



2019-2020 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

UNITED WE WIN

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United Way
of Whatcom County

2019-2020 PROGRAM LISTING

Your gift to United Way of Whatcom County's Community Impact Fund stays local, helping individuals and families that struggle financially. It takes a variety of groups and strategies to change a community, not just one agency. Learn more by visiting UnitedWayWhatcom.org.



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| Non-Profit Partner | United Way Funded Program | Impact Area |
|---|---|--------------------|
| Bellingham Childcare & Learning Center | Affordable Childcare Program | Education |
| Bellingham Food Bank | Free Grocery Program | Basic Needs |
| Bellingham Public Schools Foundation | After-school Program at Low Income Elementary Schools | Breaking the Cycle |
| | GRADS Program | Breaking the Cycle |
| Brigid Collins House | Child Abuse Prevention Program | Breaking the Cycle |
| Compass Health | Community Outreach & Recovery Support Team— Whatcom | Basic Needs |
| Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services | Safe Housing Program | Basic Needs |
| | Support Services | Basic Needs |
| Futures Northwest | Futures Northwest | Breaking the Cycle |
| Goodwill Industries | Whatcom County Job Training and Education Center | Economic Mobility |
| Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County | Family Promise | Basic Needs |
| Lydia Place | Campus Housing Program | Basic Needs |
| | Parent Support Program | Breaking the Cycle |
| Max Higbee Center | Weekday Program | Breaking the Cycle |
| Mercy Housing Northwest | Service-Enriched Housing | Breaking the Cycle |
| Northwest Youth Services | Positive Adolescent Development (PAD) | Education |
| | Transitional Living Program | Income |
| Opportunity Council | Emergency Childcare Voucher Program | Income |
| | Financial Stability Program | Income |
| | Maple Alley Inn | Health |
| Rebound of Whatcom County | Rebound Roots | Breaking the Cycle |
| Sun Community Service | Sun House Emergency Shelter | Basic Needs |
| The Arc of Whatcom County | Parent Support and Training | Breaking the Cycle |
| Whatcom Center For Early Learning | Birth to Three Special Needs Program | Breaking the Cycle |
| Whatcom Council on Aging | Meals on Wheels and More | Health |
| Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center | Parenting Support Programs | Breaking the Cycle |
| Whatcom Early Learning Alliance (WELA) | Kaleidoscope Play & Learn Expansion & Family Support Outreach | Breaking the Cycle |
| Whatcom Family YMCA | Community Shower Pass Program | Income |
| | Early Learning Program | Education |
| | Girls on the Run | Health |
| Whatcom Literacy Council | Free Adult Literacy Programs in Whatcom County | Economic Mobility |
| Work Opportunities | Individual Employment Program | Economic Mobility |

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Bellingham Childcare and Learning Center

Affordable Childcare

Provides affordable, high quality full and half-day childcare for families who are in transition or working toward economic self-sufficiency. The learning center fosters cognitive, social-emotional, physical, language, and literacy growth for children ages one month to six years old. Four family-style meals are served daily including breakfast, lunch, and two healthy snacks.

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Bellingham Food Bank

Free Grocery Program

Distribution of a broad mix of perishable and non-perishable food to Bellingham residents. Families and individuals can visit twice per week in person. The food bank also operates a home delivery program for homebound families, and a mobile food bank at Alderwood Elementary School and Christ the King Church in the Meridian/Cordata neighborhood once each week.

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Bellingham Public Schools Foundation

Afterschool Program at Alderwood and Cordata Elementary Schools

Provides free, high-quality afterschool enrichment activities three afternoons a week at two Title I elementary schools, giving students without other access to afterschool programming the chance to expand their learning, become more connected to school, and to explore their interests, skills, and talents.

GRADS Program

Instruction and support for pregnant and parenting teens and certified childcare for their infants and toddlers. The program is designed to help pregnant teens and young parents stay in high school and work toward graduation. Services help students work toward a healthy pregnancy, learn and apply positive parenting skills, explore career options, and set goals toward balancing work and family. Recent addition of a preschool allows students to stay in the GRADS program when child reaches preschool age.

