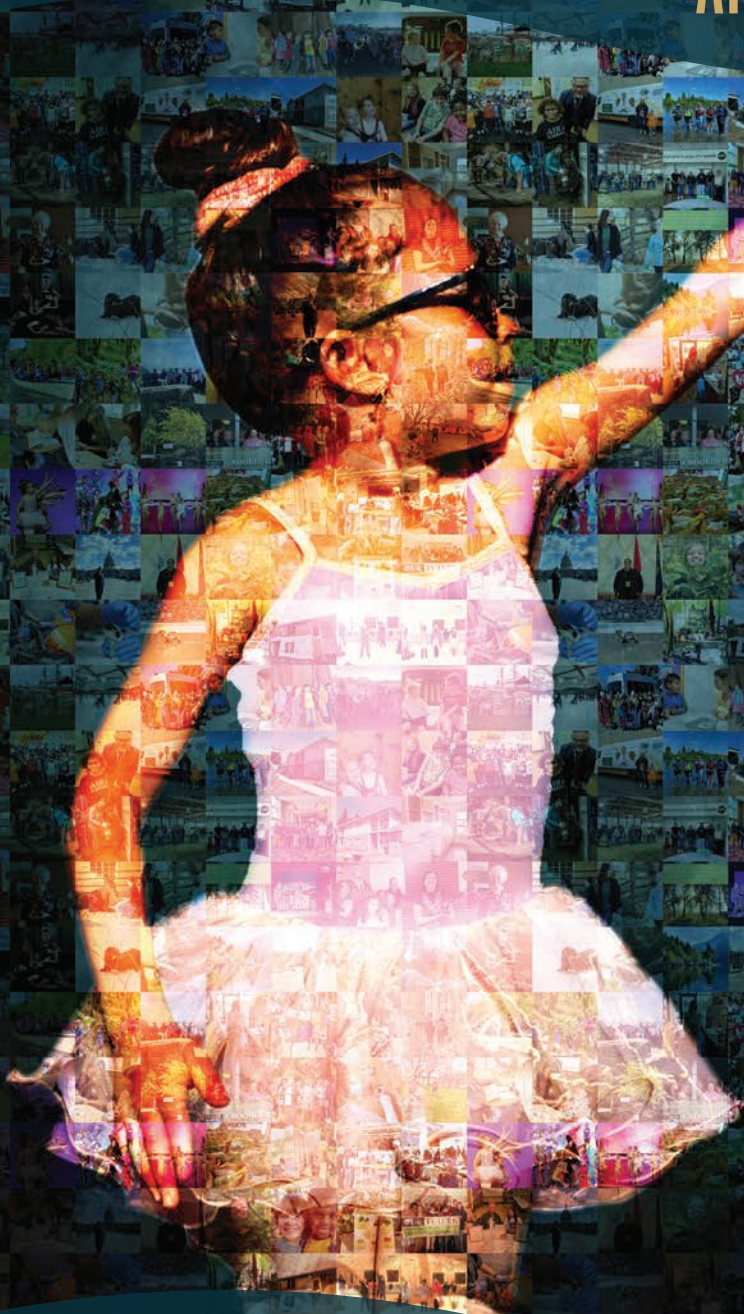


# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



SPIRIT MOUNTAIN  
COMMUNITY FUND

# HOMELANDS



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR BOARD CHAIR



We're happy to share our annual report with you, highlighting some of our notable accomplishments and changes for 2023.

We had some big transitions within our Board of Trustees and Community Fund staff that we would like to share with you. To begin, in early spring, we welcomed Julie Fahey to our Board of Trustees. Julie replaced Karin Power, who stepped down the end of 2022.

Next, we bid farewell to two of our long-time friends and valued Trustees: Board Chairman Chip Lazenby and Vice Chairman Arnie Roblan. Chip and Arnie retired in September 2023. While we were sad to see them go, we were happy to welcome new board members Victoria Ernst and Maria Rojo de Steffey to our Spirit Mountain Community Fund family. During this transition, Brenda Tuomi stepped up as our new Board Chair, and Julie Fahey became our Vice Chair.

