

# Give a Little Foundation

## Spring 2026

### The Commitment Issue



**Commitment is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism.**  
~Abraham Lincoln

Dear Friends and Supporters,

There are days, maybe even seasons, when the work feels a little lighter, and then there are periods when more is required of us – more patience, trust, energy, resolve.

We now find ourselves in difficult, uncertain times that are likely to continue. **To face the present challenges and prepare for the next few years, we're stepping up in a major way**—with an additional board member, a new part-time staff member, and expanded programs overall.

While our commitment to serving the most vulnerable among us is stronger than ever, we cannot achieve our goals alone.

**Everything we do depends on your help.**



The Give a Little Board of Directors has added one of Yamhill County's most prominent public figures in Jeb Bladine (pictured here then and now). As the long-time president of Oregon Lithoprint and publisher of the *News-Register* (as well as editor from 1974-2014), he has broad connections and understanding of our area's needs and resources, so his



board presence will inevitably strengthen our ability to serve the community. It is our own and the county's good fortune that Jeb has now joined our Board.



This past month, Lanette Smith joined us as Director of Public Relations, which is a newly created position. Having grown up in Oregon and lived in Dundee for nearly twenty-five years, she brings a vast network of personal and professional relationships to our organization. Lanette holds a Master's Degree in Family Studies and has extensive experience in education as a K-12 teacher and Adjunct Professor as well as in public relations and in hospitality and sales. Her primary responsibilities for us are event planning, media relations, communication, and fundraising. Lanette is dedicated to philanthropic efforts and is thrilled to use her expertise to benefit Yamhill County.

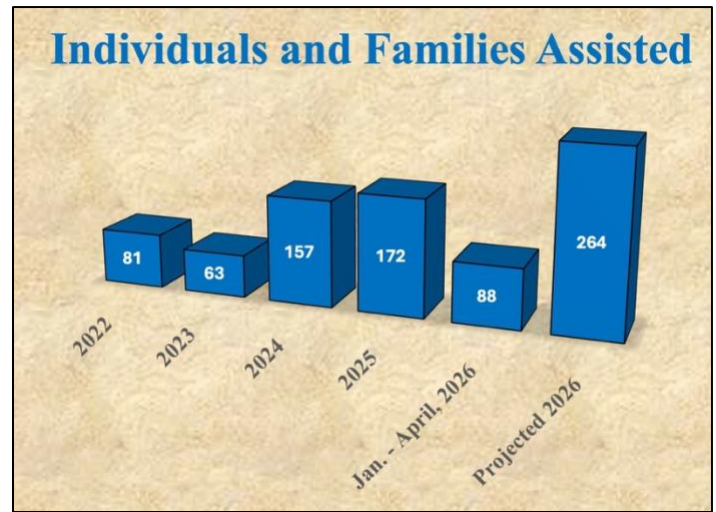
## Expanded Efforts for Growing Needs



## Assistance to Individuals and Families

**We are witnessing a steep increase in overall need and distress.** Rising gas and food prices, high rental costs, and unaffordable medical insurance are causing serious difficulties. In 2022, we funded 81 applications in total. Now, in the first four months of 2026 alone, we have already funded 88 applications, which average \$320 each (with an upper limit of \$500 each).

*Nearly every day I receive applications from caseworkers and others in our partner agencies who work with individuals in trouble and make referrals to us. I keep the people requesting funds close in my heart, because I was once in their shoes, having been a single mother facing chronic money shortages. I know from personal experience how those asking for help may feel a loss of dignity and pride, and I'm very grateful that we can help them relieve their burdens and breathe more freely. ~Michelle Golden, Administrative Director*



## Children and Youth Program

For the past decade, we have partnered with elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the county to support low-income and homeless children and youth.

Now, in addition, **we have broadened our focus beyond the schools to include additional organizations that serve young people**, such as YOOP (Youth Opportunity Program), Henderson House, and Beyond Backpacks.

*I'm passionate about helping children and youth with day-to-day essentials. We receive regular requests from schools and other partner organizations, and I purchase and deliver the items—from school supplies and books to hygiene items to shoes, socks, and clothing. When I began doing this work four years ago, I would have never imagined the impact it would have on me. It is extremely moving when you see a child walking proudly in a new pair of shoes or know they have a warm sleeping bag and pillow for the car they live in with their family. ~Jennie Gunness, Children and Youth Program Administrator*



## Senior Outreach Program

When we began this outreach program in 2021, we served 97 seniors. **The program has grown steadily, and we are currently assisting approximately 300 seniors** who live in low-income housing or manufactured home communities—fulfilling their needs on an individual basis according to surveys we send to them.

We are also in the process of offering services for the first time to residents of Fresa Park, which is a 22-unit complex that houses agricultural workers.



*A major strength of our outreach program—and a favorite part of my job—is our personal connection with many of the seniors we serve. We find out what is most urgently needed, acquire the items based on the requests, and deliver them in person. This gives us the opportunity to talk, enjoy each other's company, and establish mutual trust.*  
~Sandy Soohoo-Refaei, Director of Senior Programs

## Hillside Foundation Grant

For the past 12 years, annual grants from the Hillside Foundation have been instrumental in allowing us to assist senior citizens experiencing crisis, hardship, or social isolation. We express our profound appreciation for the major grant awarded to us by Hillside for 2026.

## McMinnville Area Community Foundation: Grant for Seniors

We are most grateful to have received a McMinnville Area Community Foundation grant—from the Bladine Family and Game Changer Funds—for an innovative pilot program called **Amazon Alexa: A Virtual Companion, Personal Assistant, and Lifeline for McMinnville's Senior Citizens.**

We have purchased, and are in the process of installing, 40 Amazon Echo Dots in local seniors' rooms, apartments, and homes. In addition to providing potential life-saving benefits, this technology promotes overall health and wellness and offers options for music, news, and entertainment.

At the conclusion of the project, we'll be excited to share our results as widely as possible in the hope that our pilot program will be a model for other nonprofits and for care facilities.



## Our Partners

If you are a business owner or an active or retired professional, please consider joining with us as a Partner by contributing a minimum of \$500 over a twelve-month period. We are most grateful to all those who have generously supported us over the years (please find a current list and additional information at [www.givealittlefoundation.org](http://www.givealittlefoundation.org)), and **we're very pleased to welcome Hampton Lumber as our newest Partner.**

## 99 GAL Friends of Yamhill County



As many of you know, Give a Little is the founder and sponsoring agency for the women's giving circle called 99 GAL Friends.

A short clarification: whereas Give a Little has always focused on assistance to individuals and families, 99 GAL Friends awards grants to organizations (e.g., schools, nonprofits) for projects and initiatives that primarily benefit underserved populations.

In the relatively short time since our founding we've awarded a **total of 68 grants, averaging \$1,750 each.** The funds have been invested in four key areas: Arts and Culture; Children, Education, and Schools; Senior Citizen Welfare; and Women's Health. **The total of grants awarded thus far is \$120,000.**

For more information, or to learn how to become a 99 GAL Friend, please visit our [website](#) or use this QR Code:



*With deepest gratitude to all of you who have gone the extra miles with us again and again,  
and with our very best wishes for the spring season,*

*Lynne Barbatsis, Lynda Corbin, Michelle Golden, Jennie Gunness,  
Patty O'Leary, Phillip Pirages, Lanette Smith, Sandy Sooboo-Refaei,  
Rob Stephenson, Ellen Summerfield, Ginny Upton, and Patti Webb*



[www.givealittlefoundation.org](http://www.givealittlefoundation.org)

