

PRESS RELEASE
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"Generating Assistance for Public Schools in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington counties"

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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, awarded fifty-six grants totaling \$40,000 on October 27, for public school projects in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, and Washington counties.

Since 2006, G.A.P.S. has have funded 197 small grants making a difference in the lives of some 22,000 students in the four counties, awarding more than \$144,000 for educational projects that would not otherwise exist.

A committee carefully reviewed the 201 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.

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

A few examples of grants that were awarded are:

1.) \$1,000 for Pacific Academy, a therapeutic school for middle and high school students with emotional disabilities run by the Northwest Regional ESD. Funds will be used to purchase tools, lumber, bed liners, gloves, pots, plant starts, and seeds to build and care for 4 - 8 raised beds as part of a horticultural therapy group. Results of this project will give back to the school and community by offering vegetables and herbs to be eaten in meals or snacks and provide landscaping skills to a park, community garden, or nature center in need of extra labor.

2.) \$980 for NW Outdoor Science School to provide each of the four outdoor school sites with tools that will enhance students' learning of field-based forest management practices and improve their math skills. Items to be purchased are: a clinometer, a logger's tape, and five tree/log scaling sticks.

3.) \$1,000 for the ESD's Indian Education Program to create the "Art Club of Columbia County" with the goal of help American Indian and Alaskan Native(AI/AN) K-12 students succeed academically by addressing their culturally related needs through building skills and knowledge in art. The club will conduct seven, after school sessions December 2010 June 2011 and create art that will be submitted to a national art contest, displayed at Northwest Regional ESD in Hillsboro, and shown at the annual intertribal pow-wow hosted by the Native American Club at Beaverton High School.

A full list of grants follows. NWRES D awards are listed first, followed by district awards in alpha order (by county then district).

NORTHWEST REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT AWARDS

Jeffrey Cox, Audiology: Materials to build a mannequin that will be used for hearing conservation. Students can test their personal listening devices (i.e. MP3 players, IPODs, etc) and other devices emitting loud noise and counseled on safe limits for hearing. (\$175)

Christian Haaning, Cascade Education Corp. (CEC)/Outdoor School: Tools, safety equipment, rain gear, and camping equipment stored in a shed was lost in a fire last summer. It is imperative that the tools and safety equipment be returned to previous level in order for CEC to maintain its current level of commitment to the students and community it serves. (\$1,000)

Sharon Eagen-Anderson, Deaf & Hard of Hearing: To purchase software from "ASL Inside" for students who still struggle with the use of finger spelling. Software licenses would also be purchased from "All the Right Type" which teaches typing proficiency. These would provide students with personal success whether vocational or academic. It will directly affect their self-advocacy as they continue their education. (\$350)

Deborah Gustafson, Early Childhood Education - Gaston: With roughly half the student population of Spanish speaking students, funds will be used to purchase curriculum books in Spanish. This will help teaching staff broaden their understanding of the spoken and written Spanish word and able to speak and interact with students. (\$400)

Erin Boyll, Early Childhood Education, SAIL (Social & Academic Intensive Learning) Program: The SAIL program includes children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Funds will be used to purchase weighted blankets that can be used on a daily basis as an appropriate strategy for self regulating ASD students' sensory system, in order to attend to activities in their classroom environment. (\$540)

Lisa Taylor, Early Childhood Education - Woodside Center: The Handwriting Without Tears (HWT) is a pre-K handwriting curriculum that adheres to developmental principles to ensure success for all children. Grant funds will be used to purchase 7 new CD Players, specifically, the Hamilton MPC-5050, so staff can readily utilize the CDs provided to successfully implement this curriculum. (\$706)

Brenda Reed, Early Childhood Education/Motor Team/Augmentative Communication – Tualatin Early Childhood Education: To purchase an I-Pad and I-Tunes card (for software applications) for teachers to use with students who struggle with fine motor skills and visual tracking. (\$639)

Lori Kellogg, EI/ECSE (Early Intervention/Early Childhood Education): To purchase a die cut machine that can prepare multiple copies of desired letters, shapes, and figures. This will increase efficiency of efforts, thus allowing greater time to devote to programmatic planning and meaningful lessons for children. (\$900)

Karen Shepherd, EI/ECSE: "Teaching Social Communication to Children with Autism" is a parent training program that EI/ECSE has been using the last six years. The EI/ECSE program would like to purchase ten parent manuals that could be lent out to families participating in this training. (\$531)

Ruth Jensen, Indian Education Program – Title VII: The Indian Education Program will fund the Art Club of Columbia County which was brought forward by Wren Christopher. This project will help foster school engagement, which is a key factor in helping reduce the very high drop-out and low graduation rates. (\$1,000)

