2014 Annual Report















A Community Action Agency Serving Island, San Juan & Whatcom Counties. Helping people. Changing lives. Since 1965.



The Opportunity Council is a private, non-profit Community Action Agency serving homeless and low-income families and individuals in Northwest Washington. Community Action programs work with partners in our communities to address local emerging needs. The Opportunity Council offers services that include addressing immediate and crisis-oriented basic needs such as food, emergency shelter, and eviction-prevention. We also provide programs that promote self-sufficiency in our community by delivering early childhood education, home weatherization, and energy conservation education.

OUR MISSION

Opportunity Council is a private nonprofit community action agency that acts as a catalyst for positive change, both in the community and in the lives of the people it serves.

THE COMMUNITY ACTION PROMISE

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are nonprofit private and public organizations established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight America's War on Poverty. Community Action Agencies help people to help themselves in achieving self-sufficiency. Today there are approximately 1000 Community Action Agencies, serving people in every state as well as Puerto Rico and the Trust Territories.

Message from the Executive Director

Whether you are a donor, elected official, partner agency or community member, you are an important contributor to our success. We are pleased to provide this report to you and all our stakeholders to share our 2014 achievements and success stories.

In 2014 we celebrated the nation's 50-year anniversary of community action fighting poverty. As I write, this we are preparing for Opportunity Council's 50-year anniversary as your local community action agency in the fall of 2015.

Throughout our history we have developed an organizational culture of resiliency and a willingness to embrace change. We continue to evaluate our effectiveness and assess community needs on an ongoing basis. An additional organizational strength of Opportunity Council is our ability to develop strategies and leverage resources that support the implementation of innovative programs to better serve the community.

Some examples in 2014 of Opportunity Council's ability to respond to community needs and implement new programs include:

- Serving as the community hub for getting people signed up for Apple Health in Island County.
- Collaborating with San Juan Island's Conservation District and Orcas Power and Light Company to expand the Community Energy Challenge and low-income weatherization services for San Juan County residents.
- Expanding early learning programs in Whatcom County and acting as the lead agency in the five-county area for Early Achievers, a statewide program to train and rate child care providers that support each child's learning and connects families to high quality childcare.

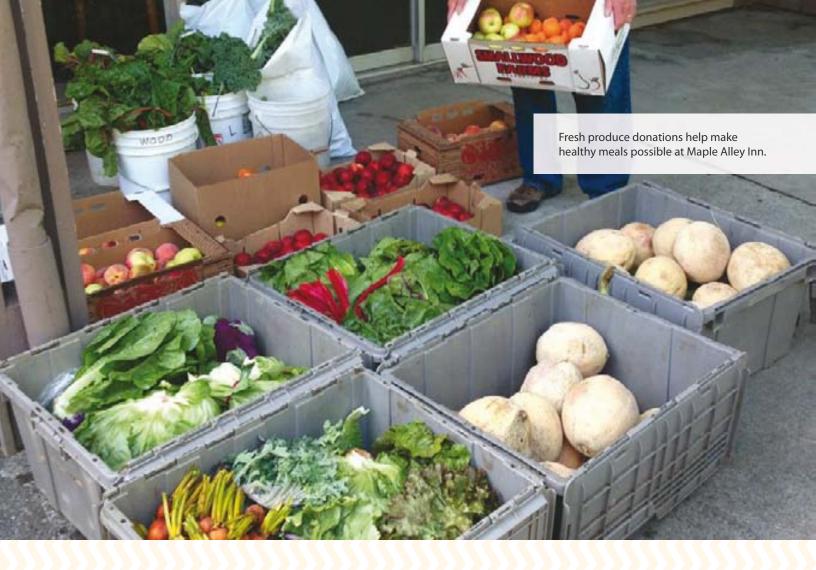
I encourage you to review some of our achievements by reading this annual report and plan to join us as we celebrate Opportunity Council's 50th anniversary in the fall of 2015. Follow us on Facebook for updates and current activities.

