



Dallas Community Foundation



**Celebrating 20 Years of Giving**

2015 Annual Report

---

# ***Celebrating 20 Years of Giving***

It all started with a vision—a charitable fund that would benefit the present and future needs of the Dallas community. Twenty years later, the fund has assets exceeding \$1.7 million. At the direction of the Foundation’s board of directors, nearly \$500,000 has been given back to the Dallas community in scholarships and grants.

Mike Buhler and LaVonne Wilson, founding members of the Foundation, retired from the board this fall. In their 20 years of dedicated service, Mike and LaVonne were a guiding force in the Foundation’s growth and instrumental in establishing programs that give back to the community. Both will be greatly missed, but their efforts will continue on. Thank you for your service, Mike and LaVonne!



*Retiring board members,  
LaVonne Wilson and Mike Buhler*



*Dallas Community Foundation board of directors and staff. Front row, l to r: Bob Ottaway, Susan Morrill, Chantel Williamson, Mia Mohr, Bob Brannigan, Jim Fowler. Back row, l to r: Lane Shetterly, Bob Timmerman, Dave Pederson, Dave Parrett.*

---

## ***Our impact in the Dallas Community...***

### **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

In 2015, Dallas Community Foundation proudly sponsored Dallas Summerfest, Sounds of Summer Concert Series, Art in the Park and Dallas Family Night Out.





# Our impact in the Dallas Community...

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Over \$20,000 in scholarships was awarded to 18 Dallas High School graduating seniors to continue their post-secondary education. The Foundation administers 13 scholarship funds.

### 2015 Scholarship Recipients

#### **Amercian Legion**

*Hannah Johnson*

#### **Beatrice Gallaspy**

*Reagan Davis*

*Hannah Nelson*

*MaKenzie Davis*

#### **Carl E. Morrison/Rotary**

*Reagan Davis*

*Hannah Johnson*

*Mosier Locke*

#### **Chester B. and Jeanne R. Healy Memorial**

*Isabella Nelson*

*Asheley Crabtree*

#### **Dallas Community Foundation/Arvidson Memorial**

*Rachel Tilgner*

*Jacob Shryer*

*Hannah Johnson*

*Reagan Davis*

*Mosier Locke*

*Shea Sommerfeldt*

*Aleece Yager*

*MaKenzie Davis*

#### **Edward Caillier Memorial**

*Mitchell Bollman*

#### **Hank and Wanona Kliever Memorial**

*Connor MacLean*

#### **Ilene C. Aamodt Memorial**

*Natalia Gutierrez*

*Maribel Castaneda*

#### **Jeremy Buller Memorial**

*Eva Ronco*

#### **Oregon Department of Forestry**

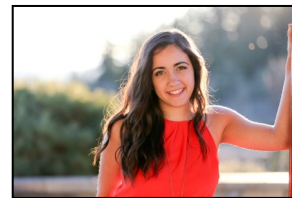
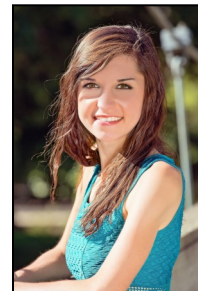
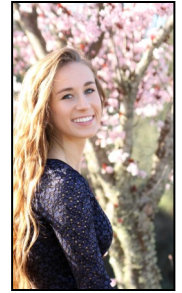
*Mosier Locke*

*Michaiah Annear*

#### **Paul Olliff Memorial**

*Jacob Shryer*

*Nolan Miller*



---

Onward and upward, Dallas High School graduates are going on to study communications, psychology, nursing, education, speech pathology, medicine, civil and mechanical engineering.

# Our impact in the Dallas Community...

## COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND GRANTS

In March, the Foundation awarded \$37,500 in grants to 26 local organizations, leveraging over \$240,000 for programs and projects in Dallas.

### Bambinos, Oregon — Office Rent

Bambinos, Oregon utilized grant funds to offset the expense of office rent for three months. Between April 1 and June 30, 2015, they served 46 families from their office on Ellendale Ave, distributing 121 packs of diapers and wipes, 9 bags of hygienic supplies and 6 extra-curricular scholarships for youth in need. The office and volunteers offer a place in which families can decompress, receive emotional support and additional resource referrals. The services they provide reduce the chronic financial stress that low-income families face.



Director Beth Jones and Board Member Brooke Masingale at Polk Community Connect

### City of Dallas — Light the Park/Sign the Trail

The City of Dallas used the DCF grant as match for funds from the Ford Family Foundation to support a trail signage project of the Ford Institute Leadership Program, Dallas/Falls City Cohort 2. Grant funds were specifically used to design and install informational signs at major trail/street crossings. The design template will be used for additional, future signs. This project has greatly enhanced education and outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors using the trail system.



