

THE BENTON COUNTY FOUNDATION

Investing in Our Youth and Community

SINCE 1953

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

SPRING 2008

Father Turns Tragedy into Hope for Children by Establishing the Karly Sheehan Memorial Fund



Karly Sheehan

To memorialize his beloved daughter lost to death on June 3, 2005, David Sheehan recently established the **Karly Sheehan Memorial Fund**. Proceeds from the fund will support ABC House, CASA—Voices for Children, and Linn Benton Food Share.

Three-year-old Karly died from abuse by David's ex-wife's boyfriend, who is serving a life sentence for the crime.

In an initial outpouring of compassion from community members, David received numerous donations along with sympathy cards.

"It was pretty shocking, even to people who didn't really know us," said David. "So I'd get sympathy cards from people and there could be \$25 in there—one of my co-workers gave me a check for \$100. I wanted to do something with it."

He wanted to use the money, plus some funds of his own, to build a small playground in Avery Park where he and Karly had spent many happy hours.

He approached the Corvallis Parks & Recreation Dept., and they completely supported the idea. He said Steve McGettigan, volunteer coordinator, provided invaluable help to the project, including helping to install the play structures.

David was planning and installing the playground during preparations for the

trial that sent Karly's murderer to prison. "It was a positive experience during such a dark period," he said. "It was a ray of hope in that respect."

The playground was ready for eager young children to test it out by spring 2006. A small plaque with a ladybug on it serves as a cheerful reminder of Karly's playful spirit.

"Karly was all about ladybugs," said David. "We'd go play in fields and we'd have ladybugs crawling all over each of us—as many as we could find."

Once that project was complete, David still wanted to do more. About that time his friend, John Hogan, held a spaghetti feed to raise funds for ongoing maintenance of the play structure. The fundraiser was quite successful.

"As a result, I had this other pool of money," said David. After giving it some thought, he got John's agreement to divert those funds to another purpose and instead enrolled some friends in performing annual maintenance on the playground.

His sister in Ireland participated in a 10K run as a fundraiser, and David had some money set aside for Karly's college fund. Together with another personal donation, he had enough to create an endowment.

He first considered setting up his own private foundation, but discovered it would be a time-consuming undertaking and he felt his time would be better spent focusing on his job and earning money to put toward the fund.

When several people mentioned the Benton County Foundation, David researched it and decided it would serve his purpose quite well.

"Having the infrastructure of the foundation is a huge asset," he said. "The fact that you can name the fund and help direct where the money goes—it seemed to suit me well in that respect. And I wanted it to stay as local as possible—that's really why I chose the foundation."

David was born and raised in Kenmare, Ireland, and went to college in



Avery Park playground donated by David Sheehan in memory of Karly

Limerick, graduating in 1996 with a degree in mechanical engineering.

He began working for Hewlett-Packard in Ireland a couple weeks after graduating. In 1996, he came to Corvallis for a nine-month training period, and then commuted between the sites for a few years before obtaining a full-time position in Corvallis in 1999.

He left Hewlett-Packard in 2004 and now works at ATS Systems Oregon as a project manager.

David married in 1998, but was later divorced. Karly was born January 4, 2002.

"She was a real joy from the outset—really easy going, great sense of humor," said David. "She had an innate sense of kindness even when she was one."

He said that when Karly moved from one daycare room to the other, she always went over to check on the newborn babies. When she was older, she would mediate disputes between kids.



Karly and David Sheehan

"There were times when she caused disputes, too, don't get me wrong, but she progressed to mediating," he said, smiling. "She was just really kind, very bright, very talkative."

David wants to do what he can to make sure other children don't get caught in the same situation Karly faced in her short life.

"I really think—and this is a lofty goal and I'm not sure it's even attainable—but I think every kid should have an equal shot at life," he said.

"I think it's a pretty sad reflection of our society that there are certain fundamentals that kids just don't have. I just wanted to try to do a little bit to level that playing field. Hopefully these three agencies will be able to benefit from the endowment." ♦



The Biddle-Porter house at NW 6th and Harrison in Corvallis

Progress on a New Home

The Benton County Foundation continues to make progress toward an attractive, highly visible, and permanent home office. The John and Jan Beardsley family have generously agreed to donate the Biddle-Porter House at 6th and Harrison for this purpose while preserving a historical community treasure.

The foundation's zoning and usage applications were approved by the Corvallis Planning Commission in June 2007 and by the Historic Resource Commission in January 2008. Before the foundation takes ownership of the property, work is being completed to remove an oil tank and asbestos in the basement, improve the crawl space, and replace some posts and beams. The Benton County Foundation will be receiving a house with "a solid foundation."

