

Tracking Oregon's Progress Report

Not Everything Is Equal: Creating Opportunity for All of Oregon's Children

The American Dream. It's a common refrain in the national dialogue. More than a catchphrase, it's a conviction that in the land of infinite opportunity, all individuals can reach their goals by working hard enough.

Sadly, the American Dream is increasingly a myth for many. In fact, this pull-yourself-up-by-your-bootstraps attitude could actually reinforce the cycle of poverty. A belief that the playing field is equal for everyone can stifle efforts to alleviate poverty.

A new [Tracking Oregon's Progress report](#) by OCF confirms that everything is not equal in the United States or Oregon. "Oregon's low-income children, children of color and rural children do not receive the same opportunities in their homes, schools and communities available to other Oregonians," the report states, "and this opportunity gap has far-reaching implications for personal achievement and well-being as well as for community vitality." As the OCF report points out, childhood poverty is rising (nearly half of Oregon children—47 percent—live in low-income families) and access to opportunities is shrinking.

Family structure

Parent circumstances are a large influence on children's future success. Children raised in lower-income single-parent households are less likely to overcome poverty themselves. In Oregon, more than one-third of single-parent households live in poverty. Similarly, a parent's level of education affects a child's future success; more than half of Oregon children are being raised by an adult with a high school diploma or less.

Where a child is raised

In a majority of counties, children born into low-income families have less than a 50-percent chance of reaching the middle class or beyond as adults. This means the cycle of poverty is perpetuated in specific communities around Oregon.

Continued on page 6

**MORE THAN 1 IN 5
OREGON CHILDREN
LIVE IN POVERTY**

IN 64% OF OREGON COUNTIES
children raised in low-income families
will likely remain low-income as adults

58% OF OREGON CHILDREN
are being raised by adults with
a high school diploma or less

**ONLY 67% OF OREGON'S
LOW-INCOME YOUTH**
graduate high school



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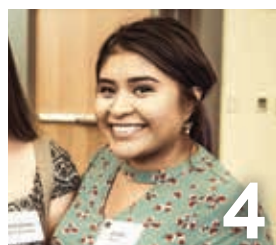
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LETTER FROM
THE PRESIDENT



GREATER GOOD
DONOR EVENT

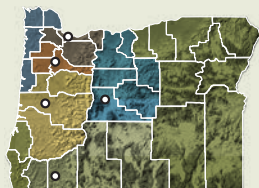


AROUND
OREGON



DONOR
PROFILE

*The mission of
The Oregon Community
Foundation is to
improve lives for all
Oregonians through the
power of philanthropy.*



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Max Williams



A Letter from Max Williams, President and CEO



Dear Friends,

As we close out each year, I like to look back at the amazing achievements OCF has made across Oregon because of our generous donors and volunteers.

In this newsletter, you'll read about important [OCF research findings](#) on Oregon's opportunity gap, facts that challenge our notion of the American Dream. The findings show why children born into lower-income families are less likely to escape the cycle of poverty. We provide a summary of the report and introduce ways in which working in communities can create equity in opportunity for all of Oregon's children and families.

One of OCF's core values is to strengthen the bonds of community and engagement throughout Oregon. This fall, OCF's [Latino Partnership Program](#) hosted Conexiones, a successful event to engage Latino leaders in transforming Oregon and to provide a forum for discussion and action as our state continues to change. And in early November, the Greater Good event gave our donor community new tools to reach their charitable goals and an opportunity to hear from experts in philanthropy as we all continue to address the challenges of our ever-changing Oregon.

We are excited to share more about an [innovative economic vitality project](#) in Eastern Oregon that taps into the "new natural resource economy." In the following pages, you'll learn how a small community in Grant County is using collaborative efforts to deal with a natural resource problem, restore the environment and create jobs, all at the same time.

As always, we cannot express enough how grateful we are for the consistent support from our donors and volunteers. It is because of you all of these great stories came to life. Thank you for helping put OCF philanthropic resources to work for Oregon.

Best wishes,

Max Williams

DID YOU KNOW?