Lastly, we welcomed Pamala Warren-Chase as our new Administrative Assistant.

In 2023, the Community Fund developed 30 new nonprofit partnerships, providing them with \$584,266 in grant funding. We continued our Youth Grantmaking Program, showing three Tribal youth the incredible world of philanthropy, and we sent a highly capable Native American to intern for eight months in Rep. Earl Blumenauer's Washington, D.C., office.

Through our responsive grant programs, the Community Fund awarded 124 grants to local nonprofit organizations and Oregon Tribes doing valuable work in the program areas of arts & culture, education, environmental preservation, health, historic preservation and public safety, totaling \$3,958,133. And since our inception in 1997, we have awarded \$96,795,589 in grant funding.

We are grateful for the resiliency and vision of our Tribal leaders who made it possible for us to give back to our local communities in such a substantial way. It is our Tribe's cultural values and beliefs that guide our giving, allowing us to respond to the many challenges Oregonians face today, and strengthening our communities through philanthropic investments.

In our Chinuk language, we say, "hayu masi," (many thanks) to all of our nonprofit partners working to create positive change and to make Oregon a better place for everyone.

Sincerely,

*Angie Sears*

Angie Sears, Executive Director

*Brenda Tuomi*

Brenda Tuomi, Board Chairwoman

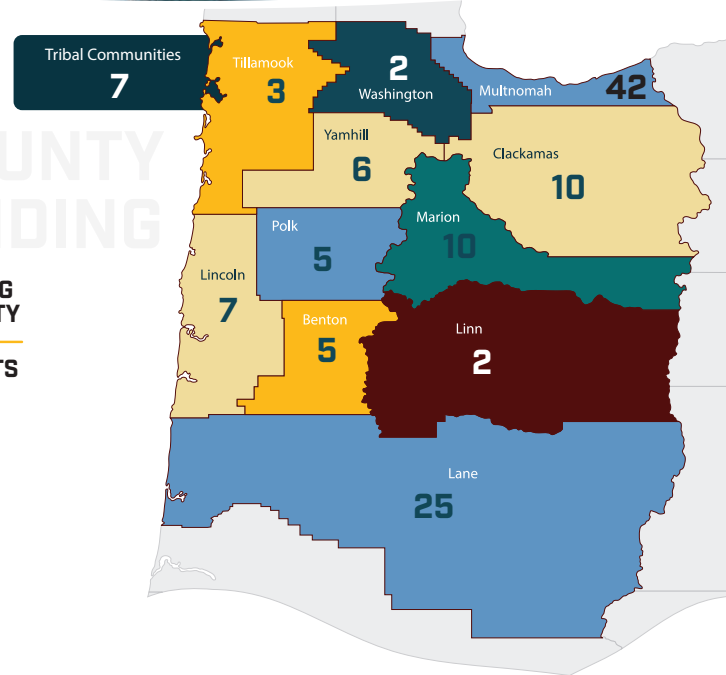
# TRIBAL GRANTS

ARTS & CULTURE	ARTS & CULTURE	ARTS & CULTURE	EDUCATION	EDUCATION	HEALTH	PUBLIC SAFETY
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon	Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians	The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon	Burns Paiute Tribe	Coquille Indian Tribe	The Klamath Tribes
\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000

**\$700,000.00 TOTAL FUNDING**



# COUNTY FUNDING

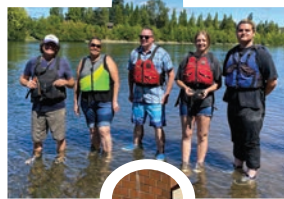


**FUNDING BY COUNTY**  
124 GRANTS

EDUCATION  
CASA  
Voices for Children



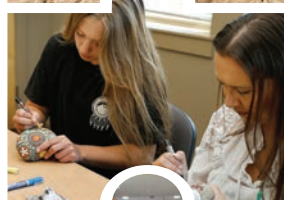
ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION  
Willamette Riverkeeper



