

# PRESS RELEASE

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

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## **Foundation awards \$34,000 in mini-grants to local public school programs**

The G.A.P.S. Foundation, a supporting foundation of the Northwest Regional Education Service District, awarded 45 mini-grants totaling \$34,000 to educators in public schools in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington counties on November 5, 2007. Every school district in the four counties that applied received at least one grant.

A committee reviewed 169 grant proposals that were submitted and selected the winning projects based on their impact on public school programs that directly affect the following (award amounts were between \$100 and \$1,000):

- ◆ At-risk youth programs
- ◆ School-age special education programs
- ◆ Early childhood education programs
- ◆ Northwest Outdoor Science School
- ◆ Vocational/professional/technical programs

To learn more about the programs of the Northwest Regional ESD, visit [www.nwresd.k12.or.us](http://www.nwresd.k12.or.us) or call 503-614-1252.

The following seven examples highlight the impact of the grant awards (full award list follows):

Developmentally delayed children at the Early Intervention classroom at Neil Armstrong Middle School in Forest Grove will have better opportunities for enhancing their motor skills through the purchase of developmentally-appropriate toys and gross motor equipment. (\$1,000)

Fifth- and sixth-graders attending the Northwest Regional ESD's Outdoor Science School will be able to stay drier now that the program can purchase a large supply of loaner raincoats for use throughout Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington counties. (\$1,000)

Elementary school students with Autism enrolled at the Clatskanie Elementary School Age Special Ed Program in Columbia County will be able to develop better communication skills with a new PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) Starter Kit. (\$270)

At-risk high school students at the Northwest Regional ESD's Pacific Academy in Beaverton will have the opportunity to earn applied arts credits while learning about the mechanics of bicycles and how to repair them. (\$600)

Students who struggle with reading in Trisha Betts developmental classroom at Lewis and Clark Elementary School in Astoria will now have the benefit of individualized learning with the purchase of Edmark Reading Software. (\$850)

Twelve multiply handicapped student at Aloha High School's Independent Skills Center will receive six-month swimming passes to work on not only swimming skills, physical therapy and water safety, but life skills such as changing clothes, taking a shower, washing hair, drying off and redressing. (\$558)

Students at the Northwest Regional ESD's award-winning Tillamook Hospitality Tourism and Recreation Program will use a video camera to critique their performance related to public speaking, and improve their presence in front of a group. (\$1,000)

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

**NORTHWEST REGIONAL ESD:**

**Alan Joynson, Coordinator - Tillamook Hospitality Tourism and Recreation Program:** *Video system to enable students to critique their performance related to public speaking, and adjust and improve their presence in front of a group. \$1,000*

**Bonnie J Becraft, Special Educator - Levi Anderson Learning Center:** *Math manipulatives and curriculum to teach hands-on math to students with learning disabilities. \$985*

**Deborah Gustafson, Teacher - Early Intervention/Early Childhood Education at Gray Elementary in Clatsop County:** *Early literacy books to enhance each child's learning through story and group activities. \$500*

**Deborah M. Hill, Instructor - P.A.C.E. Program:** *Low ability, high interest book sets for reading-delayed high school students. \$1,000*

**Gina Fivecoat, M.Ed., - Deaf Hard of Hearing Specialist:** *Class set of signing materials to increase teacher signing vocabulary and present signs, sentences and vocabulary. \$1,000*

**Jillynn Garcia, Mental Health Specialist - Pacific Academy:** *New and gently used contemporary young adult fiction, as well as reference material for the new library.*

**John Jackson, Supervisor - Cascade Education Corps:** *Waterproof digital camera and a photo printer to record projects and student accomplishments. \$379*

**John Jackson, Supervisor - Northwest Outdoor Science School:** *New raingear for students borrow while at camp. \$1,000*

**Loraine Hogan, Special Education Teacher - Clatskanie Elementary School Age Special Ed Program:** *PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) Starter Kit to help children with Autism communicate. \$270*

**Mark Abbenhaus, Teacher - Pacific Academy:** *Specialized tools and parts to begin an applied arts program repairing bicycles. \$600*

**Stephanie Leahy & Amy Wills, Teachers - Early Intervention/Early Childhood Education at Neil Armstrong Middle School:** *Developmentally-appropriate toys and gross motor equipment to provide opportunities for enhancing motor skills for developmentally delayed students. \$1,000*

**Tim Miles, Transition Specialist - Northwest Regional ESD's Cascade Academy:** *Fitness/weight training equipment and curriculum to provide a physical outlet for students. Opportunities for physical activity have proven to be a great motivator and learning tool. \$900*

**Valerie Gibb, Speech/Language Pathologist:** *Materials to help support a monthly after-school social group for students with Autism (grades 4-8). \$500*

**Vicki Clark, Teacher of the Visually Impaired:** *Funds to provide an outdoor school experience for nine visually impaired/blind students at Camp Magruder at Rockaway Beach. \$450*

**Richard Goldner, Coordinator -Speech/Language Team:** *Funds to offset printing cost of the Washington County Early Intervention Advisory Council parent newsletter. \$600*

**Carol Sanderson, Speech Language Pathologist:** *Materials to enable children in the Early Childhood Special Education Program to feel comfortable with stories, words written language and mathematical concepts, with the needs of the communication disordered child in mind. \$600*

