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**Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation Gives $329,300**

**to Fifty-nine Charities in Southwestern Oregon**

***Canyonville, Oregon***………..The Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation (CCUIF) will award a total of $329,300 to 59 non-profit organizations located in Coos, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Lane Counties. For the first time, there will be no grant awards ceremony and checks will be mailed to all recipients. The decision to not hold the traditional awards ceremony was made so COVID-19 safety concerns could be observed.

The CCUIF was founded in 1997 and began its philanthropic efforts in 1998. To date, the Foundation has awarded $19,309,324 to the seven southwestern Oregon counties from which it accepts grant requests. Grants are awarded semi-annually, in January and June. In January of 2020, the CCUIF awarded $474,650 to 70 non-profits.

Foundation Executive Director Carma Mornarich said, “We are, as people in these uncertain times, concerned and focused on COVID-19. We need to be focused, disciplined, and determined. We all know, however, that other concerns we face each day of every year – like feeding the hungry, providing shelter for the unhoused, decreasing all abuse, supporting education – don’t end. They continue on and the non-profits receiving checks today address these and other needs. They are critical to strengthening our ‘social fabric.’ The work they do is so necessary. Lives are bettered. Thank you to each of them.”

The mission of the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation is to offer assistance in youth education, strengthen youth and family, provide for positive youth development, and add to the quality of life for people in southwestern Oregon. The Foundation has put increasing emphasis upon basic needs so more hungry people get fed.

The 59 grantees include: three grantees from Coos County who will receive a total of $15,000; twelve grantees from Deschutes County who will receive $73,000; eight grantees from Douglas County who will receive $35,000; fourteen grantees from Jackson County who will receive $80,500; five grantees from Josephine County who will receive $30,000; three grantees from Klamath County who will receive $17,500; thirteen grantees from Lane County who will receive $73,300, and one grantee that serves multiple counties who will receive $5,000.

Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation awards are made separately from and in addition to regular philanthropic decisions made by the Cow Creek Tribal Board.

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