HEALTH  
Hearts With A Mission



HEALTH  
Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence

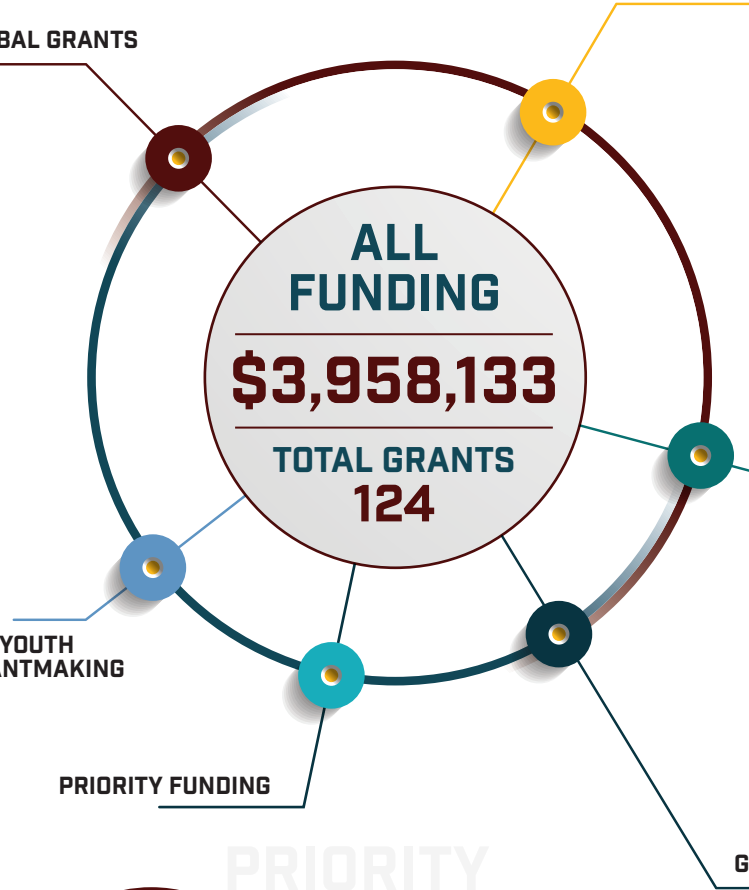


HEALTH  
A Family For Every Child



**\$25,000 YOUTH FUNDING**

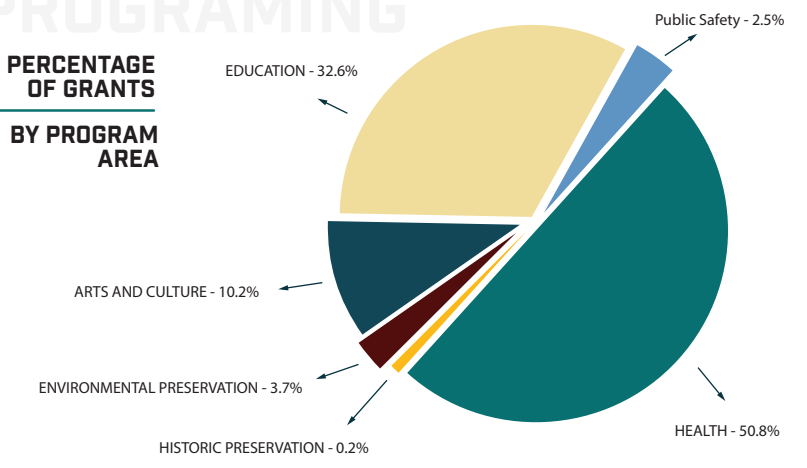
TRIBAL GRANTS  
YOUTH GRANTMAKING  
PRIORITY FUNDING  
PRIORITY



**91 GRANTS**  
**73.4% PRIORITY FUNDING**  
**\$2,762,913**

# PROGRAMMING

**PERCENTAGE OF GRANTS BY PROGRAM AREA**



**GRANTS BY PROGRAM AREA**

Program Area	Grants	Amount Awarded
Arts & Culture	14	\$403,240
Education	37	\$1,288,721
Environmental Preservation	5	\$147,460
Health	66	\$2,011,212
Historic Preservation	1	\$7,500
Public Safety	1	\$100,000

**GENERAL PURPOSE GRANTS  
BY PROGRAM AREA**

**Arts & Culture**  
11 Grants - \$103,240

- Alberta Abbey
- Artists Repertory Theatre
- Bridgeworks Oregon
- Bridging Voices
- Caldera
- Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops Inc (C.R.O.W.)
- Echo Theater Company
- Enlightened Theatrics
- Open Hearts Open Minds
- Portland Playhouse
- Profile Theatre Project



**Education**  
34 Grants - \$1,083,721

- AC Portland (Active Children Portland)
- Adelante Mujeres
- Admire Teachers
- Centro Latino Americano
- ChickTech
- College Possible
- Connected Lane County



- Corvallis Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. dba DevNW
- Dove Lewis Emergency Animal Hospital, Inc. (Dove Lewis)
- Elevate Oregon
- Emerging Unidos
- Luckiamute Valley Charter Schools
- Micro Enterprise Services Of Oregon (MESO)
- Mt. Scott Park Center for Learning
- Multicultural Integrated Kidney Education Program (MIKE)
- Neighbors For Kids
- Neskowin Valley School
- Network Charter School
- Open School, Inc.
- Oregon Native American Chamber
- Our Children Oregon
- Play It Forward
- Playworks Education Energized
- Portland Audubon Society
- Portland Urban Debate League
- Portland Workforce Alliance
- South Santiam Watershed Council
