

You Are Making a Difference!

The Voice of Our Community

Imagine a world full of compassion—communities without crime, hunger or poverty, schools without bullying, families without abuse, and residents who didn't feel alone and unheard. Imagine a community where the residents worked together to care for the needs of their fellow neighbors with compassion and concern.

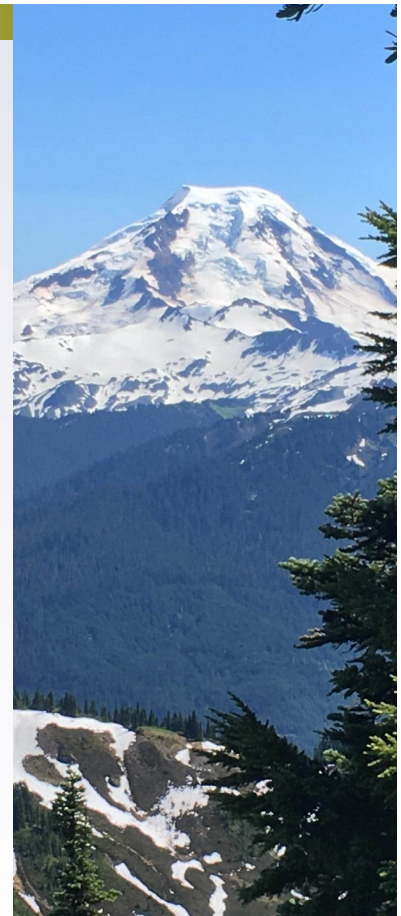
Actively caring for others within our community is our way of cultivating a culture of compassion and caring. Together we strive to use funds so graciously granted to our organization to better the lives of the residents in the Columbia Valley UGA in Whatcom County, WA. The members of the Foothills Community Alliance recognize the wants and needs of the residents in the CV area as being essential to their wellbeing and success.

When residents last gathered (pre-Covid) in 2019, they identified critical challenges that living in a remote rural area can present. Things like accessibility to quality food, healthcare access, reduced crime, family support and education, elderly care, and environmental safety and cleanliness topped the list. Community members heard the cries and with the overwhelming support of the Mount Baker Foundation, we formed our first Community-Led non profit organization in Columbia Valley!

Your willingness to listen to the voices of our community, and to offer support through your generous funding, has helped the Foothills Community Alliance reach out to residents in a totally new way. It has opened the door for new opportunities and has brought together a community who for years felt they had been forgotten.

2022 Outreach

The Foothills Community Alliance Board Members continue, each year, to stay focused on funding life changing and ever-reaching projects that will positively impact the residents of Columbia Valley. While the projects we have funded to date have been exciting, we find some of our own values and compassion for our community result in personal involvement in community events and efforts. We have included this information in our 2022 Annual Report.



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Impact on Columbia Valley

- Improved, consistent communications for our community
- Increasing opportunities for neighbors to come together
- Supporting our WCSO Deputies creating a healthy partnership
- Board members offer their services to other outreach events.



Columbia Valley Has a Newspaper!

Funded by Foothills Community Alliance: \$50,000

Communication has been a challenge in Columbia Valley for years. One of the biggest challenges has been to find a way to get the word out to ALL residents when there is an upcoming event, special announcement, or services available to those in need.

While social media continues to be a growing form of communication in most locations within our world, the remote area of Columbia Valley poses its own challenges with spotty cell coverage and wifi connections. Additionally, not all residents living in our community have the luxury of a computer or a budget for expensive internet.

The Communications Hub, based out of Van Zandt, WA, approached the FCA Board in early 2022 requesting funding to address this ongoing problem. While the location of the organization is not in Columbia Valley, the funds being donated would directly and greatly impact ALL Columbia Valley residents.

By Spring of 2022, the organization found a highly talented editor to fill the important role. The paper itself will offer an opportunity to pull neighboring communities closer together and widen the area of support for our residents living in the valley.

We are excited to see the first edition in 2023!

“Building Better Communication One Page At A Time!”

To Post Ads:



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Columbia Valley Parks and Recreation Dist.

Community Pocket Park—update

Funded by Foothills Community Alliance: \$65,000 in 2021

The Columbia Valley Parks and Recreation District recognized the need for community parks for our residents and came to the Foothills Community Alliance in 2021 to request funding for one of many future pocket parks throughout the communities in Columbia Valley.

In January of 2022, despite the rising housing market, the Columbia Valley Parks and Recreation District were able to utilize a portion of the funds granted on a nice piece of property off Santa Fe Trail. Located at the base of Red Mountain, the future park will be nestled between two residential homes offering future access to the mountain for walking trails and hiking.

Staff working on this project continue to work on proper fencing and amenities within the park. Their focus is on making sure it will fit the needs of the local community members who live nearby. The FCA continues to meet with the representatives at CVPRD each month for updates and progress.

Benefits of Parks

The benefits of Community Parks are numerous:

1. They promote Community wellness. Spending 30 minutes outdoors improves physical and mental well-being.
2. Provides a connection place. Parks give individuals a space for meeting in person. Those interactions form the basis of community.
- 3 Parks can encourage social skills. Parks create a space for kids to play and interact with others, building important social skills.
4. Parks can reduce crime. Regular use of parks in a neighborhood can deter crime. Criminals will avoid an area with a strong community presence.
5. Parks are free to all and open to everyone regardless of income. Any one can enjoy a park. Individuals and families can use this time to connect and spend quality time together.

Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Fair

Funded by Foothills Community Alliance: \$653

Members of the FCA partnered with local Kendall Elementary PTA volunteers to put on a Spring Fair and Easter Egg Hunt. Over 800 members of the community gathered April 16th to celebrate Easter and Spring!

