

Altrusa Int'l of Yaquina Bay: Giving students something to smile about

By Andy Taylor

What are students smiling about, you ask? Dental supplies!

Every school year, Altrusa International of Yaquina Bay collects the funds and supplies to assemble about 3,100 dental supply kits that are then distributed to all schools in the Lincoln County School District to grades K-6. Now that's a lot of bright smiles and happy kids.

On top of that they raise the funds for several other programs, including Project School Bell, the Inspired Writers Project and a scholarship program.

In 2018, Altrusa International received \$4,000 from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund to support Project School Bell and \$2,200 for supplies and paperback books for the Inspired Writers Project for sixth-graders in Siletz, Toledo, Newport, Lincoln City and Waldport.

In 2017, the organization also received \$2,200 for the Inspired Writers Project, \$4,000 for Project School Bell and \$3,500 for dental kits for the Something to Smile About dental education program. Overall, Altrusa International of Yaquina Bay has received \$65,330 since 2007.

A favorite around the school district is Project School Bell. This provides emergency supplies to schools in Newport, Toledo, Waldport, Eddyville and Siletz. This includes emergency clothing and hygiene supplies that help needy kids. School officials indicate what kinds of clothing or items they need twice annually and Altrusa does its best to meet the needs.

Angela Nebel, president of the local Altrusa district, said, "Altrusa International of Yaquina Bay is dedicated to improving the lives of women and children in Lincoln County through projects related to literacy, social and health services, and educational opportunities."

The Yaquina Bay club was chartered in 1982 and is a member club organized under Altrusa International, an organization formed in 1917.

"Currently, we have 25 members that are contributing to services and they're always looking for more," said Nebel.

Altrusa International's Vision Statement: Altrusa will be a leader among International organizations by improving communities worldwide through a membership network.

Altrusa International's Mission Statement: To provide support to local clubs and the International organization by encouraging service, stimulating growth, communicating information and promoting leadership.

Sophie Cottrell is in the fifth grade at Sam Case Elementary in Newport. Her favorite subjects in school are social studies and math. She agreed the dental kits were great for a couple of reasons.

"I think that the packs are great because there are kids who can't afford that, having a toothbrush is really important to have," she said.

Cottrell also mentioned that "the floss is my favorite part. Sometimes when I can't find what I have at home, I just go to my pack and pull out one they gave me. They're really nice to have."

She was excited to know the dental kits are distributed throughout the Lincoln County School District.

Jordan Ingals, also in fifth grade at Same Case, said his favorite thing to do at school is go to recess and play basketball. He said he enjoys the dental kits because, "I love the floss in them because they're cool. I don't have any floss at my house and I just like to use it."

He also said he thinks the kits are great because, "Some kids may have a toothbrush but won't have toothpaste or floss, or maybe they don't have any of those



Photos by Andy Taylor

Jordan Ingals and Sophie Cottrell hold packages of dental supplies.



A close-up look at the dental supply kits

things at home and giving this to them will help them without making them feel sad." If you haven't thanked an Altrusa member by now, you probably should for the 36 years they've been contributing to the entire county. Visit Altrusa International of Yaquina Bay on Facebook for more information.

For more information about the Siletz Tribe, please visit ctsi.nsn.us.

Siletz Tribal Behavioral Health Programs

Prevention, Outpatient Treatment, and Women's and Men's Transitional

Siletz: 800-600-5599 or 541-444-8286

Eugene: 541-484-4234

Salem: 503-390-9494

Portland: 503-238-1512

Narcotics Anonymous Toll-Free Help Line – 877-233-4287

For information on Alcoholics Anonymous: aa-oregon.org

CEDARR

Community Efforts Demonstrating the Ability to Rebuild and Restore

Mission Statement

We will utilize resources to prevent the use of alcohol and other drugs, delinquency and violence; we will seek to reduce the barriers to treatment and support those who choose abstinence.



Aug. 7 • Noon

Siletz Community Health Clinic
200 Gwee-Shut Road, Siletz

Siletz Community Dental Clinic

Contact the Siletz Community Dental Clinic if you experience dental pain or a dental emergency. Staff will do everything they can to see you as soon as possible.

Morning check-in time is Monday-Thursday from 8:15-8:45 a.m. and Friday from 9-9:30 a.m.

Afternoon check-in time is Monday-Friday from 1:30-2 p.m.

Tribal children in need of foster parents for:
Permanent care,
temporary foster care or
short-term emergency care.

Contact,
Indian Child Welfare
541-444-8272