- The Arc of Lane County
- The Blosser Center for Dyslexia Resources
- The Portland Montessori School
- Tinkerverse
- Together We Are Greater Than
- Tucker Maxon School
- Yakona Learning Center



*Grantee* **SPOTLIGHT**

**Vision to Learn – Mobile Clinic**



One in five students in public schools lack the glasses they need to see the board, read a book or participate in class. In underserved communities, 95% of kids who need glasses do not have them. This is a problem because children with uncorrected vision problems often avoid reading, suffer headaches, and can have trouble focusing in class as 80% of learning during a child's first 12 years is visual. It is estimated that more than 2 million children in the U.S. and more than 51,000 Oregon students go to school each day with blurry vision due to lack of access to a simple pair of glasses.

Vision To Learn eliminates access barriers by using mobile clinics to bring eye care and new prescription glasses directly to children at schools and community centers. Each clinic is staffed by a trained optician and a state-licensed optometrist. Thousands of Oregon children will receive basic, but critical, eye care in the mobile clinic, which is essentially an optometric office on wheels. Vision To Learn's mobile clinics help children in more than 750 underserved communities in 14 states and the District of Columbia. They have provided more than 540,000 children with eye exams, and more than 445,000 with glasses since 2012, all at no cost to children or their families.



*Grantee* **SPOTLIGHT**

**Bird Alliance of Oregon - Green Leaders Program**

Bird Alliance of Oregon works to inspire all people to love and protect birds, wildlife, and the natural environment upon which life depends. They achieve this work through urban and statewide conservation efforts, youth and adult education programs, wildlife rehabilitation, and land stewardship.

