



# 2018 Annual Report



Building a community in which people approach  
conflict in creative and healthy ways

## LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Greetings friends,

This past year brought many moments of deep reflection and responsive action. While conflict is pervasive, and at times the root of harm, violence, and disconnection, it is also an opportunity – for growth and change. We have witnessed the emotional and physical pain it can cause, and we have also witnessed the powerful and positive transformations it can spawn – within our state, county, cities, neighborhoods, workplaces, and homes.

Two notable reflections emerged as we looked back at the past 12 months. First, staying focused on our shared connection, on the health of our social fabric, is what creates the opportunity to find creative resolutions, manage conflict in a productive way, and work through our disagreements without resorting to violence. Ultimately, through this approach, we can strengthen not only our interpersonal relationships, but also our community as a whole.

Second, 2018 was a year of tremendous growth for the WDRC. Not only did we continue to expand and diversify our programs, but we also launched our first capital campaign, successfully securing, renovating, and moving to A Permanent Place for Peace, the building that will be our forever home. In doing so, we made considerable progress in advancing the core tenets of our strategic plan: Relevancy, Relationships, and Resilience.

These things are intertwined: at a time when – as individuals and as a society - we are struggling to communicate and find common ground, the WDRC is rising to the challenge of meeting our community's shifting and emerging needs.

Thank you for joining with us in this endeavor,

Moonwater  
Executive Director

Catherine Riordan  
Board President

## OUR TEAM

### Board of Directors

Catherine Riordan, President  
Christian Christensen  
Kirsten Drickey  
Stephen Gockley  
Alivia Jelinski  
Kate Imus  
Adam Lervik  
Donna Loken  
Andrew Olive  
Peter Ramey  
Amy Rydel  
Morgan Sicilia  
Tim Schermetzler

### Advisory Board

Masa DeLara  
David Doll  
Marian Exall  
Dave Grant  
Leon Henley  
Phil Montgomery  
CJ Nathon

### Staff

Moonwater, *Executive Director*  
Nancy Blume, *Operations Manager*  
Jaina Gemin, *Administrative Coordinator*  
Sarah Jenkins, *Bookkeeping Assistant*  
Addie Candib, *Community Engagement Manager*  
Cindy Scott, *Community Engagement Coordinator*  
Tim Campbell, *AmeriCorps VISTA for Outreach*  
Britt Sullateskee, *Training Coordinator*  
Luke Wiesner, *Mediation Program Manager*  
Cynthia Moore, *Lead Case Manager*  
Gayle LaCroix, *Mediation Case Manager*  
Emily Machin-Mayes, *Youth Program Manager*  
Rebecca Hargraves, *AmeriCorps Youth Program Specialist*  
Daniel Soloff, *Youth Program Assistant*  
Devin DiBernardo, *Supervised Visitation Program Manager*  
Janice Brendible, *Supervised Visitation Program Coordinator*

Thank you to our 120  
volunteers, who contributed  
6,030 hours in 2018!

# RELEVANCY

**Increasing our visibility and accessibility as a community resource**

## Connecting with the Homeless

For the third year in a row, the WDRC proudly participated in Project Homeless Connect (PHC). Sponsored by United Way, PHC is a one day event designed to provide individuals and families experiencing homelessness with immediate access to a full suite of supportive services.



In 2018, guests at PHC could access services from dental exams and vision screenings, to haircuts, pet care, and legal counsel. Thanks to WDRC staff and volunteers, conflict coaching and information about mediation was also available!

## Connecting in Our Neighborhoods

Supported by a Project Neighborly grant from the Whatcom Community Foundation, the WDRC provided nine "Comfort with Conflict" workshops to Bellingham neighborhood associations. By equipping people with the skills to communicate across differences, we aimed to help the neighborhood associations become spaces that welcome, include, and reflect the diversity of Bellingham's residents.

The "Comfort with Conflict" workshops offered neighborhood residents the opportunity to normalize the presence of conflict in their lives, to talk about the conflicts they face, and to begin to have difficult conversations with one another. Through the nine workshops, we reached over 80 people. As one training participant told us, "I can't speak highly enough of this workshop! We've had contentious meetings before and I think these tools are perfect for future dialogues and a harmonious neighborhood!"



