

Your Membership Makes a Difference

WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER



A Note from Jennifer

Your membership has a direct and noticeable impact on this community.

Through your membership, WECU donated over \$400,000 to numerous nonprofits and community groups in 2019.

EDUCATION FIRST

In September, we launched the Education First Grant program. This program focuses on financial and community education and is true to our history of being a credit union founded by Bellingham Teachers. Four nonprofits received a total of \$110,000 as a part of this program.

PENNY CAMPAIGN

In October and November, every time a WECU member swiped their debit card, one penny was earned by the member and WECU matched it with a donation to our community. In October, those pennies totaled \$14,325.94. The money was donated to local organizations supporting veterans in our community. In November, four local nonprofits that support affordable housing and combating homelessness, were awarded with funds from this campaign.

COMMUNITY BUILDER GRANTS

Through our Branch Sponsorships and Community Builder Grants, WECU supports numerous local programs. In 2019, we made over 110 donations totaling over \$42,000.

WE GIVE OUR TIME

Our employees are always eager to pitch in when there is a need. Team WECU, comprised of employees who graciously donate their free time to support non-profits, was involved in 24 community events in 2019.

LYDIA PLACE HOUSE

As a part of our giving, we also provide and maintain a house to Lydia Place that is used by families in need. Over the last two years, 11 families have been able to stay together and use the house in their time of need. WECU was recently recognized for this gift with a Lydia Place Housing Hero Award. None of this would be possible without your membership.

Thank you for your membership and for believing in the credit union movement - one that puts people over profit. Together, we will ensure WECU and the communities we serve are strong, successful and making a meaningful difference for many years to come.

Make it a meaningful day,

Jennifer Kutcher
President/CEO



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IS WORTH EVERY PENNY

Every time you swiped your WECU debit card in October and November, you earned a penny. Over these two months, members earned **\$28,071.80!**

Then, WECU matched all those pennies and donated another \$28,071.80 to great local organizations throughout Whatcom County.

Recipients include:

- Growing Veterans
- EAGLE Vets by Animals as Natural Therapy
- Veterans Food Baskets by Bellingham Elks Lodge

- NAMI-Whatcom
- Lighthouse Mission
- Project Homeless Connect (via United Way)
- Interfaith Coalition – Family Promise of Whatcom County
- Habitat for Humanity – Telegraph Townhomes

We Have Big News!

Because of its success we've decided to extend this initiative another month. We will count pennies again in December and follow with one more round of giving in January – one for you, one for all! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram as we empty the Penny Jar one last time in our local community.

Community Impact

HOUSING HERO WECU has been recognized as a Housing Hero by Lydia Place, a nonprofit whose mission is to disrupt the cycle of homelessness and promote sustained independence for current and future generations. In an awards banquet which took place on Dec 3, WECU was recognized for its charitable donation of a residential property, the “Chestnut House,” which has provided a home to 11 families since 2015. This gift is estimated at \$21,000 per year.

FINANCIAL EDUCATION WECU believes in the importance of financial education and in the impact it can have in our members’ lives. So far this year, WECU staff have taught 108 financial education lessons. That’s a yearly average of more than two classes every single week! Stay tuned for the official Community Impact Report in early January for the final number.



Home & Garden Show

Visit us at the BIAWC Whatcom County Home & Garden Show® at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds in Lynden, **March 6-8**. Stop by the WECU booth, talk to us about your homeownership needs, and enter our drawing for the chance to win an assortment of excellent prizes!

WECU Day At WWU



WECU is offering 300 free tickets to the **Thursday, January 2** men’s basketball game against rival Central Washington University. Attendees will also receive a free WWU foam finger. Tickets will be first come, first served. Show your WECU debit or credit card at the WECU tent. For more information visit wecu.com/events.

Learn more about WECU events by visiting wecu.com/events



Insured by NCUA

Education First Applications Open

In January, WECU will launch the second year of Education First, a grant process facilitated by a panel of employees and volunteers. This Community Impact program is slated to give \$110K to local nonprofits that seek to further education in Whatcom County. 2019 recipients were BAAY, Lummi Youth Academy, Project X-it, and Whatcom Dream. Stay tuned to wecu.com/educationfirst for more details.

News & Notes

ANNUAL MEETING The 2020 Annual Meeting will be held February 20 at the Bellwether Ballroom. RSVPs will be accepted at wecu.com and through our Contact Center starting on January 20 at 9am. This reception-style meeting is open to members only who are 18 years or older and in good standing with the Credit Union. Members must RSVP to attend.

2020 VOLUNTEER ELECTIONS WECU holds elections for its Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee each year at our Annual Meeting. For more information about the candidates, visit wecu.com/volunteer-elections.

2021 CALENDAR CONTEST Want your photo of Whatcom County in our 2021 calendar? For full details, visit wecu.com/calendar-contest.

Member Benefits

SPRINT DISCOUNT WECU members can save money through Sprint! Get a \$100 cash reward for the first two new lines you switch to Sprint and a \$100 loyalty cash reward every year for every line. Plus your 3, 4 and 5 lines free and 25% off accessories.

TURBO TAX Time to get a jump on the tax season. As a member of WECU, you can save up to \$15 on TurboTax products.

Winter Seminars

Student Visa

Wednesday, January 22 from 6 to 7:30pm.
By invitation only.

Debt Management

with Attorney Robert Wolle, Law Advocates
Wednesday, January 29 from 6 to 7:30pm.
By invitation only.

For details or to RSVP, call 800-525-8703 or visit wecu.com/events.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Mon, Jan 20

Presidents’ Day
Mon, Feb 17