

The Daily TriPLICATE

Foundation hands out holiday cheer

Written by Charles Kocher
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*Foundation official Laura Olson announces the distribution Wednesday.
The Daily TriPLICATE/Michele Thomas*

Just in time for last-minute shopping and food baskets, the Wild Rivers Community Foundation handed out more than \$18,000 to 20 holiday charity food, gift and clothing projects Wednesday evening.

Karen Phillips, foundation director, said more than 10,000 people, including 6,000 children, will be helped by the agencies receiving funds from the Holiday Funding Partnership.

The idea to find extra resources to help the holiday projects started just two months ago, said Dr. Kevin Caldwell of Crescent City, the foundation board chair, admitting that he wasn't sure it could be brought to pass so quickly.

"We believed our communities were going to be hit hard because of a lack of funds to support the normal programs," he explained. "This is an illustration of what a community foundation can do. The community rose to the challenge."

As representatives of each agency described how they would use the extra funds, the distribution of the checks became a celebration of the spirit of Christmas.

"We want to celebrate those who give their time and energy to those who help others in the community," said Gerry Livingston, the Wild Rivers Community Foundation contact in Curry County. "Some people think that it's Santa Claus who make the magic, but it's really everyone in this room."

The projects awarded funds include:

- Bicoastal Media, which will use donations to buy 700-1,000 coats for children this year.
- Santa's Workshop at Rural Human Services, which will give toys to hundreds of families this year.

- The Winter Food Drive of Rural Human Services, which coordinates several agencies providing holiday food boxes for 200 families.
- Smith River Rancheria, which is helping 25 families with food boxes and coats.
- The Common Good, which has 70 children's names on its Giving Tree, and plans to provide 120 food boxes.
- Angel's Shoe Box Ministry, which is delivering 500 shoe boxes filled with hygiene items, and has an Angel Room of 200 gifts parents can choose from for their children.
- Del Norte Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, which is working with Smith River Baptist Church to provide 50 food boxes for farm workers, senior citizens, and veterans.
- KURY Radio, where donations are being used to help more than three dozen families who have submitted requests to its Christmas Wish List.
- Marine Corps League Toys for Tots expects to help 1,400 children get gifts this year, up from 938 last year.
- Brookings Elks Lodge, where numbers for food boxes and gifts are up by 50 percent this year, to more than 700 children and another 700 adults.
- Our Daily Bread ministries, which has opened a shelter at the fairgrounds in Crescent City.
- Oasis Shelter Home, which expects to double its gift program to reach 700 people this year.
- Outreach Gospel Mission, which delivered 350 food boxes for Thanksgiving and expects to do more for Christmas.
- Smith River United Methodist Church, which has a year-round emergency food pantry and wrapped Christmas gifts for 106 children last weekend.
- Cornerstone Assembly of God, which is starting a program this year to provide 100 food and gift boxes.
- Redwood Family Worship Center, which will distribute more than 160 food and toy boxes.
- The Community Assistance Network, which is buying hams and turkeys for 24 food boxes, and helping provide special lunches for children over the school vacation.
- Oregon Coast Community Action Program, which expects its Giving Tree program to provide 600 gifts for children.
- Brookings-Harbor Community Helpers, the emergency food program that is providing the protein products for the food boxes being assembled by the Elks Lodge.
- Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods, which hopes to give 250 gifts and books to children.

The donors to the Holiday Funding Partnership included Caldwell & Sund Family Trust, Cal-Ore Life Flight, Coast Central Credit Union, Del Norte Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Del Norte Reads, First 5 Del Norte, **Gordon Elwood Foundation**, Green Diamond Resource Co., Humboldt Area Foundation, St. Joseph's Health System Foundation of Oregon, St. Joseph's Health System, Humboldt Co., Smith River Rancheria, Patricia D.

and William B. Smullin Foundation, West Family Foundation, Wild Rivers Community Foundation, and several private donations brought in by advertisements in the Curry Coastal Pilot and The Daily Triplicate.