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# NEWS RELEASE

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**B A I N B R I D G E**  
**Community Foundation**

*Inspiring Philanthropy*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 19, 2015**

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## **Bainbridge Community Foundation Awards Community Grants to 48 Local Organizations**

The Bainbridge Community Foundation (BCF) is pleased to announce that it will award more than \$195,000 to 48 organizations serving Bainbridge Island residents through its 2015 Community Grants Cycle. BCF, together with One Call for All and Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island, will publicly honor its funding recipients and celebrate the invaluable services and positive impacts that our local nonprofit organizations provide in our community at its annual Nonprofit Celebration. This event will be held at the Bainbridge Performing Arts Center on Thursday, July 9, 2014 from 4:30 until 6:00 p.m.

The largest amount of total grant dollars, nearly \$75,000, was awarded to the Health, Housing and Human Services sector, which received 38% of overall funding. Highlights in this sector include an award of \$5,000 to Housing Resources Bainbridge for the installation of safe and energy-efficient ductless heat pumps for the veterans, disabled or fixed-income residents at Village Home and an award of \$7,000 to Bainbridge Youth Services for their continued excellent work to support local adolescents and teens through the Bainbridge Island Healthy Youth Alliance. Kitsap Legal Services will receive \$7,500 to operate their monthly Clinic at Helpline House, serving Island residents facing economic hardship who need critical help with civil law issues, such as housing, family law, and employment.

The highest rated application overall fell within the Environment & Animal Welfare sector, which received 19% of total funding. EcoAdapt experts will work with the City of Bainbridge Island to create a climate-savvy Comprehensive Plan. Solutions and strategies will be developed

in the areas of land use, infrastructure, tourism, farm sustainability, coastal property protection and emergency response planning. These helpful tools will be shared with businesses, schools, community groups, families and individuals, increasing the Islands' ability to thrive in the face of rapid climate change. The Foundation also awarded funding to Salish Sea Expeditions for their educational summer programs, where young scientists design and conduct original environmental research while having fun, and to the Bainbridge Island Land Trust for its Student Conservation Corps programs, where invasive plant species removal and the restoration of conservation lands provides an opportunity for students to become passionate stewards of our natural resources.

The Recreational sector contained the highest number of new applications and received more than \$27,000 in grant dollars. An award to The Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation of \$5,000 will help meet enthusiastic public demand for expanded trails connecting parks and neighborhoods to parks, schools and service centers. The Parks Foundation will work with the Park District to improve and maintain our Island's thriving trail system for the public's use and enjoyment. Another notable program the Foundation supported is Owen's Playground, who received a grant of \$4,500 for their work to create a vibrant, inclusive outdoor play space at Rotary Park, which will be accessible to individuals of all ages and abilities.

In the area of Arts, Culture, & Humanities, the Foundation awarded more than \$20,000 to support local museums, theaters and arts organizations. Bainbridge Arts & Crafts received an award of \$3,750 to host their second annual weekend-long painting event, Paint Out Winslow. This fun event brings artists together to meet other artists and passersby, paint our historic downtown and waterfront, and celebrate our vibrant arts community. Bainbridge Performing Arts also received full funding for their Open Door Program, which provides free and reduced-cost tickets to performances and Theatre School classes to those in need.

In the sector of Education, which received 10% of overall funding, The Bainbridge Schools Foundation received the highest award of \$9,000 to introduce engineering programming for approximately 1,200 students in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will learn how to problem solve in teams, building valuable collaboration and communication skills, and become more aware of engineering, science, and technical careers at a time when the pursuit of engineering education is decreasing. The Odyssey PTO received \$2,000 toward the purchase a laser cutter and to provide teacher training to enhance their STEM/STEAM programs offered for grades one through eight.

The Public & Society Benefit sector received \$17,500 in funding awards from the Foundation. The largest award of \$10,000 was given to Island Volunteer Caregivers to develop comprehensive training programs, allowing their growing volunteer force to continue to meet needs and support the elderly and disabled with a wide range of invaluable services.

BCF promotes collaboration between local nonprofits through its annual *Trustees' Award*, a special grant funded by BCF board members, staff and volunteers. The recipient of the 2015 BCF Trustees' Award is the Olympic College Yama Project, an archaeological excavation and study of the village of Yama, located on Bainbridge Island. The Olympic College Foundation, working with the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum, Kitsap County Historical Society and Museum, Bainbridge Island Metro Park and Recreation District, Bainbridge Historic Preservation Committee, and the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community, will study and preserve the Yama site and ensure its protection in the National Register of Historic Places. Cultural artifacts will be preserved for the public at the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum.

Since the inception of the grants cycle in 2005, BCF has made more than 400 grants to support our local nonprofits. Each year, BCF conducts a survey and convenes nonprofit leaders in order to understand and assess the changing needs and health of the local community and to inform the giving priorities utilized in the Foundation's grantmaking. The Foundation then welcomes funding requests from nonprofits that serve Bainbridge Island residents. BCF board members, staff and volunteers convene and form committees which over a four month period carefully review up to 60 applications for funding. After the initial allocation of BCF's own grantmaking dollars, the Foundation then seeks partners to fund grant requests.

This year marks the highest amount of fully funded applications in the Foundation's history. Of the forty-eight grants currently being awarded across all sectors of the nonprofit community, twenty-seven programs will be fully funded. The success of the 2015 grants cycle is in large part due to the fact that BCF worked with a record number of funding partners, including the Foundation's own donor advised fund holders and the Quail Roost Foundation. Five of these funding partners were first time participants.

A complete listing of the grants awarded in the 2015 Community Grants Cycle is available on our website: [www.bainbridgecf.org](http://www.bainbridgecf.org). Since its inception in 2001, BCF has grown to nearly \$12 million in assets and has contributed more than \$6.3 million to important causes that matter to Islanders. With the invaluable assistance of its volunteers and donor and funding partners, BCF will continue its work to address our community's most pressing needs, grow our grantmaking capacity and work to build a lasting and positive legacy for Bainbridge Island.

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