The Green Leaders program is a partnership with the non-profit Verde and Hacienda CDC, Oregon's largest Latino-led community development corporation. Through paid training and work experience, the Green Leaders program empowers teens from Hacienda CDC developments to become environmental educators and mentors in their own community. The program brings six to eight high school youth in East Portland together each year to lead nature-based after school activities, family trips, and summer camps for K-8 children and their families. Through more than 350 hours of paid training and teaching opportunities, Green Leaders build experience and comfort educating people of all ages about the natural world around them and how it connects to their daily lives. The Green Leaders program helps participants acquire initial job experience that is essential to full-time employment in environmental education. And through leading by example for the children and families in their neighborhoods, Green Leaders foster a stronger connection to nature and provide guidance on how to make the voices of their communities heard on behalf of the environment.

Grantee SPOTLIGHT

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc.



To address the significant and specific barriers facing unhoused veterans with physical and mental health barriers in Lane County, SVdP is developing a new, 10-unit transitional housing program called Williams Place which will feature a case management office, courtyard, bike storage, and laundry space. The resident population will be veterans experiencing both active homelessness and PTSD, mental illness, substance use disorders and/or physical disability. All units will be accessible single-occupancy apartments with direct access to the outdoors. Trauma-informed design principles specific to combat veterans are incorporated throughout the entire structure including open sight lines within units, avoiding carpet (hard surface flooring allows for auditory cues), keeping appliances away from sleeping areas, and neutral, calm color selections throughout.

This trauma-informed, single-occupancy model is unique among local emergency housing options for veterans and driven largely by client and applicant feedback. Frontline intake workers report that nearly every veteran seeking services asks if it is possible for them to live alone and some refuse services because we cannot currently provide a private space. Many veterans with PTSD or other mental illness find the prospect of living and sleeping in a confined apartment space with strangers to be stressful and threatening, to the extent that they may choose to remain homeless instead. This is especially the case for veterans who are female, BIPOC, and/or transgender as they experience both significantly higher rates of service-related trauma and additional barriers to services, including congregate emergency settings where they can experience safety and privacy.

Onsite case managers will help veterans stabilize, prioritize tasks, and begin to move beyond basic survival to live independently. Case managers will navigate bureaucratic systems alongside veterans to meet basic needs, access critical medical and mental health care, obtain identification, and secure the benefits to which they are entitled through the county, state, and/or VA – processes which many veterans in crisis find insurmountable. Once veterans are stabilized, case managers will support them in securing permanent housing and, if appropriate, job training and placement. SVdP anticipates serving 50-60 veterans at Williams Place each year and that they will be connected with increased income, benefits, medical and behavioral health care, and transition to permanent stable housing. We are committed to serving those who have served us and to ending cycles of trauma and homelessness in our community.



Environmental Preservation

4 Grants - \$142,460

- Columbia Riverkeeper
- Institute for Sustainability Education and Ecology
- Oregon Coast Aquarium
- Sauvie Island Center



Health

62 Grants - \$1,896,212

- Acres of Hope
- American Military Encouragement Network
- Black Parent Initiative (BPI)
- Bloomin' Boutique
- Bradley Angle
- CASA for Children
- CASA of Clackamas County (Child Advocates, Inc.)
- Casa Of Lane County
- Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence
- Center For Community Counseling
- Clackamas Women's Services
- CONNECTING FROM THE HEART
- David's Harp
- Devin's Helping Hands
- Diamonds in the Rough Ministry
- Estacada Area Food Bank
- Family Building Blocks
- Family Justice Center Of Washington County
- Food Roots



- Hearts With A Mission
- Hope & Safety Alliance
- Horses Adaptive Riding And Therapy (HART)
- Horses Of Hope Oregon
- Hosea Youth Services
- Kindred Matters
- Lane County Diaper Bank
- Life Strategies Counseling, DBA Life Counseling
- Lines for Life (Oregon Partnership Inc)
- NAMI-Clackamas
- Neurotherapeutic Pediatrictherapies Inc
- Old Mill Center for Children and Families, Inc.
- Operation Warm, Inc.
- Ophelias Place
- Oregon Food Bank
- Oregon Mind Body Institute
- Pacific Communities Health District Foundation
- Parenting With Intent
- Parrott Creek Child & Family Services
- Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
- Project 48 Inc.
- Project Lemonade
- Qigong Sensory Training Institute
- REACH Northwest
- Reality Kitchen Nonprofit
- Recovery Unbroken
- Rose Haven



