Western Lane Community Gives Grant to SOS

Western Lane Community Foundation showed their support of Siuslaw Outreach Services by awarding funding toward the Emergency Voucher Fund in the amount of $5,000.00.

The grant was presented March 13th at the Rotary Club Luncheon. The Foundation was started by the Rotarians in 1974 “for the purpose of receiving and distributing charitable funds for the benefit of residents of Western Lane County,” according to WLCF Executive Director, Gayle Waiss.

Western Lane Community Foundation provides support to various community service organizations each year to assist with the improved quality of life in four major areas: medicine and science; culture; social and civic services; and education. These funds are granted through both designated and discretionary grants.

Siuslaw Outreach Services is so grateful to Western Lane Community Foundation for their support!

Traveler's Story

Traveler is a homeless individual who found his way to SOS as he was passing through the community recently. He had been traveling on a bicycle he had built out of spare parts. He arrived at SOS searching for a shower, a pair of shoes and perhaps some help getting his bike fixed.

You see, Traveler was on a quest to go up and down the coast making people aware of the challenges experienced by those who are homeless. He wanted to advocate for the rights and struggles of the homeless through public education by speaking to the media, civic leaders and posting notes. Traveler, originally from the Portland area, had been homeless for several years.

Traveler’s struggles began several years earlier growing up in an environment of abuse, drugs, and a series of unfortunate circumstances. These events began to form a mental illness that he continues to suffer from. This condition makes it extremely difficult for him to maintain any job, secure stable housing, and develop close relationships. He also reports struggles with access to mental health and physical health care programs.

One of the things that tugged at the staff member’s heart strings was his willingness to work for the help or re-pay in some form or fashion the kindness he had been shown. He was not asking for much, just some relief for his feet and some dignity. As the staff continued to hear Traveler’s story, they were impressed by Traveler’s determination, perseverance and cheerful attitude through what life had thrown at him.

The staff member went on to share with Traveler some of the resources SOS had to offer in support of his situation; clothing, food, a shower and laundry voucher, names of people who could repair his bike, and health care information. However, Traveler was clear he was content and really only wanted the ability to have a shower so he could feel a little more “human.”

At the conclusion of the visit, Traveler thanked the staff expressing his gratitude for the services being offered. He said to the advocate, “Thank you for your kindness and making me feel like a regular human being not being judged and just being heard.” Traveler also mentioned churches and individuals in the area whom he felt had treated him with respect as well. We are truly fortunate to live in such a caring community.

* These stories are about actual clients assisted at Siuslaw Outreach Services. Their names have been changed for confidentiality.
The Outreach

Siuslaw Elementary Students Give Back to Their Community

This winter members of the Kindness Club paid a visit to Siuslaw Outreach Services.

The group, started by Siuslaw High School senior Kaylee Graham, consists of 12 kids in grades 3, 4 and 5. The students heard from Bob Teter, Executive Director, about the role SOS plays in the community and the important role volunteers play in the agency. Kaylee started “The Kindness Club” last year to share her passion for volunteering with kids, instilling in them a sense of community. The group meets monthly to hear presentations, and organize weekend service projects.

Through the club, kids complete acts of kindness, visit local nonprofits, and learn about the importance of helping others. Kaylee states, “Our kindness activities have helped to make a more positive school environment, from making New Year’s gifts and appreciation cards for staff, to writing positive and uplifting sticky notes for anyone to take.” Teter told the kids, “It is so inspiring to see young people not only want to make a difference but to actually do it.”

Since the visit from the club, one young fellow, Quoyle Dramer, was inspired to initiate a book drive to help the children whose families benefit from supports at SOS. When asked by Bob Teter how many books he thought he could collect Quoyle’s response was, “Oh, I don’t know. Maybe a hundred.” Quoyle exceeded his own expectations and collected enough books for both SOS and DHS! This is the type of kindness that continues to give hope to us all; that there is still a sense of kindness and empathy for others, beginning with our youth. Thanks so much for your kind thoughts and dedication to other people, Quoyle!

Following the successful book drive, club member Chloe Goss and her sister Mia hosted a can & bottle drive. Their efforts brought in a generous donation of $580.00!

Dylan Jensen, a 5th grader and his brother Sailor Jensen, a 2nd grader were also inspired to help by initiating a “Pack Drive.” The brothers reached out to the community and were able to gather 28 bags filled with essentials like toothpaste, toothbrushes and a variety of other toiletries.

WOW, Kids! SOS and the families we serve are so fortunate to have people like you reaching out to our community! Thanks Kindness Club Members!

A special shout out to Rob Long and the Western Lane County Road Maintenance Zone 5 crew. Rob and his crew gave of their personal off-duty time in May to do some yard work around the office. Their selfless service is greatly appreciated!