Ultimately, the project not only strengthened participants' personal skills in addressing conflict, but also increased community awareness about the resources available to support people and groups experiencing conflict. We're pleased to report that the workshops have led to a marked increase in the number of people accessing mediation and conflict resolution services!

“I would recommend that everyone in our community take these courses. Understanding the basics of conflict and resolution makes approaching conflict less scary and makes resolution more doable.”

- Training Participant

## Connecting through the Arts

In partnership with Make.Shift, Western Washington University's Prevention and Wellness Services, and local artists, the WDRC was pleased to offer a training on de-escalation and conflict resolution in June of 2018.

The training was part of a three-class series focused on addressing conflict



and sexual assault in artistic communities. Over 20 people participated in the workshop.

# RELATIONSHIPS

**Maintaining exemplary services and strong partnerships to magnify our impact.**

## Partnering with Juvenile Court

The Youth Program has a long running partnership with Juvenile Court, supporting youth in diversion and supervision by facilitating monthly workshops. In May of 2018, we received a request to begin a pilot project with the Juvenile Detention School. In early June, WDRC staff began leading a weekly class in the Detention School. The classes are interactive, with small group discussions based on conflict resolution curriculum.

The Detention School classes encourage the students to explore topics such as fighting, arguments, peer pressure, stigma, and underlying needs. Youth have begun to share openly about their beliefs and past experiences, describing frankly the way that social respect is linked to violence in their peer groups. These discussions are successful at incorporating conflict resolution curriculum and conflict coaching to support youth in exploring alternatives to violence.

Now, the students enthusiastically ask detention staff when WDRC staff will be coming in. The detention teachers have said that the discussions are helpful and supportive to the students' learning and development. After one session, the teachers remarked that they had never heard the students open up so much about their street gang culture, the perpetuation of violence, and their core need for respect. We were able to extend the pilot throughout the whole summer and the school year, so more youth will benefit from the learning and reflection that come from this partnership.



## Partnering with Department of Social & Human Services

Funds from the Department of Social & Human Services (DSHS) make it possible for the WDRC to provide free supervised visitation for parents who are otherwise prohibited, by court order, from seeing their children. Below is the story of one of the 55 parents the WDRC served in 2018.

“ This program was the only thing that could be used as a stepping stone to gain trust with my children and their mother. What a true blessing! Thank you! ”

- Parent in Supervised Visitation

Dean came to the WDRC after he was ordered to have supervised visits with his 3 children. Their ages ranged from 4 months to 5 years. When they saw their father for the first time in many months, the 5 year old and the 2 year old ran to him and hugged him. Dean took the baby out of her carrier, held her, talked softly and calmed her. He managed to rock his baby, play with his 2 year old, and have a conversation with his 5 year old while she colored and drew pictures. Dean and his kids had multiple visits like this, during which their relationships grew. The kids called the visits, “Daddy Day.” Eventually, they were able to begin unsupervised visits and no longer needed the WDRC's services!

In 2018, the WDRC was honored to partner with United Way of Whatcom County for the first time, as one of their annual grant recipients.



**United Way of Whatcom County Community Partner**

United Way funds are bolstering the WDRC's ability to support parents in conflict through education, mediation, and supervised visitation.



After more than 13 years at our location on the corner of Prospect and Bay Streets, the WDRC learned we needed to move. One of our highest priorities was finding a location close to Bellingham's downtown core.

After a lengthy search, we were thrilled to have the opportunity to purchase and renovate the historic building at 206 Prospect Street. The new building enables the WDRC to remain close to other services, partner organizations, and the courts, and accessible by public transit.

The new space makes it possible to expand our services in several key ways:

- A larger training space for bigger and more frequent workshops, community conversations and dialogues;
- More mediation and conference rooms, allowing us to serve more clients, and to serve them more efficiently and responsively;
- ADA compliance throughout; and
- The flexibility to respond to new opportunities, and to partner more extensively with other community organizations in the future.