If you have questions about this report or insights regarding our work in the community, please feel free to contact us. We are your Community Action Agency.

Dave Finet
Executive Director

David W. Finet





Produce donations provide nutritious meals for families

At Maple Alley Inn our goal is to provide the freshest, healthiest meal possible. During the summer and fall, local gardeners provide an abundant supply of fresh produce to help us meet that goal.

The 2014 season provided a great harvest of beets, green beans, broccoli, cabbage, beans, zucchini, lettuce, kale, chard and cucumbers. Nothing went to waste.

Produce was sorted into what could be used for weekly meals, plus what we could prep and freeze for later use. We were also able to share some produce with the Bellingham Food Bank and the Lighthouse Mission.



Food & Housing

Everyone should have a safe, affordable place to live and enough nutritious food to eat.

Food Assistance



259 families were able to purchase food by signing up for Basic Food Assistance (food stamps).



17,000 hot meals were served by Maple Alley Inn and Maple Alley Café



860 children received healthy meals and snacks each month through the Child Care Nutrition Program.

796 Families have a warm, safe home with help from our housing and rental assistance programs 521 - Whatcom County 17 - San Juan County 258 - Island County

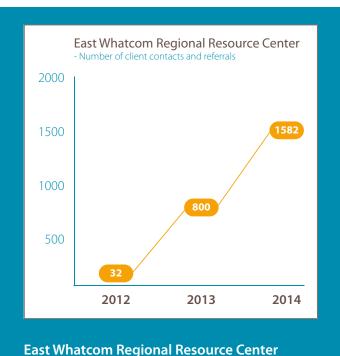
Housing Assistance



1,000 households accessed housing information and services through the Whatcom Homeless Service Center.



10,589 people came to our resource and referral sites seeking help with basic needs. (Including Island, San Juan, and Whatcom Counties)



East Whatcom Regional Resource Center opened in the fall of 2012 and has grown every year. We are proud to play a role in this growing community resource.





Community partners expand our services, outreach

Four Community Partner awards were announced at our annual meeting Thursday, May 22, in Bellingham. The four partners included Lou Piotrowski from the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center community council, Bellingham Public Schools, DSHS Bellingham CSO and Helping Hand of South Whidbey. Recipients were honored for partnering with the OC to help families meet their basic needs and find resources to exit poverty. For example, Lisa Clark, director of Island County Opportunity Council, said Helping Hand was selected because of their help with community outreach.

"For over 16 years, Helping Hand has provided space for us to do outreach once a week on the south end of Whidbey Island. "They are a vital link between the Opportunity Council and those who need our services." Lisa Clark, director, Island County Opportunity Council.

Engaging with our elected officials is also important to the work of community action agencies. Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA2) and Suzan DelBene (D-WA1) each visited our programs and talked with staff and clients in 2014. Our early learning policy council representatives made trips to the state capital to advocate for support for these important programs.

Advocacy & Partners

Our partners and advocates support a safe and healthy community for all our families.



500 homeless neighbors connected with partner agencies at Bellingham's annual Project Homeless Connect in July.



104 families prepared online job applications or completed homework assignments thanks to receiving a refurbished computer through our "Computers 4 Kids" partner program.



2,207 people filed their tax returns for free, with help from AARP and other volunteers connected with the Asset Building Coalition.



6,886 volunteer hours supported our agency's services.



7,560 AmeriCorps and VISTA service hours helped nonprofit agencies throughout our community.



60 people were able to open bank accounts through the "Bank On North Sound" partnership.



1,636 people accessed health care through enrollment programs in our Oak Harbor and East Whatcom offices





Access to transportation

San Juan Island County residents sometimes need to travel to the mainland for healthcare or other services, and the people required to do so are those who can least afford it, including seniors on Medicare.