If you are wondering about another way to support the families and individuals we serve at Siuslaw Outreach Services, you may consider donating some snack foods.

Often, people come into the office and need a “little something” to snack on. These snacks could fill a hunger void, stabilize a diabetic condition or simply relax someone who is stressed and needs that extra boost of nutrition to help calm the nerves.

We will gladly accept your donation of individual serving size snacks such as: crackers (cheese or peanut butter filled), fruit snacks, nuts or another type of single serving food. Financial contributions marked for “snacks” are also welcome!

Thanks for considering this donation!
8th Annual Siuslaw Open

Saturday, September 8, 2018
At Florence Golf Links
Florence, Oregon

Sponsored by

Florence Dental Clinic

A Charity Golf Tournament To Benefit

SIUSLAW OUTREACH SERVICES

Funds raised will go to help needy individuals and families experiencing domestic violence, homelessness and other forms of crisis.

Entry Fee: $99/Player OR $396 Team of 4
Early Bird Discount if paid by 8/10/18: $89 per player OR $350 per team

Register at Florence Golf Links or SOS. For more info call 541-997-2816

More than 30 prizes to win!
A CHANCE TO WIN A FORD F-150 FROM JOHNSTON MOTORS
A CHANCE TO PUTT FOR $5,000

Florence Golf Links
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Bailiff, Diane
Banner Bank
Barrett, Jeff H.
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Blue Herron Gallery, Inc.
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Burch's Roofing, Inc.
Candela, Dona L. H.
Chapin, Donald
Chase, Fredrick & Rita
Chehak, Donald & Virginia
Clement, Chad E. DDS
Coast Real Estate, Inc.
Coastal Fitness
Community 101
Copeland Lumber
Coughlan, Nancy
Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation
David, Sharon
DG Marketing LLC
Dumas, David & April
Durst, William & Mary
Edstrom, Robert & Melissa
Edward Jones
Englund, Larry & Florence
Erickson, Kimberly & Timothy
Escher, John
Firehouse Restaurant
Florence Christian Church
Florence Church of the Nazarene
Florence Dental Clinic
Florence Rotary Club
Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
French, Jennifer
Gates, Lori & Steve
Giles, Barbara
Giles, Nadine
Gillem, Nancy
Green, Lynda
Green, Ronald & Catherine
Groves, Kevin & Lori
Hadley, Bruce
Hale Greta
Hanen, B. Renee
Hanson, Jeannette
Hipplek, Mary A.
Hughes, Bruce & Campbell, Linda
Integrity Plumbing, Inc.
Janowski, Kenneth & Mary
Jarman, Ian & Heidi
Johnston Motor Co.
Johnston, Mary
Jones, Johnie & Sandra
JW Data LLC dba Aurelius Golf
Kimball, Jeannine S.
Klessig, Rick W.
Kosman, Eugene, & Monica
Kroger (FM Community Awards)
Kuhar, Mary J.
Ladies of Elks
Lamb, Debra & Larry
Lane County Human Services Commission
Lane, Alice H.
Latham, Ronnie
Lenox, Jack & Kathryn
Lepore, Denah P. & DJ
Lewis, Melvin
Lighthouse Electrical Contractors
Lizzow, Ivy C.
Long, James A.
Lydale, C.A. & Nancy
M'Gonigle, John & Joanna
Mann & Associates Appraisal Services, LLC
Mans, Justin
Mathis, Donald & Martiena
McAllister, Sara
McArile, William & Patricia
McClure, James & Nadine
McCorkle, Roger & Sherrie
McDaniel, Brenda & Bear
Mealer, Bart & Lacer, Susie
Millsap, Teresa
Mott, M. Luthera
Moore, Anna
Moore, Donald & Glenda
Moursund, David G.
Murphy, Justin & Dayle
Network for Good
Nichols, Ralph & Karen
O'Connell, Ann & James
Oregon Community Foundation
Oregon Department of Justice
Oregon Pacific Bank
Oregon Pacific Bank Employees
Ortiz, Theresa
Payn, Thomas & Deborah
Peace Health
Pearson, John
Pennington, Mary & Charles
Peters, Bob & Peg
Power of Florence
Preisler, Ron & Judy
Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church Women
Repovich, L. Don & Harris, Karol
Resurrection Lutheran Church
Rhododendron Quilt Guild
Rickaby, Frances
Robertson, Lori & Gordon
Rogers, Mecken
Russell, Doris E.
Salisbury, Timothy & Carol
Saltman, Marina
Sandland Adventures
Scarberr, Dan
Scarberry, Suzanne M.
Schurr, Albert
Schwab Charitable Fund
Schwartz, Michael & Judith
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Simms, Mary Louise
Siuslaw Friendship Club
Siuslaw High Leadership Club
Siuslaw River Coffee Roasters
Skidmore, Stephen
Small, Larry
Smith, Cheryl Sue
Smith, Lamina M.
Smith, Lee & Petrina
Smith, Richard & Harriet
Sobottka, Nancy L.
Soroptimist of Florence
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
St. Mary's Women's Guild
Statler, Zevion & Gail
Stead, John
Stiles, Sharon
Stutzman, Patricia
In our previous edition of The Outreach, it was noted that Executive Director Bob Teter was asked to talk with inmates at the Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem about domestic violence. In that article it was reported that Mr. Teter addressed 10 former gang members who were serving 15 plus years prison terms for violent crimes. He spoke for several hours about what domestic violence is and how it affects not only the primary victim but also their children, extended family members, and the community.

