



Bellingham  
At Home

# Newsletter – September 2015

## **Bellingham At Home Receives First Grant!**

A significant portion of village funding--more than half--typically comes from sources other than membership fees. One of the jobs of village leadership is to find and apply for grants and seek outside donations. Our Steering Committee has been busy at work on this task—and successful! We recently received notice that our application to Chuckanut Health Foundation resulted in a grant of \$5,000. This money will be used to help us cover pre-launch expenses such as promotion and travel.

## **National Village Gathering in Seattle: Plan to Attend!**

Non-members as well as members are welcome to attend the Village to Village ('VtV') Network's 7<sup>th</sup> annual National Village Gathering in Seattle (October 5-7) this year. This is a great opportunity for those of us who live in the region to learn more about the village movement and to benefit from the experience of established villages and the expertise of researchers from across the country. Attendees can register for one day or for all three. The theme of the gathering is "The Village Movement: Aging's New Frontier." Each day will feature speakers and breakout sessions on a wide range of topics. Here's a sampling:

- Village 101 – In-depth session for developing villages
- Village 202 – Regional village groups and leadership
- Update on Village Research (from UC Berkeley)
- Expanding Care Options for our Frailest Members
- Update and Implications for Aging in Community (from the White House Conference on Aging)
- Civic Investment in your Village

Bellingham At Home developers will be in attendance. We plan to ask lots of questions and apply what we learn as we build our own village here. Join us in Seattle and participate!

The Village to Village Network, of which Bellingham At Home is a member, is a national peer-to-peer network formed to help establish and continuously improve management of member villages. This organization is more than 150 villages strong. Details are at the [Village to Village website](#). If you would like to attend the gathering, please contact Bellingham At Home (contact information below).

## **Founders Club Raises Funds**

This spring, our hard-working Steering Committee put on their Founders Club hats and set about finding funds to start our village. The committee themselves had already ponied up with generous contributions to the cause. The search continues, but a number of community-minded individuals have recognized the need we are trying to fill and have offered their support. To date, we have raised more than \$8,000, in addition to a \$5,000 grant (see above). Donors who contribute \$1,000 or more become founding members of Bellingham At Home's Founders Club.

Our sincere thanks go to our new Founders Club members and to all our campaign contributors, who are supporting our efforts to make our village a reality.

## Volunteer Opportunities—You Can Help!



You may have seen our banner at the farmers markets in Bellingham and Senior Day in the Park in Ferndale this summer. Our volunteers have been helping us spread the word about plans for an aging in place “village” in Bellingham. As we get closer to what we hope will be a spring launch, there are more and more opportunities to help.

*If you would like to offer your services, please let us know. You can [fill out this form](#), print it and mail it to us, or simply email us your contact information (name and email address) and areas of interest.*

**Left: Visitors to the Bellingham At Home booth at Senior Day in the Park, Hovander Park, chat with volunteer Barb Evans.**

*If you are receiving this newsletter by regular mail, please fill out the enclosed form and mail it to the address at the bottom of this newsletter.*

To get Bellingham At Home to the point where services for seniors can be delivered, we need volunteer help *now*:

- Connect us with your neighborhood association and help share our plans at the neighborhood level.
- Participate with us at public events.
- Help our Steering Committee by taking notes at our bi-weekly meetings. *Immediate need! Please contact Barb Evans (360 650-9724).*

There is much work ahead, both as we develop Bellingham At Home and after its launch, so please let us hear from you!

### FAQ #2 (...the 2<sup>nd</sup> in our series)

*How will Bellingham At Home fill a need that isn't already addressed in our community?*

Many organizations in our area offer services for senior citizens. As part of our pre-launch phase, Bellingham At Home is contacting these organizations and identifying the services available to residents, across income and physical ability. This will help us confirm what's lacking, and, along with our survey results, will allow us to pinpoint our services.

NOTE: You can help our Asset Mapping task force with this effort. Contact Elaine Cress ([info@bellinghamathome.org](mailto:info@bellinghamathome.org)) for details.

### For more about us...

Come and visit the Bellingham At Home [website](#). Stop by often, and keep up with our activities and progress!

#### **Bellingham At Home Contact Information**

**Currently at:** Bellingham Senior Activity Center, 315 Halleck Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

**Phone:** 360 746-3462 **E-mail:** [info@bellinghamathome.org](mailto:info@bellinghamathome.org)

**Website:** <http://BellinghamAtHome.org>

Bellingham At Home (“BAH”) is a program of the [Whatcom Council on Aging](#), which is a 501(c)(3) organization, and a member of the [Village to Village Network](#).