

# Your Gifts at Work in Oregon

## Every child deserves school supplies

Schoolhouse Supplies serves classrooms in need by operating a volunteer-run free store for teachers, which is stocked with supplies donated by the community. It believes that every child deserves school supplies and has the right to a quality public education. Furthermore, teachers deserve the community's support in providing a positive learning experience for every student.



Since opening its doors in 2000, this store has provided more than \$7.9 million in free school supplies to teachers and students throughout the

district. Last September, in the first nine days of shopping, 1,100 teachers came through the doors. With support from the [Black United Fund of Oregon](#), Schoolhouse Supplies has found a tangible way to ensure that every child has the tools to succeed. To learn more, please visit [www.schoolhousesupplies.org](http://www.schoolhousesupplies.org).

## Helping girls when their moms are in prison

Imagine you're one of the estimated 20,000 children in Oregon with a parent in prison. You may not see your mom or dad for weeks, months, maybe even years. **Girl Scouts Beyond Bars (GSBB)** lets girls ages 5-17 in Oregon connect to their mothers beyond just a rare visiting hour.

Every two weeks, some women in the minimum- or medium-security sections of Coffee Creek Correctional Facility attend their daughters' Girl Scout Troop meeting. This is not regular prison visitation — the moms and daughters can touch and hug, and they spend time doing fun activities together.

The girls are also involved in regular Girl Scout troop activities like selling cookies and doing community projects. The moms in GSBB attend parenting classes and help organize activities for the bi-weekly meetings with their daughters. Studies of GSBB, which is a model that Girl Scout councils use nationwide, suggest it helps both the girls and their mothers build self esteem, strengthens family ties, and reduces the girls' risk of incarceration when they grow up.

"If it wasn't for Girl Scouts, I would probably only see my mom every two months," one Girl Scout said in a recent documentary about GSBB. "There'd be no way I'd know my mom as well as I do now."

Both the [Girl Scouts' Columbia River](#) and [Santiam](#) councils in Oregon operate Girl Scouts Beyond Bars troops and support them financially with funding from several local [United Ways](#). GSBB is also a partner of the Children's Justice Alliance, a program funded by [Children's Trust Fund of Oregon](#).

## Oregon writers' fund established at Equity

This past February, Equity Foundation hosted the seventh annual Investments in Dignity Awards Benefit and Auction at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts and received a HUGE surprise!

**Philip Smith** donated \$10,000 for the new **Armistead Maupin Creative Writing Fund** to be administered by Equity Foundation. The fund will provide the means for Oregon authors to use their talents to promote equality, human dignity and compassionate treatment of all people.

"I've been aware of Equity Foundation since 1990," Smith said. "I was first introduced to Equity because I was asked to help with financial consulting, but I always knew I wanted to do more for the organization."

Thanks to Smith's generous contribution, authors in Oregon and southwest Washington interested in writing to advance the cause of equality and human dignity can get tuition support. In October, the Armistead Maupin Creative Writing Fund will provide \$1,000 each for three students to help pay for tuition at a collegiate institution.

To learn more about Equity Foundation, please see [www.EquityFoundation.org](http://www.EquityFoundation.org) or call (503) 231-5759.

## Get involved in Oregon

- United Way of Benton & Lincoln Counties**  
 Benton Furniture Share  
 Campus Cleanup — June 15-16.  
 Drivers and loaders needed to save good quality furniture from the OSU campus trash!  
 Contact [bfsvista@peak.org](mailto:bfsvista@peak.org)
- Equity Foundation**  
 Portland Pride Festival 2007,  
 June 16-17, Waterfront Park.  
 March in the parade or help out at Equity's info booth.  
[info@equityfoundation.org](mailto:info@equityfoundation.org)
- Community Health Charities**  
 Oregon's 2nd Cancer Summit — encouraging collaboration for early detection, prevention, and survivorship of cancer — Friday, June 8, 8 am-4:30 pm, Oregon Convention Center, Portland.  
[Click here to register](#)
- Earth Share of Oregon**  
 Tualatin Riverkeepers  
 Discovery Day 2007— free 5.5-mile paddle trip on Tualatin River, Saturday, June 23, all day.  
 Register by email:  
[sara@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:sara@tualatinriverkeepers.org)
- Local Independent Charities**  
 Oregon Humane Society  
 Paws Across Portland Benefit, Saturday, June 30, 10 am-4 pm, Sellwood Riverfront Park, SE Spokane Street & Oaks Parkway.  
[www.oregonhumane.org](http://www.oregonhumane.org)
- Work For Art**  
 Chamber Music Northwest — Summer Music Festival, June 25-July 29.  
 Nightly concerts at Reed College in SE Portland and at Catlin Gabel School in SW Portland.  
[www.cmnw.org](http://www.cmnw.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the funds and federations in the Charitable Fund Drive, visit [ecfd.oregon.gov](http://ecfd.oregon.gov).

*Your Gifts at Work in Oregon* is produced by the participating nonprofits of the Charitable Fund Drive. It does not reflect policy or views of the State of Oregon.

If you have story ideas, or want to respond to articles in this newsletter, please email us at [cmoteam@earthlink.net](mailto:cmoteam@earthlink.net).