

Northwest Regional ESD FOUNDATION

Supporting Special Education

Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, & Washington Counties, OR

503-614-1252 5825 NE Ray Circle, Hillsboro OR 97124 Tax ID: 20-5449967



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Northwest Regional ESD Foundation
mstenberg@nwresd.k12.or.us
503-614-1252 | Fax: 503-614-1283
5825 NE Ray Circle, Hillsboro OR 97124
Toll-free in Oregon: 1-888-990-7500
www.nwresdfoundation.org

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release November 13, 2014

Local Foundation awards 15 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 \$13,063 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 who have barriers to learning.

Since 2006, the foundation has awarded 351 grants totaling \$280,020, making a difference in the lives of 41,464 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:

CLATSOP COUNTY AWARDS

Astoria School District

Applicant: Liane Donovan, Resource Room Teacher

\$660 – Math Intervention Program for Students Receiving Special Education Services at Astoria Middle School. “Algebra City” is evidence-based intervention curriculum that targets support to students whose cognitive levels make it difficult for them to access the traditional curriculum. These students require intensive support to be successful and the success they experience in math will carry over to other areas of learning and life.

Early Childhood Special Education Preschool at Seaside Heights Elementary in Astoria

Applicant: Sandy Luth, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher

\$363 – Early Literacy Curriculum. Zoophonics is an effective, evidence-based curriculum that teaches the alphabet, phonemic awareness, rhyming, pre-sound blending and pre-writing to children with disabilities from 18 months to age 6. The goal is to help them develop essential literacy skills to prepare for kindergarten and beyond.

Early Childhood Special Education Preschool at Gray Elementary in Astoria

Applicant: Heather Leader, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher

\$721 – Social-Emotional Skills for Early Learning (one Second Step kit and two sets of six additional teaching tools for the Early Learning level). The young children in the program at Gray Elementary face academic challenges due to their disabilities and lack of social skills development. Second Step is an evidence-based program that helps them learn skills to manage their feelings, make friends, and solve problems. The goal is to support them in entering kindergarten more ready to learn because they have developed self-regulation skills and coping strategies that will allow them to self-manage their behavior.

COLUMBIA COUNTY AWARDS

Early Childhood Special Education Preschool / St. Helens

Applicant: Cynthia Jaeger, Northwest Regional ESD Administrator and Coordinator of Early Intervention/Early Childhood Education

\$750 – Social-Emotional Skills for Early Learning (two Second Steps kits). Early mental health starts with teaching young children about emotions, self-regulation, empathy, friendship skills, and problem solving. Learning these skills prior to kindergarten is key to being "ready to learn" as they enter the school age system. The Second Step Program, developed by the Committee For Children, uses developmentally and behaviorally appropriate practices for young children with disabilities, and helps to prepare them for social and academic success.

TILLAMOOK COUNTY AWARDS

Nestucca Valley School District

Applicant: Dia Norris, Speech Language Pathologist

\$520 – Wireless Printer to Support the Educational Goals of 10 Students in the Life Skills Program Nestucca High School. The students participate in the operation of a school-based business: BBB Enterprises. The business allows them to experience social communication and language activities, advertising, production, sales, accounting, and other business functions required to monitor earnings, expectations, and evaluation of the business. The printer will be used for the BBB Enterprises team to develop and print business documents including fliers, business cards, and accounting documentation, during Life Skills class time.

Tillamook School District

Applicant: Tina Weeks, Special Education Teacher

\$635 – Items to Support Behavior and Community 2nd and 3rd Graders with Behavioral and Academic Challenges. The grant will support the Special Ed Team at South Prairie Elementary School in Tillamook in building resources and tools to motivate their most challenging behavioral students to experience academic success and build a sense of community within the school environment. Items include a classroom rug , trikes, and functional skills dolls.

WASHINGTON COUNTY AWARDS

Forest Grove School District

Applicant: Kathleen DiCarlo, Special Education Teacher

\$650 – Material to set up a Communication Station. The program at Tom McCall Upper Elementary supports 25, 5th and 6th grade elementary students with significant disabilities including autism, intellectual disabilities, and visual impairments. These children have limited communication abilities and many are nonverbal. The goal is to improve their language abilities so they can communicate basic needs verbally or non-verbally. Material includes picture exchange communication cards ("PECs"), lotto games (i.e. addressing community skills; vocabulary, etc.), CDs (for categorization and basic concepts), and books that address themes including safety and nutrition.

