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**Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation Gives $537,100**

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

 ***Canyonville, Oregon***………..The Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation CCUIF, in its most recent round of giving, awarded fifty-seven charities a total of $537,100. The non-profits receiving awards are located in Coos, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Lane Counties.

The CCUIF was founded in 1997 and began its philanthropic efforts in 1998. To date, the Foundation has awarded $20,263,524 to non-profits in the seven southwestern Oregon counties from which it accepts grant requests. Grants are awarded semi-annually, in January and June. In January of 2021, the CCUIF awarded $471,100 to 53 non-profits.

Foundation Executive Director Carma Mornarich said, “All of us have lived through challenging times

this past year-and-a-half. For those of us in Oregon, the realities of serious illness and the possibility of death with COVID-19, as well as the destruction that can be caused by wildfire, have demanded our attention.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the American economy struggled. The global supply chain was strained with shortages of PPE, vehicles, lumber and more. Social distancing was critical so businesses and schools were temporarily shuttered.

Wildfire recovery and rebuilding continued as the new fire season is upon us.

The existence of a pandemic and widespread wildfire didn’t mean the problems faced day after day – hunger relief, unhoused people, the need for warm clothing – went away. They didn’t. Actually, they became more pronounced. And the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation continued to put one foot in front of the other as it supported agencies that fed people, provided people with shelter, clothed people, gave extra teaching assistance for those attending school, and more. Our work continued.”

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 57 grantees this round of giving include: four grantees from Coos County who will receive a total of $42,000; twelve grantees from Deschutes County who will receive $115,500; eight grantees from Douglas who will receive $63,600; eight grantees from Jackson County who will receive $92,500; three grantees from Josephine County who will receive $30,000; five grantees from Klamath County who will receive $42,000; fourteen grantees from Lane County who will receive $125,500, and three grantees that serve multiple counties who will receive $26,000.

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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