



**YOUTH SUPPORTED** – In February 2008, the S.T.Y.L.E. Basketball Tournament (left) received \$1,300 to help with tournament costs, including referees and sports equipment.

**HOUSING HELP** – Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County received \$8,000 in November 2007 to help provide the foundation and plumbing for a home for a Lincoln County family. Several Tribal staff members also worked on the home (below).

Photo by Brent Merrill

"I have made many contacts over the years with many different people working on a wide variety of diverse projects," said Ellis. "I really enjoy working with and helping people in many different communities. It is exciting to see all the different approaches to providing services and activities."

"I really appreciate that the Charitable Fund was set-up to help the 'little guy,'" continued Ellis. "We do not require 501c3 non-profit status so we are able to help organizations that many other charitable organizations overlook. For example, we contribute funds regularly to alcohol- and drug-free grad night activities throughout Oregon, we help local parent organizations by providing assistance with athletics and academics informally independent of the school system. This process allows us to assist many local organizations with many activities without making them go through the difficult process of gaining formal non-profit recognition."

Alcohol- and drug-free graduation night funding has been shared with Newport High School, Toledo High School, Philomath High School, Santiam High School and Salem's Sprague High School and McKay High School.

Although Ellis made it clear the Tribal Charitable Fund and its board members have no "official" priorities, she said education is the strong favorite of the fund's giving.

"Over the years, if you look at the data it appears that education is the dominant category for donations," said Ellis. "This is no surprise since the Tribe has always had a long-standing tradition of focusing on education as well."

#### **Fund Reaches \$7.75 Million in Giving**

At the last quarterly distribution in November 2009, the STCCF wrote checks to 56 organizations for \$217,484.40 and total sharing is now more than \$7.75 million since the fund's inception in 2000.

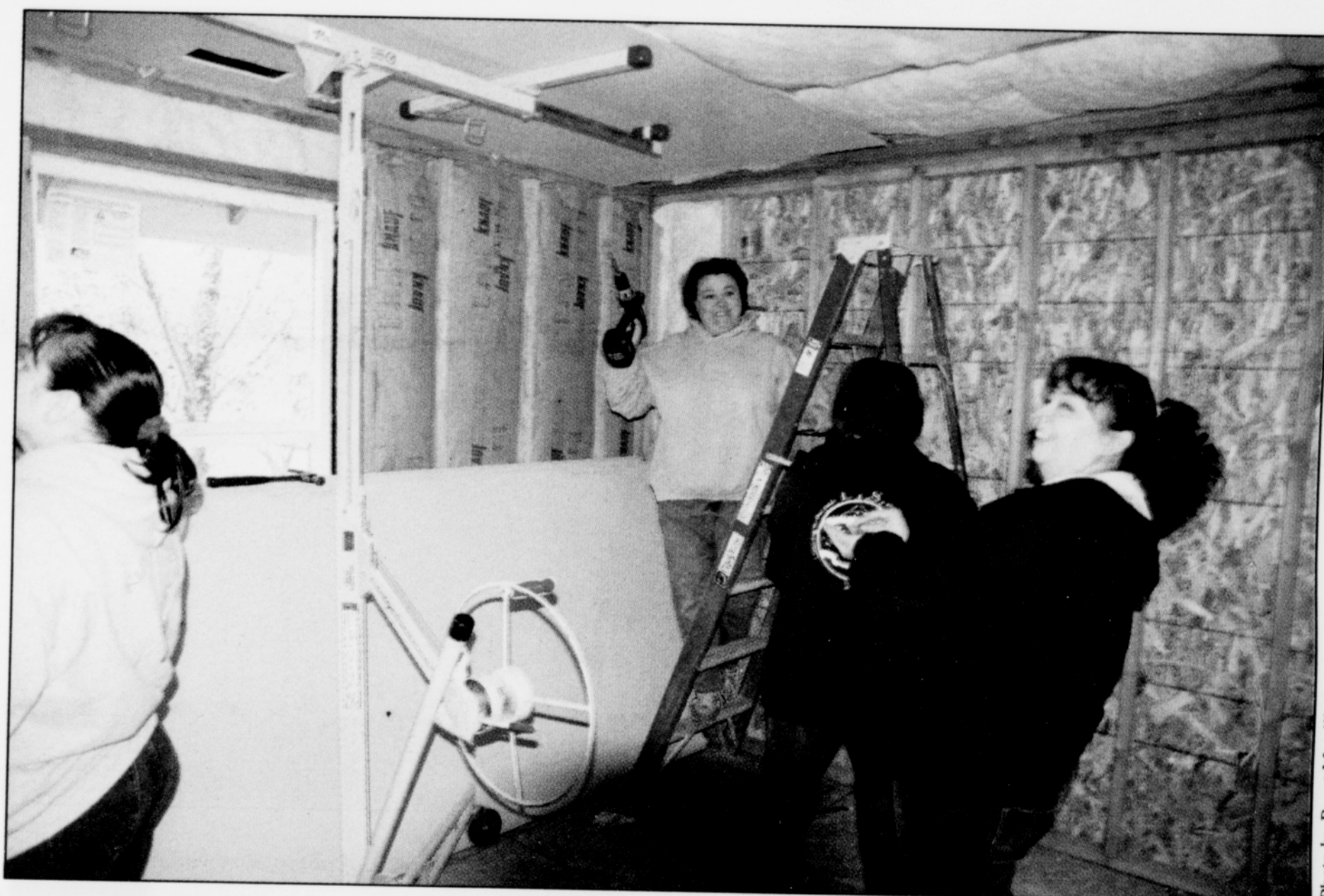


Photo by Brent Merrill

The quarterly distribution event was held as always at the Tribe's showcase, Chinook Winds.

Several groups that distribute food received nearly \$20,000 to buy food. The Taft High School Music Club received \$4,000 for music and instruments and the Taft Elementary After-School Art Club received \$1,100 for art supplies.

Schools and their after-school programs also benefited from the November distribution. School districts like the one in Keizer, Oregon, received help from the Siletz Tribe.

"These are positive contributions being made to the community," said Lance Masterson, managing editor of the Keizer Times newspaper. "These are cash-strapped school districts and the contributions really do help people."

Masterson pointed to the STCCF contribution to the North Keizer Junior Baseball League and the McNary High School Mat Club as positive examples of charitable contributions actually making a difference in people's lives. The fund paid for new wrestling singlets for the young grapplers and funded a new baseball stadium scoreboard at North Salem High School. North Salem High School received \$14,000 for the new scoreboard at the November 2009 distribution.

"There is a certain amount of pride that comes with those contributions," said Masterson. "You can see it in their faces when they are wearing new uniforms."

Chinook Winds Casino Resort has alone, given \$1.75 million in cash and fundraising items since opening its doors for business in 1995.

"There are minimal requirements to apply for charitable funds from the Siletz Tribe," explained Ellis. "The organization or activity must occur within the 11-county service area or be a Native American organization located throughout the United States. After receiving funds, the awardee is required to use the funds as they were allocated by the board within one year, make reasonable efforts to publish the award and complete an evaluation within one year of receiving the funds."

For eligibility requirements or to find out more information about the Siletz Tribe's Charitable Contribution Fund, go to [www.ctsi.nsn.us/charitable-contribution-fund](http://www.ctsi.nsn.us/charitable-contribution-fund) or contact the STCCF office at 541-444-8227 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1227; or by email at [stccf@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:stccf@ctsi.nsn.us).