- Sexual Assault Support Services
- Smart Living, Learning & Earning with Autism
- Soaring Heights Recovery Homes
- Solid Strides
- South Lane Family Nursery
- SquareOne Villages
- St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc.
- Tides of Change (Tillamook County Womens Resource Center)
- Transformations by Salem Angels
- Trauma Healing Project Inc
- Unlock the Arts
- Vision To Learn
- Wellmama, Inc
- William Temple House
- Womenfirst Transition Referral Center
- Yamhill County CASA



Historic Preservation

1 Grant - \$7,500

- Shelton-McMURPHEY-JOHNSON ASSOCIATES

Total Grants: 112 - \$3,233,133



## HATFIELD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde established the Mark O. Hatfield Fellowship in 1998 as a living tribute to Sen. Hatfield to honor his accomplishments as the Governor of Oregon and U.S. Senator. Each year, Spirit Mountain Community Fund sponsors a highly motivated Native American to serve as the Hatfield Fellow and intern in an Oregon congressional office, enhancing the mutual understanding between leadership in Washington, D.C., and Indian Country.

### COMMUNITY FUND SELECTS JORDAN HARRINGTON AS THE 2023-24 HATFIELD FELLOW

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Spirit Mountain Community Fund are pleased to announce Jordan Harrington as the 2023-24 Hatfield Fellow. Harrington is a member of the Klamath Tribe and a Modoc Tribal descendent. Harrington is a graduate of the University of Oregon where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in General Social Science of Applied Business and Economics. While at the University of Oregon, Harrington's academics included Indigenous studies, federal-Tribal relations, federal Indian policy, business administration, economics, public policy, and planning management. He served as the co-director for the Native American Student Union, holding the title of

treasurer. He also worked at the University of Oregon's Many Nations Longhouse as the Assistant Steward. While attending college, Harrington also worked as the Enrichment Representative at Oregon Community Credit Union. Harrington is the 24th Native American to serve as a Hatfield Fellow. He began his fellowship on Oct. 30 with a month-long orientation at the American Political Science Association (APSA) in Washington, D.C. Following orientation, he will assume his congressional placement in Sen. Ron Wyden's office. This is the senator's fifth time to host a Hatfield Fellow. "The Hatfield Fellowship is an incredibly important program established by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

to bring in some of the best minds to Washington D.C., from Tribes across Oregon," said Wyden. "I am excited to have Jordan join us, and am looking forward to the good work that he will do to bring the values, priorities and skills of the Klamath Tribes to the national table."

"I am eager to serve as a Hatfield Fellow, representing my Tribe and all Oregon Tribes, and to inspire others to overcome historical traumas. I am dedicated to addressing challenges faced by those in the foster care system, special education, and survivors of traumatic backgrounds," said Harrington. "I hope to gain a comprehensive understanding of policy advocacy and its practical applications through the fellowship experience, including insights into the legislative process and effective communication strategies. I aspire to expand my network by connecting with professionals and organizations dedicated to serving underrepresented communities on a broader scale, and to my long-term commitment to empowering Indigenous communities."

JORDAN HARRINGTON





## YE?LAN LIMA

Each year, the Spirit Mountain Community Fund selects three individuals (an unpaid volunteer, a paid staff member, and a paid management member) doing incredible work in the nonprofit sector to receive our annual ye?lan lima award. (In our Chinuk language, ye?lan lima means Helping Hand.) Each award recipient receives a special award, a free night stay and dinner for two at Spirit Mountain Casino, and a check in the amount of \$500 for their outstanding efforts to helping those in need.

