

Western Lane County Foundation awards nearly \$90,000 to local nonprofits

WLCF President Karen Skulley and Executive Director Gayle Vinchesi recently announced that 29 local nonprofit organizations will be receiving grant awards totaling \$89,974.83 in the 2021 grant cycle.

These grants represent the WLCF's ongoing mission of supporting projects or programs providing needed services or facilities for which public funds are not available, or insufficient, and to contribute to the cultural, economic, educational or social betterment of our community.

The foundation's intent is to award large enough sums to make a significant and visible impact

on a demonstrated need in western Lane community.

The Foundation was founded in 1974 and is a community trust, private nonprofit organization attracting, administering and distributing private charitable resources for the benefit of residents of western Lane County. Only the income generated by invested foundation assets is awarded as grants each year. Current assets are over \$9.4 million under the auspices of Oregon Community Foundation.

So far in 2021, more than \$382,000 has been awarded for scholarships, grants and agency funds. Although foundation

members were unable to meet in person with the organizations to present each with their check and offer them an opportunity to speak, the discretionary grants recipients were announced officially at the March 16 Rotary Club of Florence meeting.

Awardees included: Boys & Girls Club Florence Air Academy for the summer aviation program; Boys & Girls Club of Western Lane County for club van replacement; Bright Beginnings Christian Preschool for playground and outdoor space improvements; CASA of Lane County; CROW for dance shoes and art supplies; Dis-

abled American Veterans for building repairs; Eco-Generation for recycling "take back" events scheduled for Florence; Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors for Mapleton Place-based science education; First Step Florence Solutions for Housing Security for HVAC updates in three transitional homes; Florence Art Culture and Entertainment (FACE) to support the Florence Festival of Books; Florence Farmers Market to support the second-annual "fill your pantry" event; Florence Food Share to replace existing garden beds, phase two; Florence Habitat for Humanity to help restore its pickup/delivery truck;

Florence United Methodist Church for the free lunch program/Subway voucher program; Food Backpacks 4 Kids to provide food to our local students; Friends of 90x30 for its "welcome baby" project; KXCR Community Radio for equipment upgrades; Lane Senior Support Coalition for emergency support fund; Mapleton School District for preschool capital expenditures; Oregon Coast Humane Society to support the Sarah Fund; PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center Foundation for CT scan equipment; Pregnancy & Parenting Center for online pregnancy and parenting education; Siu-

slaw Elementary School for iPads; Siuslaw High School for soccer field barrier netting; Siuslaw Outreach Services for community resource center planning as well as ADA improvements to its safe house; Siuslaw Pioneer Museum for relevant website creation; Siuslaw Watershed Council for its outdoor recreation programs and Triangle Food Box for summer kids boxes and holiday meals.

For more information regarding how to leave a legacy or contribute to an existing fund, contact Executive Director Gayle Vinchesi at 541-997-1274 or email her at wlc@wlc-fonline.org.

Learn about lamprey at Siuslaw Watershed Council meeting to be held March 31

Siuslaw Watershed Council is hosting a Virtual Watershed Community Meeting on Wednesday, March 31, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the video meeting application Zoom.

The meeting will also feature a presentation on lamprey eels.

Lamprey are fish that live in most Siuslaw streams and rivers, yet

many of people may never have seen one.

Though not highly visible today, lamprey have played an important ecological role in rivers and streams for millions of years, and an important cultural one in the Pacific Northwest and the Siuslaw for millennia.

Join the SWC in its Zoom-based meeting, where the council will

welcome a panel of guest speakers and a film, all bringing a wealth of knowledge about lamprey's (very) long history, as well as work currently being done to support lamprey recovery.

The film is called "The Lost Fish," and was produced by Jeremy Monroe of Freshwaters Illustrated.

The evening's speakers

include:

- Ralph Lampman, Pacific Lamprey Project Biologist, Yakama Nation Fisheries
- John Schaefer, Tribal Biologist, Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
- Paul Burns, Fisheries Biologist, Siuslaw National Forest

The meeting will be

hosted via Zoom, and is free to attend.

Also during the meeting, the SWC will announce the Winter Photo Contest winner.

Registration is required, and is easy to do.

Register in advance for this meeting by using the following link and following on-screen instructions www.zoom.us/join/5419971274

541-997-1274 or email her at wlc@wlc-fonline.org.

After registering, people will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

If people have any trouble registering, they can contact watershed@siuslaw.org, or call 541-268-3044 for help.

For more information, visit Siuslaw.org.

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