

East Whatcom Regional  
Resource Center a Brief History  
**2004 to March 2020**

## 2004- 2010

- **2004** Foothills residents request a public library, medical and other services for their area. County Executive Pete Kremen responded by offering County help and funding.
- **By 2005**, a community led planning and fund acquisition was on its way.
- **2007** WA State funded the project after hundreds of Foothills residents reached out.
- **2008** EWRRC Master plan was complete.
- **2010** Construction began for the EWRRC.

## 2011-2013

- **In 2011** the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center was opened and hosted it's first strategic planning session.
- Due to no medical provider available to operate the EWRRC, the Opportunity Council was invited to be the anchor tenant.
- **2012 & 2013** Opportunity Council Head Start Staff acted as building management and supervised two volunteers: one AmeriCorps and a VISTA.

# 2013-2016

- **July of 2013** the AmeriCorps volunteer term was completed and a new Information and Referral Specialist role was created as the first permanent EWRRC position for 28 hours/wk.
- **2013-2014** was a year of program growth with Senior Movies, Kids Days of Summer, Mobile Food Pantry with Foothills Food Bank, Little Free Library, Employment Hot Sheet and much more. A 2<sup>nd</sup> position, EWRRC Coordinator, was created at 32hrs/week.
- The next strategic planning session took place in the **Winter of 2015/16**. This time youth activity facilities made the top of the list along with increasing access to community food resources.
- **2016** the 3<sup>rd</sup> position: Program Specialist was added at 16hrs/weekly.

# 2016-2020

- **2016-18** As a result of the Strategic Planning, EWRRC Phase 2 was designed. Two buildings were planned: one as the permanent home for the Foothills Food Bank with multipurpose community spaces and one covered outdoor play space. The Opportunity Council immediately began fund acquisition for these community identified priorities.
- **In 2018** the project went out to bid and in **January of 2019** a general contractor was secured.
- **March of 2020** construction of EWRRC Building 2 was complete and the Foothills Food Bank was able to begin serving the community in it's new home. Meetings that were better served by more privacy moved to building 2.