



United Way of Southwestern Oregon

SEPTEMBER 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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SUMMER OF CARING – HELPING NEIGHBORS IN NEED

United Way of Southwestern Oregon’s annual Day of Caring typically draws over a hundred local volunteers who gather for a communal breakfast, head out to help dozens of local seniors and others needing help with basic yardwork, and regroup for a barbecue lunch and prize raffle drawing. This family-friendly, teambuilding event makes a huge difference to our local residents in need each year.

As with many events during the pandemic, our 2020 Day of Caring was a little different. Rebranded the “Summer of Caring,” health and wellness guidelines were put into place to ensure everyone’s safety, teams were kept small, and projects were assigned over several summer months to support social distancing.

Our 2020 program was smaller, but we still made a difference – 35 volunteers helped 17 local homeowners in need this year!



At least ten bags of lawn debris collected and six homes completed in four hours – great job, Team SWOCC!



Team Brick (Oregon Coast Community Action’s Executive Director Kim and family) trimmed hedges, mowed the lawn, and more!

Returning volunteers from Southwestern Oregon Community College and Oregon Coast Community Action were joined by new volunteers from Zonta Club of the Coos Bay Area and Alternative Youth Activities...



Youth from Team AYA turned blackberry vines, pine trees, and dandelions into an impressive pile of yard debris at house #1...



... then met up with AYA Executive Director Scott Cooper at house #2 for hedge trimming, more blackberry vines, and another impressive debris pile. So grateful!

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.



Zonta Club of the Coos Bay Area, empowering women through service and advocacy here in Coos County, showed up and showed out for Summer of Caring! Thank you Team Zonta – your hard work was greatly appreciated by three senior women!

UWSWO Board members helped out too. And, through a partnership with Coos County Habitat for Humanity, we were able to repair a Summer of Caring recipient’s rotting back steps and leaky gutter.



UWSWO’s Vice Chair Jamar helped haul off two truckloads of leaves; Board member Anna and her family worked on a number of projects at another home.



Thank you, Dale and Coos County Habitat for Humanity!

Thank you to our Summer of Caring 2020 event sponsors the Eugene and Marlaina Johnston Charitable Foundation, the Coquille Tribal Community Fund, and the Rural Community Builder Network; our supporters at Coos County Habitat for Humanity, K-DOCK 92.9, and Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board; and our amazing volunteers! We hope to resume regularly scheduled Day of Caring programming next year.

EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANTS CONTINUE

In March 2020, we launched our COVID-19 emergency relief fund. 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 over \$152,000 to 50 Coos and Curry County nonprofits and community organizations whose clients and/or services have been impacted by COVID-19. Visit <https://unitedwayswo.org/emergency-relief-fund/> for more information.

In September 2020, we expanded our emergency relief fund to include assistance to Coos and Curry County nonprofits and community organizations helping Oregon residents coming to the southern Oregon coast due to the recent wildfires. Thanks to generous local individuals who have donated to this fund, we have started to provide gift cards for organizations helping those in need of supplies or food. If you know a local organization assisting Oregon residents impacted by the wildfires, please encourage them to contact us at info@unitedwayswo.org – thank you!

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