**United Way committed to long-term recovery in Stillaguamish Valley**

United Way of Snohomish County, which received more than $2.7 million in donations from across the country in response to last year’s SR 530 mudslide, is now focused on long-term recovery.

In the last two months, United Way gave North Counties’ Family Services another $300,000 to address emerging and ongoing needs of people affected by the mudslide, agreed to cover the salary of one of the long-term disaster case managers being supervised by the Salvation Army, provided seed money for a STEM education project in Darrington; and supported a parks restoration project in Darrington. United Way has also provided infrastructure support for North Counties’ Family Services as they continue to address the community’s needs.

“From the very beginning, we made two promises to the families and communities of Oso, Darrington and Arlington — and to everyone who gave so generously to our fund,” said Dr. Dennis G. Smith, president and CEO of United Way of Snohomish County. “The first was that 100% of all donations to our Disaster Recovery Fund would go to disaster relief; none of this money was spent on United Way’s administrative costs or overhead. The second is that we were committed to long-term recovery.”

“At this point, we have $645,000 remaining in our Disaster Recovery Fund,” Smith continued. “Disaster case managers, working with the Salvation Army, North Counties’ Family Services and other community groups, will take the lead in determining how that money will be distributed to the families affected by the mudslide.”

“We understand that everyone affected by this disaster is recovering at their own pace,” added Smith. “We want to be ready to continue to help people when they are ready.”

**Updated Analysis from United Way and Cascade Valley Hospital Foundation**

United Way of Snohomish County and Cascade Valley Hospital Foundation — which, together, received approximately $4.7 million for relief efforts — coordinated much of their response to the to the March SR 530 mudslide. The event claimed the lives of 43 people and devastated the community of Steelhead Haven in Oso on March 22, 2014.

In advance of the one-year anniversary, the two groups provided an updated, financial distributions report. (An earlier analysis was released at the six-month anniversary.)

Both groups worked closely with North Counties’ Family Services and Arlington Family Resource Project to distribute funds. This one-year analysis is based on a review of over 600 distributions these organizations made in the past twelve months.

$3.1 million was distributed or will be distributed to families and individuals affected by the mudslide. Of the money that has already been distributed, 88% went to families directly impacted by the mudslide (e.g. those who lost a loved one, lost their home or experienced flooding). The balance went to people who were indirectly affected (e.g. those who needed gas cards to cover the increased cost of driving the long way around the closed SR 530).

Examples of distributions to families and individuals include:

* $599,000 for temporary housing, rent, mortgage payments and replacement household items;
* $452,000 for emergency cash to meet immediate needs;
* $200,000 for medical and mental health care;
* $130,000 for gas cards to cover the cost of driving around closed SR 530;
* $42,000 for youth and educational programs;
* $33,000 for memorials and scholarships; and
* $25,000 for funeral-related travel expenses.

Corporate donations were used to pay for the increased community infrastructure necessary for mudslide response. $1.6 million was used to support community organizations and specific programs.

Examples of distributions to community organizations include:

* $452,000 for first responders in Snohomish County and neighboring jurisdictions;
* $444,000 for increased administrative costs and programs;
* $240,000 for economic development;
* $229,000 for youth programs; and
* $207,000 for disaster case managers, working directly with families impacted by the mudslide.

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United Way’s Disaster Recovery Fund received support from over 12,000 individuals from all fifty states; 86 corporations and foundations, all but two based in Washington State; and 150 individual fundraisers and benefits. A detailed list of corporate donors and fundraisers is available on United Way’s website.