



PRESS RELEASE

April 20, 2020

Last week, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Greater Santiam received notification that they would be receiving a gift in the amount of \$300,000 from the Portland-based Heatherington Foundation for Innovation and Education in Health Care, along with FamilyCare Health. The gift to the Club is part of a \$400,000 total investment the organizations are making in Lebanon. Another \$1.6 million in contributions were made in the Portland area.

Dr. Rob Richardson, chair of the FamilyCare Board stated, “Lebanon has a special place in our hearts. This community opened its doors to help bring the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific to Lebanon. The college was founded in Lebanon in 2011, and thrives here today.”

Richardson added, “The coronavirus epidemic has presented all of us with unique challenges that will continue for some time. Our recovery from this virus depends on the strength of the community organizations that are serving our most vulnerable population.”

Jared Cornell, president of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Greater Santiam Board of Directors explained, “The announcement of these gifts to the Club and to the other Lebanon based organizations is amazing. The \$300,000 investment helps to replace income that would have normally have been generated at the Annual Spring Auction (originally scheduled to be held on May 2). This investment will allow us to continue to provide the services families have come to expect in the short term, and to be here for the community for years to come.”

Kris Latimer, Executive Director stated, “This has been a particularly trying time for so many in our community, including the Boys & Girls Club and our staff. We plan to carefully utilize this generous gift in order to increase the long-term stability of the organization, in the hope that Club is not in such a precarious position ever again. We’d also like to thank all the champions of children in our community that have answered our appeal for support and stepped up over the past few weeks, helping us to make ends meet. We plan to make the very best of their investments, together with these funds graciously given by the Heatherington Foundation and FamilyCare, to create a positive impact for the future.”

Latimer added, “In response to Dr. Richardson’s comments, the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific NW has a special place in our hearts at the Club. Every year for the past nine years more than 20 first year medical students have participated with the Club as volunteers. These students bring life experience, mentorship, education, and friendship to the children that we serve. They are also a very willing volunteer workforce, coming out to support our fundraising activities, such as Spring Auction and Brewfest. We look forward to when we can thank all of our champions, including Dr. Heatherington and Dr. Richardson in person for their support, and to being together with our volunteers and community again soon in celebration!”

NOTE:

While the BGCGS had to take swift action to layoff the majority of its workforce in order to keep the organization viable, a small group of staff have been providing emergency childcare for healthcare workers, first responders, and essential workers in Lebanon since March 16. Nearly 30 children are now attending this program. The Club has also been providing 500 meals each weekend, and three hours of virtual programming daily Monday-Friday via Facebook. An emergency childcare program will open in Sweet Home on April 27. For information on current programs call the Lebanon office at 541.258.7105.