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Contact: Angela Schlappie, Program Coordinator

Phone: 503-879-1462 • [Angela.Schlappie@thecommunityfund.com](mailto:Angela.Schlappie@thecommunityfund.com)

### Spirit Mountain Community Fund Announces the 2022 ye?lan lima (Helping Hand) Award Winners

Grand Ronde, OR – The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Spirit Mountain Community Fund are pleased to announce Peggy Hanson, Mary Rebar and Morgan Parks as this year’s ye?lan lima (Helping Hand) award winners.

The Spirit Mountain Community Fund frequently celebrates the remarkable achievements of our nonprofit partners. Our board and staff realize that the fundamental ingredient to the success of nonprofit organizations is the dedication, commitment and unwavering effort of its individual staff and volunteers.

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 Chinook 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.

#### **2022 Volunteer Award Winner**

Peggy Hanson, Wayside Friends Church, is the ye?lan lima award winner for the volunteer category.



#### **Peggy’s nomination letter:**

With a grateful heart we nominate Peggy Hanson. In our Quaker tradition we have people who are friends (participants in our community) and people who are Friends (those whom have deep spiritual depth and leadership). For years, Peggy has been a generous friend and friend to many.

Peggy has done numerous acts of service such as driving seniors to medical appointments, opening her home to young adults in need of housing, and giving computer support to the Elders of your own Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Peggy is a co-clerk of our meeting serving in the highest level of leadership. In this role Peggy has been a voice of wisdom and vision, helping discern how to navigate the pandemic in profound ways. When we began a Distance Learning Support program for students during COVID, Peggy helped us expand our efforts to not just serve the children in our church, but at risk students in the Newberg School District as well. Her guidance and communication skills helped what was a small gap service program blossom into four times the size initially projected.

As we value serving our neighbors, Peggy continues to be a beautiful example of what it means to honor the Light in every human being by coming alongside those in need of practical help as well as inviting others to join in this broad, inclusive vision.

### **2022 Paid Non-Management Award Winner**

Mary Rebar, Regional Care Services Coordinator for the ALS Association Oregon and SW Washington Chapter, is the 2022 Ylan Lima award winner for the paid staff category.



#### **Mary's nomination letter:**

We nominate Mary Rebar, our Regional Care Services Coordinator who covers SMCF's 11-county service area, for the 2022 Ylan Lima Award. Mary has been with our chapter since March 2013 and is an expert on the nuances of coping with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Her compassionate, trauma-informed approach to navigating a devastating terminal illness is inspirational, and she is well loved by the ALS community.

ALS is notoriously unpredictable and Mary has keen insight into each person's ever-changing needs. She's perpetually on the move across the Willamette Valley and coastal Oregon, serving as a case manager for nearly 100 families living with ALS, including many in rural and remote areas.

Mary is available at short notice to help people with ALS and their loved ones get the answers they need to overcome obstacles – whether making a home visit, helping with disability claims, locating a piece of adaptive equipment, lending an ear to a caregiver, or helping with end-of-life planning. The range of topics is limitless, and our constituents know that Mary will work tirelessly to find them the resources they need.

She also hosts four of the chapter's well-attended support groups, offering a reassuring space where people affected by ALS can help each other stay informed and resilient. Mary is a true beacon of hope and compassion for Oregon's vulnerable ALS community. Thank you for the opportunity to nominate Mary and for SMCF's support of our chapter.

### **2022 Paid Management Award Winner**

Morgan Parks, Oregon Education Manager for the National Wildlife Federation, is the ye?lan lima (Helping Hand) award winner for the paid management category.



**Morgan's nomination letter:** It's Saturday morning, and Morgan Parks has been at the office for hours preparing for a workshop. She has transformed the conference room into a space where science and art co-mingle: water quality testing kits sit beside salmon crafts, interspersed with miniature pumpkins and Ranger Rick magazines. Morgan will guide educators through hands-on activities to integrate fish fostering into the classroom.

This is the third year that the Fish Eggs to Fry program has received support from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund thanks to her. This year, the grant allows us to work with teachers from Title 1 schools new to the program, providing them with equipment and field trip funds. In this way, we contribute to inspiring a lifelong commitment to wildlife conservation in students from all backgrounds across Portland.

As Oregon Education Manager for the National Wildlife Federation, Morgan has worked for six years on sustainable schools, gardening for wildlife, watershed health, salmon and trout lifecycles, and monarch butterfly conservation. She serves on the Clackamas County Parks Advisory Board and the ODFW Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee, and she has volunteered with the Nature Conservancy as a Naturalist for the last 13 years.

Morgan is the first person everyone turns to when things need to get done, due to her exceptional dedication to delivering results. Her commitment, passion, and generosity are so great that she rarely takes any time for herself. She exemplifies heart-centered leadership, as her desire to lend a helping hand surpasses all else.