

WE VALUE PEOPLE OVER PROFITS

WE
CU

WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER

A Note from Jennifer

2020 will be long remembered as a year full of unexpected challenges. Despite these trials and tribulations, I am proud of how our credit union and our community worked together for the betterment of all. Your membership and support truly made a difference this year.

Notable achievements in 2020 included:

LAUNCHING RELIEF PROGRAMS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES

In March, we quickly developed and launched relief programs for both individuals and small businesses, which included loan forbearances, low-interest rate loans, and adapted skip-a-pay options. We were able to help more than 2,900 members and 85 businesses.

ADAPTING TO SERVE MEMBERS

As an essential business, our branch, contact center, real estate, and business banking teams adjusted to serve member needs. Noteworthy adjustments included launching online appointment setting, offering video appointments and digitizing business banking SBA Payment Protection Program (PPP) loan processing.

FUNDING MORE THAN 900 PPP LOANS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

WECU's business banking team was able to help more than 900 small businesses receive PPP loans through the SBA. These loans have helped to retain more than 4,000 local jobs.

SUPPORTING LOCAL RESTAURANTS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Through a program we called "First Responders Eat First," WECU purchased more than 630 meals for firefighters, police officers, and medical workers from locally-owned restaurants.

PARTNERING WITH THE BELLINGHAM FOOD BANK

Team WECU partnered with the Bellingham Food Bank throughout the month of May to deliver meal boxes to 536 self-isolating high health risk families. WECU also donated to the food bank.

DONATING TO NONPROFITS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERYDAY

Donations totaling \$30,000 were made to three nonprofits working to meet our most vulnerable populations' basic needs. The Chuckanut Health Foundation, United Way of Whatcom County, and Whatcom Community Foundation each received \$10,000 in March.

CONNECTING WITH ISOLATED SENIORS

We partnered with Aging Well Whatcom to support their Dear Friend Pen Pal Project to help address senior isolation during COVID-19.

DONATING TO WILDFIRE RELIEF

In September, WECU donated \$15,000 to Wildfire Relief through the NWCUF (Northwest Credit Union Foundation).

ENCOURAGING OUR COMMUNITY TO THINK LOCAL FIRST

Due to diminished foot traffic and changing consumer spending habits, small businesses have been challenged in unthinkable ways. We felt it was important to encourage our members and the community to shop locally during the holidays. WECU partnered with Sustainable Connections on an expanded Think Local First campaign.

WE DO ALL OF THIS BECAUSE WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

This credit union is about more than deposits and loans. Through our not-for-profit cooperative structure, we are all about people helping people. And while none of us can know with certainty what is on the horizon, we do know that we remain ready and committed to serve you and our local community. Together, we are stronger, and together, we make a meaningful difference.

Thank you for your membership.

Make it a meaningful day,

Jennifer Kutcher
President/CEO





THANK YOU FOR THINKING LOCAL FIRST THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

WECU partnered with Sustainable Connections, Downtown Bellingham Partnership, and our local Chambers of Commerce from around the county to promote shopping local during the holiday season.

EDUCATION FIRST APPLICATIONS OPEN

In January, WECU will launch the third year of Education First, a grant process facilitated by a panel of employees and volunteers. This Community Impact program gives \$110,000 every year to local nonprofits that seek to further education in Whatcom County. 2020 recipients were Max Higbee Center, YMCA Early Learning Center and Communities in Schools.

WECU PARTICIPATES IN DEAR FRIEND PROJECT SUPPORTING SENIORS

WECU supported "Dear Friend, Pen Pal Project," a letter writing campaign where community members were invited to write letters to seniors that are facing high levels of isolation due to COVID-19. More than 200 letters have been collected and sent to seniors.

All WECU Locations, with the exception of Bellis Fair, The Home Loan Center, and the Business Loan Center are participating as drop-off spots for letter writers. WECU is requesting letter writers to use the Night Drop.

LEARN MORE AT: [WECU.COM/EDUCATIONFIRST](https://wecu.com/educationfirst)

WECU SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER

Salvation Army Giving Trees

As in years past, WECU hosted Salvation Army Giving Trees in all branch lobbies.

Blaine Lights Sponsorship

WECU was the main sponsor for the new maritime-themed lights in downtown Blaine.

Northwest Lighted Christmas Parade

WECU was a sponsor for the Northwest Lighted Christmas Parade.

**KIDS EARN 2.5%
WITH THEIR
FIRST STEP**

WECU

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WECU LAUNCHES NEW YOUTH SAVINGS & CHECKING ACCOUNTS

In early December WECU launched First Step Accounts, a new checking and savings account for our youngest members. The savings account is for members who are up to 19 years old and offers 2.5% APY on the first \$500. The checking account is for members 13-19 years old and offers 2.5% APY on the first \$250.

Learn more at wecu.com/first-step

NEWS & NOTES

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2020 Annual Meeting will be held virtually February 18 on Zoom. RSVPs will be accepted at:

wecu.com/annualmeeting and through our Contact Center starting on January 15 at 9am. The meeting is open to members age 18 or older and in good standing with the Credit Union.

2020 VOLUNTEER ELECTIONS

WECU holds elections for its Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee each year at our Annual Meeting. For more information about the candidates, visit: wecu.com/volunteer-elections.

MEMBER BENEFITS

TURBO TAX

Time to get a jump on the tax season. As a member of WECU, you can save up to \$15 on TurboTax products.

COSTCO AUTO PROGRAM

Save money and make your next auto purchase a breeze. The Costco Auto Program provides members pre-arranged pricing through its network and select dealers. There are added perks when you finance your vehicle through WECU.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: **Mon, Jan 18**

Presidents' Day: **Mon, Feb 15**



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