The foundation plans to take ownership of the Biddle-Porter House this summer. A generous gift from the Bob and Billie Holcomb family is helping to meet the requirements for ADA accessibility (parking, access, and bathroom), repair siding and paint, purchase signage, and cover other expenses as necessary for occupancy. The foundation is beginning the city permit process with the support of volunteers, including David Livingston and Cy Stadsvold.

In May, 2007, the foundation's board of directors established the **Facilities Endowment Fund**. Generous contributions have been received from the **Ray and Genny Stephenson Family Fund** and the **Pete and Linda Sekermestrovich Family Fund**. Most recently, **John and Evelyn Stephens Endowment Fund** created a dedicated fund in support of the Facilities Endowment Fund.

If you are interested in visiting the Biddle-Porter House and discussing support for the Facilities Endowment Fund, please call Dick Thompson, executive director of the Benton County Foundation. ♦

Beneficiaries of the Karly Sheehan Memorial Fund

Anyone can make a contribution to Karly's fund through the Benton County Foundation. Donations will go to support the following organizations:

ABC House

Since 1997, ABC House in Albany has provided services to more than 3,200 children from Linn and Benton Counties, ranging in age from 0 to 18 years old. It is a child advocacy center that provides a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for abused children and their non-offending family members. The organization provides the services to lessen or stop the hurt children are experiencing and help them to begin healing.

ABC House is part of a multidisciplinary team responsible for helping abused children. Members of the team are county district attorneys, law enforcement agencies, depart-

ments of human services, juvenile departments, CASA—Voices for Children, offices of parole and probation, and mental health departments. No tax dollars fund the agency. Twenty percent of the organization's budget comes from private donations.

CASA—Voices for Children

CASA—Voices for Children is a Benton County child advocacy organization that recruits, trains, and professionally supports court-appointed community volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children. It helps give voice to children by advocating for every child's right to a safe, nurturing upbringing.

Operating on a relatively small budget, CASA is a state-mandated program that is dependent upon a mix of fundraising strategies, including private donations. For the current year, 37 percent of the organization's funding comes from individual donations.

Linn Benton Food Share

One of every six families in Linn and Benton counties depends on food from an emergency food pantry at least once each year. Children comprise more than 40 percent of those who receive emergency food assistance, and they feel the helplessness of hunger most deeply.

Linn Benton Food Share is the regional food bank for Linn and Benton Counties. It prevents hunger by soliciting, transporting, storing, and distributing over five million pounds of food each year to 70 member agencies, including emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, child and senior care centers, shelter homes, and gleaners groups. The estimated value of the food currently distributed is \$6,950,000.



Ladybug memorial at Karly's Avery Park playground

Inside...

Page 2

2008 grants and scholarships
American Legion scholarship
Dave & Nita Smith fund

Page 3

Executive director's message
Locke Cemetery fund
Heartland Humane Society fund
Joy Ragsdale joins board

Page 4

Meritorius Service award
Founder's Trophy
Creating an endowment

Foundation Awards \$321,000 to Nonprofits

The Benton County Foundation awarded grants and dedicated funds to the following organizations in 2008:

Alpine Community Center
Alsea Rural Health Care, Inc.
Alsea Valley Gleaners
American Legion Corvallis Post #11
Assistance League of Corvallis
Benton Co 4-H
Benton County Historical Society & Museum
Benton County Sheriff's Office
Benton District Boy Scouts of America
Benton Furniture Share
Benton Hospice Service
Boys & Girls Club of Albany
Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis
Camp Fire USA, Willamette Council
CASA—Voices for Children
Chamber Music Corvallis
Chintimini Wildlife Center
Community Outreach
Cornerstone Associates, Inc.
Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center
Crescent Valley High School Booster Club
Crescent Valley High School Cross-Country & Track
Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
Corvallis High School Cross-Country & Track
Corvallis Parks & Recreation
Corvallis Police Cadet program
Corvallis Safety Town (Boy & Girl Club)
Corvallis Youth Symphony Association
Corvallis—OSU Symphony Society
DaVinci Days
Friends of Corvallis Police, Inc.
Friends of the Family Ministries
Girl Scouts of Santiam Council
Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center
Pediatric Unit
Grace Center
Heart of the Valley Children's Choir
Heartland Humane Society
Jackson Street Youth Shelter
Life Seeds
Linn Benton Food Share
Love INC
Majestic Theater
Mary's River Gleaners
Meals on Wheels
Old Mill Center for Children & Families
OSU Adventures in Learning TAG Program
OSU Expeditions
OSU Outside the Box
OSU Saturday Academy
OSU College of Veterinary Medicine
Parent Enhancement Program-PEP
Philomath Community Pool
Philomath Community Services
Philomath High School Cross-Country & Track
Philomath Scout Lodge, Inc.
Philomath Youth Activities Club
Quilts from Caring Hands
Rotary Club of Corvallis
Rotary Club of Philomath
Samaritan Village
Sandcastle Preschool
South Benton Co. Gleaners, Inc.
South Benton Community Enhancement
Stone Soup of Corvallis
Strengthening Rural Families
Vina Moses Center
We Care/Corvallis-Benton County Council of Religious Organizations
OSU Winter Wonderings for TAG Youth

