

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**



**December 01 , 2008**

## **Distributed by The G.A.P.S. Foundation**

*“Generating Assistance for Public Schools in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington counties”*

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

NWRESD Communications Department  
503-614-1252 | Fax: 503-614-1283  
5825 NE Ray Circle, Hillsboro OR 97124  
Toll-free in Oregon: 1-888-990-7500  
[www.gapsfoundation.org](http://www.gapsfoundation.org)

## **Foundation awards \$30,000 in education grants to public schools in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington counties**

The Northwest Regional Education Service District's Foundation—The G.A.P.S Foundation—is pleased to announce its 2008 Mini-Grant recipients. Thirty-nine grants totaling \$30,000 were awarded. A committee carefully reviewed every one of the 210 proposals that were submitted and selected the winning applications based on their impact on public school programs that directly affect special needs and at-risk students, early intervention/early childhood education, outdoor school, and professional/technical and vocational offerings in the four county region.

The mini-grants were awarded in amounts between \$100 and \$1,000 for projects, supplies, activities, technology, curriculum, etc. that enhance classrooms, programs and services in these areas:

1. Early Intervention/Early Childhood Education;
2. Special Needs and Underprivileged Youth (Examples: Low-Incidence, Developmentally Delayed, At-Risk, Alternative and Behavioral Programs and Migrant and Indian Ed Programs)
3. Outdoor School; and
4. Professional/Technical and Vocational Programs.

The following four examples highlight the impact of the grant awards (a complete award list follows):

1. Harvey Clarke Elementary School in the Forest Grove School District was awarded \$598 to purchase the STAR Program levels II and III—curriculum that will help students with autism develop expressive and receptive language abilities, as well as promote success with functional routines.
2. Gaston School District's Special Education Department was awarded \$900 to purchase a stackable washer and dryer for the Carriage House, a life skills center that provides special needs students with a home-like atmosphere with the goal of helping them becoming more independent adults.
3. Nestucca Valley Middle School students will benefit from a grant of \$1,000 to purchase new books to support an accelerated reading program that will be implemented as part of their reading requirements

in January of 2009. The current library inventory does not include enough material to give students a variety of selections or accommodate the large number of participants.

4. A mini-grant award of \$1,000 will help support the CHICAS Project, an after-school program in the Tillamook School District. CHICAS serves 30 high school Hispanic women and approximately 30 junior high school Hispanic girls in a effort to engage them more fully into the social and academic structures in their communities. The program supports the students by providing a positive series of programming that strives to keep them from dropping out of school.

**Learn more about The G.A.P.S. Foundation on the Web at [www.gapsfoundation.org/grants.html](http://www.gapsfoundation.org/grants.html).**

*The G.A.P.S. Foundation is the supporting foundation of the Northwest Regional Education Service District and exists to benefit the schools and programs served by the ESD -- with a preference for early intervention, underprivileged and special needs youth, professional/technical and vocational programs and outdoor school. The Foundation is a fully qualified, nonprofit charitable organization. To learn more visit [www.nwresd.k12.or.us](http://www.nwresd.k12.or.us).*

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## **2008 MINI-GRANTS AWARDS—COMPLETE LIST**

(Note: Awards begin with Northwest Regional ESD and are then listed alpha, by school district)

### **NORTHWEST REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT**

**Tim Umbenhower, Special Education Teacher | Levi Anderson Learning Center:** Levi Anderson students will be able to substantially increase their 'home grown' library by purchasing contemporary books for boys, particularly those that interest reluctant and struggling readers. (\$1,000)

**Anthony Wynne, Educational Assistant | Cascade Academy:** Students at Cascade Academy will have the opportunity to participate in a new hands-on mechanics class that will include curriculum devoted to small engine repair, bicycle repair, alternative technologies, construction, electric and plumbing foundations. The grant will allow them to purchase tools, construction materials and small engine parts to get the class off the ground. (\$1,000)

