

Community Fund launched in 1997

FUND continued
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casino decided to partner with the community and launched the Community Fund in 1997, where 6 percent of all casino proceeds are allocated to local nonprofits.

“It wasn’t a hard decision to offer the Community Fund,” Thomas said. “We were fortunate to have kind, fair people involved in that process. ... The message here is really about how much normal people can accomplish when they work well together.”

Lazenby reflected on his years of service as a trustee.

“The past 15 years on this board have been some of the richest and most rewarding of my life,” he said. “The real value of the fund is doing the quiet good things, and making things better for the community, people and Tribe.”

After dinner concluded, 10 celebration grants for \$5,000 each were announced by individual board members and Community Fund employees to recognize organizations providing “exceptional support and services in their communities.”

The grants went to the Olalla Center, Oregon Justice Resource Center, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Parrot Creek Child & Family Services, Willamette Vital Health, Salem Dream Center, Long Tom Watershed Council, McMinnville Area Habitat for Humanity, Boys & Girls Club of Western Lane County and the Dougy Center.

Additionally, five youth grant-making awards of \$5,000 each were announced by DeLoe and Simmons for the Jackson Street Youth Shelter, Clara’s Closet, Salem Free Clinics, SABLE House and Marion Polk Food Share, Inc.

Lastly, seven Tribal grants in the amount of \$100,000 each were awarded to:

- The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs for its project, Our Children, Our Legacies;
- Coquille Indian Tribe for its project, Coquille River Salmon Project;
- Confederated Tribes of Grand



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Boys & Girls Club of Western Lane County Chief Executive Officer Vanessa Buss accepts a \$5,000 grant from Spirit Mountain Community Fund Program Coordinator Angela Schlappie during the Community Fund’s 25th Anniversary Celebration held at Spirit Mountain Casino on Saturday, July 30.

- Ronde for its project, Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Salmon Pit;
- The Klamath Tribes for its project, Klamath Tribes Water Preservation;
 - Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation for its project, Tamastlikt Wayfinding Signage;
 - Burns Paiute Tribe for its project, Economic Development Building Capacity Grant;
 - And the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw for its project, CTCLUSI Native Language Enhancement Program.
- The 25th Anniversary Celebration concluded with Ty George and Quenelle drumming as the flags were retired by the Color Guard. ■

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Willamette Vital Health clinical managers Derek Wrigley and Kathy Bird accept a \$5,000 grant from Spirit Mountain Community Fund Board of Trustees member and Spirit Mountain Casino Assistant Chief Executive Officer Camille Mercier during the Community Fund’s 25th Anniversary Celebration held at Spirit Mountain Casino on Saturday, July 30.



Native American flute player and Grand Ronde Tribal member Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach performs during Spirit Mountain Community Fund’s 25th Anniversary Celebration.



Spirit Mountain Community Fund Board of Trustees Chairman Chip Lazenby speaks during the Community Fund’s 25th Anniversary Celebration held at Spirit Mountain Casino on Saturday, July 30.