

# Community Foundation marks 25 years of making a difference

Organization awards 14 community grants totaling \$17,121 at its annual dinner

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Last Wednesday, the Cottage Grove Community Foundation held its annual dinner gala, celebrating 25 years of service to the community of Cottage Grove. The foundation was originally introduced in 1991 with the goal of helping the community by awarding scholarships and grants in areas such as education, social services, culture and safety.

Executive Director of the Foundation, Travis Palmer, made opening remarks about its success.

"It's fantastic to live in a community where so many people care about each other and get involved," Palmer said. Over the past 16 years, the foundation has awarded 230 grants that total \$179,629. This past year, 14 community grants were awarded, totaling \$17,121.

The dinner also features an

auction for further fundraising. The packages being auctioned ranged from tangible items such as a wine lover's basket or premium lumber to a private air tour of South Lane County or an up-close encounter at the Wildlife Safari.

Sherry Duerst-Higgins organized a book signing in which each table had a children's book to be signed by representatives of local businesses at each table.

Guest speakers spoke between two rounds of the auction. Cottage Grove High School alumnus Katy Bass was a scholarship recipient who is currently enrolled in the nursing program at Lane Community College. Bass spoke about how her scholarship has helped her help others in Lane County.

"No matter what it was, I just always wanted to help people," she said in a short anecdote on how she landed in her field.

The power behind Bass's



photo by Sam Wright

Dr. Jim Harrison presents the Margaret Mae Anibal Mentoring grant to Marc and Lori Bass of Reaching Out Mentoring.

speech is that she is one of 91 (totaling \$103,300) scholarship recipients in 2016 for Cottage Grove students.

After Bass came Diane Hazen, representing the Family Relief Nursery. The Nursery has become a widely utilized service for families and children struggling with difficult home lives.

"I think many of us here remember a few horrible stories a few years ago, and many supported the Nursery in town," Hazen said.

The big grant of the year, the Margaret Mae Anibal Mentoring Grant, was awarded to

Reaching Out Mentoring South Lane, a mentoring program for local youth. Reaching Out consistently looks for adult volunteers to be a role model for kids in South Lane County.

Palmer made closing remarks as the dinner ended, thanking attendees, donors and auction participants.

"We've truly come a long way in a short period of time," Palmer said. Due to all of its fundraising for scholarships and grants, the foundation calculates its assets to be worth roughly \$2.8 million.

# Season's final Art Walk begins at 6 p.m. Friday

The sidewalks of Historic Downtown Cottage Grove will come alive on Friday, Oct. 28 from 6-9 p.m. for the final Art Walk of the 2016 season. This event brings together artists, musicians and community to celebrate the Cottage Grove area's talented, artistic and diverse population.

Apple Pie Antiques will feature Lacie Strebe of The Jeweled Quail. Her intricate hand crafted woven wire wrapped jewelry is truly unique. Terry Paxton, local luthier and musician, will fill the old Cottage Grove Hotel with beautiful sounds.

A favorite stop along the way is the Bookmine. Arlene Taddei and Ellen Carrer will be showing creations that are a perfect for this time of year.

There will also be authors present: the Reverend Bobby Lee will be introducing his book, "Life Sparks," and author Tom Romano will show original art and his book, "Winged Jewels of the Sky." Music will be provided by Ron O'Keefe and Friends.

Across the street at Kalapuya Books, guests can enjoy



the wood block prints of artist Heather Barrett.

The Crafty Mercantile will introduce local artist Troy Austin, who will be displaying his adult coloring books.

Other presentations will include:

Crescent Moon Yoga Studio: Cada Johnson, painting  
Imagine It Framed: Erich Schwartzwald, painting; Live Music

The Crafty Mercantile: Music Provided by Terry Paxton, 6-7 p.m.

# Relief Nursery among top three nonprofits

Oregon Business Magazine recently presented Diane Hazen and Cindy Vitelli with an award of top three Best Small Nonprofits to work for in Oregon. OBM divides the awards into small, medium, and large organizations. Small nonprofits are organizations with less than 25 employees. Each year since 2009, Oregon Business Magazine has recognized the top 100 Nonprofits based upon employee survey responses. In 2016, more than 5,000 employees submitted responses to OBM. Awards are given based on employee satisfaction, work environment, benefits, and overall business practices.

