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TO: Grant County Media

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

Heather Massart, Public Information Officer
509-766-7960 ext. 16

Wendy Brzezny MN, RN, Public Health Nurse
509-766-7960 ext. 20

Ephrata Story Walk- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony **Wednesday, July 29, at 7 p.m.**

EPHRATA, WA – On Wednesday, July 29, 2015, at 7 p.m., The Healthy Community Ephrata Active Living Workgroup, City of Ephrata Trails Planning Team and the Grant County Health District (GCHD) are hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Ephrata StoryWalk™ at the start of the Backdoor Trail (corner of Division & Industrial Way near the Port of Ephrata).

A StoryWalk™ is an innovative and delightful way for families, children, caregivers, teachers and others to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Combining physical activity with literacy, which may seem like an odd mix, is an innovative way to get people of all ages out walking while reading children's picture books. Laminated pages from a children's picture book are installed along an outdoor path. As you walk the path you are directed to the next page in the story. The StoryWalk™ Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition (VBPC) and the Kellogg Hubbard Library.

The first book featured on the Ephrata StoryWalk™ is *A Car That Runs on Dish Soap* written by GCHD's very own Lois Swenson. Swenson has been a Grant County resident for 30 years, she currently works as a public health nurse; she enjoys hiking, reading and spending time with family. Swenson stated "It's the simple loving things that we do that really matter."

Healthy Community Ephrata Active Living Workgroup, co-chaired by Shellie Hanson and Wendy Brzezny, and the City of Ephrata Community Trails worked closely with Preston Clark who was the project coordinator for the Ephrata StoryWalk™. Preston Clark, the most recent Eagle Scout from Troop 41, chartered by the American Legion Post 28, took on building the 10 pedestals that hold the pages of the book as his Eagle Scout project. Each pedestal is 18" by 22" and 3 feet high. Clark had worked with many local organizations and businesses to fund, build, and design the Ephrata StoryWalk™.

The StoryWalk™ will be available year round along the Backdoor Trail starting at the corner of Division & Industrial Way near the Port of Ephrata. The book displayed will change periodically highlighting different seasons of the year and featuring a variety of authors. If you have any questions please contact Brzezny at GCHD.

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