Good Morning One and All!  
  
Today, I wanted to begin with a fact.  
At the conclusion of today's ceremony, the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation has, since 1998, awarded $17,451,974 to non-profits in   
Coos, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Lane Counties.  That is $72,716 per month for the last 20 years.  
  
I doubt there's anyone here that can totally comprehend how much benefit for community and for the people who live and work in those communities that financial support has achieved.

I'm biased of course but I know of many, not all, but many, of the successes achieved by this Foundation's grant awards, and it makes me proud.  
  
There's no magic to how this happens.  Grants are awarded every six months and the non-profits receiving them move to implement a program or an improvement. Volunteers are mobilized and staff work long hours. Handicapped facilities are built, hungry people are fed, playgrounds are built, and therapy programs reach needy people...the list goes on and on.  As I said, no one can fully realize how much is achieved.  Community benefits.  Hopefully, society is helped.  Every dollar awarded works to that end.  
  
The financial support is important, of course, but without each of you making those dollars work, the successes wouldn't happen.  The monies are a catalyst, a catalyst that allows creative, committed people to meet a need or fulfill a vision.

That's what I reference when I say no one can fully know how much benefit occurs with the awarding of grants.  What's incalculable is the human factor.  The seeing of a need.  
The commitment to fulfilling a vision.  
That energy and devotion is what, in the end, creates the benefit.    
  
So, yes, today the total awarded since 1998 by the Foundation is  
$17,951,474 and that's always a catalyst.  
  
But, without your dreams, visions,   
commitments, it would just be a  
dollar figure.  You folks put those monies to work and therein is the  
benefit to community.  I congratulate, the Foundation Board congratulates, we all congratulate your successes!

On behalf of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation Board, we thank all of your for your efforts and are proud to partner with you in this important work.