### Cross and Crown Ministries — Grief Recovery

Cross and Crown Ministries offered two, 13-week Grief Share recovery and support seminars and an evening workshop for individuals experiencing grief. DCF funds were used to offset the seminar costs—promotion, supplies and rent, as

---

#### A POSITIVE IMPACT ON PARTICIPANTS

---

*“kept me from sinking away from life”*

*“helped me work through areas of grief I hadn’t addressed”*

*“helped me refocus my grief”*

*“lots of suggestions to move forward...Kate (facilitator) is a wonderful woman, leading us out of the darkness”*

*“discussion group experience—wonderful”*

---

well as and scholarships to participants who could not afford the program fee. A partnership with Weekday School of the Bible reduced the facility rental costs. Over 108 hours of professional time was donated. The spring session was attended by fifteen individuals. Gains were real and encouraging; five persons opted to attend the program again. The fall session was attended by a total of sixteen individuals, five from the first session and another four were referred by someone who had or were attending. At the evening workshop,

held in November, fifteen people learned how to deal with grief through the holidays. Over the course of the seminars, individuals who had lost hope of laughing and enjoying life again found themselves opening up to life. Within the groups, bonds were developed and friendships were made.

## Dallas Area Seniors — Parking Area Match

Dallas Community Foundation funds provided an important match to complete the parking lot project. This project is running concurrently with the development of the Dallas Senior Center project, a \$2 million project funded by a Community Development Block Grant. DCF funds made it possible to complete survey work, a necessary component of the architectural and engineering design. The parking lot project is making great strides toward readiness for development along with the new Senior Center.

## Dallas Emergency Food Corporation — Food Purchase

This grant increased the organization's purchasing power in obtaining more protein products, such as milk, eggs, peanut butter, dry beans and meats. They also purchased bread, flour, cereal, canned vegetables, rice, and cooking oil. Additionally, food boxes were supplemented with laundry soap and toiletries, items which are not available through the Marion-Polk Food Share warehouse. They also purchased cooking oil, cereals and pasta and other miscellaneous items that are needed for emergency boxes. Each month, the Dallas Emergency Food Corporation distributes over 400 food boxes to local families facing a food emergency.



*DCF board members learn about the Dallas Food Bank from volunteer, Leonard Hlavinka.*

## Dallas Education Foundation — Grants Program for Teachers

Dallas Education Foundation matched Dallas Community Foundation funds to generate a total of \$6,350 for the Small Grants For Teachers program. A total of 21 projects were funded, enhancing learning experiences for students in the Dallas school district. Grants were awarded to teachers at Whitworth, Oakdale, Lyle, LaCreole and Dallas High School for a variety of needs, primarily technology equipment and books. From technology to books to supplies, students benefit from opportunities to gain skills and enrich their learning experiences.

Grants included:

- Music instruments for K-3 schools
- Music software for school plays
- Calculators/scientific/graphing calculators
- Platforms for drama department
- Digital scales for science department
- Reptile/avian incubator for science department
- Materials for genetic lab
- Microscopes
- 7th grade language arts novels
- Chrome book charging cart
- Wiggle seats, weighted lap pads and bouncy bands
- Art supplies
- Autism materials for iPad
- Kitchen Aid mixer
- High interest/low reading level chapter books
- Robotics team equipment





## Dallas Retirement Foundation — Memory Unit Therapy Kitchen

DCF funds were used in combination with Dallas Retirement Village and Dallas Retirement Foundation funds to construct a Therapy Kitchen in the Memory Care Unit. The primary outcome is a therapeutic environment that encourages calm, safety and independence for those who suffer with cognitive issues such as dementia. Located in the Unit's common area, all residents can benefit from this project.

This successful project was profiled in the Foundation's Community Focus newsletter.



*The therapy kitchen includes a portable island (shown on the right) that can be moved out to accommodate more residents during activity times.*

## Improving Quality of Life for Memory Care Residents

Ahh, the smell of freshly baked cookies.



There's nothing like freshly baked cookies to stimulate the senses. A reminder of home; a comfort food; memories of childhood; a feeling of calm and happiness.

With the construction of a therapy kitchen in the memory care unit at Dallas Retirement Village, residents with dementia are benefitting in a variety of ways. The kitchen offers opportunities for physical and mental activity, sensory stimulation, and makes the common space area feel a little more like home.

The very first batch of cookies was a huge hit. The smells and tastes triggered memories and engaged residents in conversation. Ladies talked about grandma's recipes and their children's favorites. Men recalled the taste of homemade cookies, and the smells of mom's kitchen. Everyone was an eager taste tester.