Family Relief Nursery first joined the top 100 Nonprofits in 2010. Since then, the nurs-

ery has been awarded a top 100 spot each year. In 2013, they were ranked fifth out of all the nonprofits in Oregon. Program Manager Crystal Morrison thinks this is due to the increase in teamwork and strong leadership. "We have a dedicated staff who use the mission and vision of the Nursery everyday to motivate their amazing work performance." She also notes that the Nursery is continuing to grow and increase the number of families receiving services.

"We just opened a site in Creswell and have increased our home-based program in Cottage Grove by 20 families." The North Douglas location also is growing with a partnership with Yoncalla Early Works to provide additional learning playgroups.

"This growth gives us (the leadership team) an opportunity to make sure all the interventionists and teachers are feeling involved in the community and impacting families in a positive way."

Diane Hazen, Executive Director of Family Relief Nursery, accepted the award in front of the huge audience at the Sentinel Hotel in Portland, Oregon. "We were not expecting this award. It is a great honor and we hope to continue to increase our employee satisfaction."

For more information about Family Relief Nursery or 100 Best Nonprofits to Work for in Oregon please call 541-942-4835 or email dianeh@frncg.org.

Cottage Grove

# ART WALK

FRIDAY 6-9PM, OCTOBER 28TH

- Crescent Moon Yoga Studio:** Cada Johnson, painting
- Apple Pie Antiques:** Lacie Strebe, The Jeweled Quail, Live Music 7-9
- Bookmine:** Arlene Taddei, Sweet Things, Ellen Carrer, Apple Head Crafts  
Author Reverend Bobby Lee, LIFE SPARKS, Author Tom Romano, Winged Jewels of The Sky, Music provided by Ron O'Keefe
- Kalapuya Books :** Heather Barrett, Wood Block Prints
- Imagine It Framed:** Erich Schwartzwald, painting, Live Music
- The Crafty Mercantile** Troy Austin, Coloring Books and Original Art, Music Provided by Terry Paxton 6-7
- Opal Center for Art and Education:** Halloween Mash Up
- Five Flying Monkeys:** Peggy Severns, Rag Rugs

In Honor of All Veterans

The Cottage Grove Sentinel is preparing to publish its "Proud to Have Served," a special section devoted to all military veterans who are Cottage Grove-area residents or have a connection to this area.

If you are interested in sharing your military story in the annual Veterans Day publication, or in updating information that we have published previously, please complete the form below and submit it to the Cottage Grove Sentinel. Service photographs are also welcome.

Submit forms and photos (preferably) by e-mail to [cgnews@cgsentinel.com](mailto:cgnews@cgsentinel.com); or by mail to Cottage Grove Sentinel, Attn: Jon Stinnett, PO Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424; or drop forms off at the Cottage Grove Sentinel, 116 6th Street, Cottage Grove.

Please be sure that all materials are carefully labeled with your name and phone number. **ALL FORMS AND PHOTOGRAPHS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 31, 2016.**

Thank you for participating in this project to remember and honor our veterans.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank Achieved (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Served: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you serve? \_\_\_\_\_

Special Information (E.G., POW): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Has your veterans information been published previously in the Cottage Grove Sentinel Veterans Publication?  
 YES      NO

Do we have your military photo(s) on file?    YES      NO

(Note: If you have submitted photos in the past, we will still have them on file.)

# ALLIGATOR AUCTION

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 29  
11AM-3PM

Food, Lodging, Tourist Attraction  
Gift Certificates plus merchandise like  
Stovetec items, ladies apparel, sharp  
microwave, tomato greenhouse,  
wine barrell and more.

Many items in KNND's front window.  
To get a bidder number call KNND between  
2-5 pm at 541-942-2468.

KNND Alligator Radio trade auction is  
Saturday, October 29th from 11am until 4pm.

The Alligator Auction promises  
fun and great deals for  
businesses and listeners

A percent of the proceeds to benefit South Lane Dental Clinic