

Community News

Local Lions Clubs help raise funds to build Heartfelt House

The Heartfelt House, an \$8.4-million project, has sparked the imaginations and pulled at the heartstrings of a diverse group of donors, including individuals, corporations and community service clubs.

Entirely funded through philanthropy, the house is emblematic of the region's tremendous generosity. So far, more than 600 donors have contributed from \$10 to \$1 million, raising a total of \$5.8 million.

Set to open in June, the Heartfelt House will offer comfortable, affordable lodging to out-of-town families of patients at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend in Springfield and University District in Eugene.

The 20,208-square-foot house will be just a five-minute walk from RiverBend.

Lions Clubs International and local Lions, including the service clubs in Florence, Mapleton and Yachats, have raised \$220,000 for the Heartfelt House.

Lion Ed Gear has witnessed that generosity firsthand as he has talked about the Heartfelt House at clubs throughout the Willamette Valley, coastal and southern Oregon.

"I have not had to work hard to get that kind of do-



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Artist's rendering of the Heartfelt House project offer comfortable, affordable lodging to out-of-town families of patients at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend in Springfield and the University District in Eugene.

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nation," Gear said. "They just immediately started contributing and very much wanted to be a part of it."

The cause resonates with people, Gear said, adding that many Lions either know people who have stayed at a patient guest house somewhere in the country, or they've used one themselves.

A guest house lessens the financial burden of being away from home, but even more important, it can help ease the anxiety when a loved one needs hospital care.

So much can't be controlled when a family member is in the hospital, Gear said. "This part is in our control," he said. "We can help provide a warm bed, a kitchen and a place to let down."

The project is especially close to Gear's heart because of his role in bringing the Patterson Street patient guest house to Eugene.

As a Lions Clubs International director in the late 1990s, Gear toured a guest house the Lions had helped establish in Christchurch, New Zealand.

He and other club mem-

bers saw the need for one in the southern Willamette Valley.

They raised \$280,000 to help launch the Children's Miracle Network/Lions Patient Family Guest House on Patterson Street near the University District campus.

More than 20 area Lions Clubs have contributed to the Heartfelt House, including those in Florence, Mapleton, Eugene, Springfield, Alvadore, Junction City, Cottage Grove, Elkton, Sutherlin, Yachats, Mapleton, Coos Bay, Jefferson, Monmouth-Independence, West Salem, Brownsville, Halsey and Albany.

Many other groups and individuals also are generously supporting the Heartfelt House. One example is Oregon Community Credit Union (OCCU), which created a foundation earlier this year to deepen its involvement in community service.

The foundation's inaugural gift was \$500,000 to support the pediatric wing of the Heartfelt House.

"We have a longstanding relationship and are a long-time supporter of Children's

Miracle Network and believe that investing in the health and well-being of the youngest in our community is a good way to support the strength of the entire region," OCCU President and CEO Ron Neumann said.

The 20-room guest house will have a 10-room pediatric wing and an a 10-room adult wing. It will be a collaboration between PeaceHealth, which will own the land and building, and Ronald McDonald House Charities, which will oversee day-to-day operations.

Guests will pay from nothing to a modest fee, depending on their circumstances. But no one will be turned away because of inability to pay.

"It's our hope that the Heartfelt House will provide a place where families in our region can be loved and receive the support that they desperately need during their most challenging times," Neumann said.

There are still opportunities to give to the Heartfelt House, which anticipates serving up to 1,500 families a year.

Community Suppers to begin tonight

The Florence Community Suppers program, hosted by local churches, will be providing free community meals to all who wish to attend.

The events are aimed at hungry families, busy people, lonely seniors, friends and neighbors, all ages and any walk of life.

Donations towards the

cost of the meals will be accepted, but not required. Meals are held Wednesday nights throughout the month of January, with dining times starting at 5:30 p.m. and lasting to 6:30 p.m.

