

## ABOUT US: The G.A.P.S. Foundation

*“Generating Assistance for Public Schools in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, and Washington Counties”*

### MISSION STATEMENT

#### **The G.A.P.S. Foundation exists to:**

- Benefit all children of public schools in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington Counties, Oregon, that are served by the Northwest Regional Education Service District.
- Provide financial assistance to public school programs by seeking special-project funding and long-term endowments.
- Distribute funds to educational programs that serve youth— birth to 21—with a preference for underprivileged and special needs youth.

### FUNDING PRIORITIES

#### **The G.A.P.S. Foundation is working to strengthen:**

- Early Childhood Education Programs
- At-Risk Youth Programs
- School Age Special Education Programs
- Northwest Outdoor Science School
- Vocational/Professional/Technical Programs

### THE G.A.P.S. FOUNDATION PLAN

- Form a Board of Trustees and committees of business leaders to govern, invest assets and distribute Foundation earnings
- Develop a series of restricted funds for programs beyond the resources of school districts
- School districts in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington Counties are eligible to receive grants from the Foundation

### YEAR FOUNDED, NON-PROFIT STATUS, AND TAX ID NUMBER

- Incorporated by the State of Oregon in April 2006 (in Washington County)
  - 501c(3) non-profit status letter received in April 2007 (retroactive to April 2006)
- Federal Tax ID NO. 20-5449967

### GRANTS

#### **Grants awarded to The G.A.P.S. Foundation:**

1. Gray Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation/2009: \$33,000 for the second year of a three-year request to support Terra Nova’s Youth Conservation Corps and Community Farm.
2. Gray Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation/2008: \$35,000 to develop a sustainable Community Farm and Youth Conservation Corps program at the ESD’s Terra Nova High School in Beaverton.
3. U.S. Bank: \$1,000 for the ESD’s Tillamook County Multi-Modular pre-school exams
4. Community 101/Tillamook Options Program: \$1,000 for the ESD’s Tillamook County Multi-Modular pre-school exams

#### **Grants awarded BY The G.A.P.S. Foundation (see examples on page 3):**

Over the past three years, The G.A.P.S. Foundation has awarded 69 mini-grants totaling \$104,357 to benefit young children and students in public school in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington counties. The grants have made a difference in the lives of over 14,000 children and students in our region to-date!

Award amounts are between \$100 and \$1,000, and every school district in the four counties that applies is guaranteed to receive at least one award during each grant cycle. Grants are awarded for projects based on their impact on public school programs that directly affect the following: Early Intervention/Early Childhood Education; Special Needs and Underprivileged Youth (Examples: Low-Incidence, Developmentally Delayed, At-Risk, Alternative and Behavioral Programs and Migrant and Indian Ed Programs); Outdoor School; and Professional/Technical and Vocational Programs.

# ABOUT NORTHWEST REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

[www.nwresd.k12.or.us](http://www.nwresd.k12.or.us)

**Purpose:** ESDs are state agencies that exist to provide programs and services beyond the resources of individual school districts in a centralized format that is efficient and allows for maximum use of public and charitable dollars; such as at-risk, special education and outdoor school. These are often the programs that are reduced or eliminated in school districts and the focus of The G.A.P.S. Foundation.

**Funding:** ESDs are funded through state schools funds (apportioned based on the weighted average daily membership of component districts – ADMw), educational grants, property taxes and service contracts (state and federal).

**Special Education Department:** NWRESD is the largest ESD in Oregon with over 115,000 students (ODE est. of ADMw for 2008-09). Special Student Services represents the largest area of service, with over 5,000 children served each year. These services require staff with very specialized training/education. Services are provided in the areas of autism, orthopedic impairments, vision impairments, hearing impairments, school age/at-risk youth programs

## EXAMPLES OF ESD PROGRAMS:

**Early Intervention programs for children age 3 to kindergarten:** an autism classroom at North Plains Elementary; classrooms at the Woodside program in Beaverton, serving children with needs in the areas of speech/language delays, social delays and issues related to medical disabilities such as cerebral palsy and Down syndrome.

