Executive Report - 2021

The Camas-Washougal Community Chest was established in 1946 to coordinate raising funds for local 501(c) (3) non-profits involved with (1) education, (2) youth activities, (3) aiding those with special needs, (4) natural resource conservation, (5) health and welfare, (6) crisis and emergency services, (7) improving diversity, equity, and inclusivity, and (8) other charitable and civic endeavors. All grants are for services and programs provided in the Camas and Washougal areas.

The CWCC is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Directors serving as of December 31, 2021 were: Past-President Joelle Scheldorf, President-Elect Deanna Rusch, Secretary Cari Corbett, Treasurer Marianne Reiter, Campaign Chairman Rich Reiter, and Board members Stewart Bennett, Susan Bennett, Matthew McBride, Cassi Marshall, Bolt Minister, Dave Pinkernell, Mindy Schmidt, David Scott, and Mary Templeton.

Organizations desiring funds are required to file a grant application requesting support. Proposals are normally filed in December for review the following February by the Grant Committee and the Board of Directors. Grant decisions are generally granted by March.

Organizations receiving funds in 2021 were: St. Anne’s Episcopal Church; ReFuel Washougal; Camas Farmer’s Market; Camas-Washougal Historical Society; Children’s Home Society (East County Family Resource Center); Dance Evolution; Family Promise Clark County; Friends of the Columbia Gorge; General Federation of Women’s Clubs; Inter-Faith Treasure House; Janus Youth Programs; Journey Theater Arts Group; Kiwanis Camp Wa-Ri-Ki; Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership; Meals on Wheels People; Opera Quest Northwest; Camas Parks & Rec – Skate Park; Pathways Clinic; Pink Lemonade Project; Police Activities League; Washougal Principal’s Fund; West Columbia Humane Society; and Cascade Pacific Boy Scouts.

In 2021, the Camas-Washougal Community Chest formed a partnership with the Camas-Washougal Rotary Foundation to help with the awarding and funding of Grants. The Rotary consequently funded five grants: Fort Vancouver Regional Library - Washougal; Friends of the Camas Library; Lunch Money Indoor Skate Park; REACH Community Development; and Treessong Nature Retreat. In addition, an emergency grant was given to ReFuel Washougal in December to provide tents, sleeping bags, food and emergency shelter during snowy, freezing weather when the Washougal shelter could not open. Due to this partnership, an additional $15,125 was funded.

Most funds are raised by annual campaigns from October 1 through September 30. The legal fiscal year for the organization is January 1 through December 31. Funds received in fiscal year 2021 included $111,811 from donations, $14,794 from events, and $7,629 from investments. Disbursements for fiscal year 2021 included $122,546 for grants to organizations, and $2,751 for miscellaneous expenses (event expenses, office expenses, insurance, Post Office box, taxes, and fees).
Assets as of December 31, 2021 were $227,812. Most grants are paid quarterly. Grants for 2022 had not been approved by December 31, 2021. It is estimated that those grants will amount to $137,000.