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Brigid Collins House

Child Abuse Prevention Program

A program designed to meet the unique needs of each family to increase family management skills and the network of community supports, helping to break the cycle of poverty by strengthening families. Services are outcome-based and research-proven models and include case management, parenting coaching and education, home visitor and family support services, therapy, trauma response and child advocacy services, and coordinated child abuse investigations.

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Compass Health

Community Outreach and Recovery Support Team - Whatcom County

Innovative, mobile support model providing outreach-oriented mental health services for individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Clinicians and peer counselors provide a continuum of services to assist community members in gaining access to and maintaining benefits, food, vocational support, healthcare, and housing. The team connects with clients via the health department, jail, shelters, homeless coalitions, and other programs and locations that serve individuals with mental health conditions.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS)

Safe Housing Program

Interim safe housing for survivors of domestic violence and their children, who are homeless or at risk for becoming homeless due to domestic violence. Services include access to safe shelter, safe hotel stays, housing case management and homelessness prevention. These individuals are a specifically targeted vulnerable population in the city's strategy to end homelessness.

Support Services

Provides social service, medical advocacy, and crisis intervention for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their families. Crisis services for immediate needs of a survivor through a 24-hour helpline, safety planning, emergency room counseling, and walk-in advocacy counseling. Ongoing support to help survivors recover from abuse through advocacy counseling, protection order support, court appearance preparation, support groups, and children's play groups. Behavioral Health Program assists individuals struggling with mental health or substance abuse.

Futures Northwest

Empowering students from under-served communities to achieve their career and college dreams. Support includes assistance with College-Bound Scholars registration, academic assistance, mentorship, support with admission, financial aid and scholarship applications, access to college visits and campus stays. Academic and professional workshops are offered to help inform families of post-secondary education and training opportunities such as internships, certificate programs, and 2 and 4-year college degrees.

Goodwill Industries

Whatcom County Job Training and Education Center

Offers workforce readiness classes, workshops, and labs that help adults develop and refresh their skills and address barriers to success in getting and keeping a job. Classes include English for Speakers of Other Languages, computer literacy, cashiering, customer service, job search, and assistance with alternative pathways to a high school diploma or GED. Students may work with case managers for assistance accessing additional services, and work with employment specialists to become work-ready.



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Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County

Family Promise

Provides shelter to families with children in a unique model. The Family Promise Day Center provides a family room, kitchen, laundry facilities, showers, play areas, computers and internet access, a mailing address, and a pick-up and drop-off for school age children. In the evening, families are hosted at congregations on a rotating basis where they enjoy nutritious meals and support from trained volunteers. Transportation and case management is also provided.

Lydia Place

Campus Support Program

Provides homeless women and their children with long-term transitional housing and permanent supportive housing in either individual or communal living space. Services include case management and support related to housing, finances, education, employment, health, community connectedness, and parenting. Residents are offered life skills classes, therapeutic groups, childcare assistance and intentional community-building. They also have access to evidence-based parenting support, and in-home mental health therapy.

Parent Support Program

Focuses on strengthening the parent-child relationship, providing parent coaching and hands-on tools, developmental screenings, and tailored resources such as referring families to a licensed child therapist for assessment and intervention when needed. The objective is to increase positive childhood outcomes and ultimately a reduction in the cycle of poverty.

Max Higbee Center

Weekday Program

Program builds transferable life skills and provides opportunities for community excursions, skill-building, exercise, nutrition, education, and socialization for teens & adults with developmental disabilities. Attendees benefit from life-enriching activities while family members benefit from respite care during the work week.

Mercy Housing Northwest

Service-Enriched Housing

Offers a wide range of supportive services designed to promote individual and family stability, self-sufficiency, and improve educational outcomes for children. Provides farm worker families an affordable home and gives their children the stability they need to succeed in school.



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Northwest Youth Services

Positive Adolescent Development (PAD) Program

Provides safe temporary housing for runaway, homeless, or at-risk youth age 13-17. 24-hour support service is provided. Youth work with case managers to create a master service plan for goal setting and to plan for obtaining stable housing.

Transitional Living Program

Independent living program offering housing, case management, life skills classes, and vocational opportunities to homeless single/parenting individuals ages 18-21 and emancipated youth ages 16-17.

Opportunity Council

Emergency Childcare Voucher Program

This program provides families with children aged 0-13 short-term financial assistance for childcare while they are experiencing financial distress or living in a homeless or transitional situation. Support allows families to attend to medical, legal, and other important appointments, seek housing and employment, or attend work.

