



PHOTO PROVIDED

Nina Walz, left, is shifting her career from the food services industry into wellness counseling.

## Kiwanis grant helps woman change careers

Sisters Kiwanis is helping a Sisters-area resident shift her career path.

Sisters Kiwanis awards grants to Sisters-area adults who are seeking a career change or who wish to enhance their career opportunities. The program, known as the Kiwanis Career Opportunity Fund (COF) assists adults (25 or older) who are financially unable to return to school or retrain for a career change. In the last 10 years, since its inception, the fund has awarded more than \$70,000 in assistance to help residents reach their educational goals.

Nina Walz was the most recent recipient of a COF grant. She currently works in the food service industry and retail, but due to medical issues she needs to pursue another career avenue. She has chosen to pursue a degree toward becoming an Ayurvedic Wellness Counselor. This will involve both in-class and online classroom formats, with some travel involved. Once she has accomplished this educational goal, she will be able to employ Ayurvedic practices to determine a client's body constitution, conduct consultations, give Ayurvedic guidance on daily routines and meditation, and offer advice on special

therapies and home remedies.

The COF grant will provide some of the funds necessary for Walz to take this course beginning in fall 2019 through the Kerala Ayurveda program. Nina shared with Kiwanis that she enjoys Ayurveda's emphasis on diet and lifestyle, and sees this career of helping others as a positive step in influencing positive change in our community.

The Kiwanis Career Opportunity Fund is designed to provide assistance to start, augment or complete a career that may include vocational, technical, artistic or general fields of study. Funds are available to qualified residents within the Sisters community regardless of age, gender, disability, marital status, race or current occupation. Kiwanis does not set limitations on potential use of the award.

COF applications are available on the Kiwanis website: [www.sisterskiwanis.org/about-us/career-opportunity-fund](http://www.sisterskiwanis.org/about-us/career-opportunity-fund); at the Sisters Habitat for Humanity office, from Family Access Network, or by calling 541-410-2870. Kiwanis is actively seeking applicants for COF grants.

To donate to the COF, make checks payable to Sisters Kiwanis COF and post to Sisters Kiwanis, P.O. Box 1296, Sisters, OR 97759.

## SPRD hires new executive director

The Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD) Board of Directors announced last week that Jennifer Holland of Springfield will serve as the organization's executive director.

In April, the board received 19 applications for the open executive director position.

Holland applied at the time but withdrew her candidacy due to an illness in the family. The board reported that when that process did not yield a new executive director, the board reached out to Holland to ask if she would reconsider her decision to withdraw. In May, Holland visited the District for interviews with the board, community partners, and staff.

According to SPRD, everyone involved in the process, including Holland, thought she would be a good fit for the position and Sisters Country.

Board President Jeff Tryens said, "the board is thrilled that Jennifer has agreed to lead our team. Our 18-month journey in search of a new executive director has culminated in finding someone who is superbly qualified to take SPRD to a new level of service to the community."

Holland has been employed with Willamalane Park and Recreation in Springfield, Oregon for 17 years, most recently as the program manager of the Bob Keefer Center for Sports and Recreation. While at Willamalane, Holland's accomplishments included increasing youth

programming by developing and maintaining community partnerships, reducing the reliance of subsidy for program and facility operations and executing many successful community events.

Jennifer's son, Cal, will be entering sixth grade at Sisters Middle School and enjoys baseball, video games, and spending time with his dog, Griffin.

"I am so honored to be given the opportunity to lead Sisters Park & Recreation District," Holland said. "Cal and I consider ourselves very lucky to be moving to such a warm and welcoming community."



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Jennifer Holland has signed on to lead SPRD.

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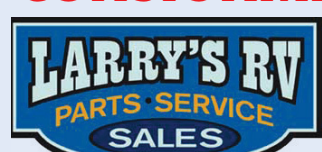


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