



Boomers and Babies Grant Awards

In the spring of 2011, seven grants totaling \$250,577 were awarded through the Boomers and Babies Project, an initiative of The Oregon Community Foundation and The Atlantic Philanthropies. Additional support is provided by the PGE Foundation, Knowledge Universe, the Juan Young Trust and several OCF Donor Advised Funds.

Pilot Projects (2008-2012)

Adelante Mujeres, “Champions for Early Childhood Education”

Adelante Mujeres operates a variety of programs serving Spanish-speaking immigrant families in Forest Grove, including micro-enterprise activities, a program for adolescent Latina girls, and classes for adults in ESL, GED preparation, parenting and leadership development, along with a toddler program and preschool for the children whose families are participating in other programs. The “Champions for Early Childhood Education” initiative recruits and trains boomer volunteers to be Reading Pals. Most volunteers are paired with one or more preschool-age children, and most come at least weekly to share books in English with those children. Some volunteers have chosen to help with preparation of reading materials or planning and volunteer leadership activities.

Family Nurturing Center, Jackson County “Circle of Caring”

The Family Nurturing Center-Jackson County Children’s Relief Nursery is the lead agency for a multi-agency partnership to bring boomer volunteers into the lives of children and families, called the “Circle of Caring.” At the Family Nurturing Center, volunteers primarily work directly with children in the therapeutic classrooms; volunteers have also helped with projects like facility improