



# 2018 Annual Report



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

## LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

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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

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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!**

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

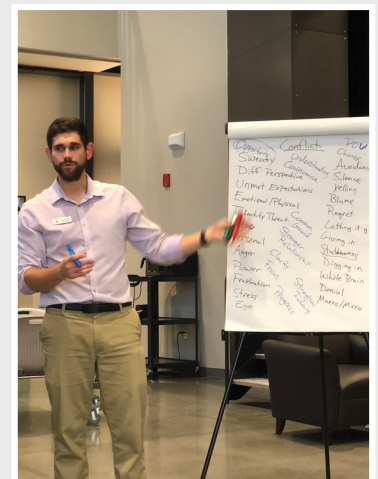
## Connecting through the Arts

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.

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!

“ 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

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.

## 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!

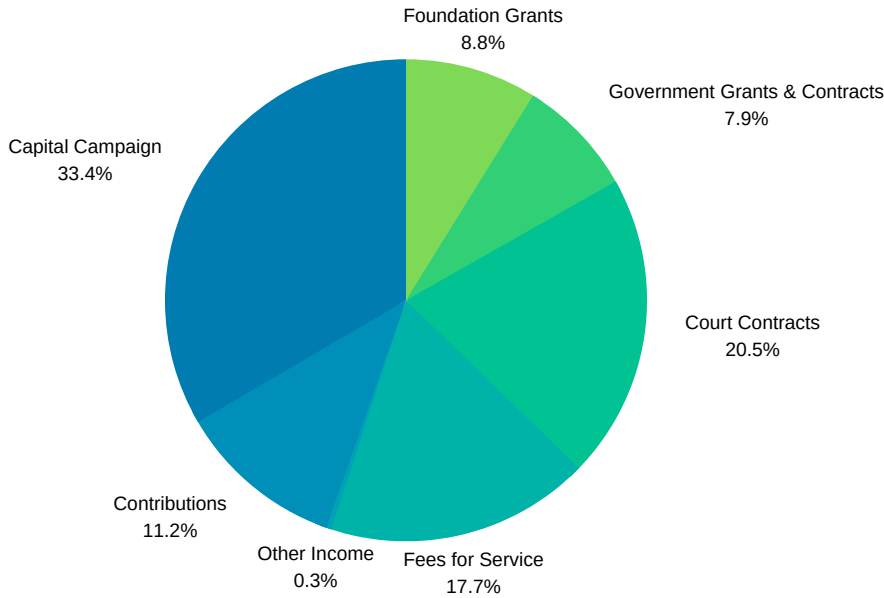
We opened our doors at 206 Prospect Street on January 2nd, 2019.

*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.*



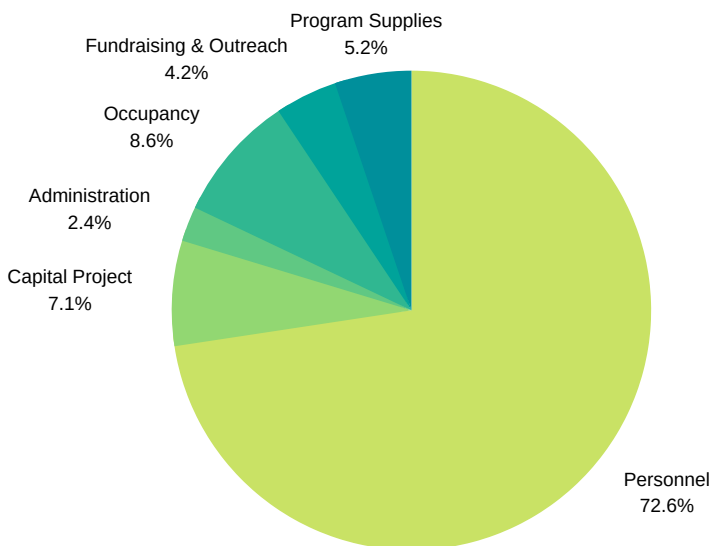
# 2018 FINANCIALS

## 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



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Koru Body Therapy At The Shanti Center  
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Pacific Science Center  
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Whatcom Sports & 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'.”

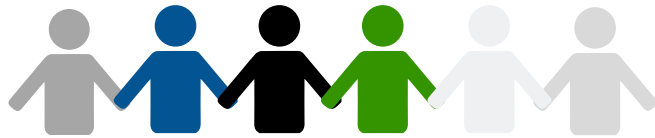
- Lara Welker, Volunteer

## Foundations &amp; Grants

Bellingham Bay Rotary Club  
Bellingham Central Lions Club  
City of Bellingham  
Chuckanut Health Foundation  
Community Food Co-op  
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Department of Social & Human Services  
Dave Nelson Memorial Foundation  
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Gockley/Posel Fund of the Whatcom Community Foundation  
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Jerry H. Walton Foundation  
Lummi Indian Business Council  
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Superfeet Worldwide LLC  
The Mary Redman Foundation  
The Norcliffe Foundation  
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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



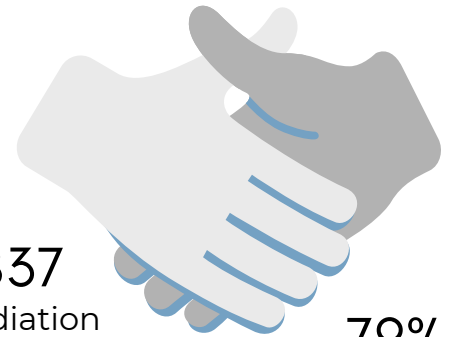
1,786  
Youth Served



210  
Workshops & Classes

3,613  
Training Participants

311  
Cases Mediated



837  
Mediation Participants

79%  
of Mediation Cases Reached Resolution



501  
Hours of Supervised Visits

**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

**\$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