**The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Spirit Mountain Community Fund are pleased to announce Sharon Flegal, Joshua Kibbey and Nell Best-Shipway as the 2023 ye?lan lima (Helping Hand) award winners.**

**PAID MANAGEMENT:**

**Nell Best-Shipway, Hope and Safety Alliance**

In the 16 years that Nell Best-Shipway has worked with Hope & Safety Alliance (aka Womenspace), she has exemplified "helping hand" by providing empathy, understanding and patience for parents and children impacted by domestic violence. Her words of encouragement set a remarkable example for all of us.

**Exhibits style and influence:** Nell possesses a unique ability to motivate her co-workers and volunteers using humor. Her style connects with the team making everyone that comes to her for support feel at ease. She provides the same level of patience, understanding, and non-judgement to both survivors and the team. She is a joy to work with!

**Exemplary work performance:** Her work ethic and commitment to the mission allowed her to quickly move up over the years from volunteer to Programs & Family Support Services Director and oversees the shelter operations. During the pandemic, Nell coordinated with partners to get basic needs out to the community. Because of Nell, we have a wonderful team at our new shelter.

**Outstanding Conduct and Performance:**

Nell is always the first to take on extra tasks for the team, and the last to leave if the team needs support. Every day, Nell strives to be better, and she inspires the rest of us to do better too.

**Dedication, Reliability and Cooperation:**

Nell has consistently demonstrated dedication, reliability, and a strong spirit of cooperation in helping us achieve our mission, goals, and objectives.

Her leadership and unwavering commitment are integral to the success of Hope & Safety Alliance.

**PAID NON-MANAGEMENT:**

**Joshua Kibbey, Luckiamute Valley Charter School**

It is with great joy and admiration that I recommend our young staff member, Joshua Kibbey, as a nominee for your special award.

Josh is a P.E. teacher at Luckiamute Valley Charter School. He brings his positivity, enthusiasm, genuine love for every child, and creativity to make his job enjoyable. Between P.E. classes he will pull out a leaf blower and start cleaning the play area. During the week of Halloween, he brought his tractor, trailer full of hay bales and gave every class a ride around the parking lot. When he notices that a child is struggling in the regular classroom, he goes out of his way to offer them special time outdoors and active breaks so that they can return to class ready to learn. He steps in to substitute when teachers are ill and chairs our school wellness committee. These examples and more demonstrate how Josh goes beyond expectations, to make our school better, our staff motivated, and the students happier.

Josh carries his creativity and networking to his second job with the city, where he connects the resources, he comes in touch with and considers how these might benefit our school. From extra buckets to piles of woodchips for our gardening program, he connects resources, experts and needs so that everybody wins.

Josh falls in the category of paid non-management staff in a non-profit organization in rural Polk County.

**NON-PAID VOLUNTEER:**

**Sharon Flegal, Returning Veterans Project**

I am writing to nominate a phenomenal mental health care volunteer, Ms. Sharon Flegal, for the ye?lan lima award in the "helping hands" non-paid volunteer category. Sharon is a licensed marriage and family therapist who resides in Multnomah County. She has been an embodiment of dedication and expertise, leaving a significant mark on the Returning Veterans Project and the individuals under her care.

Sharon is not just a volunteer; she is a mentor who inspires, motivates, and influences others to excel. For more than 15 years, Sharon has volunteered over 223 hours and has provided FREE life changing and lifesaving care to veterans, service members and their families with the Returning Veterans Project. Her constant engagement at RVP events, attending RVP's continuing education courses, providing interviews for RVP articles, and promoting volunteering with RVP to her mental healthcare provider network, has shown her exemplary heart to serve.

