

Mann

Continued from A1

of Columbus, which is part of a national KOC program called Coats for Kids. The Knights order cases of jackets and pass them along to Mann, who makes sure they go to youngsters who need them.

"I've distributed hundreds of the jackets," she said.

After that partnership developed, one of the Knights asked Mann if Give a Little also could help with food programs at local churches. She brought it to her board, which said yes. Now Give a Little helps with breakfast supplies and laundry facilities for the homeless, and pays for their showers at the community center, too.

That's one of the beautiful things about how Give a Little works, Mann said: If it receives a request for something it hasn't done before, it has the flexibility to meet that need.

"We've been able to do so many things," she said.

Mann's work with Coats for Kids and other Knights of Columbus programs led the organization to name her McMinnville Woman of the Year in their annual award program. She subsequently was named the Oregon Woman of the Year, as well.

She said she was humbled by the award, but also proud — not just of winning, but also because the McMinnville KOC Chapter had two state winners this year. In addition to her award, Greg and Caroline Wildhauber were named Family of the Year.

Mann's work with children through the Give a Little Foundation really is her extension of a lifetime of helping young people.

The Florida native was in third grade when she decided she would become a teacher.

"I loved reading; I loved learning," she said, recalling how she would pretend to the teacher, giving lessons to her neighborhood friends. "Being a teacher was exciting; all those wonderful things you get to teach."

After earning a degree in criminology and corrections, she started her career as juvenile counselor in her home state. She and her husband moved to Portland a few years later, and she worked



Bonnie Mann has developed partnerships with schools and other helping organizations, such as quilters from the First Baptist Church, who make bags she fills with personal items for students and families.

Marcus Larson/News-Register

as an attendance counselor while pursuing her master's degree in education.

They relocated to McMinnville, where she taught fifth grade at Newby Elementary for 18 years.

She retired in 2008 after 37 years in education.

"I had a life of working with kids," she said. "When you're working with children, you feel there's hope."

Not long after retiring, she became involved with Give a Little.

Mann said she heard the late Tricia Crawford speak about the then-new foundation. "I was so drawn to it, I wanted to do something to help," she said.

Crawford took her up on it, asking her to help decide how to use a grant from Your Community Meditation to support the music in the schools program.

Later, Mann talked to a friend and fellow volunteer, the late Belinda Garretson, who had noticed a child wearing shoes held together with tape.

Garretson talked about it with the foundation's board, which decided Give a Little should take action. Mann helped develop the student

program, using her experience with education to develop a relationship with schools around the county.

"I was hooked," she said.

Give a Little tries to make things as easy as possible on schools, and especially teachers. Mann said, "We do all the legwork," such as finding shoes of the right size. "Educators have no time for that."

By "we," she really means her husband, Jim Mann, and herself. Other volunteers help as well.

Mann, a mother of five and grandmother of six, also developed partnerships with other organizations that help the program in various ways.

Gone to Pieces Quilt Guild members, for instance, make cloth bags that she fills with toiletries for older students.

During the past year, during the pandemic, they've also provided larger bags that Give a Little fills with items for families.

Give a Little also created "comfort bags" for children whose family members contracted COVID-19. Mann filled the bags with art supplies, snacks, stuffed animals, books and soft blankets. The foundation also provides

food such as packets of tuna, string cheese and oranges for the resource room at McMinnville High School. "We want kids to be able to eat, but not just junk," she said.

Just about any need can be answered, Mann said.

"We have no restrictions. We decide what we do, and we're very flexible," she said. "We're small, but we do a lot of work."

For instance, last year Give a Little learned that unpaid lunch fees were keeping some graduating seniors from receiving their diplomas. The foundation footed the bill, totaling about \$2,000.

Her goal is to fill every need within one or two days. "I can't stand the thought of a child without a jacket or shoes in the cold," she said.

She added, "If we can show a child that someone cares for them ... they'll grow up knowing people care."

Starla Pointer, who believes everyone has an interesting story to tell, has been writing the weekly "Stopping By" column since 1996. Contact her at 503-687-1263 or spointer@newsregister.com.

Nonprofit

Continued from A1

obtaining a commercial driver's license, or other needs.

It also added a youth program that provides items such as clothing or shoes to students recommended by teachers and counselors. In addition, the annual Give a Little awards a \$3,000 scholarship to a college-bound student who has experienced homelessness.

Give a Little partners with other organizations to make sure needs are met. It works with YCAP, Northwest Senior and Disability

Services, the Yamhill Community Cares Organization, Unidos Bridging Community and other agencies. Agencies refer clients to the foundation.

"They know which ones need help and will benefit," Fiore said.

Give a Little sends funds to those agencies for distribution, rather than giving money directly to clients. In some cases, it pays the provider, such as paying a tire store when someone needs new tires in order to safely drive to work.

