



**United Way  
of Southwestern Oregon**

**AUGUST 2020**

*United Way of Southwestern Oregon fights for the health, education, and financial stability of all residents of Coos and Curry Counties.*

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**COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF**

On March 14, United Way of Southwestern Oregon launched an Emergency Relief Fund in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to generous donations from Advanced Health, AllCare Health, Dutch Bros Foundation, The Ford Family Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, and numerous local individuals, to date we have distributed \$135,000 to Coos County and Curry County nonprofits and community organizations impacted during this challenging time.

About 40% of these awards have been distributed to nonprofits and community organizations addressing food insecurity in Coos and Curry. Food pantries, meal preparation and delivery services, and student snack packs are just a few activities under this category. We were especially grateful for the opportunity to partner with Coos-Curry Electric Charitable Foundation to match their grant awards to six local food banks.



*Bear Cupboard (Coquille), a recipient of UWSWO/Coos-Curry Electric Charitable Foundation's recent matching award – masked up for safety!*

The remainder of funding has been awarded to meet a variety of southern coastal needs including cleaning supplies, PPE, technology to support online service delivery, and support for nonprofit or community organizations helping individuals and families impacted or displaced by COVID-19.



Special thanks to our Grant Allocation Committee (Andrew Brainard, Bonnie Ell, Addie Hutchison, April Jordan, Jacob Knudsen, Bernarda Liggett, Cameron McVay, Margaret Melvin, Renee Menkens, Marie Simonds, Paula Thompson, Erlette Upshaw, and Laura Williams) for their tireless efforts over the past few months. We still

have funds to distribute – please contact us if you'd like to get involved in our grantmaking process.

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**

## UPWARD BOUND PARTNERSHIP

In August, we partnered with Upward Bound's leadership program for the second year in a row. This year's program was a mini-grant allocation process, where Upward Bound students from Marshfield High School and North Bend High School heard from nonprofit and community organization leaders about their COVID-19 response efforts. At the end of the program, the students were provided \$1,000 in funds to award to the organizations they believed were most in need. After a thoughtful discussion, the students decided to award Waterfall Community Health Center, The ARK Project, and The Devereux Center with mini-grants through this process.

*Feedback from a student who chose The ARK Project as their top priority for funding: "Because our youth needs support. We are the future, and we deserve to be able to thrive."*

*Student feedback about the UWSWO/UB partnership: "I have learned a LOT more about the programs and volunteer opportunities around the Coos Bay area as well as what [these organizations] do to help many people."*

Sincere thanks to Mr. Scheirman, the folks at TRiO Upward Bound, all of our guest speakers this year, and the amazing Upward Bound students! We look forward to working with them again next year.

## EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANT RECIPIENTS

United Way of Southwestern Oregon COVID-19 Emergency Relief grant recipients (to date) include:

- Alternative Youth Activities
- Bandon Community Youth Center
- Bandon Good Neighbors
- Bear Cupboard
- Brookings Church of the Nazarene
- Brookings Harbor Food Bank
- Charleston Food Bank
- Christian Help of Gold Beach Food Bank
- Christian Help Thrift Store
- Coastal Home Health & Hospice
- Coastline Neighbors
- Common Good Food Bank
- Common Ground Mediation
- Consumer Credit Counseling Services
- Coos County Friends of Public Health
- Coos Hispanic Leadership Committee
- Coquille Back Pack Buddies
- Curry County Suicide Awareness and Prevention Council
- Curry Homeless Coalition
- Disability Rights Oregon
- Gold Beach Senior Center
- Harmony United Methodist Church
- Human Rights Advocates of Coos County / Growing Through It
- Kairos Coastline Services
- Kids HOPE Center
- Knights of the Columbus Council #1261
- Langlois Public Library
- Myrtle Point Food Pantry
- Oasis Advocacy & Shelter
- Operation Rebuild Hope
- Oregon Coast Community Action / South Coast Food Share
- Port Orford Public Library
- Powers Food Pantry
- SDA 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Food Bank
- South Coast Business / Area Agency on Aging
- South Coast Hospice & Palliative Care
- South Coast Together
- St. Timothy's Episcopal Church and Community Kitchen
- Star of Hope
- The ARK Project
- The Devereux Center
- The SAFE Project
- Wally's House
- Waterfall Community Health Center

Local United Way programs like these are made possible by generous community members like you. Visit [unitedwayswo.org](https://unitedwayswo.org) to donate, sign up to volunteer, or to just learn more. Thank you!