

# United Way of Whatcom County



## Informational Video Links

### United Way Videos

Short, inspirational videos from United Way of Whatcom County & Worldwide featuring our work, donors and volunteers

[Why Give to United Way](#) (2-3 minutes)

Great new informational video on what it means to give to United Way!

[United Way of Whatcom County – Damien’s Story](#)

Meet Jane, NaColle and Damien and hear how United Way has touched their lives through three generations.

*Warning:* You may shed a happy tear or two. *Spoiler alert:* There’s a very smart and adorable kid in this video. 😊

[United Way of Whatcom County - Sheena’s Story](#) (4 minutes)

Hear one woman’s story about how United Way funded programs changed her life, allowing her to positively impact the lives of many others.

[United Way commercial featuring Amanda Gorman](#) (1 minute)

Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman sharing a poem about what it means to LIVE UNITED

[United Way’s Words to Live By](#) (1 minute)

Positive words and images about what it means to LIVE UNITED

[LIVE UNITED Stories](#) (3 minutes)

Examples of real people and how they choose to LIVE UNITED

[Change Doesn’t Happen Alone](#) (30 seconds)

Yes, one person can make a difference, but together we can do so much more!

[We Are Better United than Divided](#) (1 minute)

In these divisive times, it’s more important than ever that we work together.

### United Way Network Videos and Information

Examples of how your Community Impact Fund donations are hard at work in Whatcom County. These are some of the 22 agencies working to assist Whatcom County individuals and families who are struggling financially. Thanks to your generosity, these nonprofits have received United Way funding to help them do this important work.

Watch and share these video links, along with the explanations that accompany them. We guarantee you’ll learn something new and inspiring.

*Note: You may need to scroll down the web page to access the actual video. Don’t worry... it’s worth it!*

[Program Spotlight: Bellingham Food Bank](#) (2 minutes)

Nearly 20% of our city visits the food bank on a regular basis. More than 50% of people who go to the food bank are senior citizens or kids. As hard working families have to work even harder to make ends meet, receiving healthy produce, meat, milk and baby food each week can be a critical factor in helping people maintain housing, keep the lights on, pay for childcare, and cover transportation costs to and from work. The Bellingham Food Bank also partners with other nonprofit agencies to provide nutritious food to fuel their programs, and they act as the main warehouse for all the food banks in Whatcom County. See some of the faces of people who have needed this vital service. When you give to United Way, you support the Bellingham Food Bank and an entire network of organizations all working together to make a difference.

[Program Spotlight: Brigid Collins](#) (3 minutes)

Brigid Collins Family Support Center is a commitment-based organization working to end child abuse. When one child is hurt, it means that child, their family, and our community all need healing. Hear one family's story of how Brigid Collins programs helped them heal. Your United Way donations help fund vital child abuse response and prevention efforts throughout Whatcom County.

[Program Spotlight: Futures NW](#) (6 minutes)

Futures NW helps students from under-served communities achieve their college and career dreams by assisting students with College-Bound Scholars registration, financial aid and scholarship applications, and admission processes. They also provide access to college visits as well as mentorship and academic assistance. Workshops are offered to educate families about post-secondary education and training opportunities such as internships, certificate programs and 2 and 4-year college degrees. This important work is a critical component of breaking the cycle of poverty— and your donations help make it happen!

[Program Spotlight: Goodwill Industries](#) (3 minutes)

Thanks in part to United Way funding, Goodwill provides workforce readiness classes, workshops and labs that help adults develop and refresh their skills as well as break down barriers that keep them from getting and keeping a job. Students can work with case managers to access additional services and employment specialists to become work-ready. See how participating in these programs changed one local woman's life for the better.

[Program Spotlight: Interfaith Coalition Family Promise](#) (8 minutes)

Families are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. Family Promise provides assistance to families with children in a unique model. The Family Promise Daycare Center provides a family room, kitchen, laundry facilities, showers, play areas for children, computers and internet access, a mailing address and pick up and drop off services for school age children. During the day, families go to a day center and work with a case manager to access housing, jobs and community resources. In the evening, families are hosted at congregations on a rotating basis where they enjoy nutritious meals and support from trained volunteers.

[Program Spotlight: Lydia Place \(30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2019\)](#) (6 minutes)

Watch this fun and moving video about the history of Lydia Place and see how they are bringing homeless women and children into more stable, healthy and sustainable situations with their long-term transitional housing programs. In addition to safe housing, Lydia Place offers wrap-around services including case management and support related to finances, education, employment, health, parenting, life skills, childcare and more. United Way is proud to help support these valuable programs that help bring stability to Whatcom County families.