Just a few blocks from the WDRC's former offices, our new home will enable us to continue to meet Whatcom County's ongoing need for conflict prevention and intervention services.

BUILDING A PERMANENT PLACE FOR PEACE

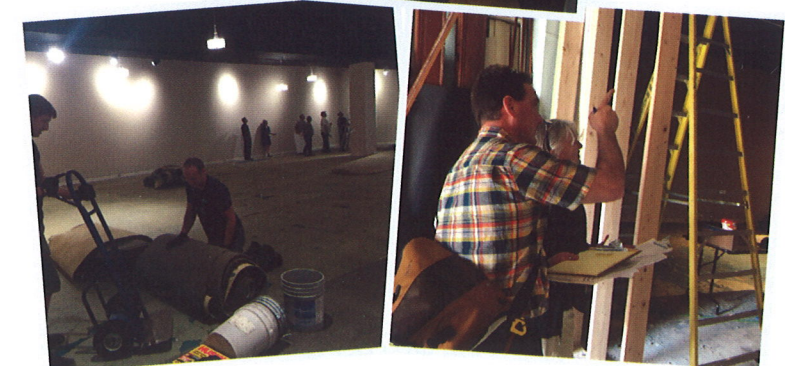
# RESILIENCE

**Strengthening our internal and external resources to ensure a vibrant future**

Thanks to support from the City of Bellingham, the WA State Department of Commerce, the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the Chuckanut Health Foundation, the First Federal Community Foundation, the RiverStyx Foundation, the Norcliffe Foundation, the McEachern Charitable Trust, the Jerry H. Walton Foundation, the Whatcom Community Foundation and its donor advised funds, the WDRC's staff and board, and dozens of community members, we raised over \$780,000 in just eight months!

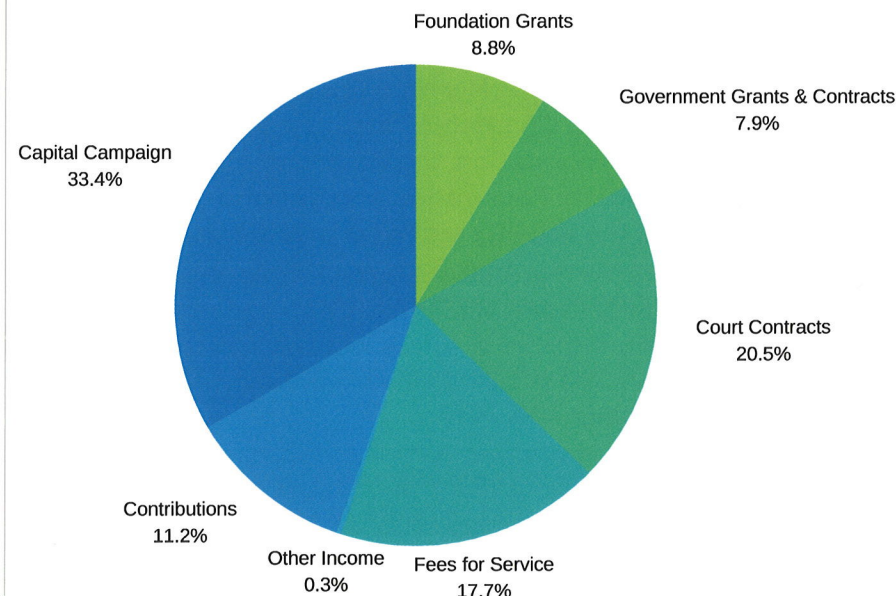
We opened our doors at 206 Prospect Street on January 2nd, 2019.