The kitchen will be utilized for both planned and spontaneous activities for residents with varying levels of ability. Some will be able to read recipes, prep and measure ingredients, others will benefit from the simple tactile activity of kneading dough. These tasks will help with physical dexterity and mental activity, and perhaps offer a connection for residents who had for years, been in a routine of making dinner every night.

Research has shown that a therapy kitchen may help lessen sundowning behaviors which are linked to dementia and Alzheimer's. These behaviors, such as confusion, anxiety, aggression or ignoring directions, wandering and pacing the hallways, tends to begin in the later afternoon and continue on into the night.

The project came together with funds from Dallas Retirement Village, Dallas Retirement Foundation and Dallas Community Foundation.

Karri Key, Administrator of Assisted Living is excited to see the kitchen put to use. "This is a great project," she said. "We are so grateful for the grant funds to make this possible."

## Dallas United Methodist Church — Creation Vacation

Low-income families in Dallas again had the opportunity to participate in the Creation Vacation program with the help of Foundation funds. The program offers families a break from the struggles of daily life, the worries of where the next paycheck is coming from and a chance to reconnect with family in a community setting. Based at Camp Magruder on the Oregon Coast, 11 families, with 16 adults and 33 children, a record number of teens—12, spent 3 days, relaxing, recreating, and renewing. The happy smiles of all the participants as they hug and say goodbye on the last day of Creation Vacation is the outcome the program is most proud of. Participants develop stronger bonds as a family, and with the other families in the program and with the Dallas community they return to. This year there was a high turnout of returning families that give back to the Dallas community by helping with the Dallas Family Night Out event.

### *Who are these families?*

Families selected to participate in Creation Vacation are part of the West Valley Housing Authority's Self-Sufficiency Program. The program helps them develop skills to meet goals that demonstrate self-sufficiency (budgeting, saving, employment, home upkeep, personal growth), ultimately enabling them to transition away from federally funded housing assistance.



### **What happens at Creation Vacation?**

In its 5th year, the Dallas Creation Vacation program provides an educational outdoor experience in a supportive environment with a goal of assisting beleaguered families with children to rejuvenate and renew themselves. Following application and participating in pre-trip orientation sessions, Families are transported to and from Dallas to Camp Magruder, south of Rockaway on the Oregon Coast. Upon arrival at camp on Sunday morning, they are greeted by their Family Friends, the program's volunteer mentors, who escort them to their lodgings, either individual cabins or separate rooms in a couple of the lodges.

During the three days of camp, families enjoy activities such as making meditation rocks, flying kites, building sand castles, wave jumping at the beach, trails, swimming, canoeing, boating, kayaking, glow in the dark bowling, a challenge course and other teen activities with staff, campfires, skits, silly songs, s'mores, crafts, kicking back and reading, taking naps, enjoying snacks, family photos, walks on the beach, making new friends, board games, basketball, archery and volleyball. They also enjoy 7 wholesome and delicious, all they can eat meals prepared at the lodge, and each family is assigned a time to help the kitchen staff set up or clean up the dining hall during their stay. Families learned about the camp's efforts to recycle, reuse and composting.

"We had a wonderful time! I was unsure what to expect, but it exceeded our expectations. We became closer and laughed as a family. The people we met were so great! We would love to come back as guests or Family Friends. Thank you for all the wonderful family memories." The Ogdens

## Family Building Blocks — Dallas Home Visiting Services

With DCF funds, Family Building Blocks provided intensive home visiting services to 25 at-risk families living in Dallas. The parents may be experiencing challenging life circumstances such as poverty, health issues, unemployment and addiction. Through regular home visits, parents receive support to navigate through these obstacles, and hands-on parent skill building to nurture and keep their children safe and the family together.

This program has made a significant impact in the life of Jessica. Jessica and Scott live in Dallas and joined the program when Jessica had their first child at the age of 18. At that time, they were living on a limited income, Scott was struggling with anger issues and Jessica was experiencing post-partum depression and anxiety. Their teenage years were marked by substance abuse and they knew little about how to raise children. Through the support of Dallas Community Foundation and others, the family was able to access Family Building Blocks services close to their home.

They have received multiple layers of support from their home visitor – from parenting tools and accessing services to goal setting for the family. Over the year, Jessica and Scott gained the confidence they needed to parent more effectively. They have commented that they have really benefitted from the parenting ideas and suggestions. They have also seen a decrease in parenting stress and Scott is working to better manage his anger. The home visitor has served as both a coach and a mentor as the family experienced job changes, depression, the birth of their second child, moving into a different home and Jessica returning to school. Jessica now has a steady job and is attending college. According to Jessica, “The greatest thing about Family Building Blocks is that the home visitor works with parents so that we really learn and know how to work with our children.”

