

***For Immediate Release***

## **ANNUAL FUNDRAISER NETS \$70,000 FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

The White Salmon Valley Education Foundation today announced that the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Gorge Grape Escape raised \$70,000 to benefit local schools.

“The Grape Escape has become an event to look forward to, giving our community another reason to gather, celebrate, and dig deep to support the Education Foundation’s mission – to supplement curriculum in all the schools of the White Salmon Valley School District,” said WSVEF Board President Sue Davis.

The monies will be used for the Foundation’s two annual \$20,000 granting cycles, as well as to supplement the group’s endowment fund. At least 25% of each dollar goes to the endowment fund.

“Our goal is to have \$1 million in the endowment fund, in order to be able to continue providing grants to the schools indefinitely,” said Davis.

Wally Stevenson was the most giving donor of the evening, raising his paddle to give \$25,000 during the special appeal.

Davis said, “We are so grateful for his ongoing generous assistance, and to *all* our long-time supporters, as well as the many new individuals and corporations who joined us this year.”

Approximately 175 people came out for the annual gala fundraiser, including event sponsors Allied Waste, Zepher Inc, Columbia State Bank, Insitu, Inc, SDS Lumber Company, ICE, NorthShore Medical Group, Custom Interface,

Sagetech Corporation, Columbia Gorge Title, Best Western + Hood River Inn,  
Underwood Fruit & Warehouse Co., Haskell Davies & Dunn, PC,.

“Another outstanding Grape Escape is behind us, and with the terrific results, next school year’s grant funds are secured and ready to fund qualified projects,” said Davis.

Since it’s inception in 2006, the WSVEF has provided more than \$250,000 in grants to some three dozens programs in the White Salmon Valley School District. Applications for the 2011 Fall funding cycle currently are under review. Successful applicants will be announced after the holidays.

The WSVEF is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation dedicated to enhancing the quality of public education within our community by creating a stable source of supplemental funding for curriculum enhancement and investment in our teachers. For more information, or to make a donation, visit [www.wsvef.org](http://www.wsvef.org) or call (509)493-1175.

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