

SISTERS GRO: Organization handles SHS scholarships

Continued from page 3

nonprofit in the community focused solely on the development of financial support for Sisters High School graduates in these areas.

Currently Sisters GRO works with 51 donors to offer 87 local individual scholarships available to SHS graduates. Beginning in 2008-09, it awarded \$64,150 to 27 student recipients; in 2017, Sisters GRO awarded nearly \$170,000 to 54 recipients. Since its inception, with the assistance of the people of Sisters, it has awarded scholarship funds of \$824,500 to 285 graduating students.

"In many respects, 10 years has gone by in the blink of an eye; in other ways, it's been a long road to where we are now," said Ann Thompson, Sisters GRO co-founder. "But every year has been rewarding, watching GRO grow, seeing the generosity of our community come together to help our students succeed in so many ways. When we began the work of Sisters GRO years ago, I don't think our core group ever envisioned this degree of success, although we had high hopes.

"Sisters GRO and (the mentorship program) ASPIRE have combined to make very memorable moments for me: students who had no hope for education beyond high school, and yet went on to college, the first in their families to do so, with the help of mentoring and scholarships. GRO has big plans for the future, and I hope to be around for the next stage!"

ASPIRE is an Oregon State resource that matches adult volunteer mentors with high school students to develop a plan to meet their goals beyond high school. Sisters GRO works closely with ASPIRE in developing



PHOTO PROVIDED

Karen Hensley and Ann Thompson are GRO co-founders.

ways to better serve graduates in pursuing their goals. In 2017, 40 ASPIRE mentors assisted approximately 175 junior and senior students.

Joe Hosang, SHS principal, who has served on the Sisters GRO Board since 2011, points out that "in addition to financial support by scholarship donors, GRO has been a vital partner with the Sisters School District to support and breathe life into the ASPIRE program when it was struggling. Because of Sisters GRO's passion and commitment to the ASPIRE program, it's flourishing."

In 2013, Sisters GRO began collaborating with The Roundhouse Foundation to furnish funds for "Enrichment Experiences." Sisters GRO manages the selection, award and disbursement process. Making these experiences possible to local youth helps them in discovering their interests and passions, which is a basis for envisioning their

future paths. The program began with grants for Sisters High School students and has grown, through the generosity of The Roundhouse Foundation, to include Sisters middle and elementary schools.

Last year The Ford Family Foundation supported Sisters GRO with a grant for professional consulting. This helped the all-volunteer board of directors facilitate a transition of leadership, along with added administration work brought on by the increased number of scholarships.

For information about supporting Sisters GRO by establishing a scholarship, serving on its board of directors, or volunteering as an ASPIRE mentor, contact them at info@SistersGRO.org.

WEATHER: Month of December may be on the dry side

Continued from page 3

which was 1.44 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation — at least .01 inch — was received on five days with the heaviest, 0.14 inches, reported on November 9.

Precipitation this year has reached 9.17 inches, which is 2.39 inches below normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Sisters has been 1.67 inches, which is 1.24 inches below normal.

Snowfall totaled 1.1 inches with at least one inch of snow reported on one day. The heaviest snowfall was 1.1 inches reported on November 9. The greatest depth of snow on the ground was one inch on November 9.

The outlook for December from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation. Normal highs for Sisters fall from 41.0 degrees at the start of December to 39.0 degrees at the end of December. Normal lows fall from 23.0 degrees to 22.0 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.97 inches.

BlackButteRanch.com/Holidays

Touch of Class Tours
www.touchofclasstours.com
connie@touchofclasstours.com

SPECIAL 4-DAY NEW YEARS TOUR! WINNEMUCCA, NV DEC. 30-JAN. 2 | \$119 PPDO
Includes \$30 slot play and \$15 food coupons

HAWAII - 3 ISLANDS: MAUI, MOLOKAI & LANAI APRIL 25-MAY 2 | \$3,192 PPDO
Includes air, taxes, transfers, 7 nights, ferry to Lanai, helicopter tour, pineapple tour, Lao Valley tour, luau, whale watch cruise, 7 breakfasts, one lunch, one luau, and more!

A GIFT TO CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY! MAY 9-11 | \$379 PPDO
St. Helen's Visitor Center, Hulda Klager Gardens hosting Lilac Days, Bethany Winery, Ilani (WA newest Casino), 2 nts. Best Western, 2 breakfasts!

RIVER CRUISE MEMPHIS TO LOUISVILLE, KY | June 30-July 9
Inside cabins start at \$3,199 PPDO Ohio, Tennessee & Mississippi Rivers "Inside the Bourbon Experience!" Inside cabins starting at \$3,199 ppdo, includes air, taxes, transfers, 2 pre-nights, complimentary shore excursions including Graceland! Complimentary beer/wine with dinner every night & so much more! GREAT VALUE!



Connie Boyle
541-508-1500
Box 615 Sisters,
OR 97759