



WESTERN LANE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS

\$58,000 to local Non-Profits

Sandy Kuhlman, WLCF President, announced 20 non-profit organizations will be receiving over \$58,000 for the WLCF 2021/2022 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:

Project Graduation has been awarded \$3500 towards the Siuslaw High School Project Graduation for the Class of 2022's safe & fun grad night.

Florence Regional Arts Alliance has been awarded \$1000 to use towards their Art C.A.R.E project which will provide art instruction videos and materials for 2 assisted living facilities in Florence.

The Siuslaw Watershed Council has been awarded \$5000 towards the purchase of an enclosed trailer to be used in the CORE program for Outreach, Recreation and Education along with their Native Plant Distribution project. WLCF shares the Watershed Council's excitement about the prospect making the outdoors more accessible to community members.

Siuslaw Outreach Services has been awarded \$2500 for their new Gap Filler Voucher Program which will allow them to provide assistance otherwise not be available to those in need with an eye specifically towards overcoming specific challenges towards employment like acquiring proper identification or work appropriate attire.

Siuslaw Lions Club will use its \$4000 award towards their eye program which provides eye exams and glasses for those in need. The grant will provide for approximately 30 members of the Florence community over the next year.

First Methodist Free Lunch Program is gearing up to return to in person dining. Their \$2500 grant will help get the kitchen & dining room ready including restocking the pantry for onsite meal preparation.

Forest Today & Forever will use its \$2000 in grant funding to provide STEM based Forest Discovery Kits for children ages ten to twelve. They are partnering with the Siuslaw Public Library in both Florence and Mapleton to distribute the environmental educational learning kits to the youth in our community.

Cascadia Coastal Coalition is a new non-profit focused on emergency preparedness here on the Central Coast. They are the recipients of a \$3700 grant which will be used to fund Emergency Go Kits and to provide two educational seminars on coastal disaster preparedness and emergency communication.

Mapleton Foodshare has been awarded \$2500 towards their expansion and remodeling project. They are expanding into additional space at their current location which will increase their storage capacity and allow for more bulk purchases which allow their food dollars to go further.

The Pregnancy & Parenting Center has been awarded \$1000 in support of their technology initiative. The grant will go towards improving their video conferencing capabilities and purchasing a new copy machine for the office. These tools will all support the delivery of their services to expectant mothers and families in Western Lane County.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) has been awarded \$5000 toward the purchase of new carpets for their Hall which serves as a meeting place for the VFW, the American Legion, the Band of Brothers and the Eugene Veteran Services.

Friends of 90 X 30 will receive a \$5000 grant for their Roots of Empathy Program which is part of their child abuse and neglect prevention initiative. 90 x 30 has been delivering the Roots of Empathy Program to Western Lane first graders at both Mapleton and Siuslaw Elementary Schools since 2018.

Oregon Coast Humane Society was awarded \$1500 toward their “What’s Measured Matters” initiative. OCHS will be using grant funds to implement the Salesforce Relationship Management System to improve the organization’s efficiency and outreach to the community by bringing their information into a consolidated data base.

Nurturely received a grant of \$5100 towards their Rural Health Equity initiative to provide lactation education through the Milk Magic Educator Program. The grant will allow Nurturely to expand their services to the Western Lane Community.

Safe Shelter for Siuslaw Students was the recipient of a \$1900 grant to support their Conscious Discipline Parenting classes. They are building on last year’s offering by adding “Building Resilient Schools & Homes” to the curriculum while continuing to offer “Start Strong: Learning Foundations”. Each course runs for 10 weeks and there will be 3 sessions.

The Boys and Girls Club Florence Air Academy will be the recipient of \$1000 to support the 2022 Air Academy, a 2-week summer program for kids to learn about aviation and related careers. The program is a collaboration between the Boys & Girls Club and Aero Legends with local pilots and businesses also participating.

The Florence Senior Center has been granted \$4700 for a new convection oven which will allow them to more readily serve hot meals to members of the community. The Senior Center staff and volunteers have been hard pressed to work around the lack of a working oven and this will greatly enhance their offerings.

Every Child Lane County is receiving a \$1000 grant toward their program to support Foster Families in Western Lane County through the My NeighborOR program which helps provide needed resources like school supplies to foster families and the Foster Parent Night Out which provides child care to allow foster parents a bit of time on their own.

First Step Florence has been awarded \$5000 to use towards sealing and weatherizing the trailers they provide in their Transitional Housing program. This builds on the improvements they were able to make with last year’s WLCF grant which purchased energy efficient heat pumps for the units.

Siuslaw Elementary School 2nd grade was awarded \$600 for their Ecology Encounter Program at Camp Baker. Shannon Graham began the project with her 1st graders last year when she initiated Camp Learn A Lot.

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@wlcfonline.org.