



2023 WESTERN LANE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS

\$100,000 to local Non-Profits

Sandy Kuhlman, WLCF President, announced 22 non-profit organizations will be receiving over \$100,000 for the WLCF 2022/2023 grant cycle. These funds represent WLCF's ongoing mission of supporting projects or programs providing needed services or facilities for which public funds are not available, or insufficient, and to contribute to the cultural, economic, educational, or social betterment of our community. Their intent is to award large enough sums to make a significant and visible impact on a demonstrated need in our Western Lane community.

Western Lane Community Foundation (WLCF) was founded in 1974 by leaders of the Florence Rotary Club and is a community trust, private non-profit organization attracting, administering, and distributing private charitable resources for the benefit of residents of Western Lane County. Only the income generated by invested Foundation assets is awarded as grants each year. Current assets are over \$12 million representing ninety (90) Managed Funds and is under the auspices of Oregon Community Foundation.

At a recent meeting of the Florence Rotary Club grants were awarded to the following organizations:

Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) was awarded \$2,000 for their project to share the data from the arts surveys they have been taking since May 2022.

Rods N Rhodies was awarded \$2,000 in support of their Transportation Solutions project that helps community members fund needed car repairs.

Mapleton Food Share was awarded \$2,250 to help fund gas and propane vouchers for their clients.

Mapleton School District Youth Basketball Program was awarded \$2,400 will be used towards equipment, jerseys and program fees to make youth basketball accessible to all families in the community.

Oregon Coast Humane Society was awarded \$2,500 towards their project of providing spay and neutering services for animals in the OCHS Pet Foodbank Program in an effort to prevent unwanted litters in the community.

Siuslaw Family Connection was awarded \$3,000 in support of their Project Connect and Play which includes Pop up Play Dates and Parent Cafes for families in Western Lane County. The funds will help with equipment purchases and overhead expenses.

Cascadia Coastal Commission was awarded \$3,200 to support their speakers' series and to assist with needed equipment purchases to further their mission of educating the community on the importance and need for disaster and emergency readiness.

Siuslaw Watershed Council was awarded \$3,500 toward office sanitation improvement, specifically installing hot water for their kitchen and bathroom in their facility on the Mapleton School District Campus. WLCF is particularly excited to help facilitate these office improvements.

Chintimini was awarded \$4,000 to support the expansion of the Oregon Wildlife Science (known as OWLS) field trips to Western Lane for our 2nd graders.

Deadwood Community Services is the recipient of two grants, funding two separate projects in their community: \$2,400 has been awarded to support the Deadwood Community Center's Grounds Revitalization Project and \$4,425 has been to support the Oral History & Archive Project that capture the rich history of their community's longtime residents.

Methodist Church Free Lunch Program has operated in Florence for 25 years. They have been awarded a \$4,500 grant to use towards food supplies, laundry, gas and shower vouchers. After surveying guests, they found that a voucher program was the priority, next to continuing to provide lunch.

The Siuslaw School District is the recipient of a \$4,600 grant to fund equipment to expand the podcast studio at the high school allowing students to create audio/video content for podcasts and broadcasting. In addition to teaching technical skills, the project will emphasize project management and team building.

Siuslaw Vision has been awarded \$5,000 in support of their efforts to bring together people and groups to work on shared projects, which are seen as critical to community building. As the word has gotten out on the support and assistance Vision can provide, demand has grown. This grant will help them build their capacity and grow their operation.

Ophelia's Place will use their \$5,000 grant towards their work with Mapleton Middle & High Schools in a partnership to promote positive youth development by offering behavioral health resources benefiting students. There will have classroom presentations and Girls' Empowerment Groups as part of the program.

Mapleton Elementary School Leadership is a leadership club formed last year under the direction of two of the school's teachers. The purpose of the club is to identify and lead projects that will improve the school. Their first project is to provide an age-appropriate playground for the pre-school. Their \$5,000 grant will support the purchase of playground equipment.

Lane Arts Council is working with Siuslaw Elementary to bring in school art education through an Artists Residency Program. The \$5,000 grant will help fund hands on art classes and will bring profession teaching artists into the school for the 2023-24 school year. The effort is a highly coordinated one between Lane Arts Council, the teachers and school administration.

The Food Backpack for Kids Upriver Project is an expansion of Food Backpack for Kids mission. It will address food insecurity for the communities of Mapleton, Swiss Home and Deadwood by providing meals to youth throughout the week during the summer. They are working with Mapleton Foodshare to distribute meals. The \$7,500 grant they are receiving will allow them to backfill their sustainable funding and continue to provide meals for the rest of the summer.

Florence Food Share is well known for its service to the community. Last year they provided nearly

540,000 pounds of food to local residents and they shared another 2,000 pounds with other non-profits feeding those in need. They did all of this with 7 employees and a core group of 50 very dedicated volunteers. WLCF hopes this \$7,500 grant will support their efforts to meet growing demand.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Lane County has been awarded \$7,500 for its Healthy Habits Hunger Abatement & Nutrition Project which will be serving 4400 hot suppers & 6000 snacks to youth during out of school time. The program also includes culinary classes and a gardening project so the kids can participate in growing and preparing those meals.

Western Lane Crisis Response is a grant funded program operating under the Western Lane Fire & EMS district providing crisis intervention services with the ultimate goal to reduce the impact of mental health crises on individuals, families and the community. They have been awarded a \$9,300 grant to allow them to acquire the needed radios, computers and crisis kits to respond and to provide those critical services.

Eugene Symphony Association's Encouraging Young Musicians to Achieve is coming to Siuslaw Schools with the support of this \$7,500 grant. The program brings onsite music education taught by Eugene Symphony teaching artists. It's a wonderful opportunity to expand the music offerings in our schools.

Congratulations to all of these fine organizations! Should you have any questions or wish more information regarding how to leave a legacy or contribute to an existing fund, please contact Gayle Vinchesi, Executive Director, at 541-997-1274 or email her at wlcf@wlcfoonline.org.