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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Luke's Foundation Announces Nursing Scholarship Awards and Over \$390,000 in Grants in 2013

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Bellingham, Wash.- The St. Luke's Foundation, SLF, granted over \$390,000 to health-related projects in Whatcom County in 2013 with the addition of 22 new awards this summer.

The largest grants include \$60,000 to Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement for the transitioning healthcare project, \$25,000 to the Lighthouse Mission to make the facility wheelchair accessible by adding an elevator, \$25,000 to Whatcom County Council on Aging for nutritious meals to low-income seniors, and \$20,000 to Rebound of Whatcom County for a critically needed van to allow children without transportation to participate in their program.

Northwest Youth Services received \$9000 for street outreach, Medical Teams International received \$6400 for dental care for low-income Hispanic clients, and \$10,000 to the Northwest Indian College for the Lummi food sovereignty project.

"We're incredibly grateful to the St. Luke's Foundation as a partner in providing services to vulnerable kids. It's our goal to support these families in the best way possible, and we frankly could not do it without the support of agencies like St. Luke's," said Sharon Aller, Executive Director of Rebound of Whatcom County.

Rebound of Whatcom County works with underserved populations, usually families referred to the agency by Child Protective Services, to run various programs including day camps and classes for school-aged children -- many with behavioral issues -- and parenting classes for adults.

SLF provided a grant used to purchase a van critically needed to transport children and families to Rebound programs.

“We use the vans in every program. Vans are on the road three times a day during the summer to pick up kids, take them on field trips, then deliver them back home as well as pick up parents and families for the parenting classes,” said Aller.

SLF is also a long-time supporter of NW Youth Services, an agency serving youth aged 13 to 25 years old who are homeless, have run away from home, or who have family who are unable to support them for various reasons.

Last year, SLF awarded NW Youth Services a lead gift of \$50,000 to expand the Positive Adolescent Development (PAD) program, which focuses on helping kids aged 13 to 17. The expansion allowed NW Youth Services to double the program in terms of size and number of staff, as well as offering long-term living solutions to youth with nowhere else to stay.

“In one month, we had more youth than we had had in years, just because of our additional capacity. We went from serving five kids at a time, and now we can serve up to 16,” said Riannon Bardsley, Executive Director of NW Youth Services.

The most recent SLF grant to NW Youth Services (of \$9000) is to expand street outreach by converting a space for homeless youth to shower, use computers for job search and school projects, and have a warm and dry place to be without staying overnight.

Along with awarding these grants, SLF awarded a total of 18 nursing scholarships for the 2013-'14 school year. Seven new applicants and eight continuing their education were approved. The foundation also established nursing scholarships at Whatcom Community College and Bellingham Technical College.

The seven new scholarships are being awarded to: Lyle Dollarhide attending Whatcom Community College (WCC), David Flarry – who will transfer from WCC to either University of Washington, Bothell or Western Washington University in the fall, Carrie Holtrop - Bellingham Technical College, Erin Johnson - WCC, Elizabeth Mattila - the University of Washington, Courtney Oostra - Seattle Pacific University, and Kelly Smith - WCC.

Nearly \$300,000 has been dispersed to over 100 students in nursing education support since the Foundation started the Nursing Scholarship Fund in 1993. Since its founding in 1982, SLF has contributed over \$16 million in all to health-related projects.

Nursing scholarship applications are due by June 1 of each year. The deadline for the next major grant round is October 1, 2013. Visit www.stlukesfoundation.org or call 360-671-3349 for more information.

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