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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNITED WAY OF WHATCOM COUNTY WELCOMES NEW BROAD MEMBERS

Bellingham, WA- United Way of Whatcom County elected two new board members at their June 28 meeting. Mike Christensen and Debbie Hogue were elected to the board and began their terms following the meeting.

“The members were added as part of our on-going recruitment process to refresh our board,” said Peter Theisen, President of United Way of Whatcom County. “It is very important to us to continually bring in new energy and ideas.”

Debbie Hogue is a Branch Manager at People’s Bank Ferndale Office and has volunteered with United Way for many years. She has over 21 years of banking experience and has spent the last 13 years as a Relationship Banking Manager. Born and raised in Bellingham, WA, Hogue is an active volunteer in the local community serving with The Bellingham/Whatcom County Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, Relay for Life, and Squalicom Parent Booster Club in addition to United Way.

“Debbie is a longtime volunteer with our Funding Distribution Committee. We need her experience, grant expertise, and thought at board level discussions,” said Theisen. “She is also a leader within People’s Bank which is a significant supporter. We are very excited to have a representative from that company on our board.”

Mike Christensen represents another significant United Way supporter, Phillips 66. At the Ferndale Refinery, Christensen is the Maintenance Manager. Throughout his career with Phillips 66, he has worked at refineries all over the United States including Billings, Montana; Ponca City, Oklahoma; Lake Charles, Louisiana; Linden, New Jersey and outside the U.S. in Venezuela. New to Whatcom County, Christensen, his wife and three children are enjoying the northwest.

“We hope that having him on the board will act as an introduction to the community for him and will add new ideas to the mix,” Theisen said. “He is excited about United Way’s focused allocation to areas of Education, Income, and Health and is especially interested in the recent emphasis on early learning.”

The Board of Directors is comprised of 17 volunteer leaders in Whatcom County, all of whom are committed to improving lives and building a stronger community for all. Each member serves on the Board for a six-year term. One of the Board’s primary functions is exploring how United Way can best make a significant difference

in our community. Currently, the Board is focusing its efforts on increasing education through early literacy, supporting income through assistance in achieving stable housing, and promoting health through increasing access to critical services.

Christensen and Hogue will be filling seats left by retiring members Pat Atkinson and Tony Bon. Both Atkinson and Bon served on United Way of Whatcom County's Board: Atkins for six years and Bon for seven. While on the Board, Atkinson aided as the Chair of the Agency Relations Committee and Bon assisted as the Chair of the Vision Planning Committee. United Way of Whatcom County thanks both Atkinson and Bon for their service to the community through their involvement on the Board of Directors.

United Way of Whatcom County has worked for over 50 years to improve lives by mobilizing individuals and organizations to create long-term change by investing in Education, Income and Health for all Whatcom County residents. To learn more about United Way of Whatcom County visit www.unitedwaywhatcom.org or check out their Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/UnitedWayWhatcom>

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