

2019 Annual Report



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

LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Greetings friends,

This past year marked a profound milestone for the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center (WDRC), as we opened the doors to *A Permanent Place for Peace*, our new home at 206 Prospect Street. In doing so, we successfully brought the first phase of our capital campaign to a close, and began serving the public in our spacious, welcoming building.

The heavy lift of our deeply inspiring campaign was rooted in the profound recognition by our Board, staff, volunteers, and community of supporters that this work, our mission, is both meaningful and necessary. The depth and breadth of our services are supporting families, schools, workplaces, courts, and neighborhoods alike in unique and powerful ways.

Without the WDRC, 32 children in supervised visitation wouldn't have been able to see their parent safely in the past year; the 280 disputes we mediated would have flooded the courts, law enforcement, and the community at large; those clients would have had to finance thousands more dollars than our mediation services cost them; and 1,000 youth wouldn't have had access to the 81 workshops we provided to build valuable communication and conflict resolution skills.

Because of the success of our campaign, we have a place to call home, and we've continued seamless delivery of services throughout this period of transition. As we look to 2020 and beyond, we remain hopeful and invigorated by the focus areas of our strategic plan: Relevancy, Relationships, and Resilience. We invite you to continue joining with us to ensure Whatcom County is a place in which people approach conflict in healthy and creative ways.

Moonwater
Executive Director

Catherine Riordan
Board President

OUR TEAM

Board of Directors

Catherine Riordan, President
Christian Christensen
Sarah Chan
Kirsten Drickey
Stephen Gockley
Kate Imus
Jon Krause
Adam Lervik
Donna Loken
Amy Rydel
CJ Seitz

Advisory Board

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

Staff

Moonwater, *Executive Director*
Nancy Blume, *Finance Manager*
Jaina Gemin, *Office Manager*
Tim Campbell, *Administrative Associate*
Sarah Jenkins, *Bookkeeping Assistant*
Addie Candib, *Community Engagement Manager*
Cindy Scott, *Community Engagement Coordinator*
Gayle LaCroix, *Mediation Program Manager*
Cynthia Moore, *Lead Case Manager*
Britt Sullateskee, *Mediation Case Manager*
Emily Machin-Mayes, *Youth Program Manager*
Marissa Collins, *AmeriCorps Youth Program Specialist*
Janne Sleeper, *Supervised Visitation Program Manager*
Rebecca Vigoren, *Supervised Visitation Program Coordinator*

2019

Thank you to the 101 volunteers
who contributed 4,730 hours in 2019!

RELEVANCY

Increasing our visibility and accessibility as a community resource

Special Project: Restorative Justice Learning Series

This past year brought a powerful opportunity to explore justice through a unique lens. Local and national research, including an audit funded by the US Department of Justice, has shown that our current justice system does not fully meet the needs of survivors of domestic and sexual violence. In response, Whatcom County's Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence sought the WDRC's assistance to develop a learning series on restorative justice that would illuminate more pathways for justice.

The purpose of the learning series was threefold: to develop a common understanding and definition of a restorative justice framework, to explore how a restorative justice framework can be applied to community responses to sexual and domestic violence, and to develop shared community values for this exploration. Two sessions were completed in 2019, with four more slated for 2020. Between 35 and 60 participants have attended each session, reflecting a wide range of stakeholders, from higher education, to courts and prosecution, to grassroots organizers and nonprofit associations. There are numerous conversations and possibilities emerging just from these initial sessions alone. We look forward to continuing this exploration in the hopes of creating more opportunities for healing throughout our community.



“ This is amazing and much needed work. Thank you for making this happen. ”

- Learning Series participant

Spotlight on Family Mediation

For 27 years, family mediation has been one of the WDRC's core services. In Whatcom County, divorcing parents with children under 18 are required to create a parenting plan in mediation before their case can go to trial. But families come to the WDRC for other reasons, too. For many, mediation is the most financially accessible option for resolving their disputes. Others prefer the confidentiality and informality of the mediation process. For all clients, family mediation offers an affordable, efficient, and effective way to develop or modify parenting plans, negotiate property divisions, and address other issues that emerge during a separation or divorce.

In 2019, the WDRC handled **223 family cases**. About **73%** (162 cases) progressed to mediation, and **79%** of those (128 cases) reached agreement. All together, **371 adults** participated in family mediation, benefiting **192 children**. Even in those cases that did not progress to mediation (either because one party declined, or because the issues were resolved in another way), our case managers played an important role.

