

Community News

Grant funds pet care support for Peace Harbor palliative care

Furry family members are often the first to greet PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center’s Palliative Care team during home visits. That’s what got Donna Becker, the team’s medical social worker, thinking about the challenges of caring for a pet during a serious illness.

“As beloved as a pet may be, it can be very difficult for our palliative care patients to provide the full attention and care that a pet needs,” Becker said.

Now Peace Harbor is able to offer additional resources for just this purpose, thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the Western Lane Community Foundation. The grant was one of several distributed earlier this month to local nonprofits for projects and programs in the areas of education, medicine and science, the arts and social and civic services.

“We are delighted to be able to provide additional support and comfort to our patients and their pets,” Becker said. “We know how important pets are in our patients’ homes and lives. Helping them take care of their pets really helps bring peace of mind to all involved.”

The pet care program assists with routine veterinary care; transportation to vet and grooming appointments; boarding and walking; and access to pet food.

The program is not based on financial need.

“It’s just another way that we can take something off a patient’s worry list and by doing so, keep the pet in the

home and well cared for,” Becker said.

Palliative Care volunteers are on call and ready to help as needed, Becker said.

“These volunteers are dedicated pet lovers who recognize the important role they play,” she said. “Pets are part of the family and are treated accordingly by all team members.”

Palliative care aims to fill the gap for patients who want and need comfort and treatment at any stage of a disease. Patients receiving palliative care services must have a diagnosis of a serious or chronic illness and desire palliation of symptoms— whether social, physical, emotional or spiritual. Patients can receive palliative care support at any time and at any stage of an illness. The primary focus is on pain and symptom management with the goal of improving a patient’s quality of life.

The Peace Harbor Palliative Care team is always looking for creative ways to support the patients they serve, Becker said.

“We have a similar pet care program for our hospice patients,” said Becker, who previously worked in hospice. “I witnessed firsthand how valuable such support can be when patients are ill and family members are overwhelmed with caregiving tasks.”

For information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, contact Becker at dbecker@peacehealth.org or 541- 902-6734.

Real estate brokers earn service awards

Local real estate professionals were recently recognized by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Northwest Real Estate and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices network for their outstanding achievements in 2017.

Christina Voogd, CRS, GRI, ABR and Principal Broker, of the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Northwest Real Estate office in Florence, was honored with the prestigious Chairman’s Circle Diamond Award from Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, recognizing her among the top 0.5 percent of nearly 45,000 network professionals in North America. Voogd ranked No. 78 in the elite Top 100, earned the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Northwest Real Estate Peak Producer Award and was the Top Listing and Sales Professional in the Florence office.

Broker Peggy Pearson was honored by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices with the President’s Circle Award, recognizing her rank among the top 4 percent of 45,000 network professionals in North America.

Principal Broker Maureen Hewlett was named to the Leading Edge Society, representing the top 7 percent of all members in the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices network.

Broker Del Phelps was named to the Honor Society, representing the top 13 percent of all members in the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices network.



From left, Berkshire Hathaway Florence Principal Broker and General Manager Tony Wells honored Maureen Hewlett, Del Phelps, Christina Voogd and Peggy Pearson for their achievements in 2017.

“I’m very proud of the accomplishments of Christina, Peggy, Maureen, Del and all the brokers at our Florence branch and throughout the company,” said Jason Waugh, President and CEO. “I respect their commitment to providing the best possible service to their clients and I’m proud to have them representing our company and the qualities our name is built upon.”

Founded in 1942, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Northwest Real Estate offers residential and commercial real

estate services and in-house mortgage lending, with 27 offices serving the greater Portland and Seattle metro areas through Southwest Washington, Central Oregon, the Yamhill County wine region and the Oregon coast.

The company is a member of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices’ Elite Circle, ranking as the No. 7 brokerage in the network for 2017. It has earned a reputation for service excellence, been repeatedly named one of The Oregonian’s Top Workplaces and received

The Business Journal’s Corporate Philanthropy Award.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Northwest Real Estate is an independently operated subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices in 2013.

To learn more about the company in Northern Oregon and Southwest Washington, visit www.bhhsnw.com.

County strategic plan focuses on health, safety, partnerships

The Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt a new strategic plan for 2018–21 that will focus the work of Lane County into four priority areas during the next three years:

- Safe, Healthy County
- Vibrant Communities
- Robust Infrastructure
- People & Partnerships

To improve lives is the overall purpose behind the County’s work — from Public Health to Transportation Planning — identified during the creation of the Strategic Plan.

“Lane County provides a wide array of services to the community,” said Lane County Board of Commissioners Chair Jay Bozievich. “Each resident, regardless of where in Lane County they live, is

affected by the services we provide and we must be purposeful in how we allocate resources and the efforts of our staff. A three-year plan helps us make the most of our work.”

The strategic plan identifies 13 key initiatives that fall under the priority areas, including:

- Increase housing options for residents to reduce homelessness and increase affordability
- Maintain and enhance public safety funding and service delivery, focusing on outlying and rural areas
- Enhance equity and access in service delivery and representation in governance.

“We are very pleased that nearly 800 community members participated and

helped us create this plan,” said County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky. “Over the next three years, every department and division in Lane County Government will use this plan as the blueprint for their work and strive to serve Lane County residents with passion and with a focus on creating solutions.”

The new Strategic Plan replaces the previous 2014–17 plan and was developed with the help of Lane County community members and employees.

More than 790 community members participated in an online survey and several attended a variety of focus group and open house events as the plan was developed.

The full strategic plan can be found at lanecounty.org/strategicplan.

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