



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Rotary Club of Bellingham Foundation Provides \$92,000 in Scholarships

BELLINGHAM, WA 5/9/2021 – The Rotary Club of Bellingham Foundation has provided \$92,000 in scholarships to local, deserving students this school year.

The Foundation allotted \$66,000 to provide for scholarships through the local Whatcom Dollars for Scholars program. The Foundation provides Whatcom Dollars for Scholars criteria for these scholarships, some of which are named for Rotarians. These accounted for a total of 16 scholarships, ten of which are one-time scholarships and the other six are renewable.

Additional scholarship funds are provided to the Bellingham Technical College, Whatcom Community College, and Western Washington University Foundations for named scholarships with specific criteria.

The Rotary Club of Bellingham Foundation, a 501(c)3, receives Club member donations as well as donations from the community. The Foundation, founded in 1998, got its start when the Club raffled off a Volkswagen Convertible. It was won by Member Bob Gibb, who immediately gave it back to the Club which sold it, providing the first significant funds. Other Rotarians also provided endowments for separate scholarships. The Foundation has had two other major fundraising efforts. Ten years ago Rotarian D.C. Morse spearheaded personally contacted members and raised over \$270,000 to endow the Club's scholarships and in 2017, as a Club, just over **\$997,000** was raised by members. The fund really started to grow with those efforts and today, the Foundation has over \$1.8 million for scholarships and Club service projects.

The Rotary Club of Bellingham also recognizes student achievement and leadership through their Student of the Month program and Youth Adventures in Leadership (Y.A.I.L.).

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 has more than 100 members and are 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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