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$1,000 to be awarded at Grantmaker's Forum on May 9

Ever wonder what goes through the minds of grantmakers while they're reviewing a funding proposal? The Jefferson County nonprofit community has a chance to find out Wednesday, May 9, at the 2007 Grantmaker's Forum.

Local and regional grantmakers participating in the forum are Josh Stranahan of the Stranahan Foundation, Pete Helsell of the Satterberg Foundation, Katie Heinrich of the Medina Foundation, and Anne Schneider of the Schneider Family Fund.

Nonprofit leaders, board members and fundraisers are encouraged to attend this capacity-building event sponsored by the Jefferson County Nonprofit Alliance. The goal is to increase participants' knowledge of proposal writing techniques and to provide a behind-the-scenes look at the decision-making processes of grantmakers in the field.

The Alliance is the educational arm of the Jefferson County Community Foundation, which is pleased to fund the $1,000 grant that will be awarded at the conclusion of the forum to one worthy local nonprofit organization. This grant is the first distribution of the interest income from its permanent community endowment, the Jefferson County Community Foundation Fund of The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation.

Grant proposals were solicited in April for consideration by the grantmaker's panel. The forum features a public review of the top 10 proposals, with the panel discussing the merits of each as well as opportunities for improvement, and coming to a consensus on the deserving winner. Foundation philanthropic consultant Kristina Mayer of KLMayer Consulting Group moderates the panel.

"Speaking from past experience, the panel's results can be surprising, but they're always enlightening," says Beth Wilmart, founder of The Women's Health Project and organizer of a similar panel in 2004. "This is an incredible learning experience for nonprofit fundraisers at all levels."

The forum will be held from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Port Townsend Yacht Club, 2503 Washington Street, Port Townsend; check-in and networking begins at 8:30 a.m.

Attendees are encouraged to pre-register for the forum, which costs $10 per organization. A check to JCCF and the number of people attending may be mailed no later than Friday, May 4, to JCCF-Forum, P.O. Box 1955, Port Townsend. Day-of-event registration will also be available, but come early to ensure a seat.

For more information about the Jefferson County Community Foundation, visit www.jccfgives.org.

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