: \$50,000 to transform a former motel into 25 studio, one- and two-bedroom units of very-low-income housing for individuals and families in Port Angeles with behavioral health needs. Four of the units will offer transitional housing; the balance will provide permanent supportive housing.

Puget Sound Voyaging Society's Community Boat Project: \$30,000 to fund paid internships for local youth ages 18-24, to learn life skills and carpentry while building tiny houses for the homeless of Jefferson County.

Community Development

The Foundation awarded six organizations a total of \$255,000 in Community Development grants.



The Olympic Peninsula YMCA's new refrigerated van, funded with a grant from the Foundation, will deliver more than 46,000 meals annually to Jefferson County kids during school breaks and holidays.

Council of the Olympic Peninsula of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul: \$50,000 to help more than 300 individuals and families in Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap Counties with rent and mortgage payments, utility bills, health care, home repairs and more.

Forks Community Food Bank: \$25,000 to underwrite a portion of the wages of the Food Bank's first—and only—employee, ensuring that it can continue serving as it has for the last 50 years, and fund the purchase of meat and dairy products for more than 11,255 families that rely on the Food Bank annually.

Jefferson Healthcare Foundation: The Foundation's \$30,000 grant was matched by an additional 16 donors to replace and upgrade Jefferson Medical Center's set of 13 life-saving defibrillators.

Olympic Peninsula YMCA: \$50,000 to fund a refrigerated cargo van to ensure access to food by delivering prepared meals on weekends, holidays, and breaks, as well as over the summer. In 2021, the "Y" delivered more than 46,000 meals to 446 children in Jefferson County.

Port Angeles Food Bank: \$50,000 to help fund the renovation of the Food Bank's "forever home," which will feed more than 5,000 people monthly, and include an innovative open market and community kitchen that will lessen food waste and serve prepared meals.

Unity Care Northwest: \$50,000 to fund capital expenses for The Way Station in Whatcom County, where individuals and families experiencing homelessness will be able to access needed services and receive assistance in transitioning to sustainable housing.

Economic Development

Three organizations received a total of \$115,000 in Economic Development grants.

Peninsula College Foundation: \$25,000 to purchase 58 laptops to help Clallam and Jefferson County students enrolled in the College's GED and High School Diploma programs complete their studies and achieve their educational and professional goals.

The Nature Conservancy: \$50,000 to support three pilot projects that, when brought to full scale, will create approximately 30 jobs, and generate \$10 million in revenue in Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

Western Washington University Foundation: \$40,000 to support a pilot project that delivers free technical assistance—including planning, operations, marketing, sales, government contracting, and more—to Hispanic, Asian, Indigenous, and Black-owned businesses and entrepreneurs in Whatcom County.

Community Support

The Foundation awarded 18 organizations a total of \$370,000 in Community Support funding.

Bellingham Public Schools Foundation: \$5,000 to provide onsite, high-quality childcare and social-emotional support services to low-income teenaged parents, many of whom are homeless and non-English speaking, making it possible for them to focus on, and graduate from, school.

Cascade Medical Advantage: \$7,500 to provide essential short-term assistance—including food, temporary housing, transportation, and medication—to people in Whatcom County who are engaged in opioid addiction treatment, most of whom are indigent and often homeless.

Coats for Kids: \$5,000 to provide new coats, socks, and shoes to approximately 200 low-income children in Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

Dungeness Valley Health & Wellness Clinic/Sequim Free Clinic: \$5,000 to provide free podiatric services to medically underserved, low-income patients in Clallam County.

East Jefferson Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul: \$5,000 to provide support for housing and utilities, groceries, transportation, and more for individuals and families in need.

InvestED: \$5,000 to provide emergency financial assistance for students of 50 secondary schools in Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, and Whatcom Counties.

Kids in Concert: \$5,000 to sponsor the participation of 100 Kitsap County children in one of four free summer learning camps.

Kitsap Harvest: \$7,500 to fund the build-out of cold storage units and a food aggregation station, making it possible to provide more fresh and perishable foods to more than 3,000 low-income Kitsap County community members.

Master Gardener Foundation of Clallam County: \$5,000 to replace the greenhouse, which is used to grow produce for local food banks.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Whatcom County: \$5,000 to build capacity to serve the Latinx Community affected by mental illness.

