

# Major Donor Funds the 2019-2021 Seasons

Funding created uncertainty for all schools requiring financial support for the field trip. Students anxiously anticipated their turn as the trip became more engrained in school cultures. PTAs and chaperones put up as much as they could, but it still was not enough for schools with economic constraints. Together, we worked hard to take advantage of as many funding opportunities as we could, but whether we would be granted the funds would not be known until March. That did not leave much time to fill in the funding gap for May and June field trips. It also required focus and time throughout the year limiting the growth of the program.

Those worries are now behind us for the next three years.

**The Sustainable Whatcom Fund of Whatcom Community Foundation** fully funded a three-year grant request. **Bellingham Public Schools Foundation** accepted the funds on behalf of the Salish Sea Experience as our fiscal sponsor.



These funds will be used to do the following:

## Field Trip Program



Support for all schools at their current level of support for three years.



Fully support non-participating Title 1 schools and provide incentive for others to participate.



Support time needed to expand program capacity to accommodate all 14 Bellingham elementary schools.



Provide funding for additional staff on large trips.

## Stewardship Program



Provides funding to develop and implement a stewardship program that includes learning about the Salish Sea, Native American perspectives, and big picture impact of our actions on the ocean and the marine life in it, then narrowing down to the human impact on the Southern Resident Killer Whales. This would be done through four presentations followed by weekly questions and short videos to reinforce ideas. Every touch serves as a reminder of the importance stewardship.

The goal is to embed an environmental conscience that fosters environmentally friendly habits throughout a lifetime.

Why is this important? Because...

*“Everything that happens in the watershed of the Salish Sea impacts the habitats and creatures in it – and that includes US!”*

**Thank you, Sustainable Whatcom Fund of  
Whatcom Community Foundation**