*While we successfully raised sufficient funds to renovate and relocate to our new building, we welcome additional contributions from the community to assist us with reducing our debt and establishing a capital projects fund.*



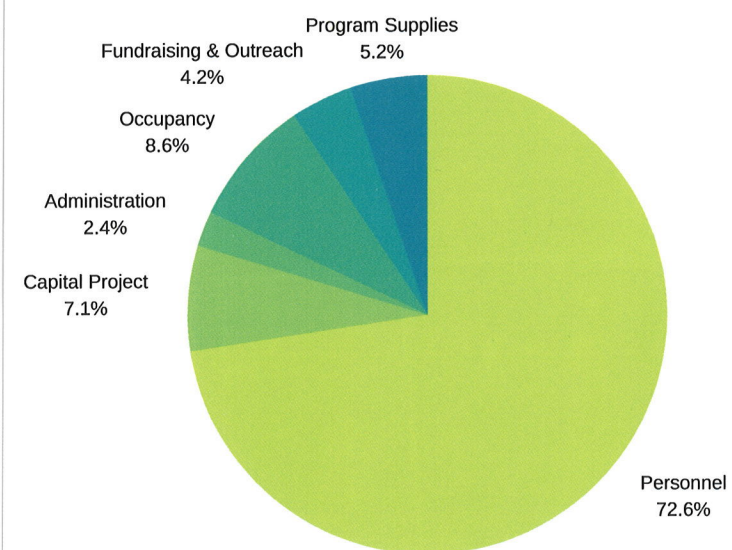
# 2018 FINANCIALS

## Income



Total Income: \$947,429

## Expenses



Total Expenses: \$678,719

Net Income: \$268,710\*

“ I support the WDRC because I believe conflict is a part of life and part of relationships, and people’s connections with one another can actually be deepened if they navigate conflict together. I want to be part of that! The WDRC gives me a chance to do that. ”

- Sarah Murphy-Kangas, Practicum Student

## Balance Sheet

### Assets

#### Current Assets

Cash & cash equivalents	\$176,698
Accounts receivable	\$187,314
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$364,012</b>

#### Fixed Assets

Building & land	\$616,244
Building improvements	\$317,642
Other fixed assets	\$6,117
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>\$940,003</b>

**Total Assets \$1,304,015**

### Liabilities & Equity

#### Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$11,627
Accrued expenses	\$10,249
Mortgage payable	\$366,244
Capital loans payable	\$300,000
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$688,120</b>

#### Equity

Unrestricted net assets	\$518,754
Temp. restricted net assets	\$97,142
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$615,896</b>