North Kitsap Fishline: \$7,500 for a refrigerated produce case for Fishline's Healthy Foods Market, a Food Bank that has been operating continuously for more than 50 years and serving as many as 50 Kitsap County households per day, five days a week.

Opportunity Council: \$5,000 to help feed hungry home-bound Whatcom County residents by delivering food from food banks to their homes.

Port Townsend Marine Science Center: \$5,000 to provide more than 200 low- and middle-income students from Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap Counties with engaging and meaningful science education.

Sequim Education Foundation: \$7,500 to provide laptops to low-income and homeless students in the Sequim School District.

Soroptimist International of the Olympic Rainforest: \$5,000 to provide for basic and targeted needs of low-income veterans, single moms and families, homeless adults and children, and women and children fleeing domestic violence in Clallam County.

The Benji Project: \$5,000 to provide mindfulness-based stress management and emotional resiliency training to adolescent students in Jefferson County schools.

Vamos Outdoors Project: \$5,000 to provide academic and outdoor programming for approximately 60 Whatcom County migrant youth.

Wild Bird Charity: \$5,000 to provide nutritious, kid-friendly, easy-to-prepare weekend meals for 350 children who qualify for free or reduced-cost meals in school districts in Whatcom County.

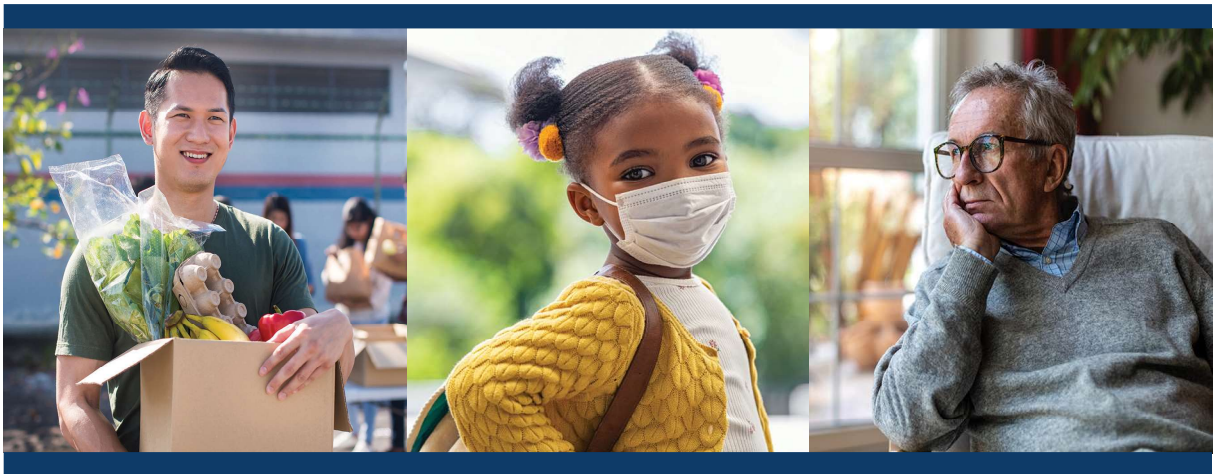
Our Commitment Continues

As we go to press with this 2021 annual report in June 2022, we are again anticipating the fallout from life-changing events.

With the expiration of the expanded child tax credit at the end of 2021 and inflation driving up the cost of gas and groceries, many families are being forced to choose between rent, medicine, childcare, work transportation, and food.

While food banks report that the number of users has doubled over the last two years, they too are facing increased costs and have started cutting more costly items like dairy, meat, and eggs from their shelves. The impact of rising interest rates on homeownership, businesses, and employment, and the threat of recession, are worrisome.

The outlook is not good for those already living on the economic edge, and for the many more who may be pushed there.



Understanding that our communities are still recovering from the toll of COVID, First Fed Foundation awarded 17 nonprofit organizations a total of \$400,000 in May 2022. We focused our giving on easing the devastating health and financial impacts of the pandemic by supporting youth, veterans, families, and the uninsured. We also funded innovative projects intended to stimulate economic recovery and sustainability, and efforts to expand access to housing and quality childcare.

First Fed Foundation recognizes the challenges ahead, both for our communities and the organizations committed to supporting them. Thanks to First Fed, our sole donor, we have the resources to continue making grants that provide a safety net to sustain our communities through the rough times ahead, and build a more hopeful future.



**First Fed
Foundation**

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