

## MOVING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

### *Celebrating Another Year of Making a Difference in the Community*

In 2011, the Dallas Community Foundation awarded \$30,000 in grants to local organizations. In most cases, those funds leveraged other funds, making a significant difference in the lives of those facing great need.

Young victims of domestic violence received support to begin the emotional healing process, youth gained an opportunity to give back to their community, an elderly woman was able to avoid eviction from her apartment, families confronting hunger received food boxes. Undeterred by financial hardship, a young woman determined to succeed as the first in her family to attain a college degree, received a scholarship. She was one of the graduating seniors that received \$25,450 in scholarships to continue their post-secondary education. We supported the arts. We provided assistance so youth could participate in sports programs. We have supported education in a time when schools are facing significant budget cuts.

This reflects the difference we strive to make in the Dallas community. As 2011 draws to a close, we would like to ac-

knowledge the passionate people who are behind the programs that we support, and the donors that make the work possible. Thank You!

There is a lot more we can do in 2012. Our grantees report that while needs are increasing, resources are dwindling. Some organizations have had to reduce staffing and services, and some have had to turn clients away. The effects of the economic downturn have been far reaching. More people are seeking assistance. Fewer public and private resources are available. Ken Braun, Executive Director of the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program noted, "It seems that many of the referrals we receive have increased economic pressure as one of the contributing factors to higher levels of conflict in neighborhoods and families." Ultimately, this impacts the community as a whole.

Additional funding would enable local organizations to restore services and provide for critical community needs. If you haven't done so already, make a tax-deductible contribution to the DCF today and together, we can make a lasting difference in the Dallas community!



DCF | Making a Difference for Youth

## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

### Mustangs and MOHR

#### *Promoting Positive Self-Esteem and Opportunity for At-Risk Youth*

You aren't far from town, but the sights, sounds and smells of the arena make it seem like you are. It's an environment where kids can experience an entirely different world distant from the challenges they face at home and at school. For one young girl, Mustangs and MOHR has been a lifesaver.

Since she was six, she had been in foster care. Both of her parents had been in and out of prison for drugs

and other criminal activities. She had attempted suicide at least once and was contemplating suicide again as she saw no hope for her future. She felt empty and confused. Her caseworker brought her out to the ranch. Soon she was involved with a caring volunteer who worked with her one on one; first cleaning a stall, then grooming a horse that she had picked out, then learning how to lead and finally, getting to ride.

Her caseworker couldn't believe the change he saw in her when he arrived to watch one day. He remarked that "she was all smiles." As her confidence grew, so did her self-respect and ability to deal with life. Today she is doing well in school, is a cheerleader, and is active in her community.

Founded in 2006, Mustangs and MOHR (Mustangs Offering Hope and Renewal) is a unique program that combines two efforts – rescuing Mustang horses and providing horse therapy to at-risk youth. The program is free, relying on the generosity of donations and grant funds. A grant from the Dallas Community Foundation has enabled Mustangs and MOHR to serve 10 additional youth one-on-one per week during the summer by covering the cost of a part-time trainer that works with the horses and the youth.

The kids come from different backgrounds – some are referred to the program by parents, some by school

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## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

### Mustangs and MOHR *Continued from Page 1*

counselors, and others by the corrections department. For youth that have taken their first step in the wrong direction, performing community service hours at Mustangs and MOHR can be a more appropriate alternative to juvenile detention, positively influencing their attitude and behavior.

According to Debbie Driesner, Mustangs and MOHR Executive Director, “You can’t push them to do what you want, but if you give them a choice and make the right way the easy way, you can affect positive change. Horses and kids

are similar. Horses instinctively look for a leader; kids need to learn to be the leader of the horse.”

From the very start, the kids are paired with an adult who works with them one-on-one all the way through. Regardless of their situation, everyone starts with cleaning stalls. Gradually they take on greater responsibility, doing more and learning how to care for the specific needs of the horses. For kids performing community service, the privilege to ride comes after they have fulfilled their required community service hours.

“For most kids, the end results are amazing. Their posture changes. They gain confidence. They open up in a safe environment.” notes Driesner. She adds that the DCF funds have been significant, particularly in a time when the personal donations are down. “Funds from the Foundation have helped to keep the program staffed at a time when the number of kids that need our help keeps growing.”

