

## GREAT FUTURES START **HERE.**



Dear Supporters of the Boys & Girls Club of Western Lane County,

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those individuals and businesses in Florence that have given the **Gift of a Great Future** to all the boys and girls that attended the **Boys and Girls Club**. No words could ever express how grateful I am for the outpouring of love and support to the kids in this community.

There are times in our lives that we have all needed a hand up. That is especially true during the holidays which should be a time of joy and thanksgiving. But, the reality is that the holidays can also bring memories that cause us pain and remorse. Throughout the year, we are given the **gift of amazing kids** who come into our **Club** every day and share with us their stories of determination, triumph, and perseverance. There are several **Club** kids that have been through tremendous hardship this year, divorce, death of a loved one, the loss of a home. These are the times that **kids need us the most** and because of your generosity, The **Boys & Girls Club of Western Lane County** was a place to love and care for these kids. It just takes one person to care to make the difference in a person's life, especially that of a child. During our Summer Elementary Program, 47% of the kids in the program were on full or partial scholarships. This was possible because of you. These kids literally did not have anywhere else to go because their parent(s) had to work during the summer. You made a difference this year, not only in the life of the kids, but also with the families of our kids. That is over 500 people that you have touched in a positive way in this community. Thank you.

2016 has been a year of triumph and tremendous growth. This year we implemented Smart Girls for 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade girls, Managing Money for all teens and the Drum Corp made its debut at the Veteran's Day Parade. We grew the Teen Center attendance to over 40 on a regular basis. The Elementary Program grew to over 70 on a regular basis. Every one of the Teens that attend the Teen Center at least 2 times a week is on track to graduate on time. Our goal for on-time graduation rate is 100%. You may have seen the newspaper article on our kid's academic achievement. I had a bet with the Teens that they couldn't get 4 teens with a 4.0 grade point average and at least 40 A's with the remaining teens. The bet was they got to shave my head and shave off my beard if they could beat the bet. Well, the results were 5 kids with a 4.0 grade point average and over 65 A's from the rest of our kids. So, fortunately for me, my hair has finally grown back just before the cold weather set in. We also started serving hot, healthy meals Monday - Friday at the Teen Center. **No child that attends the Club goes home hungry during the week.** Our Club was recognized by the Boys and Girls Club of America for our Annual Survey Report by the kids that attend the Club. Our results were significantly higher than the regional, state, and national results. This month because of your contributions to the "Stuff The Bus" campaign, you helped us provide presents, food, warm clothing, and shoes to **over 100 families** that would not have otherwise had a Merry Christmas.

2017 looks to be a wonderful year as well. We will be doubling the Teen Center floor space. In January, we will be implementing Positive Action Program for kids in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. We will also be implementing Passage to Manhood for boys grades 6 through 12. Our goal is to increase the Teen attendance to 50+ and to increase the Elementary Program to 100+. It is only through people like you that makes a goal like this into a reality.

Thank you for making a difference in a child's life this year. You are a **FUTURE BUILDER**. No gift is ever too big or too small to help a child.

With sincere appreciation,  
*Chuck Trent*  
Executive Director  
Boys & Girls Club of Western Lane County

Thank You For Giving  
The **gift** GREAT  
OF A FUTURE.

# SAPPSA offers healthy living tips for new year

The Siuslaw Area Partnership to Prevent Substance Abuse (SAPPSA) is promoting the choice of healthy living and a community expectation to be free of addictive substances for 2017.

The New Year brings new opportunity for those struggling with drug addiction to make good choices for good health.

Choosing healthy living means knowing as much as you can about the food and drink you consume, and how they effect mood and emotions. long-term good health depends on making the best choices. Learn how to grow and prepare healthy food and select the healthiest products on a budget.

A community expectation to be free of addictive substances means knowing as much as you can about the medications you are using. Any kind of drug can have side effects on the brain and body.

An informed consumer questions and knows about

the strength, safety and side effects of any medication.

Addictive drugs can be sold as over the counter (OTC); can be a legal substance sold in markets or in dedicated stores; be a prescription drug from a medical doctor; or be an illegal and increasingly fatal drug.

Be aware that unhealthy food and drink and harmful substances can be presented as "healthy," "natural" or "good for you" even if they contain more salt, fat and sugar than recommended by health authorities.

Long-term addiction to unhealthy drinks and addictive drugs are; alcohol, a brain, liver and kidney destroying drug; tobacco, a lung and heart destroying drug; personality altering drugs, which can make it hard to work and hurt and effect family.

For those who are addicted, reach out for help and call 211.

Be cautious before taking any drug:

- Read the warning, be sure

it does not conflict with your body or mind, especially if you could be pregnant.

• Never take a risk with the life of an unborn baby and never give a child a drug that is not prescribed specifically for that child.

• Never consume alcohol with drugs. A baby born with a drug addiction or fetal alcohol syndrome may not recover even after months of specialized medical care.

• Babies born to mothers who use tobacco may be premature, underweight, slow to thrive or develop on time.

• Babies of substance abusers, raised in families that use addictive substances can be cognitively delayed.

• Addiction is a disease that can be controlled if you seek help to a choose healthy lifestyle.

A new year is a good time to re-examine lifestyle choices and make positive changes for good health.

SAPPSA is a charitable education non profit that provides community outreach education for all ages in the Siuslaw Area.

For more information, visit [sapps.org](http://sapps.org); email [sapps@oregonfast.net](mailto:sapps@oregonfast.net); or write to P.O. Box 1036, Florence, Ore. 97439.

Meetings are every second Monday at 3:30 p.m. at the Siuslaw Public Library, and are open to the public.

## Police warn public of school scam

The Florence Police Department has become aware of multiple businesses and residents in the Florence area being contacted by a male who identifies himself as "James," who is offering to sell or renew advertising space in Siuslaw athletic events programs or calendars. Varying amounts have been requested ranging from \$99 to \$129.

Some of these calls have shown up as unidentified caller, or with a local number of 541-997-2200, which is not a current Florence phone. Siuslaw schools have advised the Florence Police Department that this is not legitimate solicitation activity.

Some who have been contacted have been deterred from making payments directly to the school, and instead this individual asks to send an invoice.

Citizens are reminded to be diligent whenever solicited for funds over the phone or other electronic means.

Per Siuslaw School District staff, Siuslaw High School does not take any payments for any products or services over the phone, nor do they have the ability to accept credit card payments.

Legitimate payments for services such as being discussed would have to be made by check or cash and checks would be requested to be payable to "Siuslaw High School" or SHS.

Siuslaw High School advises that if you have any questions about a letter or a phone call received from someone claiming to be representing Siuslaw High School, call 541-997-3448 to verify the person making contact and the project they are promoting.

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