[Program Spotlight: Mercy Housing](#) (1 – 2 minutes)

Affordable housing does more than just provide shelter. It allows kids to succeed at school and families to live up to their full potential. See how one Bellingham family was able to become financially stable with the help of Mercy housing. This program offers a wide range of supportive services designed to promote financial stability and self-sufficiency, and improve educational outcomes for children.

[Program Spotlight: Opportunity Council – Maple Alley Inn](#) (5 minutes)

Maple Alley Inn provides hot breakfast and lunch for people who don't have access to food on a regular basis. Locations also serve as a contact point for other resources such as homeless outreach, financial stability, healthcare access, legal services and health/nutrition education classes. Your United Way donations help make sure hungry individuals and families can access hot, nutritious meals and other services as needed.

[Program Spotlight: Sun Community Service](#) (5 minutes)

Thanks in part to United Way funding, this crucial program provides housing and emergency services for adults who are homeless and have a mental illness. Sun Community Services provides meals, medication monitoring, 24-hour supervision, crisis intervention, and a warm, home-like environment where struggling individuals can heal. When individuals have a place to call home, they're able to focus on work, family, health, and getting the help they need. Your United Way donation supports a network of services in Whatcom County to help struggling individuals and families.

[Program Spotlight: The Arc of Whatcom County](#) (6 minutes)

The Arc of Whatcom County improves quality of life, increases independence, and assures full inclusion in the community of all persons with developmental disabilities. In Whatcom County, over 2,000 persons with developmental disabilities, their families, and service providers look to The Arc as their lifeline to connect them with available resources in our community and bring them the latest information on ways to effectively meet the needs of their family members. Your United Way support helps with this important work and so much more!

[Program Spotlight: Whatcom Center for Early Learning](#) (6 minutes)

Early intervention services during the first few years can make a big difference in a child's life. When kids get the help they need early on, they are significantly less likely to need services later. Whatcom Center for Early Learning provides early learning services for infants and toddlers from birth to age 3 who have disabilities and/or developmental delays, supporting families and children in achieving their highest potential. This moving video peeks into the lives of children and families who benefit from this amazing program. Your gift to United Way supports these incredible families.

[Program Spotlight: Whatcom Literacy Council](#) (3 minutes)

Becoming financially independent often hinges on having dependable work and opportunities for career advancement. This is hard to achieve if basic reading and writing are a struggle. Approximately 1 in 6 Whatcom County adults are functionally illiterate. The Whatcom Literacy Council offers free one-on-one tutoring for adults who want to improve their literacy skills. Services include: support for basic reading and writing, GED test prep and basic computer skills. Watch this video to hear how literacy helped a local man expand his skills— and his world. Giving to United Way helps this great nonprofit and over 20 others!

[Program Spotlight: Work Opportunities](#) (4 minutes)

Finding a great job is never an easy task. Now imagine how difficult the job search process is for our friends and neighbors with disabilities. Luckily, Work Opportunities is here to help. Their unique program works with local employers to find great matches for individuals with disabilities who are seeking employment. Through personalized coaching and on the job support for both employer and employee, Work Opportunities creates win-win employment situations that benefit local businesses, individuals, families and our entire community. Work Opportunities is building positive self-esteem, financial independence, healthy employment relationships, and a stronger community— one job at a time.

[Program Spotlight: YMCA Youth Institute](#) (1-2 minutes)

Whatcom Family YMCA's Youth Institute, launched in 2018, is a free, year-round program building character, developing life skills, and using technology to prepare young people for the road ahead. It's already having a huge impact on teens in our community. By targeting high school students who face adverse childhood experiences, the YMCA's Youth Institute creates a brighter future for those young people who may need it the most. Giving to United Way supports this, and a whole network of agencies working together to build a stronger, healthier community.

[Homeless in Bellingham Film Series](#) (4 minutes)

What is it like to be homeless in Bellingham? You may be surprised to hear some of the stories. The Homeless in Bellingham Film Project examines this issue from many angles. This episode explores how one woman slipped into homelessness and follows her journey back to safe and stable housing. Imagine every child, family, veteran and senior having a warm, safe place to sleep each night. That's United Way's vision for Whatcom County, and you can help!