**Catherine Morrell, Early Childhood Education Specialist | Columbia County:** Over 20 autistic and sensory impaired students who participate in early childhood education programs in Columbia County will benefit from supplies that will augment their learning. (\$375)

**Nancy Ford, Director | Early Intervention/Early Childhood Education:** The program will use the grant to purchase additional equipment that will allow them to complete augmentative communication/assistive technology (AC/AT) kits for each of the program sites throughout the four-county region. The kits will include a standard set of technology equipment for the specialists to use with children who are non-communicative. (\$1000)

**Mary Bjornskov, Orientation & Mobility Specialist | Vision Services:** Middle school and high school students with severe visual loss will work on orientation and mobility skills while becoming independent community travelers by planning and taking a trip to Salem on Amtrak. While there, they will use public transportation to visit the State Capital. (\$1,000)

**Kendra Robinson, Special Education Teacher | Lifeworks Young Children Day Treatment Program:** The day treatment program will use grant funds to purchase a variety of the earliest levels of the reading

program 'Read Naturally'. The curriculum will greatly benefit struggling readers, while meeting the needs of these young children with extremely low social and emotional skills. (\$990)

**Margaret Shumaker, School Psychologist in Clatsop County:** Grant funds will help make possible "Clatsop Girls United": A summit for building Leadership Skills, Education Awareness and Self Confidence. The goal of the summit is to encourage and motivate at risk girls in grades 4 – 8 to envision their future as smart, strong, educated women. The summit will be at Clatsop Community College, giving the girls an opportunity to experience activities, such as: chemistry experiment, fencing, welding and maritime science. (\$1,000)

**John Jackson, Director | Northwest Outdoor Science School:** Funds to provide tuition credits for Lewis & Clark Elementary school students in Astoria to insure their continued participation in the ESD's Northwest Outdoor Science School. (\$1,000)

**Susan Harrell, Teacher | Pacific Academy:** Pacific Academy received funds to purchase four microscopes and assorted prepared slides to be used in the biology classroom. (\$1,000)

**Tricia Moore, Early Childhood Education Specialist in Washington County:** NWRES Early Childhood Education Specialists will hold parent trainings for NWRES Early Intervention/Early Childhood Education children enrolled in Migrant/OCDC Head Start. Parents will have the chance to meet other families with children who have similar disabilities, learn skills that will help them interact with their children, and be given a book that they can read with their child. (\$782.68)

**Maryliz Herron, Advisor | Terra Nova High School:** Students at Terra Nova will be able to participate in a new extended day option once a week to explore the arts. Staff will offer one room devoted to music and another room devoted to arts and crafts. The art that is created will be sold and funds will be put back into the program. (\$1,000)

**Helen Armstrong, Administrator of Tillamook Service Center | Tillamook Multi-Modular Pre-School Screenings:** G.A.P.S. grant funds will help the ESD's staff in Tillamook facilitate their annual free health screening event, open to families in their local community. Children aged three to six are tested in 12 developmental areas including dental, medical and education. The screening is the only event offered on such a tremendous scale in the entire state of Oregon, and is funded solely through community donations. (\$1,000)

**Kim Ward, Occupational Therapy Assistant | Early Intervention /Early Childhood Education:** Staff in the ESD's Woodside Early Intervention facility in Beaverton will be able to enrich the resources available at The Kate Lonergan Family Resource Center (located in the Woodside facility). The center provides a comprehensive source of information for families who use the agency's Early Intervention/Early Childhood Education services in Washington County. (\$700)

## **ASTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Dan Foss, Instructor | Astoria High School Construction Class:** The Astoria High School Construction Class will purchase supplies to build a recycling center for the developmentally delayed students in the school's Life Skills classroom to better manage their recycling program. (\$950)

## **BANKS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Mike O'Reilly, Teacher | Banks High School Technology Education:** Banks High School students in the Principles of Technology course will be able to purchase a Cisco CCNA/Starter CCNP Lab Kit – the equipment they need to create a training product that teaches students about appropriate behavior on social networking and chat room web sites and the dangers of cyber bullying. The training will be made available for all students in the district and beyond. (\$750)