\$204,000 Awarded to Scholarship Recipients

The Benton County Foundation board of directors is pleased to announce its selection of 2008 scholarship recipients. Approximately \$204,000 will be awarded for high school and renewal scholarships, OSU Opportunity Scholarships, and Military Science Scholarships. The following list includes recipients of high school and renewals selected so far. Additional donor-advised scholarships may be selected at a later date.

Ruth & Julian Adams Scholarship
Alexandra George, Philomath High
Hannah Kessi, Santiam Christian High

Maybelle Lilly Game Carlson Scholarship
Taney Chau, Corvallis High

Citizens Bank Scholarship
Kimbun E. Leelaomvichet, Oregon State University

Coopey Boys' Scholarship
Patrik Nabelek, Corvallis High
Ayla Rogers, Crescent Valley High

Corvallis Women's Club Scholarship
Anna Dennis, University of Oregon

John & Nancy Dennis Scholarship
Michael Dimock, Alsea High
Matthew Christopher, Corvallis High
Riley Herbes, Crescent Valley High
Drew Hubbard, Monroe High School
Vathan Logendran, Crescent Valley High

Loene P. Guthrie Scholarship
MariAnne Nikkel

Otto J. & Adelia M. Hahn Scholarship
Stuart Ashenbrenner, Monroe High
Haley Dyer, Linfield College
Stacy Eash, Santiam Christian High
Michelle Land, Santiam Christian High
Alissa Robertson-Witt, University of Portland
Stephanie Smith, Monroe High
Isaac Sutter, Santiam Christian High

Peter & Barbara Hutton Scholarship
Terri DeJager, Santiam Christian High

Dorothy May Jenks Scholarship
Justin Chi
Katie Satak

Robin V. Jensen Scholarship
Jenny Bernieri, University of Pittsburgh
Brittany Crocker, Philomath High School

Knights of Pythias Scholarship
Samantha Bird, Crescent Valley High School
Warner Hansen, Corvallis High School
Lindsey Schweich, Alsea High School

Vic & Emily Logan Scholarship
Nabelek Patrik, Corvallis High School
Watson Daniel, Corvallis High School

John C. & Jeanne L. Mackey Scholarship
Margot Draeger, Crescent Valley High
Alexander Fortune, Crescent Valley High
Chelsea Smith, Crescent Valley High

Loren J. Smith & Audrey W. Smith Scholarship
Stephen Gullerud, Corvallis High
Megan Jaeger, Corvallis High

Daniel E. & Dorothy Petrequin Scholarship
Kristy Headings, Oregon State University

Marjorie Rowett Sutherland Scholarship
Michael Joos, Corvallis High
Casey Higgins, Corvallis High

Dale & Thomasina Trout Scholarship
Wonmo Ahn, Crescent Valley High
Justin Chi, Crescent Valley High
Katie Elwer, Santiam Christian High
Diana Garity, Stanford University
Jordan Gerding, Santiam Christian High
Emily Gholson, Philomath High
Catherine Gifford, Crescent Valley High
Tashina Green, Philomath High
Aaron Grossberg, Crescent Valley High
Sean Hunter, Oregon State University
Kayly Lembke, Scripps College
Brigid Meints, Scripps College
Katie Nelson, Crescent Valley High
Amelia Yeager, Crescent Valley High
Renee Wai, Corvallis High
Elizabeth Young, Crescent Valley High

Patricia McEwan Wilson Scholarship
Brooke Maxwell, Oregon State University
Sheradan Munday, Oregon State University

OSU Opportunity Scholarship Recipients Selected

During the first quarter of 2008, the Benton County Foundation completed an agreement with the OSU Foundation that transferred the responsibility for the financial management and selection process of eight scholarship funds. More than \$2.5 million was transferred to the Benton County Foundation, and the March selection process resulted in 35 student scholarship awards, totaling \$105,600 for the 2008-09 academic year. These scholarship recipients range from high school seniors planning to attend OSU to current OSU doctorate students.

The scholarship selection committee included Erin Haynes, Jo Anne Trow, and Rob Gardner. They were supported by Kate Peterson, OSU assistant provost; Allison Davis-White Eyes, director, OSU American Indian Initiatives, and Dick Thompson.