The WDRC is often the first stop for families in conflict. Our case managers provide important conflict coaching, making clients feel heard, helping them understand their options and gain clarity about their needs, educating them about the mediation process, and referring them to other services in the community.



“ Thank you for helping us come to a place where we could talk and be fair with each other. ”

- Family Mediation client

RELATIONSHIPS

Maintaining exemplary services and strong partnerships to magnify our impact.

Collaborating with the Whatcom Museum

In 2019, the WDRC partnered with the Whatcom Museum in conjunction with the exhibition, "Wanted: Ed Bereal for Disturbing the Peace." This lifetime retrospective highlighted the work of local artist Ed Bereal, and brought forth powerful and provocative images of power, race, consumerism, and politics.



Supported by a Whatcom Community Foundation Project Neighborly Grant, the partnership culminated in two events. First, WDRC staff designed and led a workshop for museum docents to increase their comfort with the types of conflicts that art can provoke. The workshop covered topics like active listening, physiological responses to triggers, and managing strong emotions while staying present and engaged.

The second event was a facilitated dialogue, "Art, Politics, and Community": A Conversation Inspired by Ed Bereal's Work. On September 21st, over 40 community members, including Ed Bereal, Bellingham Police Chief David Doll, Bellingham Mayor Kelli Linville, and WWU Political Science Professor Vernon Damani Johnson, came together for a conversation, facilitated by the WDRC's Executive Director Moonwater. Participants discussed their reactions to the art and the values present within it and themselves, exemplifying the rich reflection and learning that strong collaboration can make possible.

Collaborating with Schools throughout Whatcom County

Many of us wish we had learned conflict resolution skills growing up. While we can't change the past, we can change the future. Our Youth Program is helping teachers, counselors, and school leaders ensure that their students have the opportunity to practice peace inside (and outside) the classroom.

As one counselor told us, "WDRC staff have facilitated several small groups focused on conflict-resolution and developing assertive communication for 4th and 5th grade students. The students enjoyed the ice breakers at the beginning of each group, which set the tone for team-building and a supportive environment. Partnering with experts in conflict resolution was also helpful for me as a professional to learn a new set of skills and language I could use in my work with students."

One of the greatest rewards of the Youth Program is the long-standing relationships we cultivate with schools. Year after year, we lead activities and discussions about healthy ways to deal with stress and conflict. We have a presence in all seven school districts in Whatcom County, and in 2019, we celebrated:

- 3 years working with 5th grade classes at Harmony Elementary
- 4 years working with 7th grade health classes at Vista Middle School
- 5 years working with health classes at Meridian Middle School
- 5 years providing leadership and classroom workshops at Kulshan Middle School
- 6 years working at Lowell Elementary School

Many thanks to our partners in the schools; without their collaboration it would not be possible for the WDRC to reach so many of Whatcom County's youth.





Painting of 206 Prospect Street by WDRRC Board President Catherine Riordan

RESILIENCE

Strengthening our internal and external resources to ensure a vibrant future

“ This is a great place for peace to grow!
Thanks for your vision and for welcoming us all in. ”

- Community member

A Permanent Place for Peace – First Phase Completed!

Thanks to an outpouring of community support, the WDRRC succeeded in raising sufficient funds to complete the first phase of our capital campaign, which included purchasing and renovating the historic building at 206 Prospect Street in downtown Bellingham. We began offering services in the new space on January 2nd, and an official ribbon cutting ceremony took place on March 6th.

Partners on the project included: City of Bellingham, Washington State Department of Commerce, M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust, Chuckanut Health Foundation, First Federal Community Foundation, RiverStyx Foundation, Norcliffe Foundation, McEachern Charitable Trust, Jerry H. Walton Foundation, and Whatcom Community Foundation and its donor advised funds.

Building a Resilient Future for all DRCs

The WDRRC is a proud member of our statewide association, Resolution Washington. This network of 21 dispute resolution centers serves as a hub for collaborative efforts, to strengthen service delivery to every corner of our state, set statewide standards for mediator training and certification, share resources, and develop unique and powerful programming such as the mediation component of the Foreclosure Fairness Act.

