



HIGHLIGHTS for 2009

Community Council was notified by the Internal Revenue Service that it has been officially determined to be a 501(c)(3) organization. To qualify, the organization must have governance structure and many policies in place. That the status was achieved relatively quickly after Community Council's founding is a tribute to the hard work of its board, membership, and friends.

Community participation and financial support grew. Membership increased from 69 charter members to 163; grant support from 4 foundations/trusts was received; and 54 donors made financial contributions, as compared with 18 in 2008.

The first study, *Enhancing the Educational Attainment of our Region's Children*, was completed under the chairmanship of Roger Bairstow. As many as 70 people took part in the study with a core group of 40 completing the six-month project. Thirty-five experts presented information. The findings, conclusions the committee drew and their recommendations for improvement were presented at a community luncheon and in various other settings and a written report was published.

By adopting the Study Committee's report, the Community Council committed to facilitate the 2-year effort to educate the public and decision-makers and to implement the recommendations. An implementation task force of 15 under the leadership of Judge Robert Zagelow developed a strategic plan and began that effort.

The Program Committee, chaired by Rory McClellan, selected a new study topic: How do we improve our region's economic viability by creating businesses that add value to existing agricultural resources currently not used to their full economic potential?

The 2009-10 study kicked off in December. About 35 people are participating. The study committee is chaired by Steven Woolley.

A group of community leaders completed Walla Walla Regional Vital Signs, Quality of Life indicators website. (walla2regvitalsigns.org) Working with designers from Eastern Washington University, the group selected nearly 40 indicators and evaluated the data, briefly describing the meaning of the data in five categories: economy, education, environment, health, household and public safety and assigning a current status to each. A committee will annually review the data and update the interpretive portion of the site.

The marketing committee created visibility for the organization with a brochure and other printed materials, through public meetings and presentations to a number of groups, and through media contact. They are also working on a new website for Community Council.

The Board of Directors and Executive Director are working toward long-term sustainability through strategic planning and its implementation.