

Tribe Reaches \$30 Million In Giving

COMMUNITY FUND
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enables them to make their dreams come true."

And to that end, the Community Fund recently passed the \$30 million mark in giving to the community.

Since 1997, the first year of giving, 127 grants have gone to Arts and Culture (\$4.2 million), 309 grants have gone to Education (\$11.7 million), 66 grants have gone to Environmental Preservation (\$2.7 million), 163 grants to Health (\$5.8 million), 14 grants to Historic Preservation (\$837,000), 6 grants to Problem Gambling (\$216,000) and 77 grants to Public Safety (\$6 million). Together, 762 grants have provided \$31.5 million to communities that the Community Fund serves.

"Who would have thought that in so short a time, we could have accomplished so much?" said Community Fund Board Director Kris Olson. Olson is a former U.S. Attorney for Oregon. "Lives have been transformed. Hope has been restored," she said. In New York, she added, the Grand Rondes are known as "the little Tribe that could."

The evening, starting with a social hour and video loops of Community Fund recipients and projects, included a steak and salmon dinner, the presentation of 10 more or less surprise \$5,000 checks to groups chosen by each of the board members, and then the real fun began: dancing to the swinging sounds of *Pepé and the Bottle Blonds*.

Like everything the Community Fund does, the \$50,000 worth of surprise checks tasted like icing on the cake to Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Coast Watch, the Pearl Buck Center, Children's Cancer Association, Henderson House, Oregon Zoo Foundation, Basic Rights Oregon, Clackamas Women's Services, Oregon Foster Parent Association and the Oregon Historical Society.

"When we can help charities like this," said Tribal Council member Reyn Leno, "I take it as a real honor."

"Let's be sure that women are safe in their own homes," said Board member and State Senator Kate Brown of her recipient choice, Clackamas Women's Services.

"You humble us with your generosity," said Salem City Councilor and Polk County Fair Board member Dan Clem. The Fair Board is a recipient of Community Fund grants.

"It's a form of giving that comes from the heart," said Board Chair Kris Olson.

"Our experience mirrors our clientele's experiences," said

Hanson. "We have built a health clinic. We have exponentially expanded our education programs. We have provided social services to our members."

Hanson quoted former Cherokee Chief Wilma Mankiller, now the



Tribal Council Secretary Chris Mercier

Wayne Morse Chair at the University of Oregon. "It's all a process of trying to reclaim our sense of self and understand ourselves, and respect who we are as a people. Isn't that the values we want to hold dear when working with others? Nurturing their unique personality and style."

"Everything I'd ever believed in my life about my own people was banking on people showing up and volunteering to rebuild their community," Hanson said, continuing to quote Mankiller. "It wasn't just the physical rebuilding, it was the fact that people would take charge of their own lives and their own future and rebuild ourselves as a people..."

The Community Fund is among the top 10 charities in Oregon. ■



Photos by
Toby McClary

VIP—Regional Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Stanley M. Speaks was a guest of honor at the Tribe's \$30 million celebration of giving.



Official
Invitation



Surprise Gift—Spirit Mountain Casino's Human Resources Director and Tribal member Camille Mercier presents a check for \$5,000 to the Henderson House, a place where victims of domestic and sexual violence in Yamhill County can seek safe and confidential services including shelter. The Community Fund donated a total of \$50,000 that evening.