In recognition of the successful relationship and selection of the first recipients of the OSU Opportunity Scholarships, J. Michael Goodwin, president and CEO of the OSU Foundation wrote, "By all accounts, the Benton County Foundation has done a terrific job of working with the university and OSU Foundation on the transfer of these eight scholarship funds...The university is fortunate to have such a great community partner as the Benton County Foundation."

American Legion Establishes Military Science Scholarship

by Mike Rainbolt



American Legion Post #11 Honor Guard. Left to right: Dave Church, Paul Bousquet, Bill Bishop, Blaine Young, Grant Scott, Bill Dixon. The Honor Guard Commander is John Morford.

The newest Military Science Scholarship Endowment Fund award has been established by Post 11, Corvallis American Legion. The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, wartime veterans' organization.

The Wythecomb Post (Corvallis) was organized in 1919 with W.H. Ellenburg as commander and was the 11th American Legion Post organized in Oregon. Its members have served their country proudly during time of conflict throughout the 20th century to the present day.

In Benton County, the post sponsors representatives to Boys State from Corvallis High School, Crescent Valley High School, and Santiam Christian High School. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 11 sponsors attendees to Girls State. Post 11 has a long history of support to the community and to American Legion Baseball. The post supports the Veterans' Hospital in Roseburg, Oregon.

Post 11 has an active color guard that renders honors at funerals for veterans, participates in Veterans Day and Memorial Day activities, places flags on veterans' graves at Crystal Lake Cemetery, and presents the colors at Legion baseball

games. The Legion also teaches flag etiquette and provides access to local schools and scout organizations.

The post annually holds a local oratorical contest for Benton County high school students. The purpose of the American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest is to develop a better understanding and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students.

Other objectives of the contest include developing leadership qualities and the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and preparing for acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship.

The American Legion, Post 11 ROTC Scholarship provides an annual award to four ROTC students at Oregon State University; one each for Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps students. OSU is one of only a small number of universities nationwide that has all four services represented on campus. The post has awarded these scholarships for many years, but only recently established an endowment fund with the Benton County Foundation to ensure perpetuation of the scholarships for years to come. ♦

David & Nita Smith Endowment Fund Benefits Historical Society



Nita and David Smith

The **David & Nita Smith Endowment Fund** will provide general operating support for the Benton County Historical Society. Dave and Nita established the fund to help support the historical society's efforts to build and sustain a home for the Horner Collection.

The couple has many fond memories of visiting the collection before it was stored away for lack of a proper viewing facility.

"I really miss it," said Nita. "We have friends who have wonderful family [heirlooms] they've given to the museum, and I think they're disappointed they're not being shown."

Dave and Nita had the foundation listed as a beneficiary in their will for many years. However, after learning about the historical society's efforts to provide viewing space for the Horner Collection, they decided to create an endowment to support the cause.

"We decided rather than wait until we died, we'd stimulate this program now," said Dave.

Dave and Nita settled in Corvallis in 1954. Since that time, Dave has been a tireless servant of his community. In addition to numerous other community service activities, he joined the Benton County Foundation board of directors in 1979 as a representative of the Greater Corvallis Rotary Club and served as president in 1980-81. He has witnessed much growth in the foundation since that time.

"During the years I was president, the corpus reached \$300,000 and we thought we were really moving along," he said. "Then a fellow named Bernard Guthrie left his estate to the foundation and pretty soon things began climbing on up."

During his time on the board, Dave helped expand the grant application process to help board members make informed decisions about funding.

Dave was born in Heppner, Oregon. The family moved to Corvallis in 1934, and Dave graduated from Corvallis High School in 1948. He earned a degree in business administration and industrial engineering from Oregon State in 1952.

Nita Fitzsimmons was born in Des Moines, Iowa. Her family moved to Chicago when she was in high school, and then she went back to Iowa to attend college. When her family moved to Oregon she transferred to Oregon State, where she met Dave. The couple married in 1952 and raised two children, Victoria and Mark.

Dave founded the David F. Smith Insurance Agency in 1965, which he built into one of the largest State Farm Insurance agencies in Oregon before retiring in 1990. Nita was active in the Assistance League, PEO Sisterhood, and Chi Omega sorority. When her children were younger, she was a Camp Fire leader.

The Benton County Historical Society is a nonprofit organization that preserves and sustains the history and culture of the mid-Willamette Valley. It is responsible for housing the Horner Collection, which includes nearly 60,000 historical objects. The collection was previously housed at OSU, but public access to it was lost in 1995 due to University-wide budget cuts. The society has embarked on an \$8.5 million capital campaign to build a

Dave and Nita established the fund to help support the historical society's efforts to build and sustain a home for the Horner Collection.

museum in downtown Corvallis to provide access to the collection.

