

Northwest Regional ESD FOUNDATION

Supporting Special Education

Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, & Washington Counties, OR

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PRESS RELEASE

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Local Foundation awards 18 grants benefitting students with special needs in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, and Washington county school districts

The Northwest Regional Education Service District Foundation, under the direction of President Jeff Condit, has awarded \$20,821 in grants to local school districts for projects in special education and at-risk programs. The grants are funded through the Foundation's annual benefit auction - raising funds to support the Foundation's mission of helping children with barriers to learning.

Since 2006, the foundation has awarded 336 grants totaling \$266,780, making a difference in the lives of 40,900 young children and students with disabilities. The grants are focused on our two funding priorities:

- Birth through age 5 Services: Identification of and services for children with varying degrees of disabilities including autism, hearing and visual impairments, speech-language needs, and those who are medically fragile.
- School age special education and behavioral programs for young children and students kindergarten to age 21 with developmental delays, and psychological, emotional, and behavioral issues.

FULL LIST OF AWARDS:

REGIONAL IMPACT

Benefitting students in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, and Washington counties

Northwest Regional Education Service District (ESD)

\$2,500 to purchase video equipment to create video modeling*/learning materials for students with autism and other developmental disabilities, as well as provide opportunities for older, more able students to create professional-looking videos to supplement school projects. *Video modeling is a process whereby functional routines and behaviors are taught to students with disabilities via video. **Applicant: Tina Meier-Nowell.**

CLATSOP COUNTY AWARDS

Warrenton Hammond School District

\$1,000 to purchase books, games, and activities to increase social and emotional development, strengthen fine motor skills, and meet multi-sensory needs that will help equip and prepare children attending Warrenton Prep Preschool for kindergarten. **Applicant: Ruby Leo**

Northwest Regional ESD's Early Childhood Special Education Preschool at Gray Elementary in Astoria

\$1,000 to purchase an ADA ramp to allow students with walkers and wheelchairs to access a nature/sensory area at Gray Elementary School. **Applicant: Paula Mills**

Astoria School District

\$760 to purchase iPod shuffles, protective cases, and earphones to use as a focus tool/music therapy for 3rd through 5th graders with behavioral and attention issues who participate in Lewis and Clark Elementary School's Title I Reading Program. **Applicant: Stephanie Sparks**

COLUMBIA COUNTY AWARDS

Scappoose School District

\$3,500 to purchase a 3-D printer and supplies for the after-school robotics team at Scappoose High School. The team is comprised of students with special needs and their typical peers. The equipment will support the students in developing real-life skills including teamwork, CAD design, hands-on tooling, and mechanical engineering, and help bring the team's capabilities up to that of the urban schools they compete against. **Applicant: Joan Steiner**

Vernonia School District

\$1,000 to purchase assistive technology equipment for Vernonia Middle School's special education program. iPads and Chromebooks that support text-to-speech software will help students read grade-level content, word prediction software will support students as they work on written assignments, and productivity software will support the students' time management and organizational success – helping the students access the same information and grade-level curriculum as their typical (non-disabled) peers. **Applicant: Susanne Myers**

TILLAMOOK COUNTY AWARDS

Nestucca Valley School District

\$1,500 for repair and maintenance of Nestucca Valley Elementary's (NVE) school-owned band instruments. NVE is a small school (270 students) with a high population of economically disadvantaged and at-risk students (70% of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch). The school's "instrument lending library" removes economic barriers, so that no student is excluded from participating in band. **Applicant: Bobbie Stirling**

Tillamook School District

\$1,400 to purchase equipment and supplies for students in the Tillamook High School Transition Program to implement a mock apartment for students to learn how to clean and care for their own home, host a dinner party, and do other home activities that can be modeled for students with independent living needs. **Applicant: Tiffany Beeler**

Tillamook School District

\$400 to purchase 10 sets of six, leveled-reading books for English Language Learners at East Elementary. Having sets of books that align with the classroom core reading topics at the students' lower reading levels will allow them to read in small groups with the teacher and focus on reading strategy instruction, then be able to move their reading levels towards the grade-level range. **Applicant: Melinda Ramage**

