

“PAYING IT FORWARD”

WLCF CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF GIVING OVER \$2.4 MILLION

On Sunday, the Board of Directors and over 60 members of the Florence and Mapleton communities gathered to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Western Lane Community Foundation. The Foundation, begun in 1974 with \$3,500, now has endowed assets exceeding \$5 million. **Gayle Waiss**, Executive Director, took a moment to describe how the Siuslaw Library has benefited from the grants awarded by the Foundation, as well as the Pioneer Museum, Siuslaw Outreach Services, Food Share, the Humane Society, Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts, the Boys and Girls Club, and many, many other worthy nonprofits - to the tune of over \$2,400,000 during the last 40 years! All of these accomplishments were achieved with volunteer boards and executive directors.

The celebration was held at the home of Rich Bailey and Tom Bassett. Guests were chauffeured by Sunshine Limousine from the parking area at Woahink Lake to the hosts' home and welcomed by Board Members, special guests including founding member, **Johan Mehlum**, past Presidents and Executive Directors. Absolutely incredible hors d'oeuvres were presented by the outstanding staff at Mon Ami choreographed by **Cindy Wobbe** and Chef Diane and included a first for this community, an awesome Pork Loin Wellington, carved at the main table. Attendees were treated to live piano selections performed by **Laura Merz** and enjoyed most of their time outside on the deck in the English formal gardens under perfect weather conditions, sipping beer, wine, and specialty waters donated by Bridgeport Market, Beachcomber Pub, New Belgium Brewing Company and the hosts. Flowers for the interior complemented the outdoor gardens with a theme of green and white and were graciously provided by Safeway. Honeyman Park Ranger, **Dan Schewlakow**, facilitated the parking arrangements, and **Kody Thrall** provided security.

During the program, WLCF President, **Cindy Cable**, welcomed everyone, introduced the special guests, and thanked the Board, past donors, and the Event Committee consisting of **Lis Farm, Pat Stewart, Cindy Cable, Nancy Walker, Gayle Waiss, Dee Osborne, and Tom Bassett**. Waiss also described the goals of the Foundation, explained how donors can help their community in perpetuity by donating endowed funds to provide necessary scholarships, advised funds to support specific nonprofit organizations, or support areas of need by funding the Foundation's annual grant program. With its first 40 years under its belt, the Foundation can look forward to supporting Western Lane County's social and cultural needs far beyond the lifetimes of its Founders and Donors.

Anyone wishing to learn more about the Foundation may contact us at 541-997-1274.