For Immediate Release

Community Foundation awards $4,000 at Third Annual Grantmaker's Forum

Port Townsend, Washington – May 18, 2009 Port Townsend Marine Science Center and Northwind Arts Alliance will see their programs expanded as a result of funding by the Jefferson County Community Foundation (JCCF).
The Community Foundation awarded a $2,000 grant to each of the Jefferson County nonprofits on May 13 during the 2009 Grantmaker's Forum held in Port Hadlock.

Port Townsend Marine Science Center and Northwind Arts Alliance were recommended for funding after a panel publicly critiqued eleven proposals submitted for consideration. Local artist and Women Who Care Giving Circle member Rachel Gaspers, JCCF board member Herb Cook, and Frontier Bank Manager Joan Broughton reviewed the submissions.

"The goal of the Grantmaker's Forum is to not only award deserving grant proposals, but to provide a meaningful educational experience for those nonprofit organizations who wish to improve their grant writing skills" says David Goldsmith, JCCF board member and former grant panelist. "The focus of 2009 was on developing strong project objectives and outcomes, and those proposals which demonstrated the ability to do that were selected for review."

The grants represent the third annual distribution from the permanent community endowment of the Jefferson County Community Foundation.

Port Townsend Marine Science Center (PTMSC) will use the grant money to fund a science teacher training program *Shifting Classes Towards Inquiry Learning*. Working with the Port Townsend School District (PTSD), the PTMSC will provide training for 15 science teachers from PTSD who teach in grades 5-12. The training will help science educators across the district use a common language and work together more effectively on improving science teaching across the district.

When students learn through inquiry they develop a deeper understanding of the scientific ideas they are exploring, and many students begin to take greater responsibility for their own learning. Inquiry learning also fosters critical thinking skills, essential for problem solving, decision-making and confronting the challenging problems of today's uncertain future.

"This grant succeeded in meeting the goals of this year's Grantmakers Forum to develop strong program objectives and outcomes, " stated panelist Herb Cook. "This training program has the potential to improve how 1,500 students learn science." For more information on the program, call 360 385-5582 or visit www.ptmsc.org.

Northwind Arts Alliance will use grant money to expand the *Arts to Elders* program to 5 senior residences and care facilities in Jefferson County. This program brings arts and humanities participation to seniors in activities such as discussion of art history, culture expressed in music and singing, drama and poetry writing, and acting out personal experiences. According to Washington State population statistics, Jefferson County has

the second fastest growth rate of the population over 65 years of age in the state.

“The *Arts to Elders* program stimulates the inherent capacity of elders to learn and to think and act creatively,” says Kris Mayer, Grantmaker Forum facilitator. “The grant cited recent studies by neurologists, psychiatrists, and geriatricians which demonstrate that people over the age of 75 continue to have a powerful capacity to process information, to think critically and to make new connections with their brains. This is clearly an exciting and innovative way of enriching the lives of our seniors”.
For more information about the program, call 360-379-1086 or visitwww.northwindarts.org/news/arts-alliance/.

Eleven grants were reviewed before 30 participants in attendance at the 2009 Grantmaker's Forum, which was sponsored by the Jefferson County Nonprofit Alliance, the educational arm of the Community Foundation. In addition to the grant review and selection, Kris Meyer, Ed.D presented a workshop on “What Funders Want to Know”. For more information about the Jefferson County Community Foundation, visit www.jccfgives.org.

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