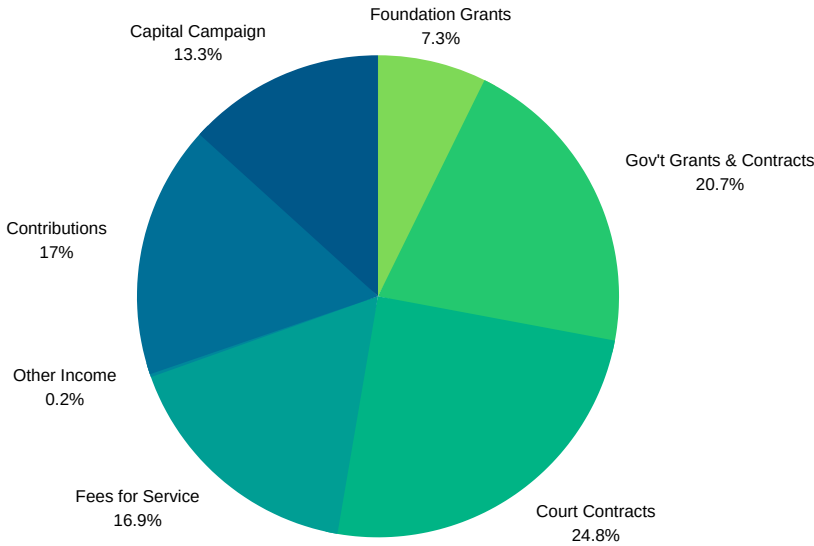
For the past year and a half, our Executive Director Moonwater has had the opportunity to serve as co-president of Resolution Washington, helping to educate state leaders and stakeholders about the value and opportunity that lies within every DRC. Washington State provides critical funding to DRCs, and has done so since 2007. These capacity dollars, although small in comparison to our collective need, demonstrate a commitment by the State to the original intent of RCW 7.75, our founding legislation. In 2019, the legislature responded to Resolution Washington's efforts by expanding funding for DRCs, doubling the biennial allocation from \$1 million to \$2 million for the state.

As we look to 2020 and beyond, we recognize that investments in our network translate directly to investments in our own community's children, schools, families, and workplaces. WDRRC is committed to working in partnership with Resolution Washington, to continue to advocate for statewide resources to build the capacity of DRCs to respond to our communities' most pressing needs.



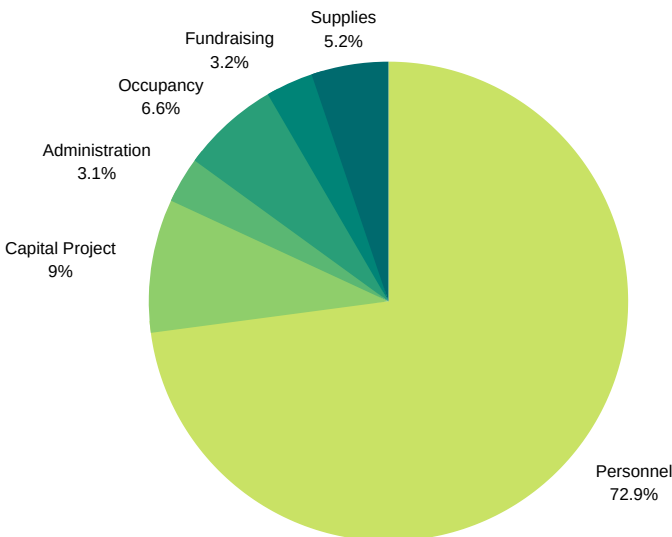
2019 FINANCIALS

Income



Total Income: \$807,693

Expenses



Total Expenses: \$749,359

Net Income: \$58,334*

Balance Sheet

Assets

Current Assets

Cash & cash equivalents	\$200,495
Accounts receivable	\$53,783
Total current assets	\$254,278

Fixed Assets

Building & land	\$596,187
Building improvements	\$366,413
Other fixed assets	\$2,824
Total fixed assets	\$965,424

Total Assets **\$1,219,702**

Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$10,849
Accrued expenses	\$5,659
Mortgage payable	\$356,143
Capital loans payable	\$250,000
Total liabilities	\$622,651

Equity

Unrestricted net assets	\$591,754
Temp. restricted net assets	\$5,297
Total Equity	\$597,051

