

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:

Peter Theisen, United Way of Whatcom County, (360) 733-8670

UNITED WAY BREAKS \$2,000,000 MARK IN LOCAL ANNUAL
FUNDRAISING

United Way of Whatcom County has announced a record breaking fundraising year, raising \$2,025,000 during its 50th anniversary campaign, an increase of 18% from 2005. The announcement was made on April 5th at the agency's annual awards banquet, where local companies and individuals were also recognized for their philanthropy, community support and leadership.

"We continue to be amazed and humbled at the outpouring of generosity from this community," United Way Vice President Erica Charbonneau said. "This year we asked donors to dig a little deeper to help meet the growing needs of our community, and they responded with open hearts and wallets. We are tremendously grateful."

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the agency's most prestigious award to BP Cherry Point refinery. The Joseph and Anne McLain Award, named after longtime United Way benefactors, is given to the group or individual who's level of support is exceptional and who's acts inspire others to step up to the highest levels. BP is United Way of Whatcom County's largest company, raising over \$350,000 in corporate and employee gifts this year alone.

A lifetime achievement award was presented posthumously to Jerry Chambers for his decades-long involvement with United Way of Whatcom County. Chambers was a staunch advocate of United Way and encouraged support from others whenever possible.