



Confluence Willamette Valley LGBT Chorus is a group of people who come together to celebrate and honor diversity through music. PROVIDED BY CONFLUENCE

Confluence Willamette Valley LGBT Chorus wins grant

Cherrill Crosby Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Confluence Willamette Valley LGBT Chorus has been awarded its second consecutive grant of \$8,400 by the foundation of the Statesman Journal's parent company.

The chorus, a group of people who come together to celebrate and honor diversity through music, is one of two Oregon non-profits awarded grants this year from A Community Thrives, a program funded by the Gannett Foundation and part of the USA TODAY NETWORK.

Confluence is a non-audition GALEA chorus. Members live throughout the Willamette Valley from Portland to Eugene and perform in Portland, Salem and Corvallis. They have been rehearsing on Sunday afternoons since 2000, growing from 16 singers to about 50.

Because of COVID-19, performances have temporarily been canceled.

A Community Thrives' \$2.3 million initiative supports organizations working to address a range of social issues. This year, those issues included homelessness, mental

health care for LGBTQ people, reproductive care and girls' education, to name a few.

Since 2017, A Community Thrives has distributed \$17 million in grants and donations to community-based organizations.

"Now in its fifth year, A Community Thrives awards grants to many significant causes helping to improve lives. Each of our grant winners is making a positive impact, and we are proud to support organizations that share our purpose," Gannett CEO Mike Reed said.

The other Oregon nonprofit receiving a grant from A Community Thrives is the Burrito Brigade, which has delivered thousands of nutritious vegan meals to the hungry and unhoused in the Eugene area since 2014. The organization also was awarded \$8,400 for the second consecutive year.

All grant recipients raised money through crowdfunding before receiving a grant.

For the full list of grantees, go to www.gannettfoundation.org/act.

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Confluence Willamette Valley LGBT Chorus Retreat October 2019

The Confluence Willamette Valley LGBT Chorus. COURTESY CONFLUENCE WILLAMETTE VALLEY LGBT CHORUS



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