Total Liabilities & Equity **\$1,219,702**

*Includes Capital Campaign Funds

Giving Circle & Capital Campaign Donors

Kaitlyn Aliota
Meagan All
Joanne Allison
Mark Allyn
Dave Andrews
Cathy Angell
Anonymous
Alfred & Harriet Arkley
Sarah Ayers
Ray Ballweg
Iris Banks
Bethany Barrett
John & Dorie Belisle
Jill Bernstein & Michael Waite
Drew & Mike Betz
Elizabeth Bierman
Ronna Biggs
Nancy & John Blume
Iris & Andrew Bodman
Jenny & Scott Bowefield
Kacey Bradt
Victoria Breckwith
Amy Brewster
Max Bronsema
Beth Brownfield
Pam & Doug Bulthuis
Julia Burns
Lucy Candib & Richard Schmitt
Emily & Blaise Carey
Rocio & Charles Castillo-Foell
Rachel & Jason Cecka
Susan & Tim Cedergreen
Centurion Household
Joan Cervisi & David Thorngren
Sarah Chan
Christian Christensen
Kerri Clary
Bruce Clawson
Maureen Cleveland
Matt & Courtney Conner
Patricia Conover
Keith Cox
Craig Robinson & MaryAnn Crawford
Mike Crum & Paula Rotondi
David & Jayme Curley
Tracy Dahlstedt-Rienstra
Danielle's Back East BBQ
Barbara Davenport
Kaitlin Davis
Dianna Del Giorgio
Jacie DeLaruelle
Brianna & Ryan Delker
Marcela Suarez Diaz
David and Andrea Doll
Martha Dominguez
Lori Dunbar
Mary Durbrow & Deb Dempsey
Ann & Pug Edmonds
Pamela Englett
Stefania Eskridge
Marian & Graham Exall
Jeremy Ferrera
Jessica Finstuen
Heather Flaherty
Lindsey Frallic
Tish Franklin
Vermeda Fred
Robert & Elaine Gaeta
Becky Galvin
Stephen Gockley & Ellen Posel
Stan Gilbert & Marianne Taylor
Thomas & Patsy Gilmore
Michelle Goldman
Hilary Goode
Suzanne Gray
Christina Greene
Betsy Gross
Ann Hall
Karla Hall
Paul Hanson
Deborah Hawley
Laurie & Ken Heck
Kathy Hillmoe
Kirk Holz
Catalina & Greg Hope
Judy Hopkinson
Jack Hovenier
Kristen Hubbard
Sarah Hutton
Jean Imus
Liz Isaly
Rand & Dana Jack
Heather & Richard Jefferson
Alivia Jelinski
Linda Jelinski

Sarah Jenkins
Dag & Lynette Jensen
Rebecca Johnson
Lewis Jones
Nancy Joseph
Kaiser Permanente
Katherine Imus & Kevin Misiuda
Edson Kempe
Cam Kerst
Jacob Kerst
Gene Knutson
Jan Knutson
Michelle Kopcha & Susan Wright
Wander Brewing Company
Michael Langey
Jean LaValley
Sonja Lee
Irene Leesluys
Adam & Megan Lervik
Matt Lesinski
Rabbi Kalish Leviel & Judy Chiasson
Janet Lightner
Kelli Linville & Will Rohl
Ronna Loerch
Donna & Keith Loken
Don & Joan Lotze
Howard & Joanne Lowe
Jack MacSllarrow
Cindy Madigan
Jeff Maher
Shannon Maris
Kay Marsh
Toby Marston & Jen Stephens
Roy Martin
Camille Matern
Kat McAvoy
Paula McCandlis
Maureen McCarthy
Ann McCartney & Norm Lindquist
Kirsten McDade
Laura & Jonathon McGough
Todd McGovern
Kate McLean
Mary Metzger
Harlyn & Jim Meyer
Lara Miles
Hannah Miller
Brad"Scott" Minkler
Phil Montgomery
Sherrie Montgomery
Mary Lee Mooney
Geof Morgan & Liz Wade
Melissa Morin
Bob & Jeanette Morse
Emily Rose Mowrey
Heather Munro-Hildreth & Alex Hildreth
Sarah Nakken
Paul & Tisha Nash
CJ & Margaret Nathon
Network for Good
Kate & Chris Newell
Therese Norton
Sid O'Connell
Melissa O'Neal & Mary Summerfield
Colleen Pacheco
Page
Patricia Clark & Bill Wright
Patrick Gallery & Christine Coder
Amory Peck
Christine Perkins
Elizabeth Pernotto & Robert Marshall
Frances Posel
Brandon & Ashley Priest
Elizabeth Purdy
Barbara Rappaport
Dianne Rappaport
Janiece Reilly
Connie Reitzug
Renee Relin
Myra Rhineheart-Corcoran & Peter Corcoran
Allan & Susan Richardson
Genissa Richardson
Jean Cunningham & David Richardson
Eric Richey
William & Laura Rink
Catherine Riordan & Phil Thompson
Robert & Debbie Withrow
Allison Roberts
David Roberts
Chuck & Dee Robinson
Wendy & Jeffrey Robinson
Nicole Roetcisoender
Foster Rose
Peter & Gage Ruffatto

