



## JCCF News & Views

### The Fund for Women and Girls: Wearable Art and So Much More!

By Debbi Steele

When we went downtown a couple of days after the Wearable Art Show, we could hardly make it down the street without people stopping us to rave about the show. It's nice to know we put smiles on a thousand people's faces at two sold-out shows on May 10 and the dress rehearsal preview on May 9.

Who'd have thought when we launched the Wearable Art Show in 2011 that WAS would become the hottest ticket in Port Townsend? But here we are, four years later, with models parading scores of spectacular outfits on our runway, talented designers already planning for the 2015 show, and people marking their calendars for next Mothers Day weekend.

Port Townsend loves a good show, and PT folks love to pitch in. A big round of applause to more than 100 WAS volunteers and business sponsors, including our lead corporate sponsor, First Federal.

Why do all of us do it? Why do we donate thousands of hours, write hundreds of checks, fret over the tiniest details? Well, everyone loves a good party. But the Wearable Art Show is



The Wearable Art Show's Best in Show award went to Seattle designer Rebecca Maxim's "Videotape Confection," created from 68 VHS cassette tapes and modeled by Melodee Hanson of Port Townsend.

Photo by Pam Russell.

much more than that.

Net proceeds—about \$18,000 this year—build the endowment of the Jefferson County Community Foundation's Fund for Women and Girls. With a few more contributions, the endowment will surpass \$200,000 this year.

An endowment's not important if it just sits

in the bank, of course.

It's what the Fund for Women and Girls does with that money that counts. So far the Fund has made significant grants to Port Townsend Marine Science Center's GIRLS (Girls in Real Life Science) project for high school girls studying science (2010); Port Townsend Library's Women in Transition

course for women returning to work or working for the first time (2011); Olycap's Basic Shelter for Homeless Women (2012); and a Dove House/Clemente course on financial management in cooperation with Kitsap Bank (2013).

Those are *real* programs with *real* benefits for *real* women and girls. And there's much more to come, as the Community Foundation, the Fund for Women and Girls—and yes, the fantastic Wearable Art Show—continue to thrive.

• • •

*Debbi Steele, a retired AT&T manager, founded the Jefferson County Community Foundation's Fund for Women and Girls in 2009 and launched the Fund's first Wearable Art Show in 2011. She co-chaired the 2014 show with Judith Bird and Margie MacDonald.*



Jefferson County  
Community  
Foundation