

A Community Endowment in Wallowa County

-- Info Sheet --

A community endowment...

- ❖ Is a fund **created by the people** of Wallowa County for projects in Wallowa County.
- ❖ Funds community programs/projects through a **community grant application process**, prioritizing funding based on publicly developed community goals and needs.
- ❖ Has an **independent advisory committee** broadly representative of its community.
- ❖ Would have funds managed by the Oregon Community Foundation, offering **tax-exempt, public charity status** to donors for tax deduction purposes.
- ❖ Actively involves citizens in **identifying emerging needs** in order to effectively address local priorities.
- ❖ Creates a way for the community to **accept donations** from people who want to support the community, but aren't drawn to one specific issue or organization.
- ❖ Is a **responsible steward** of charitable funds and is accountable to its community, regularly sharing information on its programs and finances.
- ❖ Is part of a **long tradition** of helping communities bring about effective change, with more than 700 community foundations and endowments nationwide, beginning in 1914.
- ❖ **Fosters greater giving** and volunteering in our community.
- ❖ Builds **trust in the community** and a **commitment to our future**.

Steps towards establishing an endowment...

- ❖ **Planning Process:** Includes multiple focus group meetings and a public meeting during February and March to engage the public and receive input on which community goals and needs the community endowment should focus on.
- ❖ **Organizing:** Public process to collect applications for fund advisory committee membership to have committee in place by late March. Work with the Oregon Community Foundation to create fund agreements, etc. through March and April.
- ❖ **Silent Phase:** Initial fundraising to take place before public campaign. Gifts are given during the silent phase to inspire other donors through simple gifts or estate bequests.
- ❖ **Public Phase:** The public phase may include a variety of events, public outreach campaigns, school penny drives, etc. as determined by the advisory committee and local volunteers.

For more information, contact the
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