



PHOTO PROVIDED

Happy Meals on Wheels client receiving a meal, flowers, and a hello.

**GRANTS:** Program received funds from four foundations

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Charitable Foundation, “and your commitment truly makes Oregon a better place to live. We are pleased to be able to support your Meals on Wheels program.”

Council on Aging received grants from Barbara Emily Knudson Charitable Foundation, OnPoint Community Credit Union, First Interstate Bank, and Brooks Resources for its Meals on Wheels program. Brooks Resources awarded \$2,500 to support meals for seniors in Deschutes County. Their mission is to support social services, arts, culture, and education in Bend. The Barbara Emily Knudson Charitable Foundation awarded \$12,000 to the Meals on Wheels program. Their mission is to promote education, health, and vibrant communities in Oregon. OnPoint Community Credit Union donated \$5,000. OnPoint believes communities grow and thrive when we all work together to support those most in need. First Interstate Bank contributed \$1,000 to address food insecurity in our older adult population in Central Oregon.

“We are so grateful that these foundations recognize the food insecurity issues our seniors are facing in Central Oregon. Their continued support of our Meals on Wheels program is a vote of confidence that together we can make a difference in the health and well-being of our elders,” said Council

“ We are so grateful that these foundations recognize the food insecurity issues our seniors are facing in Central Oregon. — Susan Rotella

on Aging’s executive director Susan Rotella. “These awards will help us meet the growing food insecurity needs this year.”

Central Oregon organizations, foundations, and local residents are welcomed and encouraged to support the Council on Aging’s Meals on Wheels program. To make a donation, visit [www.councilonaging.org/donate](http://www.councilonaging.org/donate). For more information about resources for older adults, call the Council on Aging at 541-678-5483, visit [www.councilonaging.org](http://www.councilonaging.org), or their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CouncilOnAgingOfCentralOregon](http://www.facebook.com/CouncilOnAgingOfCentralOregon).

**MARTIN:** New principal planner is on the job in Sisters

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Deschutes County. He and his wife, Valerie, settled in Bend and decided “this was a place I want to put down roots.” He became an associate planner during his five years at the county. After the experience of dealing with short-range rural planning, Martin went to the City of Bend where he worked on urban planning during the peak of activity prior to the 2008 recession.

After the recession, Martin broadened his experience further with regional planning while working for Commute Options in ODOT Region 4. He also did some contract work for Jefferson County and private developers. He became the manager for NeighborImpact’s weatherization program before returning to Deschutes County to do long-range planning. Along the way, Martin’s daughter, Paige, was born, and she is now 14 years old.

With his multitude of work experiences, Martin brings with him to Sisters a full grasp of Oregon land-use

laws as well as both urban and rural long- and short-range planning experience. He is well acquainted with regional organizations and people within Central Oregon.

He already was familiar with Sisters from working with the Sisters Country Vision Project and the Deschutes County Historic Landmarks Commission. He also already has established relationships with some of Sisters’ public servants.

Martin views his position of principal planner this way: “I know I’m here to represent the community and the citizens of Sisters by addressing the goals and needs of the community. I will be accessible and available to them and be sure their voices and interests are incorporated into the planning for the City.”

A big influence in Martin’s life was his dad, who lived with multiple sclerosis until seven years ago. He was confined to a power wheelchair, which he drove with his chin. Martin’s experience with his father provided him a broader

perspective on people and how everyone comes with their own experience and perspectives. He believes that good relationships grow out of gaining understanding of another’s “why and how.”

Because of his father, Martin said he is hyper-aware of the importance of ADA requirements.

“They are not just another set of rules for planners to follow. They are tangible, important components of a community. The smallest things, like the surface or grade of a sidewalk, can make a huge difference for someone with limitations,” he explained.

“My dad’s strength and spirit are ever-present, inspiring me,” Martin said.

Martin’s mother fulfilled a lifelong dream by moving to the Oregon coast two years ago.

When time permits, Martin enjoys most of what Central Oregon has to offer, especially camping, hiking, and snowboarding. For years, he has enjoyed being part of a men’s softball team each summer.

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