

W I L D H O R S E R E S O R T C A S I N O

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Wildhorse Foundation funds 12 non-profits in 3rd Quarter 2004

The Wildhorse Foundation moved its three-year contribution total past \$1.3 million with its grants for the third quarter of 2004, providing \$82,012 to 12 non-profit organizations for causes ranging from youth recreation to healthcare. The foundation is the charitable giving arm of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, offering grants in four NE Oregon counties.

Because the annual funding comes from a percentage of the Wildhorse Resort & Casino's net income, as the resort's business grows, so does the Foundation's annual fund. In 2003 total grants amounted to \$469,994 in 59 grants.

Over three years, the Foundation has funded projects or programs for more than 130 organizations. Many of the funded organizations have a facility in only one county but serve people from throughout the region. Although most of the grants go to organizations based in Umatilla County, the Foundation encourages applications from Morrow, Union and Wallowa Counties, according to Foundation Administrator, Michelle Liberty. The next deadline for applications is April 1. More information and online application forms are available at www.wildhorseresort.com.

Organizations and the amount of their grants for the second quarter:

Altrusa International, Inc., Pendleton, \$1,000
Altrusa's "Back to School with the Right Tools" project collects cash and school supplies to provide supplies to children in the Pendleton school district who can not afford to purchase the supplies. With the cash Altrusa purchases school supplies from local merchants at a discount. Originally operated as the

Pacific Power School Supply Drive, the project is still sponsored by Pacific Power.

Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc. \$10,000

This is the second year the Wildhorse Foundation has provided funds to the CBMRC&DA, Inc., a non-profit Council benefiting Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Wheeler and Grant Counties. The funding, now totaling \$27,000, is to enable the organization to complete its Lewis & Clark and Natural Resource Information Packet. The project is to include kiosk and information panels, promotion of the Lewis & Clark Commemorative Trail locally, funding commemorative events in conjunction with the Corps of Discovery II visits to Umatilla County and continued coordination with other Lewis & Clark Bicentennial programs. The natural resources part of the project will educate rural landowners and rural residents about the natural resource benefits and issues of the region.

Fishtrap, Inc. \$4,000

This is the Foundation's third grant to Fishtrap, a non-profit in Enterprise dedicated to "promoting good writing and clear thinking in the West" and best know for its annual gathering of thinkers and writers. It also has school programs and radio shows. This grant will pay the stipend to the writer in residence and other costs related to a program that brings professional writers and storytellers into local schools.

Grande Ronde Child Center, Inc. \$5,000

Grande Ronde Child Center offers psychiatric mental health and education services to children aged 3 to 12 in Union County. This grant will enable GRCC to upgrade computer technology for staff and children clients.

Helix Park and Recreation District \$5,000

With this grant the Helix Park and Recreation District will purchase a new play structure to replace outdated, unsafe equipment at the Helix Park.

Helix School District \$3,500

The Foundation funding will enable the school district to renovate the existing track at the Helix school.

Ione American Legion Post 95 \$3,000

This grant follows one last year for \$4,300 to this post. With the new grant the Post will continue work on renovating the town's American Legion Hall, an important community center for this town of 400 people.

Irrigon Chapter Columbia Little League \$3,000

The money will support the cost of an archaeological survey and on-going archaeological supervision during the construction of new baseball and soccer fields in Irrigon. The site for the fields is close to the Columbia River in an area considered to be archaeologically sensitive.

La Grande Community Library Foundation \$20,000

The city is building a new library. The Foundation's grant will enable the construction of an archive room within the library, where historic materials can be preserved.

OHSU School of Nursing La Grande Campus \$7,512

The funds support the work of the School of Nursing in Union County, under the Covering Kids and Families program, a national effort funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The healthcare workers meet with low-income families to help them apply for health insurance programs such as the Oregon Health Plan, State Children's Health Insurance Program and the Family Health Insurance Assistance Programs. Application forms are as long as 53 pages and many are denied because they are incorrectly completed. Specifically, this grant will fund a Spanish-speaking outreach worker and provide training and supplies for workers.

Pendleton Little League \$5,000

The funds will partially support the cost of upgrading the permanent facilities at the Little League fields, including bleacher replacement and repair fencing.

1855 Treaty Celebration & Pow Wow Committee \$15,000

This grant provides funds for cultural performances and exhibits to commemorate the signing of the 1855 treaty which reserved land and a number of rights for the Tribes who are now included in the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

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