



It takes a circle!

99 GAL Friends Summer 2025 Newsletter

Dear members, friends, partners, and supporters,

We realized that some of you may not be aware that nearly three years ago we began a new initiative—called 99 GAL Friends of Yamhill County—that operates under the auspices (i.e., under the umbrella) of the Give a Little Foundation. The mission is similar, but now the women members (the “GALS”) can pool yearly membership funds to award grants to nonprofits and other organizations, whereas Give a Little still focuses primarily on assisting individuals and families one by one. So we’re sending this newsletter to the entire Give a Little/99 GAL Friends community for your information, and please let us know if you have questions, thoughts, or suggestions.

Since its inception, 99 GAL Friends has been growing steadily (we have technically outgrown our name!), and there’s lots of excitement. In this newsletter, we want to tell you about our third annual GAL-A, about bringing generations together through the power of the pen, about delivering fiddled sound to quiet places, about dramatically acquainting school children with prickly reality (i.e., cacti), and about unlocking creativity in young hands through their expression in cloth, paper, and wood.

How is all this happening? **The Give a Little/99 GAL Friends “circle” is wonderfully wide and ever-expanding.** So many of you are committing time, energy, ideas, talent, money, and more. As we’ve said for years—and remind ourselves often—even the smallest act of caring will, like a drop of water, ripple through the entire pond.

If you receive this newsletter, you may well be lending support already. If you’re not yet involved, we invite your participation at any time.

Have a look at our letter below (don’t miss the cute green glasses and the cactus) for just a few examples of the numerous positive, uplifting things we can accomplish together.

Very good news and updates

- Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our **Third Annual GAL-A!** If you were not able to join us, please know that we missed you, and we're happy to share some details about the event with you here.
- **We're growing!** The latest count is 111. A complete membership list is available on our website.
- In the relatively short time since our founding less than three years ago, **we've awarded a total of 45 grants to organizations throughout Yamhill County.** (The grants usually fall within the \$1,500-\$2,000 range and are limited to no more than \$5,000 each.) Our goal is to reach a cumulative total of \$100,000 by the end of 2025. Our four areas of focus are: the arts, children and education, senior citizen welfare, and women's health.
- Our Membership Team is preparing an initial **campaign to invite women-owned businesses, women's professional associations, and women-focused nonprofits** to become 99 GAL Friend members. Can you think of any such organizations we should approach? Kindly let us know!

We need your help! Would you like to join one of our 8 Teams? (See information at the end of the newsletter.) Please consider especially the Fundraising Team. Contact Michelle Golden at michelle@99galfriends.org to learn more.



As in the past, we gathered on an early April morning at the First Presbyterian Church in McMinnville to review our progress, celebrate our accomplishments so far, get to know each other better, and look to the future.

We began by socializing and enjoying a delicious buffet brunch prepared by Harvest Fresh Grocery. There was a relaxing camaraderie as we made the most of the opportunity to catch up with old GAL Friends and meet new ones.

We were delighted to welcome **13 representatives from organizations that received grants in 2024. Each of these guests gave a presentation** (accompanied by a slide show) that helped familiarize us with the details of the different projects. We were gratified to know how much our funding has meant to local individuals, families, and communities. **There are many success stories.**

Thank you, everyone, for making this such a memorable event.



99 GAL Friends Members/Presenters Bonnie Mann and Deb Weiner.

Our Grants in Action: Pen Pals Across Generations

From among the 13 grants the Senior Citizen Welfare Focus Team has awarded to date, we wish to highlight an especially innovative, unique initiative that was beneficial to hundreds of participants and inspiring to many others.

The beauty of this particular project? It brought young and old together in a charming, time-proven way. Called the Positive Intergenerational Pen Pal Program (PIPP) and created by Yamhill County Health and Human Services (HHS), the program connected approximately **250 second-grade students with 250 older adults as pen pals.**

Our grant funded 500 colorful writing kits that contained 10+ blank cards and envelopes, pens and pencils, stickers, and “mailboxes” for the classrooms.

As the participants established relationships in writing over the period of the school year, **the rewards were many and profound** in terms of promoting intergenerational learning, alleviating loneliness and social isolation among the elderly, and helping children learn to express themselves in writing. New worlds of experience were made possible.

The project concluded in the most heartwarming way—**three parties (PAR-TEAS) were held** so the senior participants could meet their youthful Pen Pals and their families, thus bringing three generations together. Special thanks to Lacey Plasker, HHS Older Adult Behavioral Specialist, for her vision and dedicated work on the program.

It's Par-tea Time

**You Are Invited to Newby's
2nd Grade Family Night
& Pen Pal Connection**

Come join us for snacks while you possibly meet your pen pal!
Games, crafts & photo booth will be available.