**At-risk youth programs:** *(For students with conduct, behavioral, and emotional needs):* Education services at St. Mary's Home for Boys (a school staffed by the ESD); Cascade and Pacific Academies in Beaverton; and Lifeworks NW Youth/Child/Adolescent Day Treatment Programs in Tigard.

**Professional/technical education programs for high school students:** The Hospitality, Tourism & Recreation Program and the Health Services Academy.

**Outdoor School:** The ESD's Northwest Outdoor Science School gives students opportunities to experience the natural world in an outdoor setting, including Residential Outdoor School for elementary schools, Spring Break Outdoor School for 5th and 6th graders, Environmental Education Field Studies for 5th through 8th grade classes, and Cascade Education Corps for at-risk high school students.

**School improvement:** Fifty-two percent of Oregon's students attend schools that participate in a school improvement plan initiated by the Northwest Regional ESD. School districts representing an additional 30 percent of the State's student population are considering adopting the plan.

## **\*EXAMPLES OF GRANTS AWARDED BY THE G.A.P.S. FOUNDATION**

**ESD/Levi Anderson Learning Center** (*At-risk program for high school students located at St. Mary's Home for Boys in Beaverton*) Levi Anderson students will be able to substantially increase their 'home grown' library by purchasing contemporary books for boys, particularly those that interest reluctant and struggling readers. (\$1,000)

**ESD/Cascade Academy** (*Behavioral treatment high school program in Beaverton*) Students at Cascade Academy will have the opportunity to participate in a new hands-on mechanics class that will include curriculum devoted to small engine repair, bicycle repair, alternative technologies, construction, electric and plumbing foundations. The grant will allow them to purchase tools, construction materials and small engine parts to get the class off the ground. (\$1,000)

**ESD/Early Intervention/Early Childhood Education** The program will use the grant to purchase additional equipment that will allow them to complete augmentative communication/assistive technology (AC/AT) kits for each of the program sites throughout the four-county region. The kits will include a standard set of technology equipment for the specialists to use with children who are non-communicative. (\$1000)

**ESD/Psychologist / Clatsop County** Grant funds will help make possible "Clatsop Girls United", a summit for building leadership skills, education awareness and self confidence. The goal of the summit is to encourage and motivate at risk girls in grades 4 – 8 to envision their future as smart, strong, educated women. The summit will be at Clatsop Community College, giving the girls an opportunity to experience activities, such as: chemistry experiment, fencing, welding and maritime science. (\$1,000)

**Sunset High School in Beaverton** Sunset High School's "Tech Wizards" all-Latino robotics team, and students in the Robotics II classes, will be able to purchase a First Tech Challenge Tetrix Robotics Kit. The robotics program provides hands-on experiences with engineering tasks in order to foster students' interest in pursuing higher education. (\$800)

**North Plains Elementary in Hillsboro** Students at North Plains Elementary were awarded funds to offset the cost of taking all sixth grade students to the ESD's Northwest Outdoor Science School for three days this spring. (\$800).

**Tillamook School District** A mini-grant award of \$,1000 will help support an after-school program in the Tillamook School District known as the CHICAS Project. CHICAS serves 30 high school Hispanic women and approximately 30 junior high school Hispanic girls in a effort to engage them more fully into the social and academic structures in their communities. The program supports the students by providing a positive series of programming that strives to keep these students from dropping out of school. (\$1,000)

**South Jetty High School-Warrenton School District** Housed within the North Coast Youth Correctional Facility, this program will be able to increase the Professional-Technical/Vocational learning activities for the at-risk students within the confines of the facility. The funds will be used to purchase instructional materials to supplement the Career Exploration course designed to provide students with skills for their transition to the community. (\$600)