Fiore noted that Give a Little rarely turns down a request. Most of its grants are \$500 or less; to answer more expensive needs, the

foundation may partner with another agency.

The foundation usually limits its assistance to one grant per person, Fiore said, although during the pandemic it has given second grants to a few people who had received funds years ago. "There were so many needs during COVID," she said.

The grants are intended to get people or families back on track, she said. For example, if Give a Little pays off a delinquent utility bill, it puts the grant recipient in a position to start fresh and pay their own bills in the future.

"When they apply, we ask what they will do next time," Fiore said.

"We're giving them a hand up, not a handout."

Give a Little depends on donations from individuals and businesses, along with grants. The Hillside Foundation, for instance, has been generous with grants targeted at helping seniors throughout Yamhill County.

The foundation helps individual seniors get new glasses, have their hair cut, subscribe to FireMed or fill other needs; 40 people were served in 2020. It provides activities, such as movie tickets and trips, for residents of Village Quarter, Heritage Place and other living facilities. It also works with the

EVENTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MAY 27

Farmers market: The McMinnville Downtown Association Farmers Market will be Thursday, May 27, at First and Cows streets and continues Thursdays through Oct. 14. For more information, call the downtown association at 503-472-3605.

SATURDAY, MAY 29

Farmers market: A farmers market is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 29, at the McMinnville Grange, 1700 Old Sheridan Road. Fresh produce, plants, baked goods, flowers, and arts and crafts will be for sale. For more information, call the grange at 503-538-7987.

SUNDAY, MAY 30

Dancing: Joe Justin and Janet Kay will perform from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, May 30, at the outdoor stage at McMinnville Grange, 1700 Old Sheridan Road. Admission is \$10. For more information, call the grange at 503-538-7987.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

Fundraiser run: McMinnville Young Life will hold a 5K Young Life Run starting at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 5, at the Grain Station Brewery, 755 N.E. Alpine Avenue, McMinnville. All proceeds go toward sending students to camp this summer. Registration is \$35.00 for children in fifth grade and under and \$50.00 for sixth grade and up. Registration includes a t-shirt and lunch from Grain Station. You can register by going to eclectic edge's website and clicking on the race calendar. For more information, contact Grace Stiansen at 402-740-0987 or gracesstiansen@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

Grad fundraiser: The McMinnville High School Grad Night bottle and can fundraiser is set for noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 6, in the parking lot of Auto Zone, 101 N.W. 15th St., and Oregon Mutual, 400 N.E. Baker St. Contact-free drop-off is set up. Drop off sites will also be available on the first weekend of July and August. For more information or to arrange pickup, call 503-565-4223 or email mhs.graduation.night@gmail.com.

CORRECTION

Mark Davis was partially misquoted in the May 21 article on the McMinnville city budget committee. It should have stated that Davis, in calling for increased city council purview of financial statements, said of city staff, "I know they're looking at these numbers, because every year our expenses are less than what our budget is set for."

PLACES OF WORSHIP

WORSHIP SCHEDULES PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY. EXPANDED INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE 3RD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

AMITY	McMINNVILLE	DAYTON	LAFAYETTE
<p>Amity Christian Church 1305 Goucher Street 503-835-2551 Sunday School: 9:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30 am www.amitychurch.org</p>	<p>First Mennonite Church Fellows & Cedarwood 503-472-0217 Sunday Service: 11:00 am</p> <p>First Christian Church 1300 Brooks Street 503-472-7227 Sunday Service: 10:00 am disciples@frontier.com</p> <p>Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Streaming at facebook.com/uufmac 1st and 3rd Sundays at 10:30am www.macuuf.org</p> <p>Creekside Community Church 333 NE Evans Street 503-472-9197 Sunday Service: 9:45 am www.creeksidemac.com</p> <p>Abundant Life Pentecostal Church 1145 Wallace Road 503-472-1585 Sunday Service: 10:00 am and 6:00 pm</p> <p>Baker Creek Community Church 325 NW Baker Creek Road 503-434-5541 Sunday Service: 10:30 am www.bakercreekcommunity.org</p> <p>Bible Baptist Church 823 NE Ford St. 503-778-0366 Sunday Worship: 12:30 pm</p> <p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 1500 SW Old Sheridan Road 503-472-7841 Saturday Service: 10:45 am</p>	<p>Dayton Pioneer Church 300 Church Street 503-864-3338 Sunday Service: 10:30 am pioneerangelicalchurch.org</p> <p>Unionvale Countryside Church 18725 Wallace Road SE 503-864-4864 Sunday Service: 11:00 am</p>	<p>Lafayette Community Church 365 3rd Street 503-864-8409 Sunday Service: 10:00 am lafayettecommunitychurch.org</p>

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