



**United Way  
of Southwestern Oregon**

## NOVEMBER 2020

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sara Stephens, Chair  
Jamar Ruff, Vice Chair  
Stephanie Hadley, Secretary  
Heather Casas, Treasurer  
Anna Huit  
Haley Lagassé  
Justin Miller  
Nina Nolen  
Joe Paulet

### STAFF

Jen Shafer, Executive Director  
Kelli Wirebaugh, Office Manager  
Grant Crim, Every Child Coos  
Bonnie Ell, Every Child Curry

### CONTACT US

PO Box 1288  
Coos Bay, OR 97420  
(541) 267-5202  
info@unitedwayswo.org  
[facebook.com/UnitedWaySWO/](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedWaySWO/)

### DONATE

[www.unitedwayswo.org](https://www.unitedwayswo.org)



## SOUTH COAST STRONG!



Last fall, United Way of Southwestern Oregon convened a group of Coos County stakeholders to lay the plans for a new local community website, South Coast Oregon Connects ([southcoastconnects.org](https://southcoastconnects.org)).

South Coast Oregon Connects provides an online space for community connections, information, and sharing. This free public website is available to everyone in Coos County. Features include:

- A directory of local nonprofits and community-oriented businesses
- A calendar of upcoming community events
- A news feed featuring user-submitted stories of positive and inspiring things happening in Coos County
- A volunteer page where nonprofits can list ongoing volunteer opportunities
- A press release feature that allows users to send updates and attachment(s) to up to 11 local news outlets
- Links to local government, school district, and library websites and other local resources
- COVID-19 resources for individuals, businesses, nonprofits, volunteers, and donors



This season, the South Coast Oregon Connects team invites you to post holiday events to our community calendar, submit a news story about a local holiday event (the team will post this to the South Coast Oregon Connects Facebook page for even more visibility), or send a holiday event press release to a variety of news sources, all with just a few simple clicks. To learn more, visit [southcoastconnects.org](https://southcoastconnects.org) and view a quick “how-to” video from the home page. Be sure to list your organization in the directory while you’re there!

## GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

## THANKFUL FOR...

As this challenging year begins to wind down, we have started to reflect on some of the positive outcomes of 2020. Here are just a few things we are thankful for...

- Local foundations and community partners\*, and local individuals, who have supported our COVID-19 emergency relief fund since March.
- Our volunteer Grant Allocation Committee, including representatives from Coos and Curry County nonprofits, businesses, and foundations, who have met tirelessly since April to review COVID-19 emergency relief grant applications and recommend funding.
- Flexibility from a local funder who provided a grant earlier this year for our annual Coats & Shoes for Kids program (where we work with local school staff to identify youth most in need of a new coat or pair of shoes). Instead of hosting our in-person event, we worked with school staff to identify over 150 youth or families who could use a little support this winter, and provided \$25 gift cards for staff to distribute.
- Our Every Child teams in Coos and Curry, who have provided radical hospitality to foster families and ODHS staff throughout the pandemic.
- Our wonderful community partners who educate and inspire us on a daily basis, our amazing Board and staff for all they do, and YOU for all of your likes, shares, donations, and support!

---

To date, we have awarded \$197,000 to 59 Coos and Curry County nonprofits and community organizations through our COVID-19 emergency relief grant program.

Learn more at

[unitedwayswo.org/emergency-relief-fund](https://unitedwayswo.org/emergency-relief-fund)

---



Wishing you all a safe, happy holiday season.

*\* Our sincerest thanks to Advanced Health, AllCare Health, Dutch Bros Foundation, The Ford Family Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, and Wild Rivers Coast Alliance for their support of our COVID-19 emergency relief fund.*

---

## #StartTodayUnited

A United Way study from 2018 found that 33% of households in Coos and Curry Counties struggle to manage even their most basic needs - housing, food, transportation, child care, health care, and necessary technology – and another 15% of local households live below the poverty level. Those numbers are only expected to increase as our community continues to weather the challenges that 2020 has brought.

**\$0.99**

of every \$1 donated supports programs and activities for Coos and Curry County residents.

Local United Way programs like the ones described above are made possible by generous community members like you. Starting this Giving Tuesday, December 1, and continuing throughout December, we encourage you to help everyone in our community have an equal opportunity to thrive. We're building a better tomorrow for Coos and Curry Counties – will you join us?

Visit [unitedwayswo.org](https://unitedwayswo.org) and click “#StartTodayUnited” to make a contribution.  
Thank you for your support!