

NEWS RELEASE

The Rotary Club of Bellingham Names Max Higbee Center as 2020-2021 Major Project Grant Recipient

BELLINGHAM, WA 10/23/2020 — The Rotary Club of Bellingham has identified the Max Higbee Center as their recipient for Major Project Grant funds for the 2020-2021 Rotary year.

Construction has reached the final stages for Max Higbee Center's new facility at 1400 N. State Street to move its recreational center for teens and adults with developmental disabilities and expand its program capacity to meet an urgent community need. Construction began in February 2020 and renovations will include ADA bathrooms, a kitchen for cooking classes and meals, a quiet activity room for members with noise sensitivities, and a grand room in which members can participate in daily recreation and fitness programs. The new facility will allow the Center to improve and increase programming to create more recreation and social opportunities throughout Whatcom County for people with developmental disabilities.

Max Higbee Center had secured the majority of funding for the project from City of Bellingham, Whatcom County, First Federal Community Foundation, Chuckanut Health Foundation and individual and corporate contributions. Early in 2020, the project faced a budget shortfall that Rotary Club of Bellingham has now filled with major grant funding as part of their annual community capital investment.

The Rotary Club of Bellingham annually contributes up to \$100,000 towards a project that has significant benefit to the Bellingham/Whatcom County community. Past Major Projects in which Rotary Club of Bellingham was a substantial contributor include the creation of Bellingham's Boulevard Park, the Arne Hanna Aquatics Center, the Whatcom County Soccer Fields, Bellingham Food Bank, the Hospice House, the Bellingham Technical College Marine Studies Laboratory, the Pickford Film Center, a major addition to the Lighthouse Mission, remodeling of the Boys & Girls Club Kitchen, Bellingham YWCA and YMCA capital projects, the Brigid Collins Family Services House renovation, and the Lake Whatcom Rowing Center. Current projects include supporting the Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition in their Galbraith Mountain parking lot expansion and the Opportunity Council's Recovery House on Girard St.

Kait Whiteside, Executive Director of the Max Higbee Center, will be presenting project details at the Rotary Club of Bellingham meeting on November 2, 2020 at

12:30 pm. The public is invited to attend. To register, please email rcob@comcast.net.

About The Rotary Club of Bellingham

The Rotary Club of Bellingham has been contributing to the Bellingham community since 1917. According to the Club's vision statement: *Rotary Club of Bellingham is a diverse group of community leaders who, through bold vision and high aspirations, are committed to making our local and global community a better place and more peaceful place to live. Through fellowship, discovery and partnerships, we are dedicated to engaging and enriching the community and individual members by making a positive impact on the lives we encounter and serve, having fun along the way.* The Club is always looking for new members who will share in their dynamic vision. For more information on the Rotary Club of Bellingham, visit: www.BellinghamRotary.org.

About Rotary

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteers dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 35,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and regions. Their work improves lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit Rotary.org

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Photo caption: In February, Max Higbee Center members gathered to celebrate the start of construction on the Center's new facility at 1400 N. State Street.