

Maori Visit Different Cultures In Oregon, Including Tribes



Gathering—More than 200 visitors gathered on the Willamette University campus on Friday, September 23, to welcome the Maori people of New Zealand. Grand Ronde and Siletz Tribal members introduced the Maori with traditional honor songs and Tribal Elders greeted them and welcomed them to their ceded lands. The ceremony was part of the "Toi Maori: The Eternal Thread" exhibit displayed at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art in Salem. The exhibit will feature over 90 feathered cloaks, baskets and contemporary pieces hand-crafted by the Maori people. More than 40 weavers will be represented, covering all major areas of Maori weaving.



Photos by Toby McClary

Tribe's Community Fund Continues To Give Help To People In Need

■ Spirit Mountain gifts give help where it is needed most.

By Ron Karten

Recent gifts from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund have brought help to the homeless, the hungry, seniors and youth. These gifts also have helped bring the culture of fellow aboriginals — the Maoris of New Zealand — to Oregon, all as the fund approaches \$30 million in giving.

At the end of August, Community Fund Director Shelley Hanson made a \$50,000 check presentation to Sisters of the Road Café in Portland to help fund its Hot Meal/Barter program.

The program provides hot meals to the homeless and impoverished. Money, food stamps or barter work is accepted in return for meals. This allows diners to maintain their sense of dignity, help feed others and allows them to gain work experience.

On September 19, Hanson presented \$9,000 to the Assistance League of Portland to pay for new school shoes for 450 kids.

League members provide new clothing for fourth graders, but the group does much more as well. The League pays the staff and maintenance costs of the Children's Dental Center that covers more than \$450,000 in dental services annually. At-risk boys and girls are mentored through the League's support of the Janus Youth Program and Pettygrove House.

The League also operates The Thrift Shop at 23rd and N.W. Johnson Streets in Portland and The Gift Shop at First and Tucker in Beaverton.

On September 20, Hanson presented another \$50,000 to New Avenues for Youth, also in Portland. New Avenues provides transitional housing for Portland's homeless youth.

More than 80 percent of the kids who transition through New Avenues are homeless, said Amy Smith, Development Director for the non-profit.

Along with housing for up to two years, New Directions offers the kids vocational and educational support. It

owns a Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream PartnerShop (located at 524 S.W. Yamhill in Portland) that serves as an employment training ground.

Kids who have jobs are required to set up a savings account and contribute to it.

The housing facility has room for two parenting families. With the goal of

said, "This is the biggest check we have ever received."

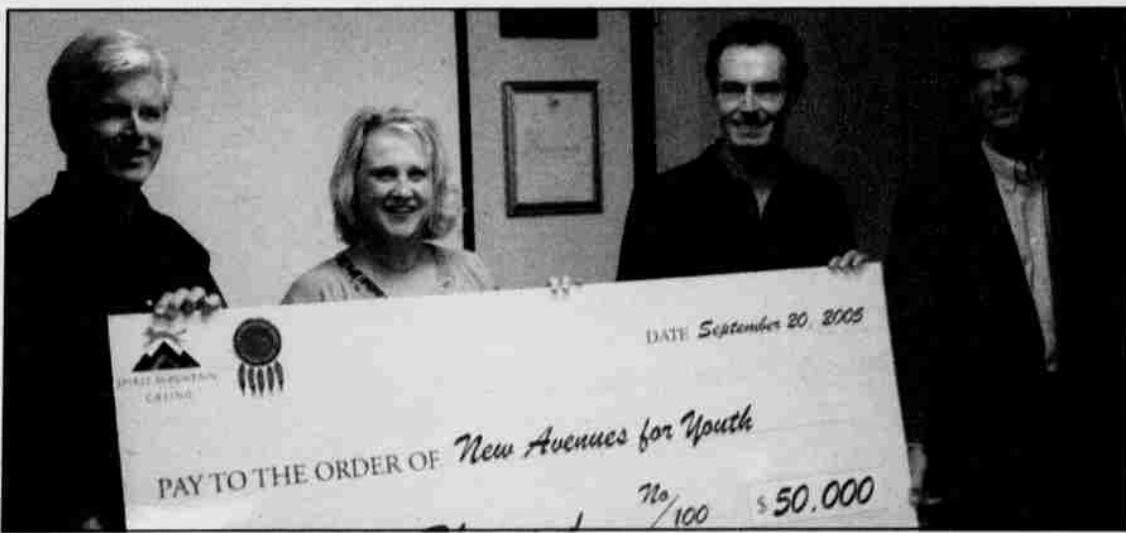
The group has a \$2.8 million budget that is funded 69 percent with public funds and 31 percent with private funds.

On September 28, Hanson presented yet another \$25,000 check to the Boys and Girls Club of Salem.

Jane Seely.

"You can't know the shame and struggle that elderly and sick people go through," wrote one recipient of the program's help. "The rules say the grass is too high, the weeds plentiful and there is too much clutter and the neighbor to our left has complained. But my grandparents are in their 90's

and I do all I can with my own health issues. When there is no one to ask and no extra money, you feel a burden, a nuisance and trapped by the fact that you can't change the situation. My grandparents are good people, I love them and I thank God that I am able to care for them...How can I say Thank you for filling the hole that keeps rats out of our home! For making it easier for me to give showers with the door that protects their dignity and keeps the



Giving—On Tuesday, September 20, Community Fund Director Shelley Hanson presented New Avenues For Youth a check for \$50,000 for assistance in housing for Portland's homeless youth.

helping the kids learn to be independent, New Directions follows the kids for a year after they transition into apartments, and provides rental help or counseling if either is necessary. In the one-year follow-ups the group has done to date, said Smith, 87 percent are still living in stable housing.

Last year, about 35 New Directions kids earned their GEDs. Seventeen won college scholarships. In creating internships with Westin Hotels and the Providence Portland Medical Systems, New Directions gets businesses involved so that the internships allow kids to learn just what they need to learn to succeed.

After Hanson made the presentation at New Directions with a four-foot Community Fund "check," New Directions Executive Director Ken Cowdery

These dollars are earmarked for an after school literacy program, called "Study Dogs."

Hanson was still to present a \$25,000 check to Friends of the Salem Senior Center. The money will help rebuild the group's old and worn out kitchen.

Back in July, the Fund gave \$10,000 to McMinnville-based *Faith in Action* Community Volunteer Connection. "This gift will enable the program to help older adults in the McMinnville zip code to maintain their independence through volunteer efforts to provide basic every day tasks such as transportation to doctor appointments, light house cleaning, light yard work, shopping or minor repairs along with other non-medical services," according to Program Director

water from flooding the floor, turning it into a slip and slide."

Also in July, the Fund gave \$25,000 to Willamette University in support of the Toi Maori presentation of their ancient weaving arts September 23 at the University's Hallie Ford Museum of Art. Their exhibit at Hallie Ford will go from September 24-December 22. The New Zealand Aborigines were to visit the Grand Ronde Tribe on October 3. (Related article and more photos next issue.)

And finally, an update of a 2003 gift: In July of that year, the Community Fund gave \$100,000 to help build the DePaul Youth Treatment Center, a place where young people can go to kick drug and alcohol addictions. On Wednesday, September 21, that facility celebrated its grand opening. ■