



## **Press Release**

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### **North Olympic Volunteer Center Receives Funding Through First Federal's Community Dividend Program**

Port Angeles, WA (June 12, 2009) – First Federal has selected the North Olympic Volunteer Center as the recipient of a \$13,000 gift.

The funds will be used to support the Volunteer Center in its mission of “Promoting volunteerism by connecting people with enriching opportunities to serve, nurturing effective volunteering and strengthening the communities of the North Olympic Peninsula.”

Specifically, the gift will be used to support several areas of programming including the newly introduced Youth Corps at Port Angeles High School. Students that volunteer and serve 145 hours in one calendar year earn a high school letter in Volunteering and Service. Since April this year, 17 students have joined the team and volunteered a combined 117 hours! Students are empowered to survey the community and have a voice in creating projects they feel are needed. The North Olympic Volunteer Center hopes to expand this program throughout the peninsula in the next couple of years.



“We are very excited about this gift,” said Kendra Waggoner, First Federal’s community development officer. “We encourage our employees to volunteer in the community and as an organization we feel strongly about giving back and making a difference.”

The North Olympic Volunteer Center (NOVC) was launched in 2007 as a project of Clallam AmeriCorps under the direction of Jacques Livingston. Clallam County was one of ten locations nationwide selected to be issued a startup affiliation under the Points of Light Institute. In 2008, the Volunteer Center also joined with Hand On Network and has received special funding to promote volunteer leadership in the region. The NOVC utilizes an online database (<http://www.volunteerclallam.org>) to match suitable volunteers with available opportunities. Currently there are 117 opportunities to volunteer and 112 registered volunteers online.

“With this gift we will be able start work on some projects that we have been planning such as providing volunteer coordinators professional training in recruitment, retention and recognition of their volunteers. Additionally we want to continue our growth with youth volunteering and work with business leaders in trying to find appropriate ways for them to promote volunteering among their employees. In an economic climate such as our current state, we really have an opportunity to come together and pitch in as a community to help each other. I am very excited to have First Federal as a partner because of their community leadership and desire to reach out and lend a hand,” said Livingston.



First Federal's Community Dividend Program was launched last August with a \$1 million gift to the communities served by First Federal on the North Olympic Peninsula.

For more information about the North Olympic Volunteer Center please call us at 360-417-5421 or visit us at <http://www.volunteerclallam.org>

More information about First Federal's Community Dividend Program can be found at [www.doinggoodfeelsgood.com](http://www.doinggoodfeelsgood.com).

First Federal has been serving North Olympic Peninsula families and businesses for more than 85 years. A mutual bank, First Federal is the only locally owned and managed savings and loan institution on the peninsula. It operates branches in Port Angeles, Sequim, Port Townsend and Forks. Member FDIC, Equal Housing Lender.