### **Community Partnerships Make a Difference**

One important component of the home visiting program is the partnership with community resources that allow Family Building Blocks to serve a family through a holistic approach. Referrals are given and received through the Polk County Service Integration Team, Polk County Public Health and Mid-Valley Parenting to ensure coordinated efforts in serving Dallas families. These partnerships help to serve families and the community more efficiently and help families achieve their goals of raising healthy, thriving, young children.

*“We are grateful to the Dallas Community Foundation, who understands that offering education and support to high-risk parents in Dallas, in their home environment, is a successful strategy toward reaching our mission of keeping children safe and families together.” – Family Building Blocks*

## Friends of the Dallas Library — Large Print/Audio Materials for Seniors and Visually Impaired

Library staff were able to select, purchase and catalog 22 audio cds and 24 large print books with a DCF grant. Both audio books and large print books are priced at a premium compared to regular print books, usually costing up to \$8 more each. The grant enabled the library to maximize their purchasing discounts to meet the needs of seniors and those who are visually impaired. With a growing senior population, the demand for large-print and audio materials continues to increase. Homebound patrons also have benefitted from this grant. Due to age, injury, illness or living situation are unable to come to the library. The library transports materials to over 60 people in the Dallas community on a weekly schedule. Without the large print and audio books provided to them, these individuals would not be able to read.

*“The public, especially seniors, thank us for the materials that they can enjoy now that their sight is failing. They are particularly happy that we are able to use these funds to purchase more inspirational fiction, books in a series, and “classics” in audio and large-print. These items are the ones most requested and appreciated.” - Friends of the Dallas Library*



## Friends of Polk County CASA — Volunteer Outreach

Polk County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) is one of the fastest growing CASA programs in Oregon with 63 active volunteers serving 109 foster children. This represents about 49% of the 222 children who are wards of the court. With a goal of recruiting and retaining 80 volunteers by 2018, a number sufficient to serve 100% of the children in need of advocacy, Friends of Polk County CASA used grants from Dallas Community Foundation and the Bill Healy Foundation to participate in Dallas Summerfest. This public outreach event is an important opportunity for the organization to raise awareness and recruit volunteers. This year, 20 interested individuals signed up to participate in future trainings. Five entered the fall training. A CASA is often the only trustworthy, dependable and consistent adult in these vulnerable children's lives. A foster child with a CASA typically spends less time in care, is more successful in school, and less likely to return to the system or offend later in their lives.

## Garten Services, Inc. — Dallas Laundry Equipment Upgrades

The mission of Garten Services, Inc. is to provide employment for people with disabilities. In the final year of their capital campaign to upgrade laundry equipment, DCF funds were used to purchase an industrial dryer. The equipment purchase enabled Garten to service two very large summer contracts, providing additional jobs for people with and without disabilities in the Dallas community. Production increased by 12,600 pounds of laundry per month and employed 27 people with disabilities and 14 people without disabilities. An additional 18 people with disabilities were served in the Day Break activity program.

---

### WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE A JOB

---



*Upgraded equipment means more jobs for people with disabilities.*

The impact of upgrading laundry equipment has been the stability of jobs for people with and without disabilities. For those with disabilities, it means a small income that they have control of spending. Many of Garten's workers live in group homes and have lived under the care of the state their entire lives. Getting a chance to earn, keep and spend their own money, something most people take for granted, is a major accomplishment and a source of pride. Another benefit of having a job is that their coworkers know them as contributors to the work, not just as clients of the program. The sense of self-worth is priceless.

## Kid's Inc. of Dallas — Scholarships

Kid's Inc. of Dallas provides the community a wide range of recreational and competitive sports for children ages 5-18. In 2015, Kids, Inc. offered boys baseball, girls softball, co-ed T-ball, soccer, tennis, volleyball, football and archery. DCF funds helped to address the need of assisting 52 low-income families in the Dallas community with the cost of registration fees for children to play sports, providing approximately 24 scholarships.



## Law Enforcement For Youth — Youth Safety Campaign

With DCF funds, Law Enforcement for Youth launched their Youth Safety Campaign in Dallas. The organization distributed child car seats and bicycle helmets, helping low-income families keep their children safe. Additionally, they distributed smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Their outreach efforts through local agencies have increased requests for assistance. The impact of this program has been substantial, from the 17 year-old mother who received a car seat so she could take her newborn home from the hospital, to the kids who received bicycle helmets after their friend, not wearing a helmet, was involved in a car versus bicycle accident.