## **BEAVERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Vanessa Beddoe Phillips, Special Education Teacher | Whitford:** Academic Learning Center Students in a self-contained, special education life-skills classroom at Whitford Academic Learning Center will benefit from community outings. Real life outings in the community are crucial in fulfilling skills the students would not otherwise receive. (\$562)

**Andrew Cronk, Dean of Students | Sunset High:** School Sunset High School's "Tech Wizards" all-Latino robotics team, and students in the Robotics II classes, will be able to purchase a First Tech Challenge Tetrax Robotics Kit. The robotics program provides hands-on experiences with engineering tasks in order to foster students' interest in pursuing higher education. (\$800)

## **CLATSKANIE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Sara Borbon, Special Education Teacher | Clatskanie Middle-High School** Clatskanie Middle School was awarded funds to purchase material for their Sidekicks Program. Sidekicks is a "buddy system" that links general education students with students in the Structured Learning Center. The program engages special education students in learning appropriate social skills through social activities such as lunch buddies and other activities. (\$500)

## **FOREST GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Jill Hertel, Special Education Teacher | Joseph Gale Elementary:** Students in a special education classroom at Joseph Gale Elementary participate in a "functional routines curriculum" and use the computer every day. The classroom computers were recently upgraded and the existing software was no longer compatible. The grant funds will allow them to purchase new software, as well as three adapted chairs that will help the students be successful in group settings with general education peers. (\$401.32)

**Erin Linhares, Culinary Arts Teacher | Forest Grove High School:** The Pro-Start Culinary Arts program at Forest Grove High School will purchase 30 new chef coats with mini-grant funds. (\$316.50)

**Kelly Trout, Special Education Facilitator | Harvey Clarke Elementary:** Harvey Clarke Elementary School was awarded \$598 to purchase the STAR Program levels II and III—curriculum that will help students with autism develop expressive and receptive language abilities, as well as promote success with functional routines. (\$598)

## **GASTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Susan McKenzie, Special Education Teacher | Gaston School District:** Gaston's Special Education Department was awarded \$900 to purchase a stackable washer and dryer for the Carriage House, a life skills center that provides special needs students with a home-like atmosphere. The goal of activities at the Carriage House is to help special needs students become more independent adults. (\$900)

## **HILLSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Shirley Meschke, Teacher | North Plains Elementary:** Students at North Plains Elementary were awarded funds to offset the cost of taking all sixth grade students to the ESD's Northwest Outdoor Science School for three days this spring. (\$800)

## **JEWELL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Jerry Jones, Superintendent | Jewell High School:** The sixteen students in Jewell High School's graduating class of 2009 will use their award funds to build on a service learning project initiated by last years'

graduating seniors. The class of 2008 had an extremely rewarding experience volunteering for Habitat for Humanity in Mobile County, Alabama and the mini-grants funds will help the class of 2009 to continue the project. (\$500)

### **KNAPPA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Debi Brazelton, Principal | Knappa High School:** Knappa School District's high school Forestry Program will use \$500 in mini-grant funds to build a trail system and area for research for students K-12. The Forestry Program is successful in reaching students who were not finding success in other areas of school. (\$500)

**Melody Skirvin, Soar Coordinator | Hilda Lahti Elementary:** The SOAR Program (Support Our Active Readers) at Hilda Lahti Elementary will be able to purchase books to give to students to take home. SOAR involves community volunteers who read twice a week to underprivileged K-3rd grade students who then receive a free book once a month to keep for their own. (\$500)

### **NEAH-KAH-NIE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**James Severson, Principal | Neah-Kah-Nie Middle School:** Neah-Kah-Nie School District school will receive funds to help build on the success of their PBS (Positive Behavior Support) programs at Neah-Kah-Nie High School, Neah-Kah-Nie Middle School, and Garibaldi Grade School. PBS is a proactive program that provides measurable reductions in problem behaviors by promoting positive behaviors. (\$500)