Dave and Nita are happy to make a difference to the Benton County Historical Society. "We've been really grateful for living in Corvallis and for all the facilities that were offered to our family," said Nita. "This may be a little payback." ♦

A Message from the Executive Director

Your Community Foundation – Growing Local Philanthropy

In 1953, a small group of Corvallis Rotarians led by Percy Locey decided that a separate organization formed from the Rotary Club should be created to help the children of Benton County. In 1954, a three-member committee led by Dick Hanson, president of the Rotary Club of Corvallis, worked with attorney John Thomas to create the Benton County Foundation. It began with a nest egg of \$2,500—\$1,000 from Bob Johnson, owner and publisher of the *Corvallis Times*, and \$1,500 from the Rotary Club.

Since that time, the foundation has grown dramatically. Today, the impact of the founders' foresight and generosity is making a real difference in Benton County and beyond. In 2003, our assets were a little more than \$5 million and the distribution of dollars to local nonprofit organizations and students totaled approximately \$115,000. The foundation has grown steadily in the past five years, and today the total assets under management are more than \$11.5 million. This year, the board authorized a distribution of five percent, which allowed us to distribute more than \$500,000.

We're proud of another significant accomplishment this past quarter: completing a partnership agreement that resulted in the transfer of approximately \$2.5 million from the OSU Foundation to the Benton County Foundation. This transaction included transferring responsibility for managing the selection process for eight OSU Opportunity Scholarships (see article on page 2). Thank you to the OSU Foundation for putting their trust in us to manage this important ongoing process.

It is an honor to manage more than 190 endowment funds for individuals and local organizations. Our goal is to continue to grow local philanthropy—especially our unrestricted Community Fund—so we can serve the increasing needs of our youth and community.

Thank you for your support of the Benton County Foundation!



Dick Thompson

Pioneer Cemetery Establishes Maintenance Fund



Gloria Munger and Bill Ryals stand next to the entrance stone at Locke Cemetery

Locke Cemetery, one of the oldest cemeteries in Oregon, recently established an endowment fund to ensure that adequate funds will always be available for maintaining the burial grounds.

Locke Cemetery Association is governed by a five-person board of directors that meets annually the week-end before Memorial Day. Current board members are Bill Ryals, president; Gloria Munger, secretary-treasurer; Dr. Robert Steele; Frank Ryals; and Elaine Forrest.

Until Bill's father, Francis Leon Ryals, joined the board in 1963, income from donations and the sale of burial plots was sitting in a bank account. Leon invested the money in stocks and bonds to begin growing a nest-egg for the cemetery.

"We ran [the cemetery] on sort of a shoestring, and every penny that came into it pretty much went into the investments," said Bill, who kept the lawn mowed when he was younger.

When Leon became ill around 1990, Henry Coleman, a financial consultant, took over the presidency and handled the investments. When Henry left the board, the existing board realized they needed to rethink their investment strategy.

"Suddenly we realized that the existing board didn't have either the expertise or interest to be responsible for all of this," said Dr. Steele, "so the foundation was just perfect for us."

Dr. Steele said the board was attracted to the foundation because of the security it provides for the cemetery's funds.

"Once the funds are there, they can't be removed," he said. Board members trust the foundation to invest and manage their funds wisely.

In recent years, much of the maintenance for the cemetery has been handled by various service organizations, but the board wants to ensure that funds are available in case of a catastrophic event

such as a major storm or vandalism. Also, as the area around the burial plot becomes more populated, it may be necessary to fence the land.

As part of A.N. Locke's donation land claim, Locke Cemetery was established in 1846. The cemetery encompasses approximately four acres of land on top of a hill off Lewisburg Road. Old-growth firs and deciduous trees lend grace and beauty to the natural setting. On a clear day, visitors can view the Three Sisters. About 50 veterans are buried there, including Sergeant Henry H. Brinkley, a Civil War veteran who was born in 1838 and died in 1921.

Contributions to the Locke Cemetery Association fund can be mailed to the foundation and are tax deductible. ♦

