

PRESS RELEASE
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“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

Local Educational Foundation awards \$40,000 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 2009 Mini-Grant recipients. Fifty-six grants totaling just over \$40,000 were awarded.

A committee carefully reviewed every one of the 231 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:

- At-risk youth
- School-age special education
- Early childhood education
- NWRESD Northwest Outdoor Science School
- Vocational/professional/technical
- ELL/Migrant
- Title VII Indian Education

FULL AWARD LIST BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE

Learn more about The G.A.P.S. Foundation on the Web at 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.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

Helen Armstrong, Tillamook Service Center: To pay for the Tooth Taxi Dental Lab to come to Tillamook for one week after the annual Multi-Modular preschool screenings to serve uninsured children. (\$1000)

Lynn Bonser, Cascade Pacific Academy: To create a document camera setup in each of the nine classroom that will assist in the projection of teaching materials—improving communication between teachers and students, and engaging students in learning. (\$950)

Jon Carlsen, P.A.C.E. program: To purchase a dishwasher and refrigerator for the classroom to use in teaching life skills to special needs students. (\$1000)

Heather Davis, Deaf and Hard of Hearing: To purchase the Ekwall/Shanker Reading Inventory, to help assess reading levels of students with hearing loss. The material will be shared by all NWRESD itinerant teachers for deaf and hard of hearing. (\$100)

Shannon Eagen-Anderson, Groner Elementary School, Deaf Hard of Hearing Program: To purchase Spanish-language reading curriculum in support of the predominately Hispanic student population in the deaf hard of hearing program. (\$1000)

Jillynn Garcia, Pacific Academy: To purchase a variety of media to use in the program's art therapy group. (\$1000)

Melinda Halverson, Levi Anderson Learning Center: To support the schools garden with the purchase new garden tools, weed barrier, materials to build a raised bed, soil, ammendments, plants, and seeds. (\$700)

Anita Hansen, P.A.C.E. program: To purchase a laminating machine and supplies to create curriculum that can be used over and over again with students who exhibit aggressive behaviors that prohibit the use of conventional materials (laminating allows material to be mouthed and mishandled without damage). (\$700)

Patricia Irelan, Occupational Therapist/Motor Team: To purchase a Flip Video camera for occupational and physical therapists to videotape school-age or early childhood special education students in order to train school personnel, parents, or fellow therapists. (\$200)

John Jackson, Northwest Outdoor Science School: To launch a partnership with FOODS (Multnomah ESD's Friends of Outdoor School), by conducting a fundraising project targeting the families of NOSS students and volunteers. (\$1000)

Christian Haaning, Cascade Ed. Corp.

Todd Johnson, Child/Adolescent Day Treatment Program

Kathryn Sherer, Levi Anderson Learning Center

David Wellman, Cascade Academy

Funds to develop a 'science cooperative' of supplies and materials that will be shared by several NWRESD school-age programs. Items to be purchased may include microscopes, binoculars, field guides, a GPS unit and compasses, science fair & science class chemicals, materials for hands-on labs and science fair projects, and miscellaneous lab materials. (\$3000)

Alan Joynson, Hospitality, Tourism, & Recreation Program: To purchase ServSafe training material – a sanitation certification that is a standard in the foodservice industry. The program is an integral part of HTR’s dual credit status with the local community college, and students who go through the ServSafe program and gain certification are prepared for above entry-level jobs that pay above minimum wage. (\$1000)

John Lermon, Levi Anderson Learning Center: To purchase material necessary to fully implement an automated book check-in, check-out, and inventory controls system for the school's growing library. (\$700)

Dean Longfellow, Cascade Academy: To purchase specially-designed curriculum called "First Job Survival Skills", that teaches important skills to assist students in their transition to the workplace. (\$750)

Felicia McLaughlin, Early Intervention/Early Childhood Education: To create a library of tools and materials to loan to teachers to support the social emotional development of the birth to five years population. (\$800)

Katie Nibler, Augmentative Communication/Assistive Technology: To purchase straps and carrying cases for various augmentative communication devices, and to purchase an i-Touch Proloquo2Go package (a cost-effective application for people with speech disabilities). Both purchases will be shared by NWRESD staff serving students throughout the four-county region. (\$1000)

Barbara Rice, Levi Anderson Learning Center: To purchase four guitars for the school's music program. (\$400)

