

THE ROTARY CLUB *of* BELLINGHAM

B E L L I N G H A M ' S F I R S T R O T A R Y C L U B

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2017

Rotary Club of Bellingham Foundation Increases Scholarship Endowment to \$1million to Celebrate 100th Birthday.

In celebration of the Rotary Club of Bellingham's 100th birthday, the Club's annual Major Project in 2017 is to procure additional funding for the Scholarship Endowment, with a minimum goal of \$400,000. Leadership gifts will be solicited first, with a general campaign to follow that will include both Club Members and non-Club Members who wish to participate. Several leadership pledges have already been received. The campaign will be completed by year-end 2017.

The Rotary Club of Bellingham has a rich history of providing scholarship funds to deserving students in Bellingham, Washington through the Club Foundation's Scholarship Endowment Fund, plus other assets managed by the Foundation. The Foundation is currently providing 20 scholarships annually to graduates of Whatcom County high schools, and hopes to increase this number as a result of this year's major project.

Most of this funding comes from the Club's Foundation Scholarship Endowment Fund, which began in 1998. The initial funding of the Endowment was through the sale of a car won in a raffle by a Club member who then donated it to the Foundation, who sold it for \$13,000. By 2010, with additional donated funds and investment returns, the fund totaled approximately \$150,000. Today the Scholarship Endowment Fund sits at over \$600,000, which includes almost \$300,000 pledged in 2011. With the addition of \$400,000 in 2017, the Scholarship Endowment Fund will sit at \$1,000,000.

Anyone interested in donating a tax-deductible gift to the Foundation may do so by contacting Rotary Club of Bellingham's Foundation Director, Kathy Hughes, at khughes@smcgear.net.

These deserving students are grateful for the financial support, with many if not most, requiring the funds to participate in post-secondary education:

"My first year at the University of Washington has been nothing short of exciting and eye opening. I am so grateful to be able to attend this fine academic institution and study what I love. Thank you so much for your generosity, none of these experiences would have been possible without your help. "

Rotary Club of Bellingham Foundation Scholarship for Best Overall Student Recipient

"Because of your help, within 5 years I will be certified as a mechanic and have my degree in automotive technology. Eventually I would like to open my own shop here, and I will definitely donate money to the Rotary Club of Bellingham Foundation to support college students like me, who are in need of a scholarship to work towards their dream like I am."

Rotary Club of Bellingham Foundation Scholarship for Vocational Excellence with Recognition of Financial Need

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ROTARY CLUB OF BELLINGHAM OR THE FOUNDATION:
Contact Yvonne Cartwright at yvonnecartwright11@gmail.com.