*Completely broken and taped together, the compromised structural integrity of this car seat would not adequately protect a child in an accident.*

This project was profiled in the Foundation's Community Focus newsletter.

### Program Protects Dallas Kids

Ever see a child not buckled in a car seat? It almost seems unthinkable. But for some parents, it comes down to a decision of feeding their child, or buying a car seat. Sadly, of the 650 children nationwide that died in car accidents in 2011, one-third were not buckled up. With a DCF grant, Law Enforcement for Youth (LEY) is working to make sure every child in the Dallas community has a safe car seat.

Founded in Salem in 2003, LEY serves Marion and Polk Counties. In 2007, the organization increased their involvement in Dallas. In addition to child safety seats, they also provide free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and bicycle and skateboard helmets to those that are at-risk, low-income or medically challenged.

There is a lot of need in the Dallas community, based on the volume of requests LEY receives. When money is tight, people often look for deals at garage sales or use second-hand seats that are expired, or even broken. In some cases, they simply improvise, turning a cardboard box upside down and setting a pillow on top. One booster seat LEY replaced had been cracked, but was repaired with duct tape. Stored in attics or garages where there are temperature extremes, the plastic becomes brittle and breaks easily, compromising the structural integrity. These car seats will not sufficiently protect a child in a crash. Most people do not know that child safety seats do have an expiration date.

LEY gets referrals for assistance from a variety of organizations and public agencies in Dallas. For child seats, each request is unique and based on the age and weight of the child. LEY delivers the car seat to the agency that made the referral as quickly as possible. The agency case worker makes sure that the seat is properly installed, educates the parent on how to correctly buckle in their child and helps the parent fill out the warranty form so that they will be notified in case of a product safety recall. They also take the old seat with them for proper disposal.

Recently, LEY assisted a mother and her three young children who were moving out of a safe house. They had nothing but the clothes on their backs. A relative was coming to pick them up, but had no car seats. LEY was able to provide car seats.

Unfortunately, when funds run short, LEY isn't always able to help. "That's when it's really hard," says Bonnie Beck, LEY board member. "We had to decline more than 20 requests over a four-month period." That's potentially 20 kids riding in cars without proper car seat restraints.

Thanks to the DCF grant and other local support, that won't happen this year.

"Kids are appreciative and thankful, but parents – they get emotional," explains Beck. "It's so hard to see some of the needs out there. You want to be able to do more for them."

But LEY is doing what it can, and that just might save a child's life.

## Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency — Dallas Flexible Urgent Need Fund

The Dallas Flexible Urgent Need Fund, administered through the Polk County Resource Center, provides emergency financial assistance to families and individuals to prevent homelessness, keeping them housed, healthy, and self-sufficient. The overall cost to the community is reduced by addressing one-time, emergency needs before they escalate into long-term problems that are more difficult to overcome and more costly to fix.

DCF funds helped local families at imminent risk of homelessness, preventing eight utility shut-offs and one eviction. Additionally, two homeless families were able to move into stable housing. In all, eleven Dallas families, 19 adults and 14 children, benefited from this assistance.

For every dollar of Foundation funds, Polk County Resource Center was able to leverage another dollar, generating a total of \$4277 to help families and individuals experiencing a housing crisis. To ensure that financial assistance makes the most impact, households need to demonstrate that they have income to maintain future expenses and that they will only need one-time assistance to be stabilized. The program rigorously adheres to these requirements. In 2015, 100% of the households receiving rent or utility assistance with Foundation funds were able to maintain their housing and alleviate their emergency situations.

### Here are some success stories of families that were served by DCF funding:

#### ***Keeping Warm in the Winter***

A single mom who had just left a domestic violence situation came to the Resource Center looking for help paying her electric bill. With the help of DCF dollars, we were able to prevent her utility from being shut-off, keeping her and her daughter warm during the month of December. Thanks to PCRC's co-location model in the Dallas Academy Building, she is continuing to work with the Resource Center and other partner agencies for assistance in securing more suitable housing. She and her daughter are on the road to healing and recovery.

#### ***On the Brink of Homelessness***

A family of three needed help moving into their own apartment. The father had recently been through numerous back surgeries, and was going from having fulltime employment to being on social security. In addition, medical bills were exhausting what income they had. They living with a family member, but were only able to stay there for a short time due to the relative's rental terms. They were about to be homeless. This family had worked very hard to save up what they could for first month's rent and deposit, but they were still coming up short of the total move-in costs. DCF funds enabled this family to move into their own place, and prevented them from becoming homeless.