Within 10 minutes over 4,000 stuffed eggs were found! Local Fire Department Volunteers participated in the food tent and showed off their fire truck and ambulance to little onlookers. Local businesses donated candy and brought food trucks for the hungry guests. The Northfork Library staff read stories to the children and community volunteers painted faces and played games with the kids.

The Easter Bunny even showed up!



Easter Bunny attends the Spring Fair 2022



Kendall Summerfest 2022

Funded by Foothills Community Alliance: \$1,343

Once again, the Kendall Summerfest was a success! This year members of the community and Foothills Community Alliance, organized the event with our local Kendall Elementary School. The location offered great visibility, ample parking, and plenty of room for over 20 vendors and organizations who came to offer their wares or share important information with local community members.

The event hosted nearly 1,000 people this year! The coordinators of the event did an amazing job organizing and setting up for the bouncy house, food tents, dance area, and monitoring the flow of constant traffic. Local food vendors provided food to the hungry participants. Kids 1-99 enjoyed the games, fun, music, food and shopping experience. Fire Department volunteers worked in the hot food tent cooking free hotdogs and hamburgers and visiting with community members who wished to show their support. The band volunteered to perform for free and was amazing!

Goodwill attended the event in their mobile van, providing information to residents on free education; computer training and English courses. Kids were entertained by many fun games, books, and facepainting throughout the day. The event offered an opportunity for ALL Columbia Valley residents to visit, shop, learn, and connect with their growing community.

“ Only a life lived for others is worth living” - Albert Einstein



FCA and Community Reaches out to Local First Responders

Funded by Foothills Community Alliance: \$5,084

In February of 2022, Columbia Valley residents experienced a devastating event within our community. Two of our local Whatcom County Sheriff's Department Deputies were shot in the line of duty.

The Foothills Community Alliance Board called an emergency meeting with community members to show support and to discuss the impact the incident had on those involved. Members of the FCA worked closely with the WCSO to find a way to support law enforcement efforts within our community as well as increase safety for our residents. Members voted to purchase 60 much-needed trauma kits for the Whatcom County Sheriff's Dept. Deputies that would provide life-saving materials in the event of critical injuries in our remote area. Many of the deputies who report to our area did not have these vital items in their first aid kits. Once used, they often are not replaced due to budget constraints.

Members of the FCA Board were excited to present the kits to the deputies in early Spring. As the injured deputies recovered, the FCA took the remaining funds and put on a community Ice Cream Social. They had a large banner made expressing the community support and had local community members sign it at every local event. Despite the snow, there was a great turnout!

It was our way of showing how much we appreciate their honor, service, and tremendous support. One year later, we received word that both deputies are returning to service February 20, 2023.



Pictures:

UL: Deputy receives his trauma kit

UR: Foothills Community Alliance meets with the Whatcom County Sheriff's Department to present 60 Trauma Kits for local law enforcement

Bottom: Trauma Kit items that will be kept on each deputy during duty hours.



Foodbank Volunteer Support

Funded by Foothills Community Alliance: \$1,370

Foothills Foodbank Executive Manager, Sam Norris, approached the FCA Board to request funding for his volunteer driver team. His concern was in retaining drivers for longer periods of time during a time where fuel costs were skyrocketing and drivers were expected to use their own vehicles to pick up food from the storage facilities within the county, then deliver food throughout the week. On average, meals being delivered to Columbia Valley residents numbered around 250 homes. Home delivery service is critical to those who are not able to attend the Tuesday morning Foodbank pickup of essential groceries. Their deliveries each week supports those who are isolated to their homes or without a car.

The FCA members agreed that retaining these important volunteers who work hard to make sure our residents have fresh food is a big priority and addresses, in part, an important need in our area. The fund request was approved and the grant given to cover a 6 month period to get them through the year. Your dollars helped to reduce the strain on a vital program that depends heavily on community volunteers delivering food to those in need.

Outreach and Community Involvement

Foothills Community Alliance Members

The members of the FCA Board go beyond filling positions within the organization. Each member has a true heart for others and spends numerous hours each year attending events, meetings, and supporting causes that benefit the Columbia Valley community. 2022 was no different for many of us. Outside of our funding work, we took part in other ways to help improve the lives of those around us. Here are some ways we have been actively involved:

- Attending townhall meetings to discuss our organization and talk about our work
- Participating in Community Clean Ups to help reduce garbage along our streets
- Meeting with State, Local and County officials to discuss solutions to our growing concerns regarding: illegal dumping, abandoned vehicles, growing crime, and other safety issues.
- Delivering food to Mt. Baker School District families during the Winter and Spring Pantry Program.
- Supporting our local school district, our local library, our first responders, our local churches and local businesses through personal involvement and by promoting community support.
- Participating in local watch groups to help build a stronger, safer, more resilient community.

2022 Financial Report

Foothills Community Alliance
Annual Income Statement
Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2022

Income	
Previous Balance of Funds Held by WFCN	\$ 137,000.37
Project Funds from Mt. Baker Foundation 2022	\$ 100,000.00
WFCN Admin Funds 2022	\$ 10,000.00
Starting Balance	\$ 247,000.37
Expenses	
Funds to Foothills Communication Hub	\$ 50,000.00
Funds to Foothills Foodbank	\$ 1,369.88
Funds to Kendall Summerfest (\$1342.89 granted less \$629.85 returned)	\$ 713.04
FCA Spring Egg Hunt	\$653.24
Community Safety Response	\$5084.25
FCA Operating Expenses	\$ 2002.92
Total FCA Project Expenses	\$59,823.33
WFCN Admin	\$6062.76
Remaining Funds (Held by WFCN)	\$ 181,114.28

