

# Community Fund Passes the \$16 Million Mark

Fund continued from front page

and broken. Tribal status was terminated for almost 30 years and all the while, the Indian peoples struggled — forget education, forget housing, forget occupations, sometimes forget even family.

On the backs of these many generations, and with the stewardship of the Tribe's leaders, the Spirit Mountain Casino has become a great success. It has led the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde not only back to a place where homes, health and community are again on center stage, but also to a place where six percent of profits now go to helping neighbors.

Half of these gifts have gone to support educational opportunity, according to Angela Blackwell, Director of the Tribe's Community Fund. Many others have gone to those providing food and shelter to the homeless, and still others to giving protection and a new future to victims of domestic abuse.

Among the gifts have been \$250,000 to save OMSI, \$200,000 to the Oregon Food Bank, \$270,000 to the Raphael House of Portland, an emergency shelter, and three grants totaling nearly \$50,000 to the Henderson House Family Crisis Shelter in McMinnville. The Fund's largest grant was \$500,000 to the

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**~Angela Blackwell, Community Fund Director**



Photo by Ron Kanten

Portland Art Museum for development of a Native American collection, and the smallest was for \$1,500 to the Grand Ronde Women's Club for re-roofing the library.

There is a great satisfaction in returning some of the Casino's success to the community.

"As a Tribal member," said Blackwell, "I am honored to say that we are giving back to the community. The awards that I take the most satisfaction in are those to projects that are reaching people that would otherwise slip through the cracks, lacking healthcare, personal safety and education."

The director's personal favorite grants are those to Safe and Sound, a Eugene group that works with homeless youth and to the Sisters

of the Road Café, serving the homeless in Portland.

The casino's success has allowed the fund to take the lead among the granting arms of other Oregon Tribes now enjoying the benefits of casino ownership.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, which gives five percent of profits, has granted \$349,000 since its 1999 compact with the state, according to Trish Casey, Administrative Assistant to the Tribal Council.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, which is starting its charitable fund, the Wildhorse Foundation, this month, has been giving \$300,000 a year informally, according to Michelle Liberty, Marketing Director for the Tribe's Wildhorse

Casino. That represents between 3-6 percent of the annual profits from the casino, she said.

The Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation has given out nearly \$3 million since 1997 from the profits of its Seven Feathers Resort, according to Martha Young, Foundation Administrator.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs does not presently have a community fund.

"We always said, if they helped us with restoration, we would help them back," said Tribal Council member Ed Larsen, of the neighboring communities. "I remember when we hit the \$10 million mark," Larsen added. "Didn't seem like so long ago." ■

## Spirit Mountain Community Fund Supports Friends of The Canby Public Library



**Grand Ronde —**

The Friends of the Library have received a grant in the amount of \$7,800 from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund. The grant money will be used to purchase large-print fiction books and books on tape for seniors and vision impaired readers. In addition, books of interest to the senior community,

like healthcare, estate planning and spirituality, will be added to the library collection. All library users will benefit from the new additions.

The Canby Public Library staff is elated about the grant and has already begun ordering the new materials.

"Reading is such a necessity for all of us. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde are pleased to support this program. It's in keeping

with our traditions of giving back to our community," said Angela Blackwell, Community Fund Director.

This is the first phase of a three-phase Senior Outreach project by the Friends of the Canby Public Library. Additional phases will include technology adaptation for computers and extended service for homebound seniors.

The Confederated Tribes of

Grand Ronde distribute six percent of the profits from the Spirit Mountain Casino to non-profit organizations in 11 western Oregon counties. The money is distributed through Spirit Mountain Community Fund. To date, the fund has given more than \$16 million to non-profit organizations. To learn more about Spirit Mountain Community Fund, log onto the web site at [thecommunityfund.com](http://thecommunityfund.com).

## Community Welcomes New Clinical Director To The Health and Wellness Center

■ Dr. Diane Pratt is board certified in family medicine and spent time in Micronesia.

The Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center welcomes Dr. Diane Pratt as our new Clinical Director. Dr. Pratt is Board Certified in Family Medicine. She graduated from George Washington University, in Washington DC, in 1987 and completed her Family Practice Residency in 1990 at the North Colorado Family Medicine facility in Greeley, Colorado.

From residency, she went directly into Indian Health Service as a Commissioned Officer in the Public Health Service. Her first assignment was at Santa Fe Indian Hospital in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she worked as a staff physician and served as the Director of the Emergency Services. While in Santa Fe she also worked to set up the Continuing Education Program and chaired the Medical Student/

Residents Committee.

Her next assignment was in Palau, Micronesia, where she spent four years assisting the local health authority in setting up a dispensary program to deliver health care to those in the outlying areas, training local health care workers to provide appropriate health care for their own people, setting up a school health dispensary program, an Elder home health care program and a foreign worker screening program, and also served as the TB comptroller.

Next she came back to New Mexico as the Clinical Director of the Santa Clara Health Center serving primarily the Tribes of Santa Clara, San Juan, San Ildefonso, Pojoaque, Nambe, and Tesuque. She worked there for the last four years and concentrated on developing a compre-

hensive program for diabetes management.

She is married to her college sweetheart, Dennis Marker, and they have a five-year-old son, Melib. In addition to taking care of patients, Dr. Pratt loves spending time with her family. Her hobbies include gardening, cooking, and international folk dancing.

Her goal is to work with the Health Board, the staff and the patients to make the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center the kind



**Dr. Diane Pratt**

Photo by Willie Mercier

of Health Center that you and your family will want to come to, emphasizing health and wellness promotion. ■