*Mustangs and MOHR*  
503-623-8430  
[www.mustangsandmohr.org](http://www.mustangsandmohr.org)

## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

### Polk Adolescent Day Treatment Center

#### *Supporting Youth, Benefitting Seniors and the Disabled*

It’s a challenge for Sherda Garber to keep up with the yard work. The recent leaf fall has added to the problem. Thanks to a special group of youth, the leaves are raked and hauled away. She smiles. But it isn’t just about the yard, it’s also about the youth who have had an opportunity to gain job skills and give back to the community.

The youth are in a vocational training program offered through the Polk Adolescent Day Treatment Center (PADTC). For 35 years, the PADTC has provided treatment services for youth suffering from behavior problems that have interfered with their ability to adequately function in the home, school and community.

The vocational training program gives these kids a chance to learn important life-skills, combining vocational training with community service. “These kids are often on the receiving end, but this program offers them the opportunity to give back. They learn that there are others out there that have needs as well.” says Larry Tang, PADTC Executive Director.

Interested students apply to participate in the program, a process that simulates the real-world experience of getting a job. In the classroom, they learn how to complete a job application and practice interviewing. This year, 10 students were “hired” by the program. They spent additional class time learning about work



*PADTC youth on the job, raking leaves.*

ethics and expectations as well as money management – how to set a budget and how to deposit their paycheck.

This fall, the supervised crew has been working at prearranged job sites raking leaves for seniors and disabled people. Garber adds that she would like to see the program expanded to serve the community at other times of the year as well. “This is a great opportunity to give kids a work experience in the

community. As a widowed homeowner, it’s hard for me to find the time to take good care of the property.”

The students in the program get rewards beyond a paycheck. One 16-year old student says, “It’s pretty awesome. I work hard, do my job and I end up with \$24 for the day. Getting all the money feels awesome because I know I’m doing a good job and helping others who aren’t able to rake leaves.”

Tang explains that at the treatment center, they are in a supported environment. Through this program, they have an opportunity to apply the problem solving and coping skills they have learned out in the community. “It’s a part of the evolution of becoming a successful citizen, learning the value of being a community member and giving back to your community.”

Tang credits the DCF funds for making this project possible. DCF funds cover the stipends and the equipment costs, leveraging PADTC funds that cover staff time for the program. “DCF funds keep the program going,” he comments. “Foundation dollars have made the difference, helping the program give something back to the community. Without DCF funds, we would likely not be able to operate the program.”

*Polk Adolescent Day Treatment Center*  
503-623-5588

## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

### James 2 Community Kitchen

#### *Providing Meals for Those Who Face Hunger*

It's Tuesday morning. Volunteers are assembling to prepare an evening meal for those in Dallas who otherwise might not get one. It isn't just this Tuesday. It's every Tuesday. The James 2 Community Kitchen began in 2008, when a group of people were inspired to provide a warm meal for the food insecure in the Dallas community.



*This young volunteer is learning the value of serving others.*

A dedicated group of volunteers make weekly meals from scratch using food from Marion-Polk Food Share, vendor donations, and purchased ingredients. Another group of committed volunteers come every Tuesday afternoon to serve the meals. Volunteers contribute an

average of 300 hours per month to make these meals happen.

At their first meal in 2009, they served 45 people. Two years later, they were consistently serving over 300 people every meal. Recently they moved to the St. Philip Catholic Church, a larger location that could accommodate the growing number of people.

The people that come for the community dinners represent a diverse cross section of the community. They are unemployed, underemployed, elderly, homeless, individuals and families. Seniors make up 60% of the total; living on fixed incomes and struggling with the cost of healthcare.

Through a grant from the Dallas Community Foundation, the program was able to purchase commercial grade kitchen equipment, such as a warming oven, items essential to feeding the large group of people that show up for the weekly meal.

Sue Lamb, Vice-Chair of the James 2 Community Kitchen board of directors credits the DCF for providing much-needed assistance. "The impact of the DCF funds was very tangible. We were able to get the equipment we needed to be in compliance with health codes.

In a time when the need is increasing, the resources are decreasing."