The program was such a success that Mr. Teter was asked to return to speak with another group this past May. Some of the things Teter discussed with the inmates are the psychological and emotional effects that can damage the primary victim as well as friends and family members for a lifetime, including the developmental concerns for children. Teter also shared the economic impacts on businesses and the community that occur. He went on to share that businesses affected by domestic violence deal with production loss, higher insurance rates as well as safety concerns for the victim and their co-workers. Last year, businesses collectively lost over $1.8 billion in revenue as the direct result of domestic violence.

Mr. Teter then concluded the class by illustrating what healthy relationships look like and empowering them to make change in their prison community as well as the community to which they will eventually be released. Teter has been asked to return on a regular basis to teach classes on the effects and causes of other forms of crime and to provide motivational speaking. Currently, SOS and the Oregon Department of Corrections are seeking funding and donations to make this happen.

Recently, a Siuslaw Outreach Services advocate received an email from a client who, with the help of SOS, escaped a life of domestic violence.

The email contained the following message, “Hi there! I came there last week and you helped me with a bus ticket after my husband had left me stranded. I just wanted to say thanks so much again and to give you an update. I finally made it to my destination. I’m currently staying at the women’s shelter here, and they helped me out with some more clothes and shoes. I’ve attended church and a couple AA meetings, I set up a med management appointment for this afternoon, and I just finished filing for divorce and a restraining order from my husband. I’m on the right path and I had to let you know that you played a big part in that. I felt so utterly hopeless when I got to your office, but you helped change my attitude about the whole situation and I’m so grateful for everything you and your organization did to help me. Keep doing what you do, because it makes a difference in the world! Thanks again.”

Your generous support is vital in continuing these life changing services.
Tim Weese to Manage Housing & Utility Assistance Programs

Tim Weese has been hired to fill the vacancy of Housing & Utility Assistance Program Manager that was created when Dianna Huenergardt moved to the valley this past spring. Tim has been working part-time with Siuslaw Outreach Services as an advocate since June of 2016. Weese, an Oregon State University graduate with a degree in sociology also has a background in social services working at a youth residential treatment facility, as a case worker and activities supervisor. As program manager, Tim is responsible for managing and implementing programs to help those experiencing an unexpected financial crisis. Services may include assistance with past due rent or utility bills. He also helps clients develop goals and safety plans; monitor self-sufficiency plans; creates and establishes self-sufficiency classes and homelessness prevention activities. Tim also oversees the Low-Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Tim’s reputation as a supportive team member and his passion for social services makes him a great fit for the position.

BE SAFE! BE SEEN!

It is no secret that Highway 101 is a very busy roadway and often times dangerous for pedestrians. The City of Florence and ODOT have been working hard to make it safer. However, there are still many who have expressed concerns about the homeless traveling on 101. They often wear dark clothing and the winter weather makes it very difficult for drivers to see them.

SOS has responded to this concern by implementing the “Be Safe-Be Seen Program.” The program involves educating the homeless about this danger and providing them with flashing reflectors that can be clipped onto their clothing, bags and bicycles. SOS saw over 900 homeless individuals in our office over the past year. There is no funding for this other than community donations. To provide two or three reflectors to each homeless individual will cost an estimated $2,000 annually.

Donations from several community members has provided nearly 200 of these reflectors to get this program off the ground. It will not solve the entire problem but it is our hope that this will save some lives. If you would like to financially support this effort, please contact our staff or stop by the office.

Siuslaw Outreach Services has been at the forefront of helping homeless families secure stable housing for many years. Last year, Siuslaw Outreach Services served over 900 homeless individuals by providing vouchers for laundry and showers as well as clothing, food, and in some cases, emergency motel vouchers. Of this high number of homeless individuals served, some are children. Often these children come from families where one or two parents are working but cannot earn enough to cover move-in costs. The average cost of move-in expenses in the Florence area is $1,500. This does not include utility deposits or the purchase of a bed.