### **NESTUCCA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Tori Kirkpatrick, Teacher | Nestucca Valley Middle School:** Nestucca Valley Middle School students will benefit from a grant to purchase new books to support an accelerated reading program that will be implemented as part of their reading requirements in January 2009. The current library inventory does not include enough material to give students a variety of selections or accommodate the large number of participants. (\$1,000)

**Russell Sanders, Teacher | Nestucca Valley Middle School:** Students who struggle with math at Nestucca Valley Middle School will now have the benefit of a SMART Camera—an audiovisual technology that compliments and fully utilizes the potential of the SMART Board that is currently installed. The technology will enable students to share their thinking, by explaining their solutions before the class which will build mathematical self-esteem, as well as helping the students move into higher cognitive levels of understanding when asked to justify their solutions and generalize their strategies to larger concepts. (\$850)

### **RAINIER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Laurie Kash, Dean of Students | Hudson Park Elementary:** Students at Hudson Park Elementary School will benefit from funds to offset the cost of sending them to outdoor school. (\$625)

### **SEASIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**John Meyer, 5th Grade Teacher | Seaside Heights Elementary:** Funds to offset the cost of sending students from Seaside Heights Elementary School to the ESD's Northwest Outdoor Science School. (\$1000)

### **SHERWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Marianne Funderhide, TOSA | Sherwood Middle School:** Funds to offset the cost of sending Sherwood Middle School students from low income families to the ESD's Northwest Outdoor Science School. (\$1000)

## **ST. HELENS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Terri Fields, Speech Language Pathologist/President, PAGES Council (Indian Education):** Title VII Indian Education for Columbia County Purchase ten Native American Flutes for use by at risk Indian youths as they work to create a Columbia County Youth Native Flute Circle that will help Indian youth to reconnect with Native American music and culture, teach skills that help the children learn about both music and community, and provide an educational and cultural experience for at risk youths. (\$1000)

## **TIGARD-TUALATIN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Natalie Kirch, Title One Assistant | Durham Elementary:** Struggling readers at Durham Elementary School will benefit from an after school book club, where they would be provided with appropriately leveled books and transportation for five weeks. These students will be given the books they have read to own as part of their personal library collection. (\$750)

**Amy McKean, Music Teacher | Alberta Rider Elementary:** Alberta Rider Elementary School will be able to triple the number of students who participate in "The Early Beat," a drumming group that meets before school one day a week. Students with severe behavior issues are invited to be a member of the drum circle with the simple objective of giving them a positive start to their day. Funds will be used to buy additional drums. (\$450)

**Kelly Simpson, ESL/Reading Specialist | Hazelbrook Middle School:** The mini-grant will provide funds for an after school activity for at-risk Latino teenagers at Hazelbrook Middle School. The project will use art as an outlet, and the after school activity as a safe place, for the students who are getting propositioned on a daily basis to join gang. The funds will allow 30 students to create a piece of artwork that they can take home at the end of the course, as well as for equipment for the entire group to paint one, unified mural to put up in the school. (\$300)

## **TILLAMOOK SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Ed Armstrong | District Office:** A mini-grant award of \$,1000 will help support an after-school program in the Tillamook School District known as the CHICAS Project. CHICAS serves 30 high school Hispanic women and approximately 30 junior high school Hispanic girls in an effort to engage them more fully into the social and academic structures in their communities. The program supports the students by providing a positive series of programming that strives to keep these students from dropping out of school. (\$1,000)

## **VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Nga Frederiksen, Teacher | Vernonia Middle School:** Students at Vernonia Middle School who are struggling math will have another tool to help them understand math concepts via the purchase of ALEKS, a software program. (\$1,000)

## **WARRENTON-HAMMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Nancy Elliott, Principal | South Jetty High School:** South Jetty High School, housed within the North Coast Youth Correctional Facility, will be able to increase the Professional-Technical/Vocational learning activities for the at-risk students within the confines of the close custody facility. The funds will be used to purchase instructional materials to supplement and enhance the Career Exploration course in designed to provide students with necessary knowledge and skills for their transition to the community. (\$600)