**Total Liabilities & Equity \$1,304,015**

\*Net income captured as a fixed asset

## Giving Circle & Capital Campaign Donors

- Keith Cox Autobahn
- Heidi & Gerry Alford
- Mark Allyn
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- Petra Fiero
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- Jessica Finstuen
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- Jean Fleenor
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- Lisa Friend
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- Francie Gass
- Sara Geballe
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- Cameron Green
- Ann Hall
- Robert Hall
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- Lisa & Brian Hefter
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- Sarah Hoerlein
- Heather Honey
- Judy Hopkinson
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- Kate Imus & Kevin Misiuda
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- Micah Jaquay
- Heather & Richard Jefferson
- Sarah Jenkins
- Joyce & Rand Jimerson
- Lewis Jones
- Mike Jones
- Danielle Jordahl
- Bernadine Joselyn
- Nadine Kaaland
- Tanya Kanoa
- Jason Kanov
- Lindsey Karas
- Joyce Kerpe
- Kristi Kent
- Jeanette Lim & Andy Klein
- Scott & Jenessa Kirk
- Gene Knutson
- John Korsmo
- Milt Krieger
- Kulshan Chorus
- Pam Kuntz
- Gayle LaCroix
- Sheri Lambert
- Linda Lambert
- Mary Langholz
- Becky Langholz
- Jean LaValley
- Mark Lazich
- League of Women Voters
- Henry Lee
- Jessica Lee
- Jessica Lembo
- Adam Lervik
- Matt Lesinski
- John Lesow
- Kalish Levie
- Kelli Linville & Will Rohl
- Donna & Keith Loken
- Don Lotze
- Scott & Natalia Louia
- Lowe Revocable Trust
- David and Jo Maas
- Emily Machin-Mayes
- Cindy Madigan
- Kenji Maeda
- Andrew Mallis
- Tessie Mandeville
- William Mann
- Charles Marcks
- Kay Marsh
- Toby Marston
- Camille Matern
- Iris Maute-Gibson & Rifka MacDonald
- Kim McBride
- Paula McCandlis & Joe Dozal
- Maureen McCarthy
- Ann McCartney & Norm Lindquist
- Michael McCauley
- Marissa McGrath
- Kevin McLain
- Angus McLane
- Kate McLean
- Susan McNutt
- Elaine McRory
- Amelia & Aldo Mendoza
- Mary Metzger
- Denise Meyer
- Li Moon & Jason Stillwater
- Phil Montgomery
- Sherrie Montgomery
- Cynthia Moore
- Karen & James Moren
- Geof Morgan
- Linda Morrow
- Carolyn Morton
- Brian Nadler
- David Namba
- CJ and Margaret Nathan
- Paul Neel & Jill Seager
- Kristen Neighbors
- Craig Nelson
- Nicole Newton
- Kyla Nez
- Carol Nilsen
- Obviously Not Golfers
- Guy Ochigrosso & Karen Kidall
- Julie & Ted O'Connell
- Janet Ott
- Page & Kristin Page
- Maria Jose Palacios Figueroa
- Julia & Shane Parker
- Amber Paszkowski
- Noel & Steve Paus
- Amory Peck
- Betsy Pernotto & Robert Marshall
- Allen & Mary Petersen
- Jami Peterson
- Lou Peterson
- Ryan Peterson
- Laura Poehner
- Andy Pohlman
- Frances Posel
- Chris & Wendy Powell
- Bruce Preszler
- Leslee Probasco
- Jeanne Quinn
- Crystal Radwanski
- Barbara Rappaport
- Dianne Rappaport
- Peter & Monica Ramey
- Ronald & Jeannie Reafs
- John Reid
- Janiece Reilly
- Alan & Susan Richardson
- Genissa Richardson
- Jason Richardon
- Catherine Riordan & Phil Thomson
- Amanda Robins
- Chuck & Dee Robinson
- Craig Robinson
- Wendy & Jeffrey Robinson
- Jackie & Fidel Rodelas
- Lynn Roesch
- Barbara & George Rofkar
- Dean Rofkar
- Ellen Rogers
- James Ruff
- Tina Ruff
- Jean Ryan
- Amy & Randy Rydel
- Susan Sabatino
- Tana Sabatino
- St Paul's Episcopal Church
- Jordan Sandoval
- Paul Sarvasy
- Tim Schermetzler & Kaitlyn Aliota
- David Schlitt & Sarah Zarrow
- Erin Schuldt
- Karen Schwallie
- Kelcie Sheriff & Janet Mayr
- Megan Sherman
- Adrian Shulock
- Morgan Sicilia
- Satpal Sidhu
- Naomi Siegel
- Amrit Singh
- Ken Smith
- Daniel Soloff
- Sue Staley & Chris Wiscavaage
- Lorraine Staudub
- Nancy & Rick Steele
- Peggy Stevens
- Catherine Strong & Thomas Moore
- Britt Sullateskee
- Kaia Svien
- Trevor & Priscilla Swezey
- Suzanne Taylor
- Terry & Wendell Terry
- The Kroger Co.
- Derek & Anna Thornton
- Abraham Tobon
- Virginia Tucker
- Bruce Underwood
- Catharine Vader
- BJ Van Leeuwen
- Mary Vermillion
- Kristopher & Brittany Volpenhein
- Rachel Wallace
- Amie Wallace
- Linda Ward
- Mitch & Stephanie Wayerski
- Towhee Wean
- Dani Weber
- Nik & Sasha Weiler
- Fred & Peggy Wepprecht
- Isa Werney
- Heather Whitaker
- Tessa Whitlock
- John & Kathryn Whitmer
- Dan & Holly Whittle
- Luke Wiesner
- Mark & Julie Wiesner