John Lermon & Tim Umbenhowe, Levi Anderson Learning Center: Funds will be used to create an audio book collection to reach our lowest, most reluctant readers. In addition, due to the minimal number of books vs. heavy student usage, funds will be used to adequately increase library size and meet student demand. (\$1,382.34)

Deborah Bailey, Levi Anderson Learning Center: Funds used to purchase two set of books: "*Night*" by Eli Wiesel and "*Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo*" by Zlata Filipovic. These books together with the *Freedom Writers* presentation will assist greatly with the teaching of tolerance to students. (\$280)

Ashley Sheridan, Lifeworks NW Children's Psychiatric Day Treat Center: Students with severe emotional disturbances and on the Autism Spectrum are served. Funds will be used to purchase large gym mats, which students use to improve their ability to self-soothe, decrease sensory stimuli, auditory stimuli, and release pent up frustrations and emotions. (\$1,000)

John Jackson, NW Outdoor Science School (NOSS): Funds will be used to provide each of the four NOSS sites with one clinometer, one logger's tape, and four or five tree/log scaling sticks. The use of these tools will enhance student's learning of field-based forest management practices and improve their math skills. (\$980.66)

David Rose, PACE (Positive Advancement Center for Education): PACE serves at-risk youth aged 12-18 years old diagnosed with developmental disabilities and emotional or behavioral disorders. Funds will be used to purchase three digital cameras for all PACE sites. Cameras are used to take pictures throughout the school year for the yearbook, with the goal of guiding students into an interest in photography, use of Publisher, and creating a student operated yearbook committee. (\$600)

Laura Stephenson, PACE: With students often in this program for 4 years of high school, additional curriculum is needed, so progress and growth can be made. Funds will, therefore, be used to purchase additional workbooks. (\$1,000)

Anita Hansen, PACE: Funds will be used to purchase athletic equipment for the PE program, providing students an opportunity to learn the rules of different sports, compete with peers, and discover the benefits of team play. (\$435)

Pacific Academy: Funds will be used for sensory supports for students with significant auditory, visual, and tactile sensitivities. (\$1,000)

Jillynn Garcia, Pacific Academy: Pacific Academy is a therapeutic school for middle and high school students with emotional disabilities. Funds will be used to purchase tools, lumber, bed liners, gloves, pots, plant starts, and seeds to build and care for 4 - 8 raised beds as part of a horticultural therapy group. Results of this project will give back to the school and community by offering vegetables and herbs to be eaten in meals or snacks and provide landscaping skills to a park, community garden, or nature center in need of extra labor. (\$1,000)

Laura LaMarsh, Related Services: Funds will be used to build out a Sensory Room with soft padded floors and a variety of sensory items to be utilized as a training room for educators and a training/trial room for families. This will provide families with a hands-on opportunity to use items that may be beneficial for their children. (\$1,000)

Laura Bekken, Related Service, TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury): TBI is vastly under identified for special education services in OR and across the nation. Funds will be used to produce and distribute posters to all public schools in the four counties (Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, and Washington) and EI/ECSE sites in NWRES. These posters will include information about potential long-term effects of TBI and provide information to direct readers to contact the NWRES TBI team for assistance, support, and resources. (\$220)

ASTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Megan Thyken, Special Education: iPod Touch systems and supporting material to assist special education students in enhancing their literacy skills and comprehension of text. (\$935)

JEWELL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cory Pederson, Music Department: Formal uniforms for the the high school music program. (\$640)

Terra Lewis, Special Education: 20 scientific calculators and flash drives for special education students. (\$360)

KNAPPA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Janet Johnson, Hilda Lahti Elementary: Books for the SOAR program (Support Our Active Readers) program which is modeled on the SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) program. (\$500)

SEASIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Terry Dahlgren, Seaside High School: A professional band music folder cabinet. (\$955)

John Meyer, Seaside Heights Elementary School: 28 scholarships for students to attend Outdoor School in the spring of 2011. (\$1,000)

WARRENTON-HAMMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kara Yoder, Consortium Classroom: iPad and communication software (P 2 G) for a seven-year-old child with visual and orthopedic impairments. (\$688)

Louise McLane, Special Education: Windows based software application (Kurzweil 1000 Version 12)that makes printed and electronic material accessible to people who are blind or have limited vision. (\$1,000)

CLATSKANIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Yolanda Brackman, Clatskanie Elementary School: Sensory equipment and supplies for children that need sensory timeouts. (\$1,000)

RAINER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Laurie Kash, Special Education: Purchase team shirts, and equipment for participation in Project Unify through Special Olympics. (\$400)

Paul Coakley, Hudson Park Elementary School: Development of the schools Native Voices club that explores Native culture through group projects, discussion, research and independent studies. It is open to students already enrolled in Title VII as well as those wanting to know more about Native Heritage. (\$400)

