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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL NONPROFIT LEADER PARTICIPATES IN STATE-WIDE PEER COACHING

BELLINGHAM – Erica Hallock, President/CEO of the United Ways of Washington (UWWA), announced that thanks to a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 30 nonprofit executives from across the state will participate in a Peer Group Coaching Program and local United Way of Whatcom Count President Peter Theisen will be one of the participants. The purpose of the program is to help leaders solve relevant, real-time problems, increase performance, strengthen leadership, build capacity, and transform their learning into measurable results for their organizations and communities. Participants will meet twice a month for six months, via Skype.

“The combination of severe budget cuts and increasing need has made it one of the most difficult times to lead a nonprofit organization,” said Hallock. “The safety net in Washington State is altering drastically. Human service leaders statewide are under pressure to make difficult choices about the most basic of human needs.” This Peer Group Coaching project was designed to provide our state’s nonprofit leaders with innovative resources and tools to be more knowledgeable, confident and impactful in their communities.

“I’m excited to be a participant and look forward to collaborating with other non-profit leaders here in Washington state as we look for creative solutions to address the growing needs in our communities,” said Theisen.

The Peer Group Coaching Program is based on the principles of Action Learning, where group members work together to find solutions to problems through active listening and reflective inquiry. This proven methodology is used by corporations such as Microsoft and Boeing to not only solve problems and develop leaders, but also to build teams, manage change, and transform their organizations.

United Way of Whatcom County has worked for over 50 years to increase financial resources for local health and human service needs, and to seek and invest in community-building opportunities to improve the health and welfare of Whatcom County residents.

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