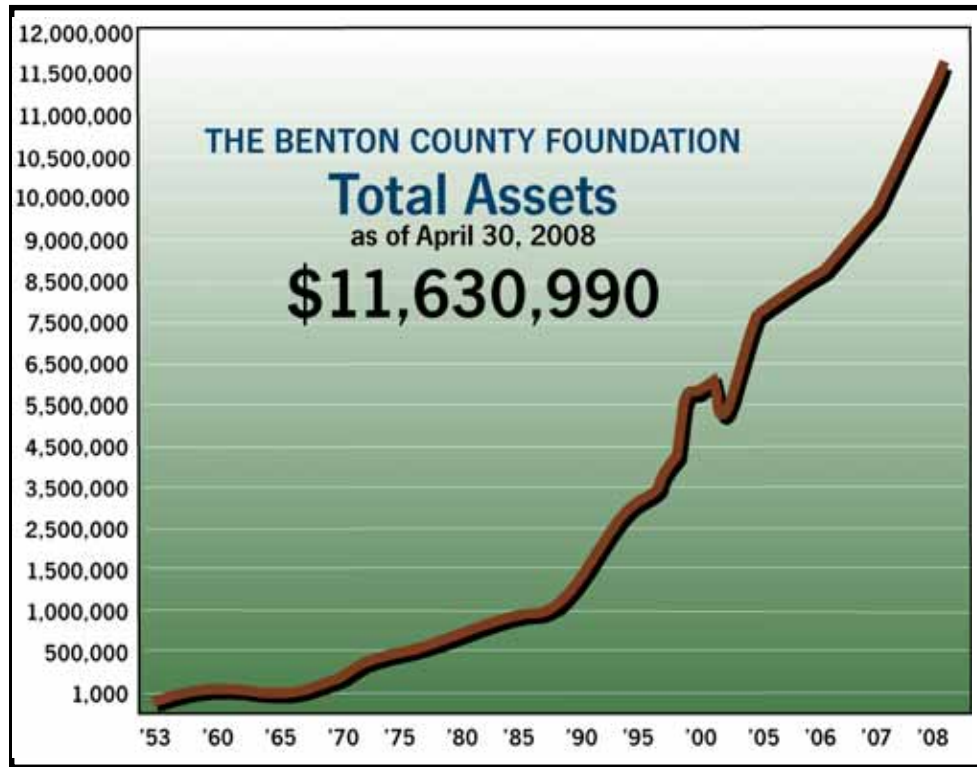
Joy Ragsdale Joins Benton County Foundation Board of Directors as Treasurer



Joy Ragsdale

Joy Ragsdale was invited to join the Benton County Foundation board of directors and her fellow members immediately elected her treasurer. She is a certified public accountant and a partner with Ingle, Carl & Ragsdale, LLC.

"I think all nonprofits need a numbers person," she said. "They need their books in order and they need to present themselves well to the community in terms of answering questions and being accountable to their donors."



Endowment Fund to Benefit Animals and Pet Owners

Heartland Humane Society recently established an endowment fund with the Benton County Foundation to provide a stable source of operating capital for the organization.

"It's a safe, responsible way for a nonprofit to save for the future and build," said Andrea Thornberry, executive director for Heartland. "It's dependable—you know it's coming."

Thornberry was previously the resource development director at the Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis, and was impressed with the way the club's endowment fund aided the budgeting process.

"It's a responsible way to handle large sums of money such as bequests," she said. She pointed out that without some kind of investment vehicle, large one-time donations might be pooled into the general operating revenue and artificially inflate income on budgeting spreadsheets. When that happens, it is easy to inflate expenses and cause budget havoc when the donation runs out.

"You can't budget for a bequest," she said. "This is a vehicle where we can even out our budgeting process. And that money is there forever, so that person is making a difference forever."

Andrea said she hopes creating the **Heartland Humane Society Endowment Fund** will encourage more people to donate to the organization.

"Having an endowment is a strong signal to people that we're thinking about our future, that we're here to stay, and that we're a dependable agency," she said.

Heartland chose the Benton County Foundation because it is local and trustworthy.

"We have a small endowment at the moment, and I like having somebody who's going to give us the attention we need—we're not going to get lost," she said. "I think it's a really great foundation."

Heartland Humane Society is a local nonprofit animal welfare organization located on S.E. Twin Oaks Circle in Corvallis. Its mission is "to build a more compassionate community by teaching

humane messages to our youth, caring for homeless animals, and strengthening the human-animal bond."

The organization serves more than 3,200 animals each year. Programs such as the Camp Catnip introduce elementary school children to various aspects of pet care.

The week-long camp occurs during spring break and the summer months. Young participants learn about various aspects of the shelter, visit with local veterinarians to learn how important it is to spay and neuter, learn about animal abuse, and much more.

Andrea said the organization's vision is to expand Camp Catnip to include special programs for at-risk youth.

"Programs that work with animals are excellent for at-risk youth," she said. "If you learn compassion for an animal, you can translate that to people."

Heartland also provides services for low-income pet owners such as a pet-food bank and administration of a spay/neuter



Heartland Humane Society

program in conjunction with local veterinarians. It offers behavior counseling and referrals, and many more programs.

Although the organization has contracts with Benton County and the City of Corvallis to house impounded strays and the victims of animal abuse, these contracts account for less than 11 percent of Heartland's annual budget. Funding comes primarily from private donations and fees for service.