Vanessa Robinson, Deaf/HH-ASL Assistant: To purchase new sign language books and lesson plans. (\$100)

Mark Rosenblume, Hillsboro High School American Sign Language Program: To purchase Signing Naturally curriculum to benefit both Deaf and hard of hearing and non-hearing impaired students who take American Sign Language (ASL) as a foreign language. (\$100)

Carol Sanderson, Speech/Language Pathologist: Funds to promoting social interaction among the high school's special education population through local historical and cultural awareness. The grant will be used to develop a materials bank including architectural books, drawing and representational materials, a camera, books on verbal and non-verbal language, and more. (\$700)

Ronin Sato, Social Academic Intensive Learning Program: To purchase three Abilitation FluffChairs (foam-filled, waterproof chairs), for use by 3 to 5 year-olds with autism. These students require sensory motor breaks on an hourly basis to help them cope with the demands of school. (\$940)

Ashley Sheridan, Lifeworks Day Treatment Program: To purchase Kidspiration Software—a program built on Oregon State Standards that encourages learning disabled students to see number concepts, conceptual relationships and problem solving skills visually. (\$600)

Margaret Shumaker, School Psychologist: To support female students in the community with a weekly after school program for middle school girls who are not connected to other activities. The goal is to motivate at-risk girls to set and achieve personal goals and give them the opportunity to connect with other positive adult role models. (\$500)

ASTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bill Shively, Clatsop County Consortium Program Social Competencies Classroom: To build a solar greenhouse as part of a school-based farm-to-table pilot project. (\$1000)

Stephanie Sparks, Lewis and Clark Elementary School: To purchase the Accelerated Reader online program to benefit third through fifth grade students who are at-risk in reading. (\$500)

JEWELL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Lynne Cavin, Jewell Elementary School: To purchase a CD listening center to be able to fully utilize the schools current literature program that has a series of mini-books on CD. (\$500)

KNAPPA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jan Johnson, Hilda Lahti Elementary School: To purchase books for Knappa Elementary's SOAR program (Support Our Active Readers) which helps students become confident readers through individual volunteer attention and new "take-home" books. (\$500)

SEASIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cate Blakesley, Cannon Beach Elementary School: To purchase a flat screen computer monitor for a severely disabled student to use to work on math, writing, and decompressing. (\$150)

Luke Robbins, Seaside High School: To design, build, and test small working wind turbines and solar panels—giving students relevant knowledge in the fields of electricity, magnetism, photovoltaics, and aerodynamics. (\$1000)

WARRENTON-HAMMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kara Yoder, Consortium High Needs Classroom: To purchase the PCI Reading Program—a research-based curriculum designed specifically for students with developmental disabilities, autism or significant learning disabilities. (\$675)

CLATSKANIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Beth Garnett, Clatskanie Middle School: To purchase chess sets to use as a tool to help teach special needs and at-risk students higher-level thinking, math and reading skills, and to build self-confidence. (\$720)

RAINER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Laurie Kash, Hudson Park Elementary School: To purchase texts and materials for a parent outreach campaign and evening literacy-building classes for parents of all primary children, but particularly those in Title I. (\$750)

SCAPPOOSE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Rebecca Steinke, Scappoose High School: To purchase virtual dissection curriculum (A&P Revealed), for the school's Anatomy and Physiology program. (\$975)

ST. HELENS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jennifer Stickland, St. Helens Middle School: To purchase 40 atlases to be used to help students gain a greater understanding of current and historical events, to instill a desire to learn about other places, and to develop an awareness of interconnectedness of people across the world. (\$798)

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brenda Docken, Vernonia High School: To purchase a notebook computer and voice recognition software to help a student with Cerebral Palsy communicate and keep up with classwork. (\$700)

NEAH-KAH-NIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Peter Walczak, Neah-Kah-Nie Outdoor Science & Environment Program: To provide transportation for Garibaldi & Nehalem Elementary 6th graders and the high school marine science class to the Nehalem hatchery and other natural areas to continue their work on habitat restoration projects and salmon spawning. (\$1000)

NESTUCCA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Russ Sanders, Nestucca Jr/Sr High School: To support a community service project in conjunction with Tillamook County and the local Chamber of Commerce. The students will help with the construction of a fishing access wayside and plant native species within the wayside, fulfilling a required Career-Related Learning Experience. (\$1000)

TILLAMOOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Lisa Dion, Tillamook Options Program: To launch a girls support group based on the national Girls Circle organization to address issues of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and encourage them to meet academic goals and pursue career interests -developing resiliency in at-risk environments. (\$750)

BANKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Laura Cummings, Banks Jr. High School: To purchase high interest books for at-risk students to be used in a language arts unit that focuses on overcoming obstacles and the importance of mentors. (\$400)

Jacob Pence, Banks Jr. High School: To purchase three Flip UltraHD Camcorders to use in the technology and health departments to create a series of Public Service Announcements about substance abuse. The project will also meet several of the Health and Technology state standards for students in the district. (\$600)

BEAVERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Michael Aucoin Jr., Kinnaman Elementary School Independent Skills Center: To support a full scale musical production of "Jungle Book" with 25 students who have a wide range of mental and physical disabilities. (\$600)

Amy Bartizal, McKay Elementary School: To purchase commercial-grade trikes for the Pre-K program to help with development of large motor skills and coordination. (\$505)

Andrea Miller, Whitford Middle School Intensive Learning Center: To purchase supplies that will help support independent learning and small group instruction for students with learning disabilities. The supplies will assist the students in meeting their individual education goals. (\$350)

Tiffany Tran-Parta, Meadow Park Middle School: To help special needs students build motorized solar cars—giving them the opportunity to learn physical science concepts, language skills, engineering design, and group problem-solving. (\$500)

FOREST GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

JoAnna Flores, Cornelius Elementary School: To purchase developmentally appropriate math materials in Spanish and English that will support student learning and help close the achievement gap in math for English Language Learners in first grade (\$500)

Jill Hertel, Joseph Gale Elementary School/Forest Grove Unified Sports: To purchase 36 basketball uniforms and 44 basketballs for the Forest Grove Unified Sports. In 2008-09 the basketball program served over 60 youth in the community—half the students are traditional Special Olympic athletes and half are their peers. (\$959)

GASTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Susan McKenzie, Gaston School District: To purchase two AlphaSmart NEO systems with Co-Writer and a text-to-speech system for use by students with mobility and fine motor disabilities who have difficulty making adequate progress in writing. (\$860)

HILLSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Darlene Geddes, Minter Bridge Elementary School: To create an afterschool music and movement program to involve students in a positive afterschool activity, preventing many from returning to an empty house and connecting them with their peers and supportive mentors in a positive environment. (\$1000)

Jennifer Headrick, Century High School Teen Parent Program: To equip the classroom with a softscape play area and a large tumbling mat that will encourage gross motor skill development in a soft and safe environment. (\$600)

Patrick Lay, Minter Bridge Elementary School: To start a mariachi band at the school. Students will learn traditional mariachi songs in Spanish and the history and traditions of mariachi following a standards-based curriculum. Students will perform at assemblies - sharing the importance of mariachi in the Hispanic community. (\$1000)

SHERWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Eileen Cooper, Special Programs: To purchase a Sony digital voice recorder to use in conjunction with Dragon Naturally Speaking (speech recognition software), to help disabled students meet the writing requirements of their classes. (\$270)

John Dickover, Sherwood High, CTE Engineering: To purchase tools that will be used for a new construction program where students will build a home to be sold on the open market (completion goal: Spring 2010). (\$500)

John Niebergall, Sherwood High, CTE Engineering: Funds to purchase a vinyl sign cutter/plotter to help build on the success of BowmenEnterprises.com, a school based enterprise that is part of our Professional Technical Engineering classes. (\$1000)

TIGARD-TUALATIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Connie Jolley, Tigard High School Health Occupations Program: To provide transportation to a local rehabilitation center to allow students in the program to work with the elderly—providing them with valuable hands-on patient care experiences. (\$500)

Jared Summers, Hazelbrook Middle School Technical Education: To purchase tools and materials to offer a hands-on introduction to the construction, manufacturing, and automotive repair industry. (\$640)

Joyce Woods, Durham Elementary School: To purchase a PBS diversity training DVD for teachers called Race: The Power of an Illusion. This is the first step in a multi-faceted program designed to train staff how to better meet the needs of the 40% of the district's student population who are at-risk by virtue of their ethnicity and socioeconomic status. (\$300)