Tools for effective philanthropy are at [oregoncf.org!](#)



OCF GIVING EXPLORER

Did you know that OCF awarded \$108 million in grants and scholarships around Oregon in 2016? Find out how these funds are improving our communities by searching for grants and scholarships awarded by topic, county or organization at [oregoncf.org/ocfgrants](#).



OCF RESEARCH

Did you know that OCF's total endowment has grown 380 percent since 2001 and that in 2016, OCF awarded \$41.9 million in education grants and scholarships? You can find more information like this and the outcomes of the initiatives on your topic of interest through the OCF Research Program at [oregoncf.org/research](#).



OCF Donors Uniting for the Greater Good of Oregon



Thank you to those who attended OCF's inaugural Greater Good event for donors on November 9. More than 180 guests came together to connect, gain new tools to reach their charitable goals, participate in small group discussions, and hear from experts in the field of philanthropy. Attendees were empowered by their ability to make a difference and energized to fulfill their important role in Oregon's future, while special guests Kathy LeMay and Thomas Lauderdale inspired and entertained everyone. We are grateful to Kimberly Cooper and Eric Parsons for serving as co-chairs and to the 15-member event planning committee for helping make Greater Good so successful. If you were not able to attend this dynamic and engaging event, please contact an OCF donor relations officer or philanthropic advisor for additional information and giving opportunities.

"Greater Good gave us the opportunity to connect with others, feel inspired and know we're part of a larger effort. What OCF offers donors is significant — the chance to better form our vision and develop a sense of how to give with intention."

Conexiones Summit Connects Latinos and Partners to Meet Common Goals for Oregon

On October 5 and 6, more than 200 Oregonians from small business, education, health, government and nonprofit sectors convened in Salem for the inaugural Conexiones Summit hosted by OCF's [Latino Partnership Program \(LPP\)](#). Latinos and non-Latino partners represented regions from Ontario to Ashland, from Lincoln City to Madras and all along the Interstate 5

"The event exceeded my expectations. It was inspiring to know and work with people throughout the state on projects that are priorities for the Latino community. I look forward to the next one."

- Carolina Castaneda del Rio, Medford

corridor. The theme Transforming Communities Together highlighted the important role Latinos in Oregon play in transforming the state. Through work sessions that dug deeper into issues such as education, small business, health and leadership, attendees made new connections, committed to collaborations and discussed big ideas to identify solutions to issues we all care about. The discussions that LPP documented will provide a roadmap for Conexiones attendees and partners to move these ideas forward.





Dental Kit Giveaway at Rosemary Anderson High School East in Portland



Community 101 20th-Anniversary Celebration



Studio to School Rendezvous at the Oregon Garden in Silverton



Board and Staff Visit Warm Springs Reservation



Reception at Central Oregon Community College



DONOR PROFILE

A Generous Stranger Changes One Life, Then Leaves a Legacy to Her Community

In 2007, the Medical Eye Center in Medford received an out-of-the-blue bequest: funding to provide indigent adults and chil-

"No child should begin learning to read and write with an undetected vision issue."

dren with necessary eye care. The money came from Mrs. Irma E. Klinghammer, but exactly who she was and why she left the money for such a worthy cause was a mystery until very recently. When the center announced the creation of the fund, a receptionist recalled meeting Mrs. Klinghammer and the apparent catalyst for her generosity. While visiting the center one day, Mrs. Klinghammer overheard a mother telling a staff member that she couldn't afford the glasses her child needed. Mrs. Klinghammer then offered to purchase the glasses for the child. This first action eventually led to thousands of other children having their needs met through her generous bequest to the Medical Eye Center—Klinghammer Memorial Fund at OCF.

In 2010, OCF began working with the Medical Eye Center to distribute the funds in communities where the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation (OLSHF) has worked



to boost the Mobile Health Screening Program (MHSP). "Sometimes children simply need a pair of glasses to see the board or read their homework," says Nicole Mandarano, OLSHF development director. The goal, she says, is that "no child should

begin learning to read and write with an undetected vision issue." MHSP fills the gap caused by the lack of school nurses in Oregon. To date, schools in Southern Oregon have seen notable results from the screenings. "OLSHF screening results have verified known issues with students," says Walt Davenport, principal of Central Point Elementary School. "This adds to the level of confidence and validity of the screening process, procedures and technology."