Each year San Juan Island Family Resource Center provides transportation assistance to over 600 households ranging from emergency ferry tickets to low-cost taxi rides and financial help with car repairs.

"Transportation plays a critical role in ensuring that disabled, low-income and elderly residents living in remote and rural areas of San Juan Island are able to remain healthy and independent."

Jennifer Armstrong, San Juan Island Family Resource Center









Early learning opportunities grow in 2014

More children enrolled in a high-quality, full-day preschool in the fall of 2014 because our program expanded with 71 additional openings.

The increase was due to an expansion of state-funded preschool. After a competitive process, Washington State Department of Early Learning (DEL) selected the Opportunity Council to expand its Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP).

The expansion resulted in four new classrooms opening including one in Lynden's Fisher Elementary School, Custer Elementary in the Ferndale School District, a new classroom at Bellingham's Birchwood Elementary School and an added afternoon class at Bellingham's Carl Cozier Elementary.



Life-Long Learning

Everyone should have the education they need to thrive and the tools and skills they need for employment.



408 children attended preschool so they could enter kindergarten ready to succeed and 67 children and their parents participated in Early Head Start.



185 children with disabilities were helped each month though Early Support for Infants and Toddlers and 561 children were referred to services for special needs through Single-Entry Access to Services.



2,105 families found child care resources through Child Care Aware of Northwest Washington and 23 children were in a safe place because their families used Emergency Child Care vouchers.



697 hours of Technical Assistance and Training strengthened child care provider services.



500 people gained job skills and work experience through our employment support services.



119 people graduated from Financial Literacy and Renter Education (F.L.A.R.E) or On the Money-Financial Literacy Education classes



Pre-K parents share their stories, rally for education



Our early learning students' parents and staff joined over 350 parents and staff from across Washington State to participate in 2014 Advocacy Day in Olympia in February.

They encouraged the governor and legislators to keep their commitment to fund pre-kindergarten services for children birth to five.

"As a parent, we have to do one of the toughest things: share our personal story. For many of us, that is not an easy story to share," said Crystal Garvin, former parent policy council chairperson.

"Our hope is that our story will make a lasting impression for our legislators and give them a reason to fight for our children."





Governor recognizes impact of energy savings

Washington State Governor Jay Inslee visited our Building Performance Center in July as part of his 2014 statewide climate tour.

In an email message, he called out clean-energy efforts around the state, including the work at the BPC which has long been a leader in weatherization and energy efficiency.

"Training programs like the one at the Building Performance Center are helping us make sure Washington residents are ready to take on the jobs that can make us the world's leader in the clean energy economy," the Governor wrote in an email. "The center trains workers and building owners in a state-of-the-art facility with cutting- edge technology. They've helped homeowners save hundreds of dollars in energy payments, while also removing 6,000 tons of carbon pollution – equal to taking 1270 cars off the road."

Energy Services & Conservation

Everyone should have a safe, warm home and the opportunity to reduce their energy use and expense.



households learned how to take control of high-energy bills through our Conservation Education program.



residents are living in safer homes after getting Home Improvement services.



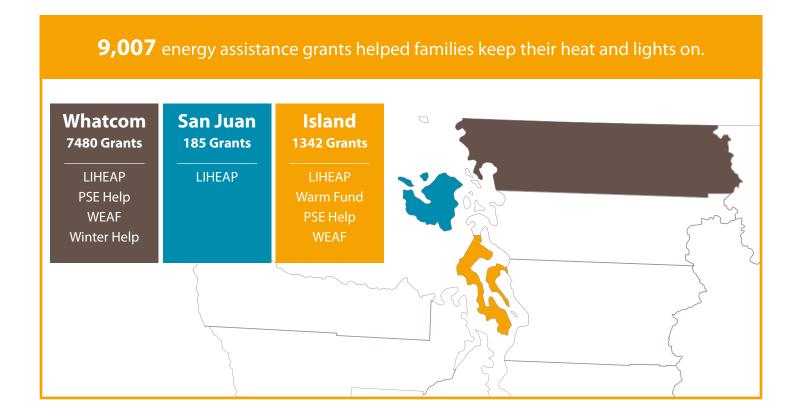
families reduced their annual energy use and expenses through home Weatherization services.



households learned how they could save energy through a home energy assessment by the Community Energy Challenge.



homes are now healthier for children who suffer with asthma thanks to our Freeman Healthy Homes program.







2014-15 Board of Directors

PresidentMamie Lackie

Officer At Large Sandy John Faith Whaley (Head Start Policy Council Chair)

Vice-President Rick Hughes

SecretaryRamona Menish

Ken Mann
Lisa McShane
Frank Parker

Treasurer Stephen Jones Rebecca Boonstra Sue Duncan Dan Hammill

Past President Stan Snapp Dan Hammill Jill Johnson Mark Tompkins







Our Staff

Executive Director

Dave Finet

Associate DirectorSheri Emerson

Community ServicesDebbie Paton, Director

Early Learning and Family Services

David Webster, Director

Island County Opportunity Council

Lisa Clark, Director

Home Improvement John Davies, Director

Whatcom Homeless Service Center Greg Winter, Director

Fiscal

David Foreman, Chief Financial Officer

Human Resources

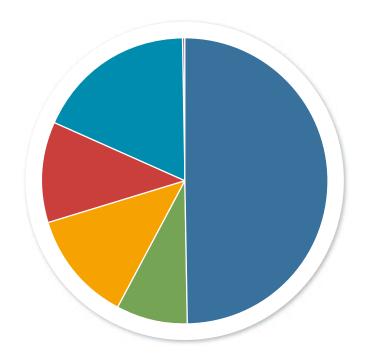
Kathy Washatka, Organizational Development Director

Financials

2014 Revenues

Federal	\$11,961,105
State	\$1,939,600
Local Government	\$2,951,059
Fee for Service	\$2,739,898
Donations & Foundation Grants	\$4,346,979
Interest & Other Income	\$25,745

Total Revenues \$23,964,384

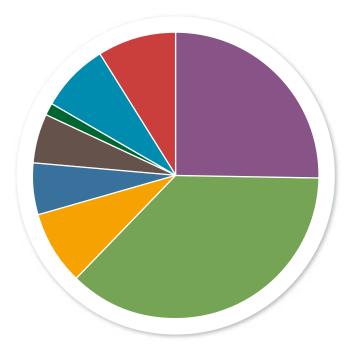


2014 Expenditures

Early Learning & Family Services	\$6,063,046
Community Services	\$8,835,466
 Home Improvement 	\$1,955,721
Economic Development	\$1,427,005
● Island County	\$1,298,828
● The Energy Project	\$312,639
Administrative & Overhead	\$1,864,079
Agency Services	\$2,108,984

Total Expenditures \$23,865,767

Revenue in excess of expenditures \$98,617 Total \$23,964,384





Our Donors

\$500 +

Jo Ann Albers Philip and Judith Andress Herb and Vicki Barker Leslie Boswell and PJ McGuire Jed and Lindsav Brewer Robin and Yuki Caldwell Jollefern Cole Joann Collinge John Collinge Judy and Dale Cosgrove Gary Dolin and Martha Vernier-

Dolin Glenn Eckard Sheri and Jim Emerson Pam Englett David Finet and Vicki Lippiatt

Stephen Gockley and Ellen Posel Kathy and Paul Hess

Michael Karp and Anne Whirledge-

Karp Stephen and Beth Kellev Alan Kemble and Sally Albers Steve and Margie Kimberley Noriko Lao

Pete Manning Lisa Mascioli

Vermont and Donna McAllister Kelly and Kristin McCullough Robert and Marilyn Monahan Jan Mustain