Anyone can contribute to the Heartland Humane Society Endowment Fund. Donations will help to provide ongoing support and strengthen the long-term viability of the organization. ♦

sity of Oregon. Richard is retired from the Corvallis Fire Department.

Ragsdale graduated from Oregon State University in 1987 with a degree in business. She passed the CPA exam in 1987 and went to work for Sara Ingle that same year. In 2000, she became a partner in the firm. The partnership provides tax and accounting services for Individuals, partnerships, corporations, estates, and trusts.

During her leisure time, Ragsdale enjoys reading, fishing, RV camping, and traveling around the United States. She and her husband are longtime Beaver fans and hold season tickets to Beaver football, women's basketball, and women's gymnastics.

Ragsdale looks forward to making a difference for the foundation and the youth of Benton County.

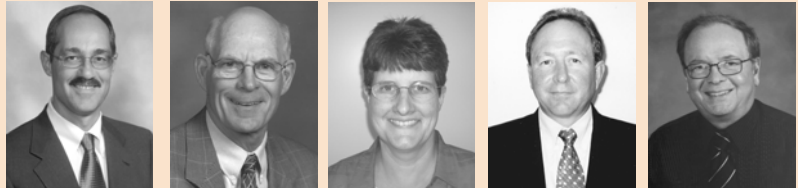
"I've been in Benton County a long time and I have a vested interest in what happens here," she said. ♦

Benton County Foundation 2008 Board of Directors

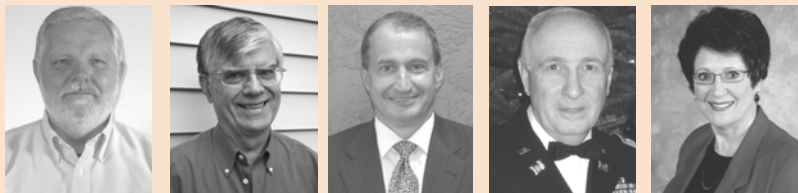


P.O. Box 911
Corvallis, OR 97339

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Benton County Foundation

P.O. Box 911
Corvallis, OR 97339
541-753-1603

www.bentoncountyfoundation.org

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Dick Thompson <i>Executive Director</i> 757-3033	Kristy Pribyl <i>Administrator</i> 753-1603
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www.bentoncountyfoundation.org

Tom Gerding Honored with 2008 Meritorious Service Award at Special Rotary Meeting



On behalf of Benton County Rotary clubs, Tom Gallagher (right) presents a check to the Benton County Foundation Executive Director Dick Thompson (left) for \$7,471.10 in honor of Tom Gerding. Gerding's son Jordan and wife Debbie share the moment.

During the Benton County Foundation's presentation at the Rotary Club of Corvallis on April 10, Tom Gerding was honored as the 2008 recipient of Rotary's Meritorious Service Award. This award annually recognizes an adult who has

made exceptional efforts to enrich the lives of Benton County youth. In addition to giving Tom an engraved plaque, Rotarians donated \$7,471.10 to the Benton County Foundation in Tom's name.

Tom's substantial contributions over the years include providing and improving facilities that support youth, such as the Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis, the Philomath Youth Activities Club, the Philomath Scout Lodge, the Children's Farm Home, Old Mill Center, Community Outreach, and Cornerstone Associates.

Tom also sponsors youth sports teams and golf tournaments. He is a lead contributor to fundraising events such as Denim & Diamonds, the Boys & Girls Club's "Celebrate Kids" breakfast, and the Old Mill Center auction.

In addition, Tom has been an assistant wrestling coach at Santiam Christian School for the past two years. He has helped the Boy Scouts for many years, and currently serves on the boards of directors for the Philomath Youth Activities Club, Southside Youth Outreach, and Santiam Christian School. ♦

Tom's substantial contributions over the years include providing and improving facilities that support youth.

OUR MISSION

The Benton County Foundation began in 1953 as a community foundation. Its mission is to build community philanthropy by establishing endowments, prudently investing the funds received, and distributing a portion of the earnings each year to benefit our youth and community. The Benton County Foundation provides a community service for individuals and organizations by managing endowment funds per donors' instructions.

GOOD WORDS

"Thank you so much for the grant you awarded to Old Mill Center for the Kinship Care Group we provide for grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other extended family members who are caring for relative children."

—Bev Larson, Executive Director
Old Mill Center for Children and Families

"Your gift for purchase of rain gear and boots for the use of Benton County youths participating in the Chintimini Wildlife Center's outdoor education programs is greatly appreciated. Your gift will help us achieve our goal of providing outstanding educational opportunities for all Benton County youths."