Hillsboro School District

Applicant: Heather Hafner, Life Skills Teacher

\$1,000 – Hands-on Culinary Arts Instruction for Students with Disabilities. The Life Skills program at Glencoe High School supports 24 students with moderate to severe disabilities, who require extended, in-depth training in a variety of domestic living, job readiness, and community safety skills so they can lead a more fulfilling, safe, independent adult life. Students will learn to act safely in a kitchen environment, follow recipes and written/verbal instructions, and use appropriate personal hygiene and cleaning skills that they will draw upon throughout their entire lives.

Sherwood School District

Applicant: Cara Bobeda, Learning Specialist

\$370 – Supplementary Reading Resources for Life Skills Program. Funds will be used to purchase two Edmark Reading Program Level 1 and 2 resource flash drives. These drives contain supplementary Edmark material that will allow the program to 1.) work on increasing comprehension, vocabulary, spelling and social skills; 2.) make necessary copies through the district's print shop at a cost-saving; 3.) use the materials over and over. The goal is to provide a literacy rich learning environment to every student regardless of ability.

Northwest Regional Education Service District

Applicant: Kathleen Andre, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher at Hillsboro Early Childhood Center

\$360 – Communication Books for Toddlers with Significant Verbal Delays. The number one reason most parents bring their child to have them evaluated for special education services is that they want their child to be able to tell them what they want or need. One tool that we can give children if they don't have verbal language is to teach them the picture exchange communication system or "PECS". This system uses visual pictures of items, descriptors, actions that can be formed into sentences that the child can use to express wants or needs. Each child needs his/her own book of pictures to use both at home and at school in order for this system to be effective – the book becomes the child's voice.

Northwest Regional Education Service District

Applicant: Amy Stevens, Speech Language Pathologist

\$1,819 – Support for Parent Trainings: The "Hanan More Than Words" training empowers parents who have non-verbal children to understand their child's unique learning style, to teach basic concepts of communication and language development, to understand the role of play, and to build the child's active participation in extended turn-taking interactions with others.

Northwest Regional Education Service District

Applicant: Stacy Rager, Principal, Woodside Early Childhood Center

\$1,000 – Support for Parent Trainings: "The Explosive Child". The goal of the seven-week training is to support parents in helping their preschool children acquire better problem solving skills. When parents learn proven methods for interacting with their behaviorally and developmentally challenged child, the home environment improves and the child learns foundational skills for problem solving – significantly improving their chances for school success.

Northwest Regional Education Service District

Applicant: Lori Kellogg, Principal, Tualatin Early Childhood Center

Submitted on behalf of Washington County's Early Intervention Advisory Council (EIAC)

\$1,000 – Support for Parent Trainings: Various Topics. Early Childhood specialists have found that they have the greatest impact in supporting children with special needs by providing them with strategies and interventions that can be infused throughout everyday activities and routines. The grant funds will support three evening parent education training opportunities at each of the three Early Childhood Education Centers in Washington County (Hillsboro, Beaverton, and Tualatin). Topics will include supporting positive behaviors, potty training, kindergarten transition, early literacy, communication strategies, and routines (ways families can embed interventions into everyday activities).

Northwest Regional Education Service District

Applicant: Heather Davis, Deaf Hard of Hearing Teacher

\$500 – An iPad to help a high school student with hearing loss, severe dyslexia, and other learning disabilities to communicate through voice to text technology. His inability to read and write proficiently is holding him back, yet he is a very bright student who will go the distance with the right tools.

Northwest Regional Education Service District

Applicant: Brenda Hancock, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher

\$2,715 – Support for Parent Trainings: “Teaching Social Communication to Children with Autism (And related disabilities)” is an evidence-based training that includes individual coaching sessions with families and their child. Parents are given step-by-step, practical guidelines to promote the social-communication skills of their child. The grant will support five, three-hour parent training sessions at each of the ESD’s three Early Childhood Ed Centers in Washington County in Hillsboro, Beaverton, and Tualatin.

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.

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President: Jeff Condit—Attorney, Miller Nash, LLP

President-Elect & Treasurer: Yuen Chin—Chief Financial Officer Willamette Dental Group

Secretary: Dr. Joseph Christy—Retired Director of Washington County Juvenile Department

Karen Foley—Clinical Program Executive, Orthopedic Institute; Providence Health and Services - Oregon

Steve Petruzelli—Retired President and CEO, Willamette Dental Group

Justin Philpott—Vice President, Umpqua Bank

NWRESD BOARD LIAISON

Patrick Braatz, Executive Director, Oregon Board of Dentistry

ADVISORY BOARD

- Columbia County: Joan Steiner, Special Education Director - Scappoose School District
- Clatsop County: Leila Collier, Special Education Director - Knappa School District
- Tillamook County: Dave Hollandsworth, State Farm Insurance
- Washington County: Katie Riley, Community Volunteer