Steven and Eileen Nelson Susan and Jeff Palmer Ron and Jan Pierce

Luis Ponce and Joan Drinkwin Paul Reavley and Denise Weeks

Dorothy Regal Rebecca Reich

John and Brenda Riseland

Janet Simpson Karen Sloss

Stan and Marian Snapp Richard and Rosalind Spitzer Kathy Veterane and Robert Bates

Mary and John Vorlicky Scott Wheeler

John and Kathryn Whitmer Stephen and Diane Woods

\$100 - \$499

Peggy Allen and Jim Hickey Edoh Amiran and Veronica Wisniewski Breck and Gretchen Anderson Lea Aune Evan Ayres

Barlean's Organic Oils, LLC Ronald and Sue Barter John and Betty Basham Mike and Diane Bates Jeanette Beck Virginia Berkman Paul Berube

Marijo Berwick

John and Nancy Blume Brandon Bork

Karen and John Breedlove

Jessica Brown Frank and Willo Burgler Marilvn Burns

Christina Byrne and David Flanagan

Ann and Donald Caldwell Jeanne and Bill Carroll Kirsti Charlton

Karen and Richard Clark

Terence Clark

Stan and Janice Claussen David and Patricia Cohick Carol and Dennis Comeau

Karen Cook Susan Costanzo

Ross and Barbara Craigie

Roberta Creim

David and Jayme Curley

Tony Dabbs

Dan and Helen Dahlgren

Victoria Dahlgren John Davies

Kent and Gail DeHoog Katherine Dickinson-Poteet

Jane Dieveney-Hinkle and Mike Hinkle

Mary Lou Eastham George and Judi Edwards

Stew Ellison Dudley Evenson

Marcus and Cathy Fairbanks

Tim and Leslie Farris Rosemary Flora Sheila Fox Kathy Galbraith

Wade and Trina Gardner

Deborra Garrett

David and Carol Gavareski Richard and Nan Geer

Susie Greig Wendell Griaas Michael Grummel Walter and Linda Hardy David Harris and Grace Phelan Richard and Helen Harris

Elsie Heinrick

Harry and Liz Herdman

John Hickman and Carolyn Blume

Hickman James Hinds

Roger and Cathy Hinds Linda and John Hodge David and Judy Hopkinson Rosemary Hostetler Abram and Carole Jacobson Burton and Susan Jay

Craig and Joanne Johnson Damani and Rebecca Johnson Jill Johnson and Alexander Pfeiffer

Beverly Jones

Liz and Van Job

Karen and Ronald Prior

Don and Joy Keenan Craig and Julie Keves Bob and Cindy Klein Monica Koo-Cross Richard and Linda Krebs

Nate and Phyllis Kronenberg Mamie and Pat Lackie Richard and Kerri Larrabee

Maren Larson

Karen and Charles Lauckhardt

Katherine Lebioda Paul Leonardo Adam Lindahl Deborah Loober Melinda Lunsford Brian and Jean Lydiard David and Margaret Macys Robert Marshall and Elizabeth

Pernotto Jonathan Martin Paula McCandlis Laurie McClain Pat McEvov

Lisa and Dan McShane Margaret Metzger Barry and Debby Meyers Ken and Susan Morrill