Amy & Randy Rydel
Tana Sabatino
Ario Salazar
Paul Sarvasy & Sheila Sondik
Timothy Schermetzler
Jill Seager & Paul Neel
Seeking Health
Howard Sharfstein & Mary Francell-Sharfstein
Kelcie Sheriff & Janet Mayr
Chuck & Johanna Snyder
Lauren Sommer
Jill Stanton
Elke Stevens
Ann Stevenson & Michael Berres
Mark Stowe
Liz Stuart
Sue Staley & Chris Wiscavaage
Tricia Sweeney
Trevor & Priscilla Swezey
Angela Taylor
Wanda "Terry" & Wendell Terry
The Bergman Household
The Kroger Co.
Denny & Lauri Thorley
Derek & Anna Thornton
Holly Tobosa
United Way of Pierce County
Amelia Vader
Catharine Vader
Ria Van Weerdhuizen
John Vance
Kris & Brit Volpenheim
Eddi Vulic
Linda Ward
Laura Weiss
Pat & Ron Weitnauer
Father Jonathon Weldon
Lindsay Wells
Fred and Peggy Wepprecht
Isa Werney
Kristen Whitehead
John & Kathryn Whitmer
Holly & Dan Whittle
Mark & Julie Wiesner
Justin Wiley
Stephanie Wiley
Henry William & Marily Borwell
Dean & Carolyn Withrow
Moonwater & Wes Withrow
Catherine Witt
Jill & Craig Witt
Peace Wizard
Debra Young
Rhonda Younker

Chrysalis Inn and Spa
City Gym
Community Boating Center
Community Food Co-op
Cool Beans Coffee
Craig Robinson & MaryAnn Crawford
Dandelion Organic Delivery
Kaitlin Davis
Dick's Drive-in Restaurants
Dog on Great Computer Repair
David & Andrea Doll
Ecopacific SeaFood LLC
Michelle Egbert
Emerald City Smoothie
Evolve Chocolate
Fairhaven Runners & Walkers
Fairhaven Toy Garden
Fairhaven Village Inn
FaithLife
FatCat Fish Company
Final Touch Auto Spa
Firehouse Performing Arts Center
Flow Motion
Flying Bird Botanicals
Fogon Cocina Mexicana
Fred Meyer
Fringe Boutique
Garrick Plumbing LLC
Eric & Emily Gemin
Jaina & Chris Gemin
Richard Gordon
Great Harvest Bread
Hardware Sales
Hayden Construction & Woodworking
Heritage Bank
Home2 Suites by Hilton
HomeSkiller
Hyline Hotel for Dogs
Ideal Carefully Curated Goods
Inn at Lynden
Inn at Northrup Station
Intrinsic Flow
Island Movers
Alivia Jelinski
Jensen's Ferndale Floral
Keith Cox Autobahn
Kevin.Murphy
Kimpton Hotels
King Arthur Flour Baking School
Kombucha Town
Koru Body Therapy
K'UL Chocolate
Kulshan Brewing Company
La Fiamma Wood Fire Pizza
La Quinta Inn & Suites
LaserPoint Awards
Law Office of Douglas Hyldahl
Mayor Kelli Linville
Little Caesars Pizza
Little Cheerful Cafe
Donna & Keith Loken
Lost Giants Cider Co. LLC
Louis Auto & Residential Glass
Mallard Ice Cream
Ben Mann
Charles Marcks
Margaret's Window Cleaning
Massage Envy
Mary Jo Maute
Ann McCartney & Norm Lindquist
Melissa's Holistic Skin Care
Mindport Exhibits
Sarah Miranda
ModSock
Mount Baker Theatre
Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP)
NW Washington Fair & Event Center
Nuu-muu