WASHINGTON COUNTY AWARDS

Banks School District

\$1,178 to purchase iPads for data-tracking and video modeling for students with autism and other developmental disabilities in the special education classroom at Banks Elementary School. Data tracking will be done in conjunction with a comprehensive program called Links Curriculum that teaches independence to students. The more independent the students are with their routines, the more successful adults they will be in the future. **Applicant: Kristen Jones**

Northwest Regional ESD's Tualatin Early Childhood Special Education Preschool

\$1,018 to purchase supplies to support a successful, ongoing Food Play Sensory Project for preschoolers with autism and other sensory-based feeding difficulties. Evidence shows children will more readily taste and eat new foods if they see the whole ingredient and are involved in the cooking/preparation process. The project has been a valuable experience for children and their families this school year, and many more children will benefit from our Food Play Sensory Project in 2014-15. **Applicant: Rosa Walker**

Northwest Regional ESD's Woodside Early Childhood Special Education Preschool in Beaverton

\$1,000 to purchase books in support of early literacy. The books would be housed at Woodside and provide valuable resources for school-wide, coordinated lesson planning now and in the future. **Applicant: Dawn Galli**

Tigard-Tualatin School District

\$1,000 to purchase a folding changing table the Little Tigers Community Preschool at Tigard High School. Little Tigers serves a mix of children receiving Early Childhood Special Education and their typical (non-disabled) peers. There is currently no changing area within the classroom. By installing a changing table in the classroom bathroom, children will be able to be changed quickly and returned to their school experience rather than having to be transported to another classroom, and will allow children who have toilet training as part of their special education goals use the bathroom with little disruption to class time. **Applicant: Tracy Zell**

Lifeworks Northwest Child and Adolescent Day Treatment Program in Tigard

\$1,000 to purchase P.E. equipment for young children with psychological and emotional issues. Sports equipment will allow the program to incorporate P.E. into the curriculum, which will give students skills they need when they transition to their neighborhood school. In addition, the students can utilize the gym equipment as a coping skill. **Applicant: Todd Johnson**

Tigard-Tualatin School District

\$1,000 to purchase calming sensory kits designed to assist students with special needs (such as autism), that involve sensory regulation difficulties, who are placed in the general education setting. The goal is to eventually have one kit in every elementary school in the school district available for checkout as needed throughout each school building and between students at each building. **Applicant: Stephanie Johnson**

Northwest Regional ESD's Tualatin Early Childhood Center Special Education Preschool

\$780 to purchase an adapted tricycle that will benefit a variety of special education needs including children with significant developmental delays and orthopedic impairments (such as Down syndrome and Cerebral palsy). The adapted tricycle will be used throughout the center to work on motor skill development and overall strengthening. **Applicant: Gayle Hernandez**

Beaverton School District

\$588 to purchase reading comprehension materials for students with intellectual disabilities, communication disorders, and limited verbal skills in the self-contained classroom at Greenway Elementary School. The students struggle with learning the way typical students learn. Books, puppets, story sequencing cards, a flannel board and flannel pieces will allow them to show their understanding of a story without having to use words. **Applicant: Vicki Korpi**

Northwest Regional ESD's P.A.C.E. Program in the Hillsboro School District

\$200 to replace an unusable basketball hoop at the P.A.C.E program at Glencoe High School. P.A.C.E. serves students with disabilities including cognitive, speech communication, orthopedic, psychological and behavioral issues. A new basketball hoop will provide a safe physical activity as well reinforce functional coping skills. **Applicant: Jeremy Cole**

ABOUT NORTHWEST REGIONAL ESD FOUNDATION

Northwest Regional ESD Foundation provides financial assistance to the public school programs of Northwest Regional Education Service District and component districts by funding projects benefiting young children and students with special needs and those who are at-risk in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, and Washington counties, Oregon. The Foundation is a fully qualified, nonprofit charitable organization. To learn more visit www.nwresdfoundation.org.