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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNITED WAY OF WHATCOM COUNTY COMPLETES ANNUAL NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Bellingham--- Peter Theisen, President of United Way of Whatcom County, announced that United Way of Whatcom County has successfully completed all of United Way's national membership requirements by their respective due dates. The annual certification process includes completing the Membership Requirements Certification, Membership Investment to support the national office, and a survey of Total Resources Generated (a survey that captures the full extent of a community's resource development efforts during the year). Over and above the annual requirements, United Way of Whatcom County recently completed a mandatory organizational self-assessment as part of this process.

"The membership requirements must be certified annually in order for us to remain a member of United Way," stated Theisen "It is important for us to maintain high standards of accountability, and this is part of the process to confirm that our operations are transparent and meet or exceed United Way membership requirements."

The board of United Way of Whatcom County reviewed and approved the Membership Requirements Certification on June 25 at the Board of Directors Meeting. The certification mandates completion of 13 requirements for United Way membership along with verification of the status of 47 indicators that a United Way demonstrates the intent of the membership requirements (as examples, conflict of interest policies, a minimum of quarterly board meetings).

"All United Ways must meet the highest standards and verify on paper that they have conformed to the requirements of membership in the United Way system," said Brian Gallagher, president and CEO, United Way of America. "We applaud United Way of Whatcom County's commitment to accountability and, most importantly, their continued efforts to support work in their community which improves lives and advances the common good for all people."

United Way of Whatcom County is part of a worldwide network in 46 countries and territories, including 1,277 local organizations in the U.S. Each local United Way must complete United Way's requirements annually in order to retain its United Way membership.

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. All contributions to United Way of Whatcom County's Grant Fund, The Community Safety Net, stay here in Whatcom County and are dispersed to United Way Partner Agency programs by a group of local volunteers.

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