

Your Gifts at Work in Oregon

Charities answering challenges of economy and fewer nonprofit grants

Everyone knows that many Oregonians are facing difficult economic times. Because of increased needs, many of the nonprofit groups State employees support through the Charitable Fund Drive are working overtime to make life better for Oregonians who need a little extra help.

- **United Way of Columbia-Willamette** — Has already distributed \$400,000 from its [Community Relief Fund](#) to community action programs in the Portland metropolitan area. This fund is raising funds that help individuals in need of emergency rent, utility or food assistance. Also, the 2-1-1 helpline is more people than ever before.
- **Children's Trust Fund of Oregon** — Its [Small Grants](#) program allows programs and service organizations to apply for a one-time grant of up to \$1,000. If a program underestimated the cost of a project or a financial supporter lowered their donation, that program can ask for funds to finish the project. The fund was created by a gift from Albertson's.
- **United Way of Jackson County** — launched "Hank's Bank", an emergency relief fund that provides one-time assistance to those in need. Since December, it has helped 135 people via more than 40 local agencies. The fund honors former Jackson County director of health and human services, Hank Collins, who died in February 2008.
- **Local Independent Charities** — LIC member [Cat Adoption Team](#) in Sherwood started a Cat Food Bank to help people who can't afford cat food temporarily. The Cat Food Bank (pictured at right) has been open for a year, and has given out a staggering 10,325 pounds of dry cat/kitten food and 2,127 cans of cat food, which feed an average of 114 pet cats every month.
- **Equity Foundation** — awarded two of its three Paul D. Higgins Housing Grants to [Our House of Portland](#). Our House is seeing record need for its services — which include housing for people with HIV/AIDS, and services that help people with HIV/AIDS maintain their housing and live as independently as possible.
- **EarthShare Oregon** — Corvallis Environmental Center's [Edible Corvallis Initiative](#) is helping Corvallis-area residents eat food that's healthier and cheaper. Its programs range from teaching people how to raise their own chickens, to its Starker Arts Garden for Education, where local students grow food they donate to the [South Corvallis Food Bank](#).
- **United Way of Lane County** — In response to Lane County's current 14% unemployment rate, United Way has two new programs. One is the [WorkSource Lane Helpline](#), a new call center that helps people locate basic services as well as job and training opportunities (541-682-7200). The second, in response to growing numbers of uninsured people, the [FamilyWise Drug Discount Drug program](#) gives families a 20-30% pharmacy discount. FamilyWise cards are available through United Way and its local agencies or at www.unitedwaylane.org.



Get involved in Oregon

- **Black United Fund** — Northeast Emergency Food Program needs volunteers for its site in NE Portland. Help a crucial community service aid people in need. [See how to volunteer here.](#)
- **Equity Foundation** — Equity is sponsoring Gay Pride parades and community events across Oregon this summer:
 - [Portland Black Pride](#) (6/11-6/14)
 - [Portland Pride](#) (6/13-6/14)
 - [Bend Pride](#) (6/23-6/28)
 - [Pride Corvallis](#) (6/26-6/27)
 - [Eugene Pride](#) (8/8)
 - [Hermiston Pride](#) (8/8)
- **Greater Douglas United Way** — United Community Action Network in Douglas and Josephine Counties [needs volunteers](#) to help with a wide range of projects — from grounds maintenance to outreach to homeless citizens. To learn more, visit UCAN's [website](#).
- **Community Health Charities** — July 25, 2009 — Raise money for the Oregon chapter of American Diabetes Foundation at the [Tour de Cure](#) benefit bicycle ride in Hillsboro. Ride lengths vary, from 10 miles, to 110!
- **EarthShare Oregon** — Willamette Riverkeeper's annual Paddle Oregon — Aug. 17-21, from Eugene to just north of Salem. This event is a chance to explore the river, meet great folks, and benefit the Willamette River. [Get all the details here.](#)

Promote the CFD in your workplace — be a site coordinator!

The Charitable Fund Drive is now recruiting resourceful State and University employees to help us roll out the 2009 CFD in every workplace this fall.. If you love to learn about and help charities, this could be the role for you!

Contact Campaign Management Team Leader Deb Furry at cmoteam@earthlink.net or 503-528-2783 to volunteer.

Visit the CFD website: ecfd.oregon.gov

Your Gifts at Work in Oregon is produced by the participating nonprofits of the Charitable Fund Drive. It does not necessarily reflect policy or views of the State of Oregon.

If you have story ideas or want to respond to articles in this newsletter, please e-mail us at cmoteam@earthlink.net.