



B a i n b r i d g e
Community Foundation

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Bainbridge Community Foundation Awards a Record \$233,000 in Local Grants

Bainbridge Island, WA. The Bainbridge Community Foundation awarded the highest dollar amount in the Foundation's history for its 2011 annual Community Grants Cycle with \$233,000 in grant awards. BCF more than doubled the amount from 2010 due to special grantmaking partnerships, including the \$100,000 Ampersand Human Services Grant Program, the \$10,000 Karen Davis Award, and nearly \$88,000 in matching grants from BCF's donors and advised funds.

"This year's special funding opportunities, along with the continued generosity of BCF's donor funds participating in the Community Grants Cycle, resulted in an extraordinary level of funding," said BCF's Philanthropic Services Chair Elaine VonRosenstiel. "This funding will have major impact on local nonprofits' ability to serve the community."

Across the spectrum, new levels and new records were set in the 2011 cycle:

- 65 proposals from 46 organizations were submitted (33% increase from 2010)
- Over \$540,000 in funding requested (up 17%)
- 10 of the organizations (15%) were new applicants
- More Kitsap organizations that support Bainbridge Island residents were supported this year (11 organizations)
- 130% increase in total funding dollars with Ampersand Grant included, and a 25% increase without Ampersand Grant included in the total
- A 65% increase in matching funds from BCF donor advised funds
- 42 organizations received a grant, with six receiving more than one grant
- Over half of the proposals were fully or at least 80% funded

With this year's funding, BCF has now surpassed \$700,000 in grants for the Community Grants Cycle program since its inception.

Three beneficiaries of this year's cycle, Boys & Girls Club, Chuckwagon Meals-on-Wheels and Sound Works Job Center, illustrate the range of programs funded and population supported.

- Boys & Girls Club has been the recipient of several BCF grants, but this year's proposal was unique; it showcased the collaboration with several others to create a culinary arts program. Bloedel Reserve is providing space for a garden to grow produce, Weyerhaeuser is donating the kitchen and local chefs will teach 200 kids in the program.
- Chuckwagon Meals-on-Wheels is a first-time grant applicant, but a long-time supporter of elderly on the island; they serve over 5,600 hot lunches at the Senior Center each year for over 120 clients, and deliver meals to other retirement homes on a weekly basis. The grant will fund delivery of nutritious meals to home-bound disabled clients.

- Sound Works Job Center has consistently received \$1,000-2,000 annual grants from BCF to support employment counseling and placement for the lower-wage unemployed in the community. Executive Director Bob Middlebrook runs on a shoe-string operation, but lack of funding jeopardizes the organization’s ability to continue during this economy, right when clients need services most. The Ampersand Human Services Grant awarded \$20,000 to assure Sound Works’ ability to serve those most in need of a job.

The success of this year’s Community Grants Cycle can be attributed to the partnership with several funds and donors:

- The one-time Ampersand Human Services Grant focused on specific “safety net” funding in the community.
 - Laddered funding to assure quality child care and after-school programs for infants through school age children
 - Special needs support for both children and adults
 - Employment support
 - Support for most vulnerable populations: hungry children, grieving children, people needing legal support/advice
 - Health support for seniors

Twelve organizations received an Ampersand Human Services grant ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000.

- The Karen Davis Award funded two proposals that promote dialogue and conflict resolution, including one to the Bainbridge Schools Foundation for youth training and the other to the Kitsap Dispute Resolution Center.
- The Bainbridge Community Foundation Trustees Award, which supports agency collaboration or benefit for multiple nonprofits, was given to a joint proposal from Bainbridge Island Child Care Centers and Boys & Girls Club for teacher training focusing on special needs children.

Additionally, several BCF donor-advised funds contributed to the Community Grants Cycle by matching or fully funding proposals that aligned with their own philanthropic interests. To maximize the opportunity, the Grants Committee and staff worked closely with a wide range of donors on the causes they care most deeply about, often in one-on-one meetings or personalized discussions.

As one long-time donor fund said, “We wouldn’t know about all these needs in the community if it weren’t for BCF.” BCF does the research and due diligence, and then connects donors to the local grant opportunities that they care about most. The Community Grants Cycle allows BCF to gain a deep and thorough understanding of each organization through the grants assessment process and site visits; this expertise is a key benefit for donor funds, and ultimately a benefit to the community through the grants that support community needs.

With its 10th year anniversary around the corner, BCF is celebrating much more than its birthday. It’s celebrating the generosity and commitment of its donors to make real impact in the community through effective grantmaking as proven through this year’s outstanding Community Grant Cycle.

For more information about the 2011 Community Grant Cycle or local philanthropy, visit the BCF website, www.bainbridgecommunityfoundation.org, or call Debbie Kuffel at 842-0433.

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