



# NEWSLETTER by Nicole Swisher Woodson, ED

August 15, 2020

## Fall forward!



### **Here is what's happening!**

The first two weeks of August have consisted of a great deal of planning for the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Metrics have been closely monitored, school reopening plans closely studied, and new plans to support some of our most vulnerable and academically at risk children through some enhanced fall programming have begun here at CoF. A request for donations to support this new programming as well as an all call for volunteers was posted to our website and various social media outlets, and help is starting to arrive. The excitement of the new school year is beginning to build and we look forward to providing backpacks and back-to-school supplies to all our children at CoF. If you have basic school supplies you would like to donate, please contact Kellie or me!

---

## Programming Continues...

This fall, with the return to school under the CDL (Comprehensive Distance Learning) model, we will be supporting our highest need students through a cohort model to improve access and engagement with online learning. We will keep cohorts to less than 10 including children, peer tutors and adult volunteers and we will practice social distancing and all other health precautions as outlined by OHA. Along with enhanced classroom supports we will be offering more STEM activities and have the following needs:

Small items (will be used for STEM activities):

- Clear contact paper
- Food coloring
- Small mason jars
- Chalk
- Hula hoops
- Cones
- Bean bags
- Pool noodles
- Wire

Big items:

- LEGO kits
- Chrome books
- Tablet

## Construction Update...

The electrical work continues at the Campbell House. The outlets have all been grounded, but track lighting will be swapped with fluorescent lighting in the kitchen and the electrical panel will still be updated or replaced depending on the needs of a mini-split for the upstairs office. Chris at ActionAir has donated us a mini-split unit and we are still awaiting an installation estimate for both price and time to install the unit. Our sign permit was submitted to the city of Sisters in early July and we still await approval of that so Art Blumenkron and Kerry Bott can begin on the construction of our new signs. Building permits to install the new doors to the great room are awaiting final drawings/details from Chris Mayes. Once submitted we anticipate an approximately six week wait to receive approval. Interior paint will be determined closer to the end of the construction phase and we hope to include our mentors and youth in the color selection process.

---

## **Administrative Tasks...**

Administratively, Kellie hosted a Program Committee meeting and I hosted both a Finance Committee meeting and an Executive Committee meeting. The budget proposal for FY 20/21 has been completed and will be presented for approval at the August 19th board meeting. A system for grant tracking, including due dates, deadlines and requirements was implemented and connections were reestablished with several of our past grantors.

## **Fundraising Activities...**

Grant reports, follow-ups and new grant requests took up most of these past two weeks in fund raising activities. The Ford Family Foundation Capital Campaign grant final report was written, accepted and closed by the Ford Family Foundation. A new grant request for FY 20/21 was started with the Nara Fund. A webinar on fundraising and fund development during Covid-19 conditions was attended and as well as a meeting with our local NAO cohort on communication with key stakeholders during the pandemic. Meetings continue with donors and foundations to share our upcoming plans for school support for our youth and provide updates on how our mentors and mentees are fairing during these unprecedented times.

## **Board Notes...**

Covid-19 has affected us all. For some, the effects have been fairly minor. The inconvenience of not being about to go out to our favorite restaurant, of having to wear a mask, of feeling disconnected from face-to-face visits with our family and friends. For others, the effects have been catastrophic. The loss of a loved one, the loss of a job, or a home, or even the loss of the community support they rely on daily. Nonprofit organizations in our area are working hard to fill the gaps left in support services for some of our most vulnerable community members during this crisis. While government, school, and other public offices grapple with slow processes, limited control and conflicting information at both the federal and the state level, nonprofit organizations are far more capable of acting quickly, adjusting rapidly, and reallocating resources to meet the ever changing and growing needs of the clients they serve on nearly a daily basis. Nonprofit organizations serve as a “critical civic infrastructure” and funding these nonprofit organizations ensures that a safety net remains for some of our most vulnerable community members when other systems are delayed or fail.

I leave you all with a brief article on the impact of Covid-19 on Oregon charitable nonprofits. I hope you will read this article thoroughly and take the time to consider how the nonprofits in our own community fill the unresolved needs of some of our own most vulnerable members and families; being especially mindful of the ways in which social or racial inequities impact access to those services.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1th1qtVCdw0xT5a7anjUlyRjXMKdmSaCc/view?usp=sharing>