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**MOUNT BAKER FOUNDATION GRANTS FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF
EMERGENT COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

Mount Baker Foundation has announced several emergency grants in support of community organizations responding to the COVID-19 crisis. While Mount Baker Foundation does not perceive its role to be in crisis funding nor routine operational grants, the Foundation has prioritized critical funding to mitigate the COVID-19 crisis this year. The grants approved include the following:

- Grants totaling \$100,000 to support childcare providers currently entrenched in continuing childcare services for essential workers and first responders throughout the pandemic. These providers are experiencing higher costs due to new restrictions on the number of children per classroom and higher staffing ratios required by the Health Department during the pandemic. Specifically:
 - A grant of \$40,000 to the Boys and Girls Club, providing childcare and K-5th grade care through four Kids World locations.
 - A grant of \$40,000 to the YMCA for providing childcare and K-5th grade care through its downtown and Barkley locations, and at Parkview and Cordata Elementary Schools.
 - A grant of \$20,000 to the Opportunity Council to support smaller childcare providers also struggling to maintain operations.
- A pledge of \$100,000 to support continued recovery of childcare centers and small providers as need is assessed.
- A grant of \$125,000 to the Council on Aging for continuing and expanding the Meals on Wheels delivery program with an extended focus for rural communities, and for continuing and expanding check in calls to individuals homebound by COVID-19 with a check on what services they might require.
- A grant of \$30,000 to Lydia Place for the protection of families in housing and procuring interim housing for families experiencing homelessness. An additional pledge of \$20,000 as needed.
- A grant of \$5,000 to Bellingham Makerspace to support their work in manufacturing face shields and Tyvek procedure gowns that meet PeaceHealth's infection control standards.

Mount Baker Foundation is a relatively new foundation serving primarily Whatcom County. Its funding comes from the legacy of Mount Baker Kidney Center (MBKC), a nonprofit, outpatient kidney dialysis center which served Whatcom County for nearly 40 years. MBKC's operations were sold to DaVita Healthcare Partners in 2016.

Mount Baker Foundation envisions a future where individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities become stronger, healthier, more resilient and more compassionate generation after generation. Its mission is to identify and fund catalytic, transformative initiatives that result in sustainable change in three areas:

- Early childhood care, development and education.
- Upstream factors to chronic conditions (such as poverty, homeless and food insecurity).
- The legacy of MBKC in improving the quality of life for individuals with chronic kidney disease (CKD).

While Mount Baker Foundation does NOT take incoming applications for funding, the Foundation welcomes conversations related to its vision and mission. The work of the foundation is done through three Board committees in its three areas of focus. Grants made or pledged to date have included:

- A grant of \$20,000 to Medical Teams International, for bringing its mobile dental operatory van to Bellingham to provide dental care for individuals with CKD, including obtaining clean bills of dental health required for transplant eligibility.
- A grant of \$425,000 to the Opportunity Council, to support construction of a second building at East Whatcom Regional Resource Center, serving as a much-needed food bank and multi-purpose community center.
- A gift of \$250,000 to the Kidney Research Institute at the University of Washington, for sophisticated microscopy facilitating improvement in the care of kidney patients.
- A pledge of \$400,000 to Lydia Place, for the construction of a childcare center within the planned Heart House, offering residence and services for high risk and vulnerable families.
- An innovative philanthropy model, providing \$100,000 per year for five years to the Columbia Valley community, based on an emerging model of community engagement.
- A grant of \$20,000 to Chuckanut Health Foundation, to support fiscal mapping to identify the source of funds currently flowing to childcare services in Whatcom County, as a platform to understand where gaps exist.

More information can be obtained by contacting Executive Director Debbie Ahl at d.ahl@mtbakerfoundation.org.

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