Financial Stability Program

Services include employment readiness and life skills classes, use of vocational job search labs, financial literacy, and employment case management, FLARE (Financial Literacy And Renter Education) and "On the Money" classes.

Maple Alley Inn

Provides hot breakfast and lunch twice a week for people in need of prepared meals. Locations serve as contact points for other resources such as basic food applications, homeless outreach, financial stability, legal and health care access services, as well as health and nutrition education classes.

Rebound of Whatcom County

Rebound Roots

Support for preschool through middle school children who have experienced trauma. Children learn positive coping skills, anger management, self-awareness techniques, and communication skills. The Parenting Enrichment curriculum helps parents/caregivers develop skills to strengthen their families.

Sun Community Service

Sun House Emergency Shelter

An emergency service for adults who are homeless and have a mental illness that provides meals, medication monitoring, 24-hour supervision, crisis intervention, and a bedroom in a warm, homelike environment.



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The Arc of Whatcom County

Parent Support and Training

Services include personalized information and education programs, advocacy, parent training and support groups, guardianship supports, and individualized problem solving to improve health and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Whatcom Center for Early Learning

Birth to Three Special Needs Program

Addresses the needs of children assessed with at least a 25% delay in one or more areas of development, utilizing a Primary Coaching Method with families. Specialists work in the child's home or community setting with caregivers present, attending to individual needs of the child and specific goals the family has set for their child. Family Resource Coordinators guide families through eligibility, develop a service plan, set goals, connect families with community services and help support transition to services. Includes opportunities for integrated play groups and builds social connections for families.

Whatcom Council on Aging

Meals on Wheels and More

Creates affordable nutrition options for seniors by offering community meals for Whatcom County seniors, weekly home-delivered meals, and nutritional information and assessment. Services help local seniors receive the nutrition and social support they need to stay as healthy and independent as possible.

Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center

Parenting Support Programs

Provides affordable access to training and workshops to help parents communicate and co-parent more effectively, supervised visits between non-custodial parents and their children in the presence of a neutral third-party observer, and conflict coaching and mediation for parents in conflict with each other or with their children.

Whatcom Early Learning Alliance

Kaleidoscope Play & Learn Expansion and Family Support Outreach

A group class model for kindergarten readiness where parents and caregivers learn alongside children. This offers children a high-quality early learning experience, similar to preschool, while caregivers learn and practice parenting skills. Groups are open to all and in particular support families that have little or no access to formal early learning environments due to limited income, language barriers, lack of transportation, adverse family situations, and geographic isolation. Free drop-in classes are offered at 16 sites throughout Whatcom County.



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Whatcom Family YMCA

Community Showers Program

Passes provide access to shower facilities at Whatcom County YMCA locations, and are free for community members who need basic hygiene assistance due to homelessness or other issues preventing access to facilities. Passes are available at 33 community agencies to reach clients at a variety of locations.

Early Learning Program

Two state-licensed early learning centers for 200 children age 1 month to 5 years, offering progressive development support on a cognitive, social, and emotional level. Kindergarten readiness is achieved through hands on learning, peer interaction, literacy readiness activities, with healthy snacks and meals. Tuition scholarships offered to ease the financial burden of early learning.

Girls on the Run

A 10-week after school program for girls throughout Whatcom County in grades 3 through middle school that encourages positive social, emotional, mental, and physical development. Program curriculum is designed to address both emotional and physical well-being challenges by empowering participants to make thoughtful and healthy decisions.

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Whatcom Literacy Council

Free Adult Literacy Programs in Whatcom County

Offers free classes, one-on-one tutoring, and learning resources for adults who want to improve their basic reading, writing, math, and computer skills, learn English, study for a high school diploma or GED, or prepare to become citizens. Learning plans are developed to meet the individual abilities and goals of each learner.

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Work Opportunities

Individual Employment Program

Supported employment services for individuals with disabilities through vocational evaluation/skills assessment, job preparation, training, placement, and retention services. Services are designed to decrease the unemployment rate for individuals with disabilities by helping them learn marketable skills, find and keep good jobs in the community, and earn wages and benefits that help increase financial stability.

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