In the 2017–2018 school year, OLSHF predicts that they'll screen 24,125 children in Southern Oregon for vision issues, potentially referring 2,630 for follow-up care. This is a huge impact that, in part, came from a generous woman who overheard a difficult conversation in a waiting room.

"This is a huge impact that, in part, came from a generous woman who overheard a difficult conversation in a waiting room."

Statewide Leadership Council Meetings

OCF enlists eight leadership councils around the state to serve as ambassadors, advisors and advocates for OCF and philanthropy. At their fall meetings, these councils of community leaders provided important feedback for our work and will bring the news of the great nonprofit and philanthropic work across the state back to their communities.

150
COMMUNITY LEADERS
FROM AROUND
OREGON

To assist in their role as ambassadors, four councils learned about an innovative program called Oregon Saves (oregon.gov/retire), a program where individuals without an employer-based retirement plan can plan for their future.

In their role as advisors, a number of councils shared with OCF the indirect challenges their communities faced with this year's rampant fire season. While the destruction to Oregon's landscape is more obvious, the economic impact of lost tourism and cancelled events due to fire danger and air quality was significant. This information was shared with the OCF board to consider while making grant decisions.

To further advocate for the community programs OCF supports, some council members toured local nonprofits to better understand the important work being done through philanthropy. The Eastern Oregon council toured Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, and the Metropolitan Portland council toured Zenger Farm.



We could not do the work we do to improve life around Oregon without the dedicated support of our volunteer [leadership council members](#).

Tracking Oregon's Progress

Continued from page 1

Disparities begin early and persist

Early learning is essential for social and cognitive development. Even infants need enriching experiences at home, and young children benefit from quality early learning environments. However, two-thirds of Oregon's low-income children do not attend preschool, and low-income children also score lower on some kindergarten readiness skills. Low-income children and children of color have even fewer opportunities throughout elementary, middle and high school for high-quality educational and enrichment experiences, and ultimately have lower graduation rates than the statewide average.

Narrowing the opportunity gap

The OCF research has provided an overview of the opportunity gap many Oregon children face, and now is the time to address solutions. Communities, governments, nonprofits and philanthropic organizations must work together to interrupt the cycle of poverty and narrow the gaps created by longstanding discriminatory practices.

- We can do this by leveraging access to parenting education programs and supporting families.
- Communities can improve economic prospects for families by increasing career and technical education offerings and increasing the availability of family-wage jobs by supporting small business, entrepreneurs and rural job creation.

- We can increase high-quality and affordable early childhood learning opportunities and expand out-of-school K-12 academic advancement opportunities.
- Communities can support low-income and first-generation students to increase postsecondary enrollment.
- We can strengthen communities through policies that encourage affordable housing and integrated neighborhoods and through programs that support community members taking the lead in identifying solutions.

OCF is committed to working with communities around the state to ensure that every child has equitable access to the opportunity to live a healthy and productive life. Many solutions will look different as communities work to address their unique challenges, but the goal is always that all children in Oregon will be given the chance to achieve their dream.

Visit oregoncf.org/top-indicators to learn more.



Building the New Natural Resource Economy

65
JOBS

around Oregon have been created through the Western juniper removal project

30
GALLONS OF
WATER A DAY

can be consumed by a mature juniper tree

9

SAWMILLS

around Oregon are currently milling Western juniper

In the remote beauty of the Blue Mountains in Eastern Oregon, Grant County is engaging in a significant experiment in the "new natural resource economy." This term, coined by University of Oregon researchers Michael Hibbard and Susan Lurie*, describes how communities "can help diversify rural economies while also enhancing environmental, social and cultural assets." This desire to innovate came out of a need to take back the land from the encroaching Western juniper tree.