In addition to providing a meal, James 2 partners with other organizations to meet clients' needs. Last spring, three stylists from a local hair salon volunteered their time to provide over a hundred free haircuts. Lamb recalls that day when a gentleman came in, clearly overdue on a haircut. "His head hung low, you could tell he didn't feel good about himself. We fed him a meal. He sat alone, looking down and depressed. He could hardly lift his fork. After the meal we offered him a haircut. There was an amazing transformation. His new 'look' brought a smile to his face. He held his head high and had a pop in his step. 'I can't thank you enough,' he said. 'I've got a job interview tomorrow!' It's amazing to see how something small and insignificant can make such a huge difference."

James 2 Community Kitchen  
[www.james2ck.org](http://www.james2ck.org)

Meal Site  
Tuesdays, 4:30-6:00pm  
St. Philip Catholic Church  
825 SW Mill St., Dallas

## DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

The Dallas Community Foundation is a partner of the Oregon Cultural Trust. When you donate to the Dallas Community Foundation and match your gift with an equal or greater donation to the Oregon Cultural Trust, 100% of your matching gift will be returned as a tax credit when you file your taxes. It's simple - donate the match and get the whole match back. The Oregon Cultural Trust supports programs all across Oregon, promoting culture, arts and humanities. For more information, visit [www.culturaltrust.org](http://www.culturaltrust.org) or call 503-986-0088. Support the Dallas Community Foundation and make your dollar go even further!

# Oregon Cultural Trust

## 2012 GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE!

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Dallas Community Foundation will make a 2012 grant distribution.

The Foundation is seeking to fund projects that benefit the people of the Dallas area, with preference given to projects that serve urgent needs and have a broad and meaningful impact on the community.

Applications are currently available through the DCF website or by calling the DCF office. 501(c)(3) organizations or other qualified tax-exempt entities that serve the Dallas area are encouraged to apply.

The application deadline is January 31, 2012.

## LaVonne Wilson



Photo courtesy of Mike Lowery  
Focal Point Photography

I became involved with the Dallas Community Foundation in 1995 when I was asked to serve on a new board that the Rotary Club was starting. This board became the Dallas Community Foundation. I was one of nine members that committed to a vision of supporting the Dallas community. The newly established

Foundation board turned that vision into a mission. The board created a means for people to give back to make the Dallas community a better place for all. Each of us gave \$25 to create a starting balance.

I have had the privilege of serving on the board for 16 years and have watched it grow into a well-established giving foundation. I hope that the community understands our message and knows what good we are doing for the many in need here in our community.

Why do I serve? There is nothing better than being a part of an organization that helps others in need. We award grants to organizations that help others in our community. We also give scholarships to students here in the Dallas School District that are continuing their education.

As we walk through our daily lives, we don't always notice the needs of others. In the years I have served on the Foundation board, I have had the opportunity to learn a lot about our community. I have also had the opportunity to contribute and make a difference to help others in the community.

Why should you contribute to the Foundation? When you support the Dallas Community Foundation, you are contributing in a meaningful way, reaching out to others in your own community that you may not have known even needed your help.

We moved here 41 years ago from Seattle where I grew up. Coming to Dallas has been one of the best things that ever happened to our family. We recognized early that coming from a large city to a smaller one was a great move and we have loved it ever since. I have served on the Foundation board with pride, knowing that I am there for others, making a difference in the Dallas community.

## YES! I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN MY COMMUNITY.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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- I wish to remain an anonymous donor.
- Please keep me updated with an electronic update. I understand that I can unsubscribe at any time. *DCF will never share or sell your email address!*

\$10    \$25    \$50    \$100    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **Dallas Community Foundation.**

Return this form to the **Dallas Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1001, Dallas, OR 97338**

Prefer to donate electronically? Go to our website, **www.dallascommunityfoundation.com**

*A receipt of your contribution will be sent to you. All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Your information will be kept confidential, secure, and never shared.*

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Go to [WWW.DALLASCOMMUNITYFOUNDATION.COM](http://WWW.DALLASCOMMUNITYFOUNDATION.COM) and click on **SUBSCRIBE TO THE E-UPDATE.**

It's easy! Periodically, you'll receive email highlighting what's going on with grant recipients and other DCF news.

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