Old Town Café
Olio Flowers
Overflow Taps
Overhead Door
Pacific Science Center
Pacific Surveying & Engineering, Inc.
Park Lane Jewelry
Pediatric NDT & SI Therapy Services
Peoples Bank
PetStop
Pickford Film Center
Stephen Gockley & Ellen Posel
Pozie by Natalie
Leslee Probasco
Pure Bliss
Quinn & Foster
Ralfs Bavarian Originals
Reference Media
Reflexology by Sue Gaughenbaugh
The Re-Store
Rice Insurance
Catherine Riordan & Phil Thompson
River's Edge Christmas Tree Farm
Robey Namba Law
Rocket Donuts
Barbara & George Rofkar
Roger Jobs Motors
Roundtable Pizza
Sheri Russell
Saltadena
Saratoga Commercial Real Estate
Sea Witch Botanicals
Semiahmoo Golf & Country Club
Semiahmoo Resort
Shake & Shine
Shari's Café & Pies
Silver Reef Casino & Spa
Laura Singletary
Greg Singletary
Sirena Gelato
Skylark's Hidden Café
Smith & Just, P.S.
Greg Smyth
Social Fabric
SPARK Museum of Electrical Invention
Spectrum Plumbing & Heating
SPIE
SpringHill Suites by Marriott Bellingham
Linda & Colin Stewart
Still Life Massage & Float
Brittany Sullateskee
The Bagelry
The Comics Place
The Creative Frog
The Daisy Cafe
The Filling Station
The Pot Factory
Third Planet
Tony's Coffee
TownPlace Suites Bellingham
Trek Bicycle
Upfront Theatre
Village Books
Vital Climbing Gym
V's Barbershop
Walmart #2450
Whatcom County Fire District No. 7
Whatcom Family YMCA
Whatcom Museum
Whatcom Sports & Recreation
Tina & Kirby White
Whole Foods
Wild Bird Chalet
Wild Whatcom
Willows Inn
Wise Buys Thrift Store
Yes Massages

Event Sponsors
& In-Kind Donors

20th Century Bowl
3 Moons Maker Space
3 Oms Yoga
8 Petals Yoga with Susan D'Onofrio
Marci Abshire Acupuncture Health Center
Advanced Medical Massage
Adventures Northwest Magazine
Alaska Gold Seafood
Mark Allyn
Anchor QEA
Appliance Depot
Apse Adorn
Aslan Brewing Company
Avenue Bread
Babygreens
Baker Creek Studio
Bank of the Pacific
Barre3
Bay City Supply
Bellewood Acres
Bellingham Bar and Grill
Bellingham Bells
Bellingham Chamber of Commerce
Bellingham Cold Storage
Bellingham Grocery Outlet
Bellingham Symphony Orchestra
Bellingham Theatre Guild
Bellingham Training & Tennis Club
Gerald Bigelow
Bill Speidel's Underground Tour
Birch Equipment
Boccecomon
Boundary Bay Brewing Company
Brett McCandlis Brown & Conner PLLC
Buri Funston Mumford PLLC
Casa Que Pasa
Sarah Chan
Chicaoji
Christian Christensen



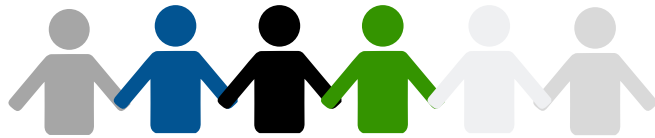
United Way
of Whatcom County
Community Partner

Foundations & Grants

City of Bellingham
Chuckanut Health Foundation
Dave Nelson Memorial Foundation
Department of Social & Human Services
James B Boskey Memorial Foundation
Jeffris Wood Fund
Jerry H. Walton Foundation
Lummi Indian Business Council
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
Superfeet Worldwide LLC
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
United Way of Whatcom County
Washington Service Corps
Whatcom Community Foundation: Eve Pryce Memorial Fund,
Gockley/Posel Fund, Project Neighborly
Whatcom Educational Credit Union
Whatcom Family & Community Network

2019 AT A GLANCE

4,623
People Served



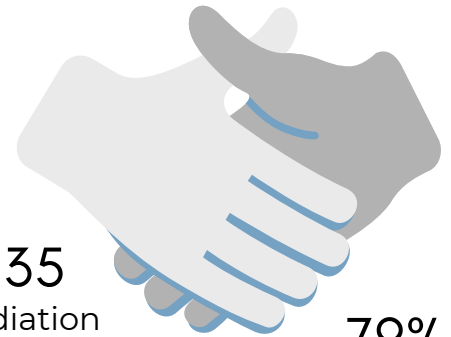
1,057
Youth Served



156
Workshops & Classes

2,509
Training Participants

280
Cases Mediated



735
Mediation Participants

79%
of Mediation Cases Reached Resolution



381
Hours of Supervised Visits

UNDERSTANDING OUR IMPACT

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

\$286

Average amount WDRC clients paid for family mediation

\$4.3 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

\$576,000

Value of court time saved by diverting cases to mediation