Native to Oregon, juniper has taken over 9 million acres of rangelands in Eastern Oregon, drinking up much of the ever-important water in the already dry landscape. The Ritter Land Management Team (RLMT), a unique collaboration between around 30 landowners, wanted to find a solution. An analysis found that establishing a juniper sawmill could provide 21 years of good lumber and good jobs while also restoring the watersheds and streamflows, thereby improving grazing lands and reducing the risk of forest fires.

The Ritter sawmill is one of the newest projects supported by [Sustainable Northwest](#) through funding from the state-run Western Juniper Alliance and [OCF](#) (which, thanks to Sustainable Northwest, were able to respond quickly to this need). Other juniper projects are underway in Burns, Fossil, Spray, John Day, Dayville and La Pine.

"I think [the success] mainly has to do with the people involved. We have a very cohesive group of



landowners and they are all committed to the wise and careful use of our natural resources," says RLMT executive director Patti Hudson of the Ritter project. Dylan Kruse from Sustainable Northwest believes that there's something larger that comes from public-private partnerships like this. "The linchpin is bringing people to the table," he says. "People who normally wouldn't be talking to each other are united around an issue they care about. It gives us an opportunity to talk about more controversial issues. I think the Ritter group is emblematic of that."

**Drs. Hibbard and Lurie's research funding was provided by The Oregon Community Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust and The Ford Family Foundation.*

The Power of Philanthropists!



Dear Friends,

As we think about closing out 2017 and look forward to 2018, we at OCF want to thank you. We thank you for your dedication to philanthropy, to the causes that you hold dear, and most of all, for your dedication to Oregon and making our communities a better place for all of us.

Your Generosity Makes An Impact

Collectively, in 2016, you made an impact in closing the opportunity gap with \$1.6 million contributed toward education and school readiness [programs](#) around the state. You helped strengthen our communities by tripling investments in the Latino Partnership Program and providing \$7.6 million for community grant programs. And you helped create 140 new funds. But as you know, it's not just the large-scale, big-picture impact that matters. Recently, an OCF donor relations officer joined donors on a visit to County Action Resource Enterprises, Inc. (CARE), a social service organization that serves Tillamook County residents. Inspired by the visit, one donor made a grant to assist them in purchasing their building. This grant, combined with another donor advised fund grant, will be matched by OCF.

We're Here to Help Meet Your Charitable Goals

As you look forward to 2018, we want to remind you that there are multitudes of ways to make gifts. One way is a gift of securities through stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares. If you want to [learn more](#), please contact one of OCF's philanthropic advisors—our team of professionals has extensive knowledge of the nonprofit community and the broad charitable needs in our state. As a donor, we welcome you to [take advantage of the wealth of information](#) we can offer to meet your charitable goals at the end of this year.

Because of you, OCF is seen as a trusted partner in the state of Oregon. I am honored and humbled by the trust that individuals and communities have placed in us. We work diligently to be good stewards of your giving and to ensure that every dollar you give counts—into 2018 and beyond.

Johanna Thoeresz
OCF Chief Development Officer
jthoeresz@oregoncf.org
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NEW FUNDS

Thank you to the following for establishing funds at OCF this year!

A. Marc Ackerman Fund
Stark Ackerman Fund
The Anjali Fund
Anonymous Fund #101
G.S. Barnes Scholarship Fund
Bloom Fund
Bonotto Family Science and Education Fund
Jim Cavanaugh Bike Fund
Children's Mental Health Fund of Eastern Oregon
The Clement Endowment Fund
Community Vision Empowerment Fund
Kim Conley Muttley Crew Fund
Cook Family Fund
DACA, Immigrant and Refugee Fund
Joan Dalton Fund for Animals
John and Mary Jane Dellenback
Community Benefit Fund
Mary DeBruler Fund for Ascension Lutheran Church
Barbara B. Doherty Fund
Donwood Fund
John R. Dozier Designated Fund
Eugene Concert Choir Endowment Fund
Friends of Gold Hill Fund
Raymond Gapp Fund
Erion Gasperini Family Fund
Headwaters Fund
Mike Henningsen Fund
Gretchen Icenogle Fund