Amy and Phelps McIlvaine

Ann Morris

Jeanette and Bob Morse Richard and Phyllis Muehlhausen

Pinky and Susie Nelson Robin and Brenda Nicholson

Michael Ontko Ross Osborne

Alistair and Norma Paton

Ingeborg Paulus Ethelvn Pavne

Cindy and Dana Petersen Kevin and Bonnie Peterson Ken and Pat Pettichord

Michael Pietro and Christine Kubota

Walter and Donna Pollman

Mrs. Powers

Burkley and Janell Probst Timothy Quiggle

James Reider Marcy Rekunyk

Michael and Sandra Reynolds

Jeanna Rice

William and Laura Rink

Dean Rofkar

George and Barbara Rofkar

Donna Rumble Cindy Saldin Louise Salem Robert Sanabria

Kav Sardo and Dennis Lane

Tim Schaebethal

Harvey and Colleen Schwartz

Karolyn Schwartz Karl and Louise Seck Corrinne Servais

Jane and Jon Shaughnessy

Dan Shawlev

Carol and David Smith

Christopher and Catherine Smith Dorothy and William Smith

Scott Smith and Julie Addis-Smith

Steven and Kimi Smith

Sheila Sondik

John and Sandie Starr

Joe Steele and Janice Marlega James and Beverly Sturek Steve and Shelley Sulkin

Stacy Sullivan

Bill and Karen Summers

Steve Swank

James and Pamela Terhorst Chris Thorndike-Kent

Kathryn Utter Carletta Vanderbilt Stella Walker Kathy Washatka Ken and Phyllis Weber David Webster Henry and Teresa Weg Phyllis Weisenburger

Heather Whitaker Lorna and Douglas White

Susan Wood

Bill Wright and Patrice Clark

Andrew Zanchi Romayne Zanchi

Elsie and Richard Zarnowitz

David and Rena Ziegler

\$50 - \$99

Lorraine Affek Lorraine Banning Pam and Chris Behee Deborah Benz

Stephen and Judy Blum-Anderson

Karen Bradlev Anne Brown Traci Burgler

Thomas Burkland and Jacqueline

Nicolai

Kristen Cooley Stavros Alison and Marc Costanza Wendy and Tim Crandall

Brenda Cronk

Richard and Jonna Crow William and Kathleen Dean

Kathy and Bill Denney Steve and Donna Edquist

Maureen Enegren Anjali Englund Elka and Myron Fink Arline Fonda Marilyn Gorsuch Marie and Alfred Hamro

McMurry

Kathryn Hanowell and David

Diana and Robert Heiman Gavle Helgoe John and Mary Hickman Holly Hinman Doris Irons Sherry Jenkins Rob and Anne Johson Carey Jones Ray Jones Steve Jones Jim and Christine Krell Marge Laidlaw and Scott Wallace

Judy Lancaster Susan Lange Bonnie Levan Harry Levine and Corinne Gimbel-Levine Geraldine Likely **Bobbie Lively** Steve and Rhonda Lowry Joseph and Anne McClain Coralie and Steven McClellan Iris McMahan Patrick and Diana Mills Miriam Mirabile Marcy Mjelde Robin Morsk Christine Morton Joan and Mike Moye George Mustoe Gary and Loretta Orr Mark Osborne Camille Palmerino Frank Parker

Dick and Judy Schmitt Maryann Schmitt June See Carole Sharpe and Lou Piotrowski Kenneth and Gloria Shelton Carol Smith Kelvin and Barbara Smith Robert and Madeleine Smith Kathy Thulin Tom and Carol Torgeson Diane and Robert Trunek Rick Unick Pinky Vargas Chris and Karen Weitzel Amanda White and Greg Winter

Daniel and Holly Whittle

Patricia Peterson

Patti Rodgers

Preston Schiller

Bernice Rappaport

Eugene and Amy Quinn

Sheldon Satterthwaite

Mary and Jerry Writer Veleta Young Kristin and Peter Zuanich

Faith Based Organizations:

Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle Christ the Servant Lutheran Church Christian Reformed Church Congregation Beth Israel Faith Lutheran Church, Pastor Swanson First United Methodist Church Garden Street United Methodist Church Oak Harbor Lutheran Church St. Augustine Church St. James Presbyterian St. Paul's Episcopal Church St. Stephen's Episcopal Church United Church of Ferndale, Women's Fellowship United Methodist Women Whidbey Presbyterian Church Women of North Puget Sound Presbytery

Foundations:

BP Fabric of America Fund CIFI Foundation Fred Meyer Foundation Hamalainen Charitable Trust Jerry H Walton Foundation Mary H. Storer Foundation Thomas and Martina Horn Foundation Windermere Foundation Trust

Businesses & Organizations: American Legion Post 07 Anderson Paper & Packaging Angus W. Graham, Jr. Family Foundation Applied Research Northwest Arrow Insulation Avenue Bread Banner Bank Bayou On Bay Be of Service Club Bellingham Bar & Grill Bellingham Cold Storage Bellingham High School Billy McHale's Binyon Vision Center Black Drop Coffeehouse Boundary Bay Brewery Brandywine Kitchen Bruton & Schellberg, Inc. P.S. Buri Funston Mumford

Busara Siamese Cuisine Corp. Cafe Akroteri Cascade Pizza Catholic Daughters of America Ct 243 Caz Energy Audits Chrysalis Inn & Spa Ciao Thyme Catering Copper Hog Daisy Cafe, The D'Anna's Cafe Italiano Dashi Noodle Bar- Miso Lucky Enterprises Dawson Construction Inc Diamond Jim's Grill Diego's Mexican Grill Dodson's IGA Energy Specialists, Inc. Fairhaven Lions Club Fiamma Burger Fidelity Charitable Five Columns Restaurant Fountain Bistro Grace Cafe Haulin' Ash Chimney Sweeps Hilltop Restaurant HopeLine from Verizon HUB NW/The Unity Group Hughes, Rick IMCO General Construction Inc. Industrial Credit Union (ICU) Innovations, Inc. Interfaith Coalition Island Hoppin' Brewery Island Thrift Inc. JustGive.org Ketchup + Mustard Kulshan Brewing Co

Leaf & Ladle Les Schwab Lummi Indian Business Council Mambo Italiano Cafe Mykonos Greek Restaurant Nancy Berg, Attorney at Law Nancy Leavitt Agency Network For Good Nooksack Indian Tribe, Cunanan, Narz North Coast Credit Union North Whidbey Lions Club Northwest Energy Systems Of Washington, Inc. Oak Harbor Sarang Church Old Town Cafe On Rice Thai Cuisine & Spirits

La Fiamma Wood Fire Pizza

Law Offices Of Peter Arkison

Larry's Liquor Locker

Overhead Door Company of Bellingham, Inc. Pacific Continental Realty Pacific Northwest Roofing Peoples Bank Pepper Sisters Restaurant Phillips 66 Ferndale Refinery Regence Robinson Hardwood & Homes **Rocket Donuts** Saturna Capital Shew Design, Shew, Eric T.D. Curran Inc. Table, The Taco Lobo Inc Temple Bar Thai House Restaurant The Benevity Community Impact Fund The McElroy Family Trust The Real McCoy Home Bar & Kitchen The T. Rowe Price Program for Charitable Giving U.S. Bank Foundation Umpqua Bank United Way Of Greater Pennsylvania & United Way Of Island County United Way Of Skagit County United Way of Whatcom County Veterans Of Foreign Wars Wells Fargo Bank N.A. Whatcom Educational Credit Union (WECU) Whatcom Family & Community

What's Up! Magazine Gotelaere, Victor Wilson Motors Windermere Management By Ebright

Network

Wight, LLC Windermere Real Estate Windermere Real Estate, Hilton, Susan

Woods Coffee Wright Inspection Services Yorkston Oil Co.





Whatcom County

1111 Cornwall Ave., Bellingham, WA 98225 360-734-5121 | 800-649-5121

Early Learning and Family Services

1111 Cornwall Ave., Suite 200, Bellingham, WA 98225 360-734-5121

Island County

1791 NE 1st Ave., Oak Harbor, WA 98277 360-679-6577 | 800-317-5427

Home Improvement Department

1322 State St., Bellingham, WA 98225 360-733-6559

Building Performance Center

3406 Redwood Ave. Bellingham, WA 98225 360-734-5121

www.oppco.org