- Dustin & Lauren Willetts
- Allison Williams
- Desi Williams
- Allison Wilson
- Wandermere Management by
- Ebright Wight LLC
- Kristin Winn
- Carolyn & Dean Withrow
- Robert Withrow
- Moonwater & Wes Withrow
- Jonathan & Niki Woollin
- Gabrielle Yarborough
- Debra Young
- Rhonda Younker
- Daniel Zagnoli
- Mary Jo Zeimet
- Alivia Jelinski
- Johnny's Donuts
- Kara's Beauty Barn
- King Arthur Flour Baking School
- Kingworks Consulting Engineers, PLLC
- Kombucha Town
- Koru Body Therapy At The Shanti Center
- Kulshan Brewing Company
- La Fiamma Wood Fire Pizza
- La Quinta Inns & Suites
- LaserPoint Awards
- Law Office of Lisa Saar PLLC
- Kelli Linville & Will Rohl
- Little Caesars Pizza
- Donna & Keith Loken
- Louis Auto and Residential Glass
- Margaret's Window Cleaning
- Margot Myers
- Masquerade Wines
- Mary Jo Maute
- Iris Maute-Gibson & Rifka MacDonald
- Ann McCartney & Norm Lindquist
- Menchie's Frozen Yogurt
- Mindport Exhibits
- ModSock
- Mount Baker Theatre
- Museum of Pop Culture
- My Garden Nursery
- North Bellingham Golf Course
- Northwest Washington Fair & Event Center
- Old World Deli
- Oregon Museum of Science and Industry
- Pacific Injection Molding
- Pacific Science Center
- Pediatric NDT & SI Therapy Services
- Peoples Bank
- Pozie By Natalie
- Leslee Probasco
- Peter & Monica Ramey
- Rice Insurance
- Robey Namba Law
- Craig Robinson
- Rocket Donuts
- Roger Jobs Motors
- Rook & Rogue Board Game Pub
- Roundtable Pizza
- 20th Century Bowl
- 3 Moons Maker Space
- 3 Orms Yoga
- 8 Petals Yoga
- AB Crepes
- Advanced Medical Massage
- Adventures Northwest Magazine
- Alaska Gold Seafood
- Mark Allyn
- Anthony's at Squalicum Harbor
- Appliance Depot
- Asian Brewing Company
- Avenue Bread
- Bank of the Pacific
- Barkley Company
- Barre3
- Barron Smith Daugert
- Bay City Supply
- Bellewood Acres
- Bellingham Bells
- Bellingham Coin Shop
- Bellingham Cold Storage
- Bellingham Grocery Outlet
- Bellingham Metal Arts Guild
- Bellingham Police Association
- Bellingham Theatre Guild
- Bellingham Training & Tennis Club
- Gerald Bigelow
- Bio Bug Pest Management
- Birch Equipment
- Boccomon
- Sea Witch Botanicals
- Boundary Bay Brewing Company
- Ryan Bowman
- Brandley Berry
- Brandywine Kitchen
- Brett McCandlis Brown & Conner PLLC
- Kris Bundy
- Buri Funston Mumford PLLC
- Carla Benson Accounting
- Casa Que Pasa
- Joan Cervisi & David Thorgren
- Chazzam Signs & Graphics
- Chicaaji
- Chrysalis Inn and Spa
- Community Boating Center
- Community Food Co-op
- Cosmos Bistro
- Costco
- CreativTea
- DeLille Cellars
- Dickerson Distributors Inc.
- Dick's Drive-In Restaurants
- Dog On Great Computer Repair
- Kirsten Drickey & Kendall Whitney
- Electric Beet
- Galen Emanuele
- Emerald City Smoothie
- Eterna Studios
- Marian & Graham Exall
- Fairhaven Runners & Walkers
- Britt Sullateskee
- Fairhaven Toy Garden
- Fairhaven Village Inn
- FaithLife
- Rose Anne Featherston
- Doug Fenton
- First Federal Bank
- Fitness Gear & Training
- Five Guys Bellingham
- Flying Bird Botanicals
- Fringe Boutique
- Kerry Garrett
- Garrick Plumbing LLC
- Gato Verde Adventure Sailing
- Jaina & Chris Gemin
- Richard Gordon
- Haggen
- Hardware Sales
- Haven Beauty Salon & Spa
- Highline Construction
- Holiday Inn & Suites Bellingham
- Home2Suites By Hilton
- HomeSkiller
- Hotel Bellingham
- Ideal Carefully Curated Goods
- David Imburgia
- Inn At Northrup Station
- Intechra Health
- Island Movers
- Samson Rope
- Timothy Schermetzler
- Jill Seager & Paul Neel
- Seaglass Fine Art Photography
- Seattle Seahawks
- Shari's Cafe & Pies
- Morgan Sicilia
- Greg Singleton
- Sirena Gelato
- Skagit Bank
- Skylark's Hidden Cafe
- Smith & Just, P.S.
- SPARK Museum
- Spectrum Plumbing & Heating
- SpringHill Suites
- Steele Financial Services
- Stephen Gockley & Ellen Posel
- Linda & Colin Stewart
- Stones Throw Brewing Co
- Stremler Gravel
- Superfeet Worldwide LLC
- The Bagelry
- The Black Cat
- The Black Drop
- The Creative Frog
- The Filling Station
- The Woods Coffee
- Third Planet
- Tiny Onion Cooking School
- Tony's Coffee
- Turner Photographics
- Village Books
- Vital Climbing Gym
- Volonta Corporation
- V's Barbershop
- Walmart #2450
- Wander Brewing
- Westside Pizza Bellingham
- Whatcom County Fire District No. 7
- Whatcom Museum
- Robey Namba Law & Recreation
- Whatcom Symphony Orchestra
- Heather Whitaker
- Tina and Kirby White
- Wise Buys Thrift Store
- Dean & Carolyn Withrow