Institute for Cultural Initiatives Scholarship Fund
Cynthia Jackson Ford Fund II
Janus Youth Programs Scholarship Fund
John and Robin Jaqua Family Legacy Fund
August F. Kalberer Fund
Steven and Megan Lightman Fund
George LoPiparo and Lena LoPiparo Fund
Mann Family Fund



Spinas McClean Memorial Fund
K. Miller Opportunities Fund
Moonflower Fund
Morgan Stanley Oregon Education Fund
Kelton Murphy Fund
Nicholas Murphy Fund
Ryan Murphy Fund
The Nch'i-Wana Fund

John and Ginger Niemeyer Foundation
Phyllis Newmark Fund
Oracle STEM Education Grants Fund I
The Phyllis & Warren Oster Fund
Pioneer Memorial Hospital College Scholarship Fund
Marcia H. Randall Designated Fund II
Bonnie and Peter Reagan Fund
Rose Villa Foundation Endowment Fund
Richard and Mary Rosenberg Fund
Dave and Sarah Schrott Fund
Taggart Saxon Schubert Fund
Walter Lewis Schulz Memorial Fund II
The Eva H. Slinker Northeastern Oregon Fund
Southern Oregon Historical Society
Foundation Endowment Fund
Linda Stelle & Gary Stelle Scholarship Fund
Peter and Willy Suriano-Williams Fund
Trail Blazers Legends Scholarship Fund
United States Adult Cystic Fibrosis
Association Endowment Fund
Larry Wallack and Linda Nettekoven Family Fund
Dr. John Warren ("Jack") and
Josephine Lockhart Reid Fund
M.E. "Steve" and Virginia Warren Music Fund
Willamette View Endowment Fund
Willowgate Fund

**STAY CONNECTED TO THE
CAUSES YOU CARE ABOUT**



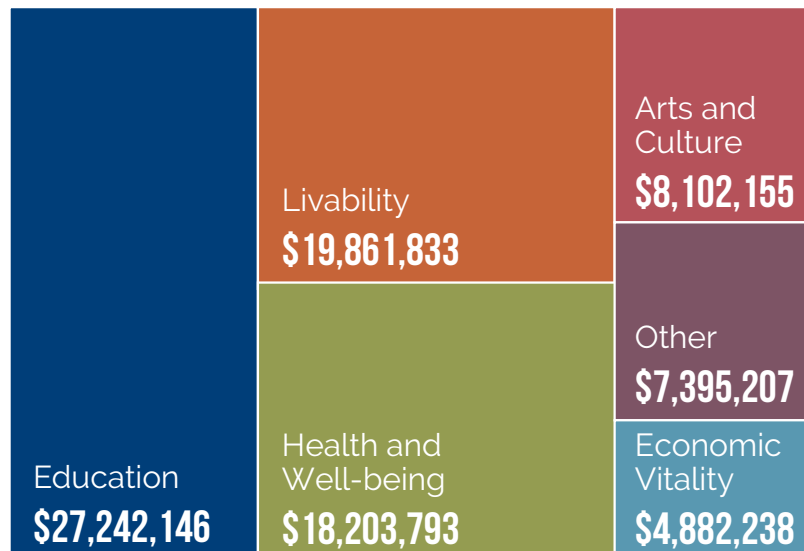
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GRANTMAKING

JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2017

TOTAL \$85,687,371

oregoncf.org

SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**2,750 STUDENTS
RECEIVED OCF SCHOLARSHIPS
IN 2016**

SYLVIA PETERSON-PERRY

**Gregory A. Chaillé Public Service
Scholarship recipient**

“Receiving the Gregory A. Chaillé Public Service Scholarship has been a huge honor and also allowed me to extend my studies from the traditional four-year M.D. program to include a fifth year studying public health, which is really important to me because I believe that the health of communities is crucial to the health of individuals.”



TRAVIS DUTTON

Ben Serafin Scholarship Fund recipient

“When I realized I wanted to use my diving talents to work with heavy tools and equipment in the water, the Ben Serafin Scholarship helped make it a reality allowing me to further my education and pursue a job that combines my interests in diving and construction.”