

## **News Release 2010**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **UNITED WAY OF WHATCOM COUNTY WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Bellingham---The United Way of Whatcom County Board of Directors elected four new members at their December 17 meeting. Mary Humphries, José Roqués, Jim Ryan and Bill Wright were elected to the Board and began their terms following the meeting.

“These new members will make a tremendous impact on the Board,” Peter Theisen, President of United Way of Whatcom County said. “They will bring new ideas, energy and community connections to the team.”

The new members, selected from the Whatcom County business community, were chosen for their diverse business expertise. The Board developed a profile outlining what skills and experiences would be valuable in reaching their upcoming goals. Theisen said the Board identified a need for representatives in higher education and the local media, as well as the support of waterfront businesses.

Mary Humphries, Executive Director for College Advancement at Bellingham Technical College, has worked in the non-profit arena as a fundraiser for 19 years. She largely works with organizations that support social justice and conservation, as well as holding the position of Development Director at Bellingham-based Conservation Northwest for 7 years.

José Roqués, Plant Manager of Bellingham Cold Storage, joined the BCS management team in 2000. Since then, he has held positions at BCS as Special Projects Manager and Fruit & Vegetable Sales & Marketing Manager. Roqués received both a bachelor’s and master’s degree from Universities in Spain.

Jim Ryan is the Vice President of Matrix Services, an industrial service contractor. His career has mainly been in refinery expansion, but also owns a shellfish company and has worked as a consultant for the power industry. Jim and his wife Linda, who was a United Way Campaign Executive in 2006 and 2008, currently reside in Anacortes.

Bill Wright, General Manager of KVOS-Newport Television, recently moved from Fairbanks, Alaska to Bellingham. In Fairbanks he worked with several community organizations, including the public relations committee for the United Way of Tanana County in Fairbanks. He is particularly interested in increasing awareness and support of United Way of Whatcom County by using his public relations experience and media contacts.

“We expect all members of our Board of Directors to provide vision and leadership to our organization,” Peter Theisen, President of United Way of Whatcom County, said. “We also appreciate the variety of skills that they bring from their professions to help our mission, it is truly an asset for our organization to have such dedicated individuals.”

The Board of Directors comprises 20 to 25 volunteer corporate and community leaders in Whatcom County, all of whom are committed to improving lives and building a strong community. Each member serves on the Board for a six-year term. The Board is currently exploring new ways to raise funds and generate revenue for new community programs.

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.

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