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Reputable Results: Investing in Sustainability across the Region

Wildhorse Foundation - Award Funding Highlights 2nd Quarter 2008

News Release

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Pendleton, OR - Non-profit organizations today face a dizzying array of challenges. As the economy tightens, and program dollars become short, sustainable funding becomes a primary concern. Many organizations reach out to Foundations for vital economic and programmatic support in the form of grants. This quarter the Wildhorse Foundation saw an increase in requests for funding, and has answered the call.

Projects selected for funding this quarter include many non profit organizations that are connected to literacy and education, including the **Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts**, **Pendleton High School** and **Blue Mountain Community College**, all of whom seek supplemental support to sustain ongoing programs that serve a wide array of needs.

Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts will use its grant monies to purchase four much needed computer stations and the software necessary to keep their students on the cutting edge of technology. **Pendleton High School**, requesting help bolstering their sports program, will receive \$10,000 to resurface the high school track, and **Blue Mountain Community College** will receive grant money to help fund the 2009 Cross-Cultural programming celebration program, *Spring Arts and Culture Festival*, which will include a new "Kids Day" program in the spring.

Each year the Wildhorse Foundation invests money back into the community to fund a wide variety of causes and organizations. Granted funds for the second quarter 2008 totaled \$144,004, a slight decrease from first quarter gifts of \$153,740. The total amount of gifts awarded back to the community in the first half of this year is \$297,744.

Wildhorse Foundation grants funding requests by using a percentage of Wildhorse Resort & Casino's net income as a base for how much it gives back to the community in the form of grants. Accordingly, as the resort's business grows, so does the Foundation's annual grant total.

Wildhorse Foundation's funding area reaches all across the region including Morrow, Union, Umatilla and Wallowa Counties. And requests come in from all over. "All of the non-profit organizations that Wildhorse Foundation funded this quarter have demonstrated a strong track record of results in the community, and some have a legacy of service throughout the region," comments Foundation Administrator Michelle Liberty. "The board had a difficult time deciding who would get the money this quarter, as all the project applications were so worthy of support."

One recipient, the **Sage Library System of Eastern Oregon** which serves each of the designated funding counties, will receive \$4,000 to purchase hardware necessary to continue to run their Integrated Library System. Additionally, **Eastern Oregon Alcoholism Foundation** will use its \$6,000 grant to sustain detoxification services to people in Wallowa, Umatilla, Morrow and Union Counties. In Umatilla County the **Weston Public Library** will receive \$5,000 to create a much needed digital archive for the library's historical photo collection.

Other grant recipients for Second Quarter, 2008 include:

Blue Mountain Community College, \$9,900 to help fund Spring Arts and Culture Festival programming - 2009 Spring Arts & Culture Festival Cross-Cultural programming celebration.

Columbia Youth Soccer Club, \$3,000 to provide equipment and supplies for the youth soccer team.

Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts, \$15,000 To purchase four computer stations with software.

CTUIR Education Department, \$11,000 to purchase playground equipment, install new fencing, and lay concrete foundation for the playground structures.

Eastern Oregon Alcoholism Foundation, \$6,000 to fund ongoing operating expenses for the detoxification services.

Enterprise Volunteer Fire Department, 8,300 to replace eight sets of the oldest firefighter gear.

Hermiston H.S. Band Boosters, \$5,600 to purchase a cargo trailer for transporting musical instruments.

Milton-Freewater Neighborhood Senior Center, \$5,000 to replace vinyl floor and molding in the dining area.

Milton-Freewater School District, \$2,704 to purchase 120 parent resource packets for Ready! for Kindergarten.

Pendleton Academies, 10,000 Modify doorframes on seven doors to make them more secure.

Pendleton ASA Softball, \$5,000 Erect a safe, permanent fence for the softball field.

Pendleton Community Concert Association, \$4,000 help fund expenses for the Young Masters program.

Pendleton Farmers Market, \$10,000 for the purchase of a food preparation and demonstration cart and a small powered vehicle to pull cart.

Pendleton High School Track, \$10,000 to resurface the high school track.

Pilot Rock Youth Football League, \$2,500 to purchase helmets and equipment for youth football program.

Sage Library System of Eastern Oregon, \$4,000 to purchase hardware necessary to run Integrated Library System.

Tribal Leadership Forum, \$4,000 to train teachers at Nixyaawii Community School and Pendleton High School to implement video programs and curriculum.

EO Early Literacy and Learning League, \$5,000 to help fund outreach programs based around early literacy components.

Umatilla Morrow Alternatives, \$5,000 for a communications campaign to UMA HIV/STD prevention education.

Umatilla Morrow County Head Start, Inc., \$6,000 to purchase and install Synthetic-Grass surfacing for our Pendleton Early Head Start site at PHS.

United Way of Umatilla & Morrow Counties, \$2,000 to hire an 8-hour per week project assistant for 25 weeks.

Wallowa School Foundation, \$5,000 Reinstated their library program full-time.

Weston Public Library, \$5,000 to create a digital archive for the library's historical photo collection.

“The Foundation is pleased to be able to support so many reputable organizations,” says Liberty. “We see the impact these programs have in the community, and are glad to play a small role in sustaining their operations.”

Wildhorse Foundation encourages applications from organizations in Morrow, Union, Umatilla and Wallowa Counties. More information and online application forms are available at www.wildhorseresort.com.

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