



72777 Highway 331 Pendleton, OR 97801 541-966-1973 FAX 541-966-1718 [www.wildhorseresort.com](http://www.wildhorseresort.com)

## News Release

<>For more information:

Charles Denight, 541-966-1973, [charles.denight@wildhorseresort.com](mailto:charles.denight@wildhorseresort.com)

In the first round of grants awarded for 2006 the Wildhorse Foundation gave generously to the arts, awarding \$15,000 each to the Arts Council of Pendleton, \$10,000 to the Oregon East Symphony and \$5,000 to the Inland Northwest Musicians. But the largest grant for the first quarter, \$20,000, went to the Special Olympics Oregon.

In all the Foundation, eastern Oregon's largest, provided \$137,885 to 23 organizations.

Because the Wildhorse Foundation's 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 grant total. In 2003 grants amounted to \$469,994 in 59 grants. In 2004 total grants amounted to \$502,990 in 77 grants while grants for 2005 totaled \$507,188 to 85 organizations.

Many of the funded non-profits have a facility in only one county but serve people from throughout the region. The Foundation encourages applications from Morrow, Union, Umatilla and Wallowa Counties, according to Foundation Administrator, Michelle Liberty. The next deadline for applications is July 1. More information and online application forms are available at [www.wildhorseresort.com](http://www.wildhorseresort.com).

A complete list of the Wildhorse Foundation's first quarter's grants:

**Arts Council of Pendleton:** \$15,000 to underwrite 18 free public exhibits in the 2006/2007 season.

**Betty Feves Memorial Gallery:** \$1,000 to underwrite the cost of a fund-raising trip.

**Blue Mountain Community College:** \$17,787 for Waxwayct, a new cooperative program to strengthen the CTUIR-BMCC partnership and prepare CTUIR residents for post-secondary opportunities.

**Columbia United Soccer League AYSO 887:** \$10,000 for construction of a new building.

**CTUIR Education and Training Committee:** \$500 to provide support for the Oregon Indian Education Association Youth Conference.

**CTUIR Department of Human Resources:** \$5,000 to cover the salaries of interns.

**Eastern Oregon Alcoholism Foundation:** \$10,000 for furnishings and startup costs for a new detox center.

**Eastern Oregon Regional Arts Council:** \$8,000 to subsidize art opportunities by paying artists and providing materials.

**Inland Northwest Musicians:** \$5,000 to pay expenses for Dinner Music events and

supplies.

**Ione Topic Club for the Ione Public Library:** \$5,698 for carpeting, wiring, paint and décor items to renovate the library.

**New Directions Education Project:** \$3,000 to fund one of the winter term classes of 2007 at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institute.

**Oregon East Symphony:** \$10,000 to support the OES concert season and free youth programming.

**Pendleton Cultural Foundation:** \$2,500 to offset costs of delegation's travel expenses to Japan.

**Pendleton Friends of the Library:** \$1,000 to underwrite the purchase of books for the Reading is Fundamental program.

**Special Olympics Oregon:** \$20,000 to underwrite a portion of the costs of a Pendleton-based field director.

**Tamkaliks Celebration:** \$1,000 to help fund the annual celebration of the Wallowa Band of Nez Perce.

**Tigerscots Youth Football Program:** \$2,000 to purchase equipment and uniforms.

**Tonya's House:** \$7,500 to be leveraged with other funds to support an on-site adult mentor to work directly with youth, their families and community members.

**Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District:** \$3,000 for Buffer Basics, including education and outreach on the implementation and effective management of stream buffers.

**Union County Library:** \$5,000 to purchase 50 books monthly for the public libraries in the county to support the Lollapalooza topic for the month.

**Union County Safe Kids Coalition:** \$400 to underwrite the Safety Fair for 4-6 grade students

**Union County Search and Rescue:** \$2,000 for matching funds to purchase an all-terrain rescue trailer.

**Wallowa County Fair:** \$2,500 to pay for the cost of cable used in the construction of pens.

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