

United Way Campaign Informational Video Links

United Way Worldwide Videos

Short, inspirational videos from United Way Worldwide featuring our work, donors and volunteers

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

Positive words and images about what it means to LIVE UNITED

[LIVE UNITED Stories](#) (3-4 minutes)

Examples of real people working across the country, promoting positive changes in Education, Income and Health

[I Don't Just Wear the Shirt, I Live it!](#) (4 minutes)

Stories from real volunteers who share why and how they LIVE UNITED

Community Issues in Education, Income and Health (Whatcom County)

Examples of issues we are working on in Education, Income and Health and amazing United Way supported programs that are making great things happen all over Whatcom County. Please 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!

EDUCATION: Creating Stable/Healthy Families and Children,

[Program highlight: Rebound of Whatcom County](#) (6 minutes)

When families are unstable and experiencing trauma, it's nearly impossible for kids to be successful in school. Research shows that dropouts result from an accumulation of various risk factors throughout a child's schooling, and some researchers have identified early predictors of dropout in children before they are even enrolled in kindergarten. Rebound of Whatcom County recognizes those risks and works with local kids and families to help them bounce back and realize their full potential. We all win when a child succeeds! United Way helps these kids and many, many more.

EDUCATION: Increasing the Graduation Rate

[Program highlight: Home Port Learning Center](#) (3 minutes)

High school dropouts are 12 years in the making, and often come from extremely difficult situations. How do you learn when your whole body is hungry? Where do you do homework if you have no home? Why should you keep going to school when you've been told you'll never succeed? Home Port Learning Center offers kids who have slipped through the cracks a chance to get back on track. Through their innovative program, the staff at Home Port helps some of our county's most at-risk youth succeed academically while learning hands-on skills that can lead to future employment. More importantly, they offer a safe, accepting place where kids can learn the value of teamwork, each other and themselves. Each year, Home Port helps youth integrate back into high school, obtain a GED, or enter community college, trade school or the employment market. What's the value of 50 kids getting back on a positive path? Priceless!

EDUCATION: Supporting Academic Achievement and a Safe Place for Kids

[Program highlight: Boys and Girls Clubs](#) (4 minutes)

When kids are supported before, during and after school, their chances of academic success are far greater. Studies show that kids who participate in after school enrichment programs increase their grades, reduce at-risk behaviors and are more likely to graduate. Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County provides our kids with the resources and encouragement they need to fulfill their potential and achieve their dreams. In addition to providing safe places for kids to learn and play, they also serve healthy meals and snacks to fuel young bodies and minds. And while it may look like fun and games, every Boys & Girls Clubs program is designed to address their 3 priority outcomes: Academic success, healthy lifestyles and good character and citizenship. Your gift to United Way supports thousands of local kids!

EDUCATION: Creating Stable/Healthy Families and Children, Achieving School Readiness

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

Early intervention services during the first 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 in the future. The 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 and many, many more!

INCOME: Increasing Financial Stability

[Program Highlight: Bellingham Food Bank](#) (2 – 3 minutes)

What does food have to do with finances? More than you might think. Since 2007 demand for Bellingham Food Bank's services has increased 80%. As families work harder to make ends meet, receiving \$100 worth of healthy produce, meat, milk and baby food each week can be a critical factor in helping families maintain housing, keep the lights on, pay for childcare and cover transportation costs to and from work. Over the course of the year, nearly 20% of all Bellingham households will visit the Bellingham Food Bank. In addition to feeding Bellingham's hungry, this facility also acts as the main food storage and coordination for food banks all over the county. Each year, their warehouse receives, stores, and redistributes more than 2 million pounds of food. They also partner with many nonprofit agencies to provide nutritious food to fuel their programs— and our friends and neighbors. When you give to United Way, you support the Bellingham Food Bank, plus an entire network of organizations all working together to make a difference.

INCOME: Improving Skills and Opportunities

[Program highlight: Whatcom Literacy Council](#) (3-4 minutes)

Becoming financially independent often depends 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 good news is that United Way of Whatcom County partners with the Whatcom Literacy Council, which 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 Ken expand his skills— and his world. Giving to United Way helps this great program and over 30 others!

[Program Highlight: Work Opportunities](#) (3 – 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.