#### ***When Just a Little Goes a Long Way***

DCF funds were part of a large number of partners coming together to get a four-member family caught up on all their utilities. The father, a veteran working two jobs, came to us needing help because one of their two children was going through cancer treatments in Portland. The extra time, travel, and medical expenses had caused this family to temporarily get behind on their utility bills. With the help of \$216.45 from DCF, \$100 from Emergency Food and Shelter Program, \$105 from The Dallas Service Integration Team, \$286 from Energy Assistance, and \$111.27 from The Dallas Ministerial Association, we were able to get this family back on track to self-sufficiency.

*"PCRC is thrilled and grateful to be a recipient of the DCF grant for four years. The flexibility of DCF funds is essential to being able to best serve families in Dallas. Many grants available to the Center have stipulations in how the funds are used, and more and more we find that families need flexible funds to serve their unique needs, needs that don't always fit within other funding limitations. For example, Community Action's Energy Assistance can help with a shut-offs for gas and electricity, but can't cover other utilities. With DCF dollars we were able to keep the water on for a family of four with two children. There is a growing need for even more non-categorical funding in Polk County as PCRC continues to see a critical need in certain areas; paying for ID's/birth certificates, car seats, application fees during the housing search, transportation costs, paying for food handler cards, and more. Keeping the funds flexible will continue to be how DCF can best support PCRC in serving at-risk families in Polk County and help fill the service gaps in the community!" – Polk County Resource Center*



## **Morrison Campus Alternative School — Path to Employment Project**

DCF funds impacted more than 50 students through the Path to Employment project at Morrison Campus Alternative School. 13 students were directly supported with items such as birth certificates, appropriate work clothing, Oregon state identification cards, and food handler permits. Another 40 students benefitted from hygiene supplies, toiletries and laundry detergent, helping them to be more presentable when submitting resumes and participating in job interviews.

DCF dollars were leveraged with funds from a variety of sources including student and staff contributions, and an Oregon Educators Association grant to assist with student clothing needs.

The Path to Employment project helped prepare Morrison Campus students to succeed in the next phase of their life by offering them individual coaching to assist in finding a job, resume writing, mock interviews with community professionals, and financial support to purchase those needed items that had previously been a barrier. Every one of the students who directly received DCF grants funds was able to obtain employment while they were still in school.

*“This was a great example of partnership between Dallas agencies to help meet the needs of its residents to create a stronger community. On behalf of everyone at Morrison, Thank you!” - Dana Goodale, Morrison Campus Alternative School*

## **Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation — Sight and Hearing Assistance**

DCF funds helped the Dallas Lions bring the Mobile Health Screening Program to the community and provide hearing aids and eyeglasses to people in need. The Lions leveraged additional support through fundraising, donations and support from Dallas Service Integration Team.

Through the Sight and Hearing Assistance project, five residents received hearing aids and ten received glasses. 1181 Dallas elementary school students received vision screening. 104 of those students needed follow-up examinations by a medical professional. The partnership with Polk County health enables the public health nurse to connect parents with services to ensure children receive the follow up care for exams, glasses and hearing aids. Vision and hearing correction at a young age is essential to a child’s ability to learn.

## **Polk Community Development Corporation — After School Homework Club / Free Summer Lunch and Activity Program**

Polk CDC’s After School Homework Club serves 40 children, 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade, from the Woodbridge Meadow property and surrounding neighborhood. A DCF grant enabled the program to purchase educational supplies and contributed toward the salary of the Program Coordinator. During the school year, the program runs three days a week, Tuesday through Thursday from 3:00 to 5:00. Children are given assistance to complete their homework and there are additional opportunities to learn outside of the school setting. The program expands during the summer months.



## Polk County 4H Leaders — Dallas Youth Garden

The third season for the Dallas Youth Garden was a success. DCF funds supported two interns for the summer. All eight program interns successfully planned, planted, maintained, and harvested produce from their own 25'x50' market garden. They learned about crop production in the Willamette Valley and completed leadership projects that focused on education, communication with the public, and garden improvement. The interns also gained valuable job skills - managing a daily time sheet, tracking garden productivity and addressing productivity problems. They developed supervisory skills as they oversaw a work detail of other interns for a short time period to address issues in their garden. Each intern documented garden tasks on a weekly blog. All the interns received superior evaluation scores by their supervisors, based on criteria such as attentiveness to work, timeliness, work habits, problem solving, and garden knowledge. They had award winning exhibits at the Polk County Fair and award winning presentations at the State Fair.

