



g o r d o n e l w o o d
F O U N D A T I O N

Investing in Southern Oregon's youth, individuals, families and communities.

Press Release

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Gordon Elwood Foundation invests \$68,828 in Southern Oregon communities

Medford, OR, February 1, 2010: The Gordon Elwood Foundation is pleased to announce \$68,828 in grant awards to 13 nonprofit organizations.

Rogue Family YMCA

- Grant purpose: Support the Youth Center Enhancement Project which will improve and expand after-school experiences for youth living in the YMCA neighborhood.
- Grant award: \$10,000.

Educational Solutions

- Grant purpose: Teach high schools students how to solve complex and controversial environmental problems through an intensive 2-week project serving 3 schools and 90+ students which focuses on the state-mandated science concepts of genetics and cell biology.
- Grant amount: \$10,000.

Community Works

- Grant purpose: Enable the Youth & Family Services program provide wrap-around resource support for high-risk youth and their families.
- Grant amount: \$8,000.

Family Nurturing Center

- Grant purpose: Create a five-year vision and strategic plan involving numerous stakeholders. This planning process will guide Family Nurturing Center's mission to promote healthy development of children, strengthen parents, and preserve families through a blend of services for children and parents of Jackson County.
- Grant amount: \$7,500.

Sunny Wolf Youth Services, Inc.

- Grant purpose: Operating funds for a rural community center primarily serving low-income Josephine County youth.
- Grant amount: \$7,000.

Northwest Youth Corps

- Grant purpose: Support tuition costs for at least 20 identified youth from Klamath, Josephine, Jackson, and Curry counties so that they can participate in outdoor leadership, education, job training, and employment programs.
- Grant amount: \$6,808.

ScienceWorks Hands-on Museum

- Grant purpose: Support the On-site School Programs to inspire wonder and stimulate creative exploration in school children through interactive science exhibits.
- Grant amount: \$5,000.

Klamath Falls City Schools

- Grant purpose: Enable Klamath Falls City Schools to leverage community support for a much needed pool of financial resources that further positive youth development and skills for Klamath students.
- Grant amount: \$5,000.

Rural Development Initiatives

- Grant purpose: Support a multi-agency effort to apply for federal stimulus funds intended to benefit a variety of regional nonprofits.
- Grant amount: \$2,500.

Philanthropy Northwest

- Grant purpose: Support an affinity group of charitable foundations that promote thoughtful and strategic philanthropy in Southern Oregon.
- Grant amount: \$2,020.

Jefferson Regional Health Alliance

- Grant purpose: Support an affinity group of health care providers working together to improve the health and healthcare resources of southern Oregonians.
- Grant amount: \$2,000.

Wild Rivers Community Foundation

- Grant purpose: To provide holiday meals and holiday children's gifts to needy Curry County residents.
- Grant amount: \$2,000.

Living Opportunities

- Grant purpose: Further the sustainability of the Studio Sfumato program which provides workshops, instruction, and special events to promote independence, individuality, creativity, and an income for artists with a wide range of disabilities.
- Grant amount: \$1,000.

The History of the Gordon Elwood Foundation

Gordon Elwood, a lifelong native of the Rogue Valley, lived a remarkably Spartan existence. Beginning as a paper delivery boy at the age of twelve, Gordon scrimped and saved and invested the bulk of his earnings through years of labor as a fruit picker in the Valley and forty years as a television technician. After retiring, he continued his frugal lifestyle by collecting recyclable cans and bottles for their deposit value.

When he died at age seventy-nine in 1999, Gordon left a surprisingly large financial estate of \$9 million to benefit his beloved southern Oregon community. In his final days, Gordon expressed his philosophy thusly:

"Everyone is put on this earth to accomplish something, and not just for their own self. Through this foundation I feel I have made my life worthwhile to others."

The Gordon Elwood Foundation is committed to fulfilling Gordon's legacy by offering a hand up to those in need. We are pleased to honor his memory in service to the southern Oregon community.