



United Way of Southwestern Oregon

December 2021

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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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

In the fall of 2019, our United Way of Southwestern Oregon team developed a 3-year plan that included four strategies:

- Lead the coordination of an emerging collective impact initiative to transform foster care services in our region.
- Strengthen and sustain community engagement, especially among young people, in health, education, financial stability, and foster care.
- Build community and capacity among local nonprofits to better advance our collective missions.
- Grow our capacity in alignment with our strategic commitments.

As we wind down our 60th year serving the south coast, we would like to take a moment to highlight a few of our major 2021 strategic successes. The pandemic has continued to impact programs, events, and activities across the board, but we've still made significant progress in these areas!

Foster Care

The Foster Coalition of Coos and Curry ("FC3"), led by United Way of Southwestern Oregon, includes representatives from Every Child Coos and Every Child Curry, CASA of Coos and Curry, the Foster Parent Association, ODHS-Child Welfare, Oregon Youth Authority, and other partners supporting our south coast foster community. Thanks to increased communication and engagement from all FC3 partners, collaborative activities in 2021 included:

- Increased focus on recruitment of new resource (foster) families, especially LGBTQIA2S+ affirming families.
- Ongoing resource parent support through "Foster Parent Night In" and "Foster Parent Night Out" activities.
- Hundreds of tangible needs met for resource families, biological families, kinship families, and youth in care.
- Significant expansion of the Coos Foster Resource Closet.



Using funds raised collectively by the FC3 in 2020, throughout 2021 the Coos Foster Resource Closet at the Coos CASA office has significantly expanded. Resource families can "shop" for clothing, diapers, furniture, and more – at no cost to them. This past summer, funds also contributed toward a new storage shed to enable serving additional families.

These collective efforts have supported dozens of resource families, biological families, kinship families, and youth in care in Coos and Curry Counties throughout 2021.



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Community Engagement

Youth engagement is a high priority for us – and for many of our community partners. In 2021:

- We partnered with SWOCC TRiO’s Upward Bound leadership program for a third year - this year, the students organized a very successful food drive benefitting a local food pantry and animal shelter.
- We are helping Marshfield High School’s Z Club (under Zonta Club of the Coos Bay Area) connect with mental health organizations as they work through their Community 101 grantmaking program.

And last spring, in honor of our 60th anniversary we decided to celebrate our amazing community partners. We asked you to nominate organizations that had gone “above and beyond” during the pandemic – over 40 nominations were received for 20+ organizations, and 15 of these organizations were able to participate in a Facebook livestream recognition event! Also in honor of our 60th anniversary, we highlighted “60 Ways to #LIVEUNITED” donation, advocacy, and volunteer opportunities throughout our fall social media campaign.

Non-Profit Capacity Building

Building community and capacity among local nonprofits helps us all to #LIVEUNITED! Our 2021 activities included:

- Distributing **\$45,500** to [11 Coos and Curry County](#) nonprofits and community organizations during our annual grantmaking program.
- Distributing **\$81,950** through our [COVID-19 Emergency Relief fund](#) (with almost **\$300,000** distributed to local organizations since March 2020).
- Hosting [South Coast Social Services Connect](#), a monthly community partner networking session that connects **40+** Coos and Curry organizations with information and resources to support our local community.
- Providing [fiscal sponsorships](#) that have helped to raise over **\$42,000** in grant funding to support our south coast LGBTQIA2S+ community and residents experiencing food insecurity.

Growing Our Capacity

Our small but mighty team was a force in 2021! We were very pleased to welcome Mendy Hayne as co-director for Every Child Curry and Drew Farmer to our Board of Directors. Through generous grant funding we hired a consultant to provide Coos and Curry County nonprofits and community organizations with grant writing technical assistance and general strategic planning (a need especially amongst small nonprofits), and another consultant to lead the establishment of a new Relief Nursery in Coos County (a critical current gap in our community). Generous unexpected and unrestricted donations received in 2021 will also help to expand our capacity overall.

And those are just the highlights from last year. We look forward to expanding our programs and services in 2022 to further support our south coast community!



Our work in Coos and Curry Counties would not be possible without the generous support of our local south coast community. From all of us to all of you - THANK YOU!

- Sara, Jamar, Stephanie, Haley, Anna, Drew, Joe, Justin, Jen, Bonnie, Grant, Kelli, and Mendy

Visit unitedwayswo.org and click “#StartTodayUnited” to support our efforts on the south coast!