### *It Takes a Village...*

*The success of the Dallas Youth Garden Program is the result of many community partnerships. Portions of intern salaries were provided by Dallas Community Foundation, Polk County, Lions Club and private individuals. Garden Supplies and Equipment were provided by Wilco, Coastal Farm and the Old Mill Feed Store of Dallas. Fruit trees were donated by Al's Nursery and local individuals. Plant Starts were provided by Teal Creek Farms, private individuals, and the Polk Co. Master Gardeners. Additional garden supplies included straw, tomato cages, tools, and additional seeds were provided by Dallas Service Integration, Wilco, and private individuals. Water was provided by the City of Dallas at no charge.*

While crop production suffered due to heat and water stress, the interns focused on better harvesting techniques which improved the quality of produce - over 4700 pounds this season – delivered to the Willamette Valley Food Assistance Program, serving over 300 Polk County Families. When interns weren't busy working in the garden, they participated in fund raising, collectively raising \$480 to help fund one intern position for the 2016 garden season.

## Sable House — Children's Trauma Support and Education

DCF funds helped provide trauma support & education sessions specifically to children residing in the domestic violence shelter facility. Overall, the program served 241 children in Polk County.

One-on-One Crisis Support Sessions gave kids in crisis the opportunity to share their fears and feelings in a safe place with a safe person who is trained to provide immediate support. Sessions helped kids work through trauma while also helping to build trusting relationships with healthy adults. There was time and space to play and be themselves without the fear of overly-harsh punishment.

Through Group Educational Sessions, children were able to address issues such as witnessing violence at home, bullying, child abuse and neglect, and drug and alcohol abuse in the home. Children interacted with trained facilitators and volunteers in a setting where they could ask questions about difficult subjects and feel safe doing so. They were able to see that they are not alone and that other children have similar experiences. Activities helped to strengthen self-esteem, teach healthy conflict resolution skills, and safety planning skills so that kids know what to do if/when violence occurs. Activities also facilitated healthy social skills and supported the emotional healing process.

Every child who resided at the Sable House shelter had the opportunity to participate in trauma support and educational activities and to receive one on one support whenever it was needed. These activities focused on the special needs of children who have lived with violence in their lives.

Parents were also educated on the effects to their children of witnessing abuse. They received information on how to safely and caringly work with their children to overcome trauma.

## Salem Free Clinics — Polk Community Free Clinic

In 2015, the Polk County Free Clinic provided medical appointments to 270 uninsured or underinsured individuals, holding two Saturday clinics per month at Trinity Lutheran Church in Dallas. The most common diagnoses were hypertension, diabetes and mental health. The clinic is a safety net for community members that lack access to healthcare. Generally, they are working poor who make just enough not to qualify for the Oregon Health Plan, but in reality cannot afford health insurance or health care. The clinic is instrumental in reducing the number of emergency room visits.

DCF funds were used toward operating expenses necessary to conduct two Saturday clinics per month. The clinic benefits from hundreds of donated volunteer hours, donated space from Trinity Lutheran Church and substantially donated administrative support from Salem Free Clinics, and can serve many patients on a small budget. At two days per month, the clinic schedule is full. Despite their best efforts, there are walk-in patients that are turned away.

### Polk County Free Clinic (January—October 2015)

#### By the Numbers

270 appointments

181 prescriptions written

57 prescriptions filled on-site

24 patients referred to Project Access to have special surgical procedures

14 patients referred to Med Assist for help with expensive medications

69 patients referred to specialists



#### Beyond the Numbers:

A woman came to the clinic this summer as a walk in patient. She was uninsured, did not have a doctor and didn't have enough money to go to a doctor. She was very fearful of the lump she has had on her breast for the past year. She had just recently heard about the free clinic and was very thankful that the doctors could see her. It turns out that this woman did have stage 2 breast cancer. Through the Salem Cancer Institute, she had breast cancer surgery a few weeks later. She is currently undergoing chemotherapy and is also starting radiation treatments. Her prognosis is good. Although she still has many challenges related to the cancer, she feels like a new woman and looks forward to each new day.

*"Dozens of patients have told us that they are hugely impacted by the compassionate medical care they receive at the free clinic." — John McConville, Polk County Free Clinic*

## Polk County Salvation Army — Domestic Violence Financial Assistance Fund

The Salvation Army established the Domestic Violence Financial Assistance Fund to fill a critical, unmet need in the Dallas community. The program goal is simple—reduce the number of victims and children who return to abusive situations due to financial instability. DCF funds were used to meet the urgent needs of these victims of domestic violence, helping them transition to a safe living environment and escape the cycle of abuse. Ten households, a total of 11 adults and 15 children, received assistance. Each household, in different stages of escape from domestic violence, presented different needs. For some, getting out of the shelter facility and into a new apartment was a priority. Rent and security deposit assistance was provided for three households. Others were able to obtain housing but needed assistance with utilities. And others simply needed assistance to put together the pieces of their lives. One needed help paying for a class, which would advance her ability to simply make an income. Each of these households needed a little financial assistance to gain self-sufficiency and escape from danger. They also received referrals to partnering agencies to meet their holistic needs through the co-location intake process.