There is also a housing crisis and there are not enough rentals available. Most low income or affordable housing complexes have a 2 year waiting list. A child experiencing homelessness could potentially develop mental illness or social disorders that can come from lack of sleep, living in fear of not knowing where they might lay their head that night or if they could even be taken away from their parents. Many lack proper nutrition because the only decent meal they can get is at school. Also, the fear of other students judging them because they wear clothes that do not fit, are dirty or smell, are all very real challenges for homeless children.

In 2017, a local resident was heartbroken to recognize this trend that seemed to be increasing. She and Bob Teter, SOS Executive Director, met to work together as to how these struggling youth could be supported. The result was the establishment of a fund that can be used to facilitate getting youth into permanent stable housing, provide tutors, clothing, extra-curricular activities, as well as bridge any financial gap for medical or dental care. The fund is called, “The Over The Rainbow Fund for Homeless Youth.” Last year, the community came together to raise over $21,000 to support these at-risk youth. Those funds helped 12 families secure stable housing or stave off an eviction. This year’s goal was to raise $20,000 in 60 days. At the end of this year’s campaign, over $23,000 was pledged. It is so wonderful and inspiring to see what a caring community we live in.
Siuslaw Outreach Services welcomes four new members to our Board of Directors. Each new member brings talents and skills that are true assets to the group. We would like to say “Thank You” to these individuals for selflessly giving of their time to serve those in need.

CHelseA GrADuATES!

Siuslaw Outreach Services has been fortunate to have Chelsea Smart on board as an intern while completing her BSW degree. Chelsea is so determined to reach the finish line, she has jumped right back into her studies for her master’s degree. Due to scheduling conflicts, she was unable to attend her graduation so her friends at SOS held a graduation ceremony honoring her accomplishment.

Among the guests at her celebration were her parents and sister, SOS staff and a board member who stated, “A very special way of celebrating a fine young woman’s achievement. It was a delight to share in a bit of this auspicious occasion.”

It was a privilege and a pleasure to acknowledge Chelsea and her determination to complete her degree while giving of herself at SOS.

Thanks so much for all of your dedication and hard work, Chelsea! We congratulate you, and look forward to your continued support here at Siuslaw Outreach Services!

Farewell Dianna

In 2016, Dianna Huenergardt was hired as the Safe House Advocate. When Bob Teter was hired as Executive Director, Huenergardt was elevated to the position of Housing & Utility Assistance Program Manager. Dianna and her husband recently decided to move back to their hometown closer to family. We will miss Dianna and her amazing team spirit. We wish her all the best as she explores new horizons in her life.

Make a difference while you shop

Go shopping and give! Fred Meyer Community Rewards and Amazon Smile match a portion of your spending and send a check to SOS. Just go to www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and link SOS to your Rewards Card using number 86049. When you shop online with Amazon, make sure you click on the Amazon Smile logo and select Siuslaw Outreach Services as the organization to receive benefits.

Like us on facebook

SOS Welcomes New Board Members

Siuslaw Outreach Services
Siulesslaw Outreach Services Mission Statement

“To provide compassionate, respectful and confidential support to people in need.”

How You Can Help

We are looking for volunteers for: Front Desk Reception, Donation Sorters, Fund-raising, and Crisis Line. Stop by or call Lori at 541-997-2816, Ext. 206

Cash Donations are always welcome!

Items Needed: Clothing, Sleeping Bags, Tents, Shoes, Socks, Boots, Blankets, Small Household Items, Razors, and other items for everyday living.

Items we are not able to accept include: car seats, strollers, electric blankets, and other electrical appliances.

Please call for more information.

For more information on how you can help or get involved please contact SOS staff at 541-997-2816

Siuslaw Outreach Services
P.O. BOX 19000
FLORENCE, OR 97439

Clients Served with Emergency Vouchers, clothing and/or Rent Assistance (unduplicated).............................................2716

Males........................................1387 Females........................................1743
Children under 17......................366 Seniors (62 and older)......................651
Disabled...................................757 Homeless Individuals.......................936
Veterans.....................................85 Low Income Households Receiving Housing Assistance.......114

Clients Receiving Domestic Violence Advocacy Services ..........299 Sheltered Nights For DV/SA Survivors.........................1358
Clients Receiving Sexual Assault Advocacy Services...........13 DV/SA Survivors Participating In Support Group ............65
Clients Receiving Energy Assistance (L.I.H.E.A.P.)..............578 DV/SA Survivors Receiving Legal Aid .........................97
Response To After Hours Calls From Police/Hospital............44 After Hours Calls to Crisis Line.......................................208
Participants in Self-Sufficiency Classes and Workshops.........64 Total Walk-In Visits.....................................................7326
Total Number Of Volunteer Hours........................................9857 Total Number Of Trained Volunteers..............................37

ESTIMATED TOTAL NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED (unduplicated).......3130

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please give us a call at 541-997-2816, Ext. 202