South Lane programs receive $7,500 in support from United Way

United Way of Lane County has announced an additional 42 nonprofit programs will receive funding to address urgent COVID-19-related needs, including three in the South Lane region.

This is the second round of funding made from its COVID-19 Community Response Fund.

In total, $99,900 will be distributed in this round of funding. An increase in individual and corporate donations to the COVID-19 Community Response Fund enabled United Way to almost double the amount of funds distributed since its first round of funding.

An original investment of $64,500 was made to 27 programs earlier this month.

The following nonprofits serving the South Lane region will each receive $2,500 this week in COVID-19 Response Funding through this second round of funding:

- Family Relief Nursery: for prevention of child abuse and neglect in vulnerable families
- Soup's On: for weekly free Sunday dinner and sack lunch for 60-80 community members in Cottage Grove
- South Lane Mental Health: for teletherapy for low income, rural clients and organizational stability

"South Lane Mental Health would like to thank the United Way for their Emergency Relief Grant," said Norma Barton, Development Manager with South Lane Mental Health. "This funding will assist our organization in continuing to care for our clients. We are truly grateful for the ongoing assistance throughout the years from the United Way."

The urgent need to address food insecurity was clear from applications received in this cycle, particularly in rural communities.

To address food insecurity, funds distributed in this round will provide lunches and dinners for more than 60 residents in Cottage Grove, fresh food to homebound and ill community members in Eugene area, food boxes for kids and low income individuals in Blachly and Triangle Lake, and more programs throughout the county.

Other vital needs being addressed in this round of funding include access to emergency shelter and long-term housing, virtual parenting support, respite for grandparents who are primary caregivers to grandchildren, crisis response for youth experiencing mental or behaviors issues, and more.

As with all of United Way's grant making processes, this fund's review process is led by a small group of volunteers — community members from across Lane County representing a variety of sectors — most of whom are donors to United Way themselves.

Ultimate funding decisions are made by United Way of Lane County's board of directors.

After distributing $164,400 in total between these two rounds, United Way is actively raising additional funds for the following rounds of investments.

Those interested in contributing to United Way's COVID-19 Community Response Fund can do so at www.unitedwaylane.org/covid-19-fund.

Meanwhile, nonprofits interested in applying for future rounds of funding can find the application at www.unitedwaylane.org/response-fund-application.

The fourth round of funding closes May 11, with decisions announced May 18. Community members can learn more about how United Way is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by visiting www.unitedwaylane.org/covid-19.

CARES *from A6*

will continue to push for greater and direct investment in state and local entities in any subsequent relief legislation. I will also continue to push for strengthening SNAP benefits, investments in our Postal Service, additional economic impact payments, implementation of an OSHA emergency temporary standard to strengthen protective measures for our front-line workers, funding for hazard pay for these individuals, and more."

The end result of Thursday's legislation dealt with the most glaring deficiencies of the CARES Act and will serve as the next step in the government's attempt to mitigate the economic impacts being felt across Oregon.

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