**Joshua Coles, Teacher - Cascade Academy:** *Laptop computer for use with mulitmedia projectors. \$800*

**Kathryn Sherer, Teacher - Levi Anderson Learning Center:** *Hands-on science, math and health supplies, such as microscopes, anatomical models, science beakers and curriculum that will be utilized by the entire teaching staff. \$1,000*

### ASTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Trisha Betts, Teacher - Lewis and Clark Elementary:** *Edmark Reading Software, Levels 1 and 2 for developmental classroom. \$850*

### BANKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Mark Everett Principal - Banks Junior High:** *Funds to support PBS (Positive Behavioral Support program) targeted at improving student behaviors on a school-wide and individual basis. \$600*

### BEAVERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Alana Bertram, Literacy Coach - Arts & Communications Magnet Academy:** *Literacy assessment and intervention materials from the National Council of Teachers of English. \$500*

**April Gouldsbrough, Teacher - Sexton Mountain Elementary:** *Sensory integration materials (headphones, calming fidgets and weighted materials) to help students with Autism function within the classroom. \$1,000*

**Melody Jette, Teacher - Aloha High School ISC (Independent Skills Center):** *Twelve, six-month swimming passes for multiply handicapped students. \$558*

### CLATSKANIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Yolanda Brackman, Teacher - Clatskanie Elementary:** *Books and supplies for a small, after-school math and reading program for children who are below grade level. \$1,000*

### FOREST GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Brad Mclean, Learning Disabilities Specialist - Neil Armstrong Middle School:** *Eye Q software to provide eye exercises and paced readings in to help students increase reading fluency. \$895*

**Jill Hertel, Special Education Teacher - Joseph Gale Elementary:** *Sensory items to provide special education students with necessary modifications and adaptations to help them be successful with their peers in the general education setting. \$333*

### GASTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Susan McKenzie, Teacher – Gaston Elementary School:** *P.A.L.S. Reading Program and readers to provide foundational reading skill for children with disabilities. \$460*

### HILLSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Arica Mathers, Teacher - Century High School:** *Cooking equipment to support new ProStart Culinary Arts curriculum. \$993*

**Donna L. Warren, Greenhouse Coordinator - Glencoe High School:** *Supplies for the school's greenhouse program that provides work and social skills for students with physical, mental and emotional disabilities. \$500*

**Karen Billette, Counselor - North Plains Elementary:** *Funds to offset the cost of sending students to the ESD's Northwest Outdoor Science School. \$250*

### KNAPPA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Paula Mills, Principal and District Special Education Director - Hilda Lahti Elementary:** *Five, Alpha Smart Neos for use by special education students with motor difficulties (Neos are small, portable keyboards with built-in basic word processing). \$1,000*

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

**Carol Kearns, Principal - Garibaldi Grade School:** Funds to support PBS (Positive Behavioral Support program) targeted at improving student behaviors on a school-wide and individual basis. \$1,000

### **NESTUCCA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Ron Smith, Teacher - Nestucca High School:** Materials for the metal shop and Autocad students to collaborate on building decorative steel benches to be placed in front of the new Nestucca High School facility. \$1,000

### **RAINIER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Sherry Evans, Teacher and Laurie Kash, Dean of Students - Hudson Park Elementary:** Funds to offset the cost of sending students to the ESD's Northwest Outdoor Science School. \$625

### **SCAPPOOSE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Rebecca Steink, Science Teacher - Scappoose High School:** Oil Immersion Microscope for use in Forensic Science and Anatomy and Physiology classes. \$1,000

### **SEASIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Chuck Albright, Teacher - Seaside Heights Elementary:** Funds to offset the cost of sending students to the ESD's Northwest Outdoor Science School. \$750

**Luke A. Miller, Teacher - Cannon Beach Elementary:** Funds to offset the cost of sending students to Northwest Outdoor Science School. \$750

### **SHERWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Sandy Zettlemoyer, District Wide - Adapted Physical Education:** Equipment to support adaptive physical education for special needs students in the district. \$500

**Eileen Cooper, Learning Specialist - Middleton Elementary:** Auditory, tactile, deep pressure, and fine motor supplies to help meet sensory needs of students in self-contained classrooms. \$500

### **ST. HELENS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Martin Hehman, Assistive Technology Specialist:** Samsung Q1 tablet PC and software (Boardmaker with Speaking Dynamically Pro) to use as a therapy and an assessment tool to determine student's need and help students communicate independently. \$867

### **TIGARD-TUALATIN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Mary Sue Honstein and David Reines, Teachers - Fowler Middle School:** Funds to offset the cost of sending students to the ESD's Northwest Outdoor Science School. \$1,000

**Jennifer Nelson, Director of Alternative Education - Durham Education Center:** Twenty-five licenses for Inspiration Software for writing to help struggling students achieve better writing skills. \$1,000

### **TILLAMOOK SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Heather Huzefka, Curriculum Director:** Funds to support PBS (Positive Behavioral Support program) targeted at improving student behaviors on a school-wide and individual basis. \$1,000

### **VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Justin Ward, Vernonia Middle School:** Funds to offset the cost of providing students with an Outdoor School experience. \$1,000

### **WARRENTON-HAMMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Nancy Elliott, Teacher - South Jetty High School:** Funds to increase the Professional-Technical/Vocational learning activities for At-Risk students within the confines of the closed custody facility. The funds will be used to purchase supplies to activate a student-run coffee cart owned by the school. \$1,000