Quotes from Fall 2026 Community Grantees

Northern Oregon Coast

Filling Empty Bellies

“This funding will help us to continue our life saving work.”

~Osarch Orak
Program Director

Portland Metro Region

Columbia Business Alliance

“We are deeply thankful to Oregon Community Foundation for helping us restore free, localized business advising again in Columbia County. We’re excited to get our advisors back to work to support entrepreneurs throughout the County!”

~Sierra Trass
Economic Development Specialist

DAWN

“For Ukrainians, staying connected to culture and heritage has become even more important since the invasion. This grant will help us bring together community members together to share our traditions and stay connected to our roots, as we build new lives here in Oregon.”

~Yulia Brockdorf
Board President

Portland Cantonese Play + Learn

“From just five families in 2022 to nearly 250 today, our community has grown rapidly. This fall, we have used funding to support our Mid-Autumn Festival, helping cover event costs and learning activities for 50 children, along with their parents, grandparents and extended families. This investment allowed us to bring

generations together to experience Cantonese traditions firsthand. For many families, these gatherings provide a sense of belonging and a second home. "OCF's generous support has lifted us in so many ways, helping shape the next generation of Chinese American children, giving them a place to celebrate their heritage and feel they belong."

~Theola Wong
Founder & Executive Director

Northern Willamette Valley

Soaring Heights Recovery Home

"Recovery starts with a stable home, and for the dads at our Osprey House, that home is also where their kids live. The Oregon Community Foundation's support gave this family home new, energy-efficient windows, which means a warmer, healthier place for parents and children and lower costs we can put back into helping families thrive."

~Eric Bond Rasor
Executive Director

Southern Oregon Coast

Bandon Food and Flourish

"Through compassionate and consistent community engagement, Bandon Food and Flourish fosters hope, encourages resiliency and helps individuals thrive. Bandon Food and Flourish's resources and assistance programs are available to anyone who seeks assistance, and is free from judgment, discrimination and bias."

Services include:

Free Fridays: Free food, clothing, hygiene products, bedding, and camping supplies for those in need within the Coos County and Bandon Area.
Youth and Family Assistance: Bandon Food and Flourish provides groceries weekly to students within the grade school, middle school, and Headstart program, as well as hygiene supplies for the school nurse program.
C.A.R.E. (Community Acquired Resources for Everyone) Coordination: Bandon Food and Flourish has contracted a community outreach specialist to connect folks in need with food and clothing, community resources and outreach assistance.
Peer to Peer garbage pickup: The C.A.R.E. coordinator has spearheaded a campsite and community cleanup program for unhoused individuals living and camping within the Bandon vicinity.

~Sheila Howe
President

Southern Oregon

Ashland Family YMCA

“At the Ashland Family YMCA, we believe every child deserves a chance to learn, grow, and thrive. With our fifth preschool classroom opening at Orchard Hill Elementary in Medford, we're building on a program that's already making a difference for local families. This $20,000 grant from the Oregon Community Foundation will help make preschool more affordable for families who need it and help us bring wonderful, caring teachers onto our team. Because the truth is, the people who spend their days with our children make all the difference. We want every child to feel safe, loved, encouraged, and excited to learn. We're so grateful to OCF for helping us give more children a strong start and build a brighter future for our community and beyond.”

~Suzie Sanders
Preschool Director

Central Oregon

Upper Deschutes Watershed Council

“Thanks to support from OCF, we will be connecting 400 students from La Pine, Sunriver and Sisters to local rivers and streams in through hands-on and empowering outdoor educational activities that inspire them to develop an informed sense of place and healthy sense of self.”

~Kolleen Yake
Education and Development Director

Eastern Oregon

Fishtrap

Live theater is “a wonderful and new way to engage with Fishtrap’s mission to cultivate clear thinking and good writing. The opportunity to experience or participate in person performances in a remote rural place like Wallowa County is rare. This Community grant helps makes that work possible. Whether our folks have an itch to perform on stage, have always wanted to hear their words

performed out loud, or want to be entertained for an hour or two, with OCF's support, Fishtrap is creating a program for them."

~Shannon McNerney
Executive Director