—Jeff Picton, Executive Director
Chintimini Wildlife Center

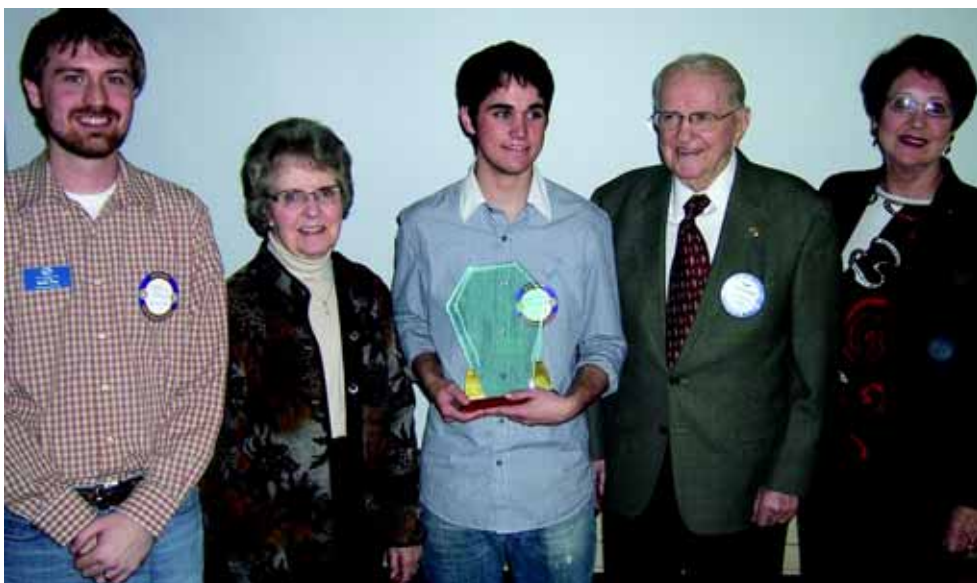
Casey Higgins Receives Founder's Trophy for Outstanding Volunteerism and Altruism

The 2008 Benton County Foundation Founder's Trophy went to Casey Higgins, an advocate for teens who has contributed years of volunteer service to various community organizations. The Founder's Trophy honors a young leader who has offered extraordinary service to Corvallis youth and comes with a check for \$2,500.

"We believe that Casey Higgins exemplifies the attributes of *Service Above Self* upon which Rotary and the Founders Trophy is based," said Matt Fee, clubhouse director at the Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis. "Casey has approached his many contributions through our organization in a way that leaves a legacy for those who will follow."

As president of the Keystone Krew leadership group at the Boys & Girls Club, Casey recognized the need for more opportunities and activities for high school kids in the community who lack the opportunity or the means to access after-school enrichment activities. His efforts led to the creation of a high school coffee shop inside the club. He led the group in defining a business plan, fundraising for materials and supplies, and helping the group set up the operation. He made it "cool" to go to the club to hang out.

Casey has volunteered at numerous nonprofit fund raisers. He also volunteers



Casey Higgins holds the Founder's Trophy, an award made possible by Bob and Billie Holcomb (flanking Higgins). Matt Fee (left), clubhouse director at the Boys and Girls Club Clubhouse and Susan Schmidt (right), Benton County Foundation board member, help to honor Higgins.

his time at the middle school dances and has coached a middle school basketball team for the past two years.

He works part time at the Lincoln after-school program, serving children from low-income households by providing additional academic, art, and science support. He acts as a mentor to middle school youth and tutors them in math. He

volunteers at the Regent Retirement center as a server to the residents. He also plays varsity tennis at Crescent Valley High School and percussion in the jazz band, marching band, pep band and symphonic band. He has been an honor roll student throughout his high school career and has completed four years of Spanish. He will be attending the University of Oregon this fall. ♦

Creating a New Endowment Fund

"Community Foundations are tax-exempt public charities created by and for the people in a local area," states the Council on Foundations. "They enable people with philanthropic interests to easily and effectively support the issues that they care about—immediately or through their wills."

The Benton County Foundation is a local organization—a community foundation—with deep roots in our community. We provide a personalized service to help create, manage, and build endowment funds that benefit our youth and community forever and help you to create a personal legacy.

It is easy to create a permanent charitable fund with the Benton County Foundation. You may choose to create a Dedicated Endowment for nonprofit groups you want to support, or you may prefer to contribute to the Community Fund and leave the distribution decisions to the foundation's board of directors. Alternatively, you may wish to create an annual scholarship that supports educational opportunities for local youth.

A sample deed of gift—your instructions that will guide the foundation on distribution of funds from your endowment—can be found under "Investment Information" on our Web site.

Please call us if you would like to discuss creating an endowment fund.