- Jan. 2 — Presbyterian Church, 3996 Highway 101
- Jan. 9 — New Life Lutheran Church, at 21st and

- Spruce streets
- Jan. 16 — St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2135 19th St.
- Jan. 23 — United Methodist Church, 333 Kingwood Ave.
- Jan. 30 — Held at the United Methodist Church with dinner prepared by the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

CITY LIGHTS CINEMAS

\$9.50 | \$8.50 Sen/Student/Military | \$8 Matinees Before 2 | \$7.50 Child | \$6.50 Members | Performing Arts: \$19/\$15/\$10

January 4 - 10	FRI 4	SAT 5	SUN 6	MON 7	TUE 8	WED 9	THU 10
Coming January 11: Green Book and VICE							
AQUAMAN - PG-13 143 MIN - "The fantastical set designs are brimming with detail... It's a world where anything can happen, and it always looks amazing when it does." The Wrap	12:00 PM 3:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM	12:00 PM 3:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM	12:30 PM 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	12:30 PM 3:20 PM 6:30 PM	12:30 PM 3:20 PM 6:30 PM	12:30 PM 3:20 PM 6:30 PM	12:30 PM 3:20 PM 6:30 PM
AT ETERNITY'S GATE PG-13 110 MIN - "Van Gogh (Willem Dafoe) is returned to his human dimensions, by a keen script and wonderful lead performance, while still being held up as an example of the artist's ability to transcend time." The Wrap	12:30 PM 6:20 PM	11:00 AM 5:05 PM	3:30 PM	3:40 PM	3:40 PM	3:30 PM	3:40 PM
BUMBLEBEE - Hailee Steinfeld, John Cena PG-13 114 MIN "An impassioned ode to both the toys and their era, this, at last, is the Transformers movie we've been waiting for." Empire	12:40 PM 3:40 PM 6:30 PM 9:15 PM	1:25 PM 3:55 PM 6:30 PM 9:15 PM	12:20 PM 3:40 PM 6:30 PM	12:20 PM 3:50 PM 7:00 PM	12:20 PM 3:50 PM 7:00 PM	12:20 PM 3:50 PM 6:50 PM	12:20 PM 3:50 PM 7:00 PM
MARY POPPINS RETURNS PG 130 MIN - "So the new sequel, directed by Rob Marshall and starring Emily Blunt, carried a rather heavy carpetbag, you might say. But I'll just end the suspense right here: made with palpable love for its predecessor, is glorious and gorgeous, and I adored it." 4/4 - Seattle Times	12:15 PM 3:15 PM 6:10 PM 9:10 PM	12:15 PM 3:15 PM 6:10 PM 9:10 PM	12:15 PM 3:30 PM 6:40 PM	12:15 PM 3:30 PM 6:40 PM	12:15 PM 3:30 PM 6:40 PM	12:15 PM 3:30 PM 6:40 PM	12:15 PM 3:30 PM 6:40 PM
THE MULE - R 114 MIN - Earl Stone (Clint Eastwood) is broke, alone, and facing foreclosure when he is offered a job that simply requires him to drive. Unbeknownst to Earl, he's just signed on as a drug courier for a Mexican cartel.	3:30 PM 9:05 PM	2:35 PM 7:30 PM	12:50 PM 6:20 PM	12:50 PM 6:50 PM	12:50 PM 6:50 PM	12:50 PM 6:50 PM	12:50 PM 6:50 PM

Events & Performing Arts:	FRI 4	SAT 5	SUN 6	MON 7	TUE 8	WED 9	THU 10
ROYAL OPERA BALLET: LA BAYADERE		11:00 AM					
NT LIVE: ANTONY & CLEOPATRA PG-13 220 MIN						6:00 PM	
BOLSHOI: LA SYLPHIDE - Coming 1/19							

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Mostly Cloudy	PM Showers	AM Showers	AM Showers	Showers	Showers	Showers
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