

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 of 2010 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 first committee in place by fall of 2010. Work with the Oregon Community Foundation to create fund agreements, etc. by end of 2010. Provide information about the fund to volunteers, groups and the community at large during 2011.
- ❖ **Silent Phase:** Volunteer fundraising that takes place before beginning any public campaigns. Gifts are given during the silent phase to inspire other donors through simple gifts or estate bequests.
- ❖ **Public Phase:** Raising awareness and funds with 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
Northeast Oregon Economic Development District
(541) 426-3598 • www.neoedd.org • saramiller@neoedd.org