## Trinity Lutheran Church — Trailer for Boy Scout Troop 288

Boy Scout Troop 288 matched a DCF grant with their own funds to purchase a utility trailer for community service projects and troop use. Since its purchase, the trailer has been in constant use.

It has helped the troop deliver firewood to low-income families, and has been used for bottle collection and clean-up activities. The trailer ensures safe hauling and transportation of equipment for service projects. Troop gear for outings can now be kept safe and dry. The trailer purchase has increased the ability of the troop to serve the community now that they can safely haul the necessary equipment, supplies and tools.



Boy Scout Troop 288 (and trailer in the background) at the Dallas Summerfest Parade.

***“The opportunity given to the troop by the Dallas Community Foundation has been AWESOME!!!!”***

*“Please thank everyone involved with the support to the troop you have provided. Your support is beyond words that I can say or write.”*

*- Noel Thiel, Committee Chair Troop 288*

## Victim Offender Reconciliation Program — Telephone Service

The program is now operating as Community Mediation Services (CMS). DCF funds were essential in helping CMS be available to the residents of Polk County. Funds were used toward the phone service for the program. CMS program clients were able to make contact, seek conflict resolution services, and schedule appointments and mediations. CMS staff were able to provide consultations, build and maintain relationships with donors and provide trainings to organizations, all because of the support of Foundation funds. The telephone and internet are indispensable to the organization’s ability to conduct business.

*Earlier this fall I was involved in an easement dispute between two landowners. One of them believed that a proposed improvement to the easement road would be detrimental to their business. Assumptions led to tense discourse and loss of a working relationship. Scheduling and conducting individual meetings was challenging as one of the parties worked out of the country for extended periods of time. This meant several out of the country long distance calls. Eventually, both parties agreed to a joint mediated session. While the discussion was at times heated, the outcome was that assumptions were converted into informed factual knowledge. An agreement addressing the needs of both parties was reached and the conflict was resolved. Resolution of this dispute would not have been possible for CMS if we had not been able to converse with the involved parties via phone and internet.*

*“It is important to emphasize that the dollars granted through the Dallas Community Foundation were absolutely essential to providing any services to our clients.” – Ken Braun, CMS*

## Partnerships in Community Living, Inc. — Dallas Wood Shoppe Improvement

Shortly after the grant was awarded, there was an unexpected cut in Federal funding that caused the program to close the Dallas Wood Shoppe. DCF funds were promptly returned.

## Thank You 2015 Donors!

It is through your generous gifts that the DCF can support efforts that touch the lives of those in need, making a difference in the Dallas community, for good, for now, forever.

### Community Impact Fund (Unrestricted)

Anonymous	Stanley and Mavis Graven	David and Karen Pederson
David and Vicki Bailey	Jeffery and Susan Humphrey	Stanton and Adeline Rickey
Bob and Lori Brannigan	Lynn and Sherril Hurt	Michael and Kathleen Roberson
Ken and Debbie Braun	George and Kimber Jagodnik	Roger Rogers
Buhler & Meyer CPA's, LLP	Gary and V. Jane Johnston	David and Dana Roth
Jim and Karin Clawson	Richard and Sharon Koloen	Lane and Francine Shetterly
Alan and Emily Cleaves	Lee and Diana Lehman	Gail Slotten
W. Robert and Marilyn Craven	Robert and Pam Manville	Bob and Trina Timmerman
Kevin and Lynn Crawford	Elizabeth Miller	Jim and Carolyn Wall
Robert Davies, D.O.	Mia Mohr	Robert and LaVonne Wilson
Curt and Marie Davis	Susan Morrill	
Dale and Lois Derouin	Dennis and Patricia Newton	
Alex and Eileen DiCicco	Ralph and Jeannine Norris	
Harry and Janet Engel	Wayne Osborn	
Jim and Candace Fowler	Bob and Carol Ottaway	
Michael and Charlotte Gamble	Overstreet Communications	
Jon L. Golly, Inc.	David and LuDell Parrett	

### In Memory of Ken Jacobsen

Robert and LaVonne Wilson

### Jeremy Buller Memorial Scholarship Fund

Angelica Painter

### Hank and Wanona Kliever Memorial Scholarship Fund

Robert Kliever

### Paul Olliff Memorial Scholarship Fund

Anonymous  
Judy Luther

## *Our Mission*

is to enhance the quality of life in the Dallas community by  
building a culture of giving.