When: May 22nd, 2024
Time: 6:30-7:30pm
Location: Newby Cafeteria
1125 NW 2nd street, McMinnville



Three of our senior Pen Pals
with their second-grade
correspondents and one of the
PAR-TEAs





Our Grants in Action: Performing Arts of Dayton (pop. 2,700)

The Arts and Culture Team (below) has been working assiduously and joyfully to award an impressive total of 18 grants to date. **A high priority of the Team is to support smaller, lesser-funded organizations—mostly in rural locations—**that are committed to bringing the arts to their communities and to people who might otherwise not have access.



From L to R: *Leslie Blanding Perrin, Alanna Pass, Cindy Stinson-Chennell, Monica Setziol-Phillips, Sharon Morgan, Marilyn Kosel, and Ilsa Perse.*



Fiddles, Fruit & Fungi music festival

**Saturday, Sept. 21
11:30-6:30**

Enjoy Music and Fun!

Dayton Courthouse Square Park - Dayton, Oregon
Sponsored by the City of Dayton, Stoller Family Estate & Seufert Winery

*Brought to you by PAB!
(Performing Arts of Dayton)*



11:30 Mariachi Viva Mexico



2:00 Oregon Fiddlers



5:00 Aaron Meyer
Concert Rock Violinist



Fiddlers perform in the park

Performers in “Could You Hug a Cactus” at Dayton Grade School



After months of rehearsals, guest directors and founders of Performing Arts of Dayton Robin and Mark Pederson produced a musical at the local elementary school.

As Robin Pederson writes, “This was the first time the school has done a real musical with sets and blocking. We had a delightful group of fifteen students whose lives were changed by this experience. They really grabbed onto our hearts, not to mention the hearts of all involved.”

The idea of this musical is to raise awareness of using words and actions to help rather than hurt others, even in prickly situations. One of the songs asks:

“What if a cactus felt really bad,
hurt and depressed and truly quite sad,
feeling unwelcome or feeling unliked,
not feeling like dealing with being all spiked?
What if it gave your heartstrings a tug
could you do the deed, could you give it a hug?”

The students were boundlessly enthusiastic about the experience:

“I love this! I am going to sign up for the drama class at the middle school!”
-Kylie, grade 5

“Performing on stage is so much fun! I am good at talking without getting nervous.”
-Luna, grade 4

The musical was free and open to the public, and the Pedersons are now in the process of writing their own musical.

Our Grants in Action: Art Conspiracy Summer Program (West Valley, pop. 12,000)

A second inspiring example of the Arts and Culture Team’s work is our grant to the Art Conspiracy to help fund publicity and materials for their **24th annual two-week summer arts program for area youth** (mostly from the West Valley towns of Amity, Grand Ronde, Sheridan, and Willamina).

See examples of the in-depth courses, taught by working artists and educators, on the poster below. For many participants, **this first exposure to hands-on art has been known to deeply affect their lives.**

THE
Art
CONSPIRACY

Board Games • Ceramics • Creative Sewing • Drawing
Paperweaving+Collage • Smart Phone Photography
Printmaking • Shakespeare • Watercolor • Improv

SUMMER ARTS

June 16-27th in Willamina

visit www.artconspiracywestvalley.org or
call (503) 798-7003 for more information



In their first adventures with embroidery and basic sewing, students are excited to learn various techniques



Students explore methods of Printmaking on a variety of materials; Morgan holds up a creature of his own invention



Students work together to create their own graphic novel, with the story of *The Tomato Caper* unfolding one square at a time

Funding for the arts is always challenging—and often precarious—and now we are facing especially uncertain times. **We strongly believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to enjoy, learn about, and create art regardless of economic circumstances, age, or geographical location.** Art enriches, enlivens, sustains, and connects. As Albert Einstein said, “Creativity is contagious, pass it on.” Together, we have the ability to pass it on and on.

**To learn more about our other Impact Grants, see:
www.99galfriends.org/impact-grants-overview-2023-2025.**

You may want to take special note of:

Henderson House Shelter—ER kits for survivors of violence and welcome kits for children
Soroptimist International—vouchers for job-ready women to obtain clothing for interviews
Chehalem Senior Center—support for planned Better Bones and Balance classes
A Family Place—parenting education materials and classes for Spanish speaking families
Lions Club—support of Medical Devices Program

Focus and Organizational Teams

Focus Team Meeting Dates and Times

Arts and Culture—meets once a month, dates and times vary

Children, Education, and Schools—meets 3rd Friday of the month, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Senior Citizen Welfare—meets last Tuesday of the month, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Women's Health—meets 4th Wednesday of the month, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Organizational Team Meeting Dates and Times

Fundraising—usually meets first Monday of the month, 1:00-2:30 pm

Membership—meets last Thursday of the month, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Programming—meets by arrangement

Publicity—meets by arrangement

THANK YOU from all of us at 99 GAL Friends of Yamhill County
for your interest and support!

Please visit the 99 GAL Friends website by scanning the QR Code below.



Join 99 GAL Friends Today!
www.99galfriends.org/join-today

Please visit the Give a Little Foundation website by scanning the QR Code below.



Donate to Give a Little Foundation
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