Media Release

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Gig Harbor’s environmental education organization, Harbor WildWatch, announces a $40,000 award from The Russell Family Foundation. With this support, we will continue offering quality education programs to youth, families, and adults in the greater Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula communities.

Based out of Gig Harbor, The Russell Family Foundation is committed to funding organizations that promote life-long learning, building, and environmental education. With a focus on environmental education, this funding will support an expansion of our educational offerings at our local state, county and city parks, schools and at our office location at the Historic Skansie House in Downtown Gig Harbor.

Harbor WildWatch will apply this funding toward several new and existing programs, including our new after-school S.T.E.M. Club. This is an exciting opportunity for us to provide free workshops to middle and high school students with unique learning experiences such as measuring water quality, interpreting topographic maps and even designing an artificial reef. Students will be encouraged to explore higher education and careers in science as well as providing mentorship opportunities. The award will also allow us to expand our popular classroom workshops into the upper-level classroom and new school districts.

Harbor WildWatch cannot thank The Russell Family Foundation enough for their continued support of our mission. The award also supports our new adult lecture series, Cocktails & Fishtales. "We're excited to bring something new and fun to people living in the Harbor,” says Harbor WildWatch Executive Director Lindsey Johnson. “Tacoma has Green Drinks, Science Cafe, and Art + Sci Salon. Now with Cocktails & Fishtales, those of us in Gig Harbor don't have to cross the bridge for an exciting science experience.”

For details on the Cocktails & Fishtales speaker and location each month and other public programming, check the Harbor WildWatch website (http://www.harborwildwatch.org/) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/HarborWildWatch). To learn more about The Russell Family Foundation, please visit their website (http://www.trff.org).

Harbor WildWatch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit environmental education organization based in Gig Harbor, WA. Their mission is to inspire stewardship for Puget Sound by providing learning opportunities about the environment to the people in the local community. Through more than 600 fun and interactive programs each year, Harbor WildWatch hopes to inform residents and visitors about local marine life and elicit their involvement in preserving our natural resources. To make a donation or learn more about Harbor WildWatch, visit www.harborwildwatch.org.