I believe she truly deserves to be recognized with the ye?lan lima award for her tireless efforts, unwavering faith, and utmost dedication towards volunteering her mental healthcare services to RVP. Sharon is a true example of what it looks like to extend a "helping hand". Her nomination would not only reward her efforts but also fuel the growing enthusiasm in other volunteers, proving that hard work and dedication never go unnoticed.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**BRENDA TUOMI**  
Chairwoman



**JULIE FAHEY**  
Vice Chairwoman



**DENISE HARVEY**  
Secretary



**CAMILLE MERCIER**  
Trustee



**MARTHA SCHRADER**  
Trustee



**VICTORIA ERNST**  
Trustee



**MICHAEL CHERRY**  
Trustee



**MARIA ROJO DE STEFFEY**  
Trustee



**ARNIE ROBLAN**  
Vice Chairman  
through Sept. 2023



**HENRY "CHIP" LAZENBY**  
Chairman  
through Sept. 2023

STAFF

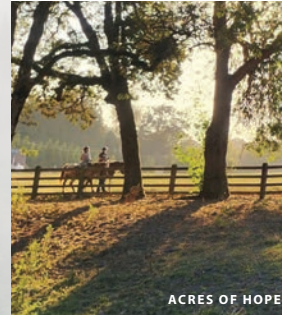
**ANGIE SEARS**  
Executive Director

**JESSE KNIGHT**  
Grants Coordinator

**ANGELA SCHLAPPIE**  
Program Coordinator

**PAMALA WARREN-CHASE**  
Administrative Assistant

*Hayu Masi*  
(many thanks)



Grantee SPOTLIGHT



Food Roots

Food Roots has a mission to grow a robust and equitable food system on the North Oregon Coast. Our primary programs include a Local Foods Marketplace, Farm to School Education, Farmer and Food Producer Support, and a local food equity program that focuses on ensuring everyone in our community has access to fresh, nutritious, local food, regardless of income. In the past year, our project Growing Nourished Coastal Communities through Food Equity Programs has allowed Food Roots to expand our programming to reach more of the most vulnerable families in our community, particularly those who are low-income, geographically isolated, and/or Latinx.

Our commitment to food equity and community health starts with making fresh, nutritious, locally grown food available and affordable through our Marketplace, where we sell products from around 50 local farmers and food producers. We accept SNAP/EBT and other forms of food assistance. We offer SNAP customers free delivery on their orders, and ensure that their SNAP dollars go twice as far by administering SNAP-match programs.

Food Roots knows that the best way to develop healthy eating habits is to start young, so in the past year Food Roots has developed a new partnership with the Tillamook Head Start/Early Head Start program. Each month, we provide a free box of highly nutritious, locally grown produce, milk, eggs, and meat for each family to take home, along with recipes, information about local producers, and other educational materials. Our Head Start project has been so successful that we are replicating the model by implementing a similar program at Tillamook's large subsidized housing complex. We have also expanded our outreach to the Latinx community, translating our website and educational materials into Spanish, surveying families to determine the most desirable and culturally appropriate foods to include in our monthly local food boxes, and co-hosting events with local Latinx cultural organizations. Through these efforts, and other programs, Food Roots is working to grow a healthy community for all.







503.879.5211  
[www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org)



503.879.1400  
[www.thecommunityfund.com](http://www.thecommunityfund.com)

## WHO WE ARE:

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is committed to honoring the Tribal traditions of sharing and giving back. In 1997, through a formal compact agreement between the Tribe and the state of Oregon, Spirit Mountain Community Fund was established as a way for the Tribe to give back to the local communities that supported them during their most vulnerable time, the termination era.

Through the Community Fund, the Tribe donates 6 percent of casino revenue to nonprofit organizations throughout northwest Oregon. We accomplish this by providing competitive grant programs in an 11-county service area, as well as to government agencies in Lane, Polk, Tillamook and Yamhill counties, and to the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon.

Our primary focus is to improve the quality of life for all people living in northwest Oregon through community investments consistent with the Tribe's culture and values.

9615 Grand Ronde Road  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347