

## **THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT LAKE CHELAN, A PROJECT OF THE SEVEN ACRES FOUNDATION NEWS RELEASE**

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### **THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT LAKE CHELAN 50% FUNDED WITH A NEW LOCATION**

CHELAN, Washington (February 2020) - A key fundraising milestone was reached for the Community Center at Lake Chelan as well as a new location for the much anticipated community building.

The Seven Acres Foundation, a non-profit group whose current focus is getting the Community Center at Lake Chelan funded and built, has secured donations, grants, pledges, and public funding to finance more than 50% of the estimated \$8.0M investment to build the facility. The Seven Acres Foundation attributes their successful efforts to a strong grassroots campaign, the support of RealLife Church in Chelan, and key donations from members of the community.

“We are honored and energized by the outpouring of support,” said Ben Williams, President of the Seven Acres Foundation board of directors. “The Lake Chelan Valley community has rallied to make this community center and pool a reality.”

In September of 2019 a fundraising dinner hosted at Wapato Point Cellars in Manson served to publicize funds already pledged and the event generated additional pledges for the campaign. Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands, Hilary Franz, was the keynote speaker at the event, which was attended by around 100 people.

During the fundraising dinner, Kyle Plew announced support totaling \$1M from RealLife Church, which first launched the effort to build a community center in the Chelan Valley in 2017. Adam and Kelli Rynd, owners of Swim World in Chelan, also announced their support at the event by pledging to build the community swimming pool, valued at \$1M. Guests, board members, and anonymous donors pledged an additional \$1M as a result of the event. Including grants and public funding secured from the State of Washington, over \$4M has been pledged toward the project.

The Community Center will include a 25-meter competition swimming pool thanks to the Rynd family, basketball and sport courts, an auditorium with stage, public meeting areas and offices, as well as outdoor sand volleyball and pickleball courts. Plans for the 25,000 square foot facility also include a commercial kitchen, multi-use rooms, children’s play areas, and a space for affordable private events.

Very recently a great piece of property was acquired for the Community Center facility on Bighorn Avenue just off Highway 150, below the Lookout housing development and adjacent to the Chelan Cross Fit gym. This highly accessible property is more central to both Chelan and Manson, with access to utilities, previously zoned, flat acreage. This incredible property is made possible thanks to a mutually beneficial, three-way agreement between the Lookout, Chelan Valley Housing Trust and the Seven Acres Foundation.

The Lookout and The Seven Acres Foundation have mutual acceptance on a purchase agreement for the land that was previously earmarked generously by the Lookout for donation to the Chelan Valley Housing Trust.

This agreement enables the Seven Acres Foundation to donate five acres of land to the Chelan Valley Housing Trust for affordable housing, while allowing the Seven Acres Foundation to move forward with the Community Center at Lake Chelan in a great location that will better serve the community.

Each of the parties involved is better off thanks to this extremely rare, successful three-way negotiation.

The Seven Acres Foundation is continuing fundraising efforts for the Community Center at Lake Chelan and expects to begin construction no later than spring 2021. RealLife Church is planning to host an event in the coming months to continue educating the community and raising funds for the Community Center at Lake Chelan.

To learn more or donate to the campaign, please visit <http://sevenacresfoundation.org/>.

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