SCAPPOOSE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Erica Maller, Scappoose Middle School: Vinyl banners to support the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program at the school. (PBIS) at the school. (\$1,000)

Catherine Small, Scappoose Middle School: Funds to help students design, edit and market a professional literary journal which they wish to call "How it is Now." The students will hold two evening reading events: one at the middle school and one at the public library. (\$1,000)

ST. HELENS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Linda D'Amario, Special Education/Math: TI-84 calculators to be shared by the Learning Centers at St. Helens High and Middle schools, and at Columbia City Elementary School. (\$1,000)

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Rachel Wilcoxon, Vernonia High School: Supplies to support Vernonia Rural Education Corps (VREC), a community service corps that gives students the opportunity performs service-learning projects in the community with the support of Vernonia High School, the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council, and Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC). (\$1,000)

NEAH-KAH-NIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

June Ekborg, Neah-Kah-Nie Middle School: To teach students the basics of art, thus developing and encouraging self-expression, creativity, and physical manipulation of materials via the educational units Mysterious Machine (simulation about simple machines building more complex ones), Black Gold (students study petroleum and our reliance on this fossil fuel), and Food Science. (\$955)

NESTUCCA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gordon Whitehead, Nestucca Jr. Sr. High School: Equipment and materials for ongoing landscaping project at the schools: clearing land, mulching it to control weeds, and planting a mini arboretum of native shrubs and small trees. (\$1,000)

TILLAMOOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Shiras Stamps-White, Tillamook Options Project: Material in support of the TOPS Garden Project. (\$982)

BANKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kristen Jones, Banks Elementary School: A wide range of simple Augmentative Alternative Communication devices that will be used by the entire Structured Learning Classroom at Banks Elementary School. (\$853)

BEAVERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gretchen Schlag, McKinley Elementary School: To purchase a weather station and gardening supplies for their outdoor learning center. (\$752)

Andrew Witt, Aloha High School: Spring cohort team building weekend at Camp Namanu for the Learning Team (LT) Summit, an after-school enrichment program that supports Aloha's 9th grade Learning Team—an in-school academic intervention program currently in its third year. (\$1,000)

Tiffany Tran-Parta, Meadow Park Middle School: Funds to help 20 English Language Learners have hands-on experience with engineering design and earth science concepts by building water pumps out of PVC valves and pipes. (\$449)

Jose Ortiz, Stoller Elementary Behavior Learning Classroom: For development of an aquaponic science system for the Behavior Learning Classroom to learn about biodiversity, life cycle and sustainability. (\$1,000)

Pat Carley, Special Education: To purchase a performance floor for the Beaverton STARS Color Guard, which gives special needs students an alternative to typical competitive sports by introducing them to the art of dance, movement, teamwork, and the use of equipment. (\$1,000)

FOREST GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Leah Henriksen, Cornelius Elementary School: Funds to support the exchange of pen-pal letters with students in Oaxaca, Mexico giving students the opportunity to practice writing skills through authentic and meaningful writing experiences. This project also supports the schools School Improvement Plan writing goal. (\$108)

Melanie Rodriguez, High School Special Education: Rifton Adaptive Tricycle to enhance mobility for special needs students. (\$1,000)

GASTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

James Gesicki, Special Programs: The Stop & Think Social Skills Program, an evidence-based social skills curriculum. (\$935)

HILLSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ron Stinnett, Literacy and Art: Funds to support specialized literacy-focused, drawing-integrated Saturday workshops to reinforce the evidence-based literacy class the students participate in during the regular school day. (\$500)

Amy DeCoster, Poynter Middle School Life Skills Program: Funds for the Life Skills Program to purchase a snow cone machine. The machine will allow students to participate in a variety of school activities such as dances, positive behavior support events, sporting games and other Poynter-wide programs in a more inclusive manner. Students would operate, manage, sell and maintain the snow cone machine. (\$449)

SHERWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Robyn Garrard, Middleton Elementary School: Funds to purchase The Stop & Think Social Skills Program. The curriculum will benefit students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, High Functioning Autism/Aspergers, Intellectual Disabilities, Specific Learning, and Communication Disorders. (\$500)

Brita Hill, Hopkins Elementary/Special Education: Curriculum and support material for special education students that will supplement the schools current general education social skills curriculum (Second Steps). The curriculum helps students develop healthy social, emotional skills and reduce challenging behaviors. (\$500)

TIGARD-TUALATIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Melissa Myers, Tualatin Elementary School: Funds to implement an after-school "Ukestra" program: a ukulele band made up of at-risk youth, ELL students, and general ed students (\$650)

Pam Kenyon, Durham Elementary School: Funds to enhance ELL and school-age special education students understanding of basic financial/business/consumer vocabulary and concepts through participation in the Junior Achievement Biztown program. (\$350)