INCOME: The Importance of Safe, Stable, and Affordable Housing

[Program Highlight: Lydia Place](#) (1 – 2 minutes)

Homelessness can be a cycle passed down from generation to generation. Kids who grow up in unstable households often lack the skills needed to provide healthy and stable environments for their own families. Breaking these patterns takes a lot of hard work and support, but it can be done. Watch this video to see positive changes happening for one local mom who, after a lifetime of trauma and addiction, is finally able to provide a safe place for her kids. Your gift to United Way helps create positive pathways for people who are struggling and makes our community better for everyone.

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

Affordable housing does more than just provide shelter. It allows families to focus on education, income and health so they can live up to their full potential. See how one Bellingham family was able to become financially stable through the help of Mercy housing. A great example of how helping one family affects future generations and helps us all. Giving to United Way supports this great program and more than 35 others. Thanks for making Whatcom County a better place!

[Homeless in Bellingham Film Series, Episode 1](#) (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!

[Homeless in Bellingham Film Series, Episode 3](#) (5 minutes)

This video shows one man's struggle with mental illness and how he got back on track with help from Sun Community Service. When individuals have a place to call home, they are much better able to focus on work, family, health, and getting the help they need. Your gift to United Way supports a huge network of housing services in Whatcom County.

HEALTH: Healthy Parenting and Child Abuse Prevention

[Program highlight: Brigid Collins Family Support Center](#) (5 minutes)

Healthy, happy kids. It sounds so simple! But the realities of parenting are often complicated, especially for families struggling to break cycles of poverty, addiction or violence. Helping parents create strong, healthy bonds with their children and deal with the stresses of parenthood in positive ways is a key part of the equation. Offering support for those who have experienced child sexual abuse is another way to help kids feel safe and families heal. Preventing abuse from happening in the first place is a core focus for Brigid Collins. Last year, Brigid Collins trained over 1,000 community members on abuse prevention through their Stewards of Children workshops. It's estimated that each workshop participant will prevent 10 incidents of child abuse as a result. Imagine a community free of child abuse, where all kids grow up feeling safe, loved and full of potential. Now that's living united!

HEALTH: Eating Healthy and Local Benefits Everyone

[Program highlight: Food To Bank On](#) (2 minutes)

Good health starts with good food. When people have access to regular, nutritious meals they become better students, employees, parents, friends, neighbors and citizens. Sustainable Connections supports a program that works to bring healthy food options to everyone. Farmers, the community, and the hungry all benefit from the innovative and effective work of the Food to Bank On project. Local farmers receive business mentoring to help them become strong, sustainable producers of quality foods. These farms then provide a portion of their yield to area food banks and shelters. Everybody wins! Local nonprofits have received over \$80,000 in fresh, local produce as a result of this great program. A gift to United Way's Community Impact Fund supports this program and many others— all working together to make positive change.

HEALTH: Promoting Active, Independent Living for All

[Program highlight: Max Higbee Center](#) (2 - 3 minutes)

Imagine if everyone, regardless of ability level, had access to fun fitness activities, tools needed to prepare healthy, delicious food for themselves, and the ability to get around town. Max Higbee Community Recreation Center offers recreation programs for teens and adults with developmental disabilities, providing a supportive environment for members to learn, grow and thrive. Programs focus on social, physical, cognitive and emotional growth, increased independence and personal enrichment. Watch this video to see what this means for Max Higbee Center clients and families. Your gift to United Way supports these fine folks and many, many others!

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

The Arc of Whatcom County improves quality of life, increases independence and assures the 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 bringing them the latest information on ways to effectively meet the needs of their family members.

HEALTH: Active Living and Healthy Choices for Youth

[Program highlight: Girls on the Run](#) video (3 - 4 minutes)

[Program highlight: Girls on the Run - Whatcom Family YMCA](#) video (3-4 minutes)

The Whatcom Family YMCA is all about strong and healthy kids and families. And while their youth programs may look like pure fun, they are actually designed with the Y's 4 core values in mind. Respect, responsibility, honesty and caring are built into each activity, with the goal of building strong character and a solid foundation for success. Girls on the Run is a great example of a program that looks simple on the surface, but offers so much more underneath. This national program may appear to be nothing more than a running club for girls, but as the video shows, Girls on the Run creates friendships, promotes healthy life choices and builds positive self-esteem— one step at a time. Whatcom Family YMCA runs this amazing program and many more. Giving to United Way supports a whole network of agencies working together to build a stronger, healthier community.