“ I value and support the WDRC because of its mission and great programs that fill a space in our community that would otherwise be empty: intentional and focused peacemaking! I stay involved because of the relationships, warmth, and just plain goodness of the people there. Honestly, that's the enduring 'glue'. ”

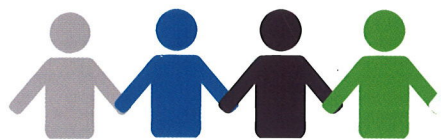
- Lara Welker, Volunteer

## Foundations & Grantors

- Bellingham Bay Rotary Club
- Bellingham Central Lions Club
- City of Bellingham
- Chuckanut Health Foundation
- Community Food Co-op
- Corp. for National & Community Service
- Department of Social & Human Services
- Dave Nelson Memorial Foundation
- First Federal Community Foundation
- Gockley/Posel Fund of the Whatcom Community Foundation
- James B Boskey Memorial Foundation
- Jerry H. Walton Foundation
- Lummi Indian Business Council
- D.V. and Ida J. McEachern Trust
- Superfeet Worldwide LLC
- The Mary Redman Foundation
- The Norcliffe Foundation
- The Riverstyx Foundation
- The Skipping Stone Foundation
- Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
- United Way of Whatcom County
- Washington Service Corps
- Whatcom Community Foundation
- Whatcom Educational Credit Union
- Whatcom Family & Community Network

# 2018 AT A GLANCE

6,222  
People Served

1,786  
Youth Served




210  
Workshops &  
Classes

3,613  
Training  
Participants

311  
Cases  
Mediated



837  
Mediation  
Participants

79%  
of Mediation  
Cases Reached  
Resolution



501  
Hours of  
Supervised  
Visits

In addition to helping community members resolve conflicts in healthy and creative ways, our free and low-cost dispute resolution services help our clients avoid the costs of, and debts associated with, court, attorneys, and protracted conflict.

**\$26,800**

Average cost of divorce per couple in Washington State

**\$281**

Average amount WDRC clients paid for family mediation

**\$4.4 Million**

Estimated savings to divorcing and separating families in Whatcom County

By enabling clients to resolve conflicts outside of the courtroom, our services allow the County court system to redirect resources and utilize taxpayer dollars more efficiently.

**196**

Court cases resolved through mediation

**\$559,570**

Value of court time saved by diverting cases to mediation