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Washington Women's Foundation Awards \$475,000 in Pooled Grants to Five Local Nonprofits

SEATTLE—(June 13, 2012)— [Washington Women's Foundation](#) has awarded grants to five nonprofit organizations totaling \$475,000, bringing total foundation giving since 1996 to over \$12 million, both through individual grants of up to \$1,000 each and through Pooled Fund Grants of \$50,000 - \$100,000.

“Reaching \$12 million in cumulative grants is a testament to the power and leverage of our collective giving model,” said Carla Lewis, President of Washington Women's Foundation. “Our members have combined their resources, their knowledge and their passion for improving our community to make a significant philanthropic impact across our state.”

Pooled Fund Grants were awarded in each of the Foundation's five giving areas: arts and culture, education, environment, health, and human services. Here's a closer look at the award-winning organizations and the purpose of the grant funds:

- **Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestras**' program *SYSO in The Schools* addresses the challenges of inequitable access to quality instrumental music education for low-income and minority students by providing free, high-caliber music instruction at the most arts-needy schools in South West Seattle. syso.org
- **YouthCare** offers a GED program for homeless young people, with support services and a tailored curriculum so that they can gain the skills and education credentials to secure employment or to pursue post-secondary education. youthcare.org
- **American Farmland Trust** will launch *Farmland Forever*, a multifaceted and timely campaign which seeks to prevent greater loss of regional farmland by broadening communication, building coalitions, and significantly increasing the amount of protected farmland in the Puget Sound region during the current lull in demand from developers. farmland.org
- **Bailey-Boushay House** will continue its highly successful *Outpatient Program* so that innovative medication management services and nutritious meals are accessible to very low-income patients living with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening diseases in King County. bailey-boushay.org
- **Cocoon House** is relocating its *U-Turn Drop-In Center* serving homeless youth in Snohomish County, to a larger, renovated space that includes shower, laundry and

kitchen facilities, and consolidates all Outreach and Advocacy services in the same location so that vulnerable teens can find the resources to escape life on the streets. cocoonhouse.org

Washington Women's Foundation also presents a **WWF Merit Award** to the five finalists who were not awarded the Pooled Fund Grants. The Merit Award is in recognition of the Grant Committee's strong endorsement of these organizations and includes a \$2,000 grant in appreciation for the time and effort invested in WWF's rigorous grant process. The 2012 Merit Awardees are: **Museum of History and Industry, Communities in Schools of Tacoma, Groundwire, UW Medicine's Center for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and Northwest Immigrant Rights Project.**

In addition to combining their giving dollars for the Pooled Fund grants, Washington Women's Foundation members will distribute an additional \$475,000 this year in individual grants to nonprofits of their choice as part of their annual membership contribution. Total foundation giving for 2012 alone will approach \$1 million.

About Washington Women's Foundation

The mission of Washington Women's Foundation is to educate and expand the number of women engaged in philanthropy, and to build and strengthen community through individual and large impact grants. The Foundation's members, now more than 500 strong, have invested \$12.3 million of their own resources in nonprofit organizations in the last 17 years (\$6.3 million in pooled grants; \$6.0 million in individual grants). Membership is open to all women interested in philanthropy. For more information, visit www.wawomensfoundation.org.

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