

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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4th ANNUAL SOIREE RAISES FUNDS TO EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

Port Townsend, WA March 12, 2013 - On Thursday March 8, the Northwest Maritime Center was alive with a roomful of over 130 girls and women from Jefferson County who came together to support the efforts of the Jefferson County Community Foundation's Fund for Women and Girls and to advise the Fund what area of need should be addressed by their 2013 grant. The Fund empowers women and girls through local investment in their future by making an annual grant to a local non-profit organization offering programming in support of women and girls in our county.

In attendance this year was a large group of young women in their teens, 20's, and 30's, including those working on the Felicity Ann Boat Project. Penny Partridge, Project Coordinator, said "I'm thrilled to be here in support of a local organization with strong values in support of young women."

The keynote speaker, Lou Ann Sterbick-Nelson, received a standing ovation after speaking about the Women's Transition Project she founded in Bisbee, AZ. Her empowerment and job-training program started with the premise that the women enrolled were already "outstanding" and would be successful. Sterbick-Nelson also told attendees: **"in any given situation, the only thing that is ever missing, is the love that you are not giving."**

Attendees also heard from Kathy Morgan, Property Manager of Olympic Community Action Programs, who stressed the importance of community support in helping homeless women and their children to obtain permanent housing. OlyCAP's transitional housing program is the recipient of the JCCF Fund for Women and Girls' 2012 grant.

A new video, featuring comments by the many local women and girls who have donated money to the Fund or been influenced by the fund's works, was debuted at the Soiree. Attendees enjoyed treats generously donated by Elevated Ice Cream and Candy Co., Mt. Townsend Creamery, QFC Port Hadlock, and Safeway of Port Townsend. Women modeling pieces from last year's Wearable Art Show delighted all. The Soiree was made possible by sponsors Kristin Manwaring Insurance, Connie Segal Natural Skincare, and many other in-kind donations such as Olympic Cellars Working Girl Wines.

After a lively discussion of what they see as the current needs of women and girls in Jefferson County, Soiree attendees selected the category of "Economic Development" for the focus of the Funds' 2013 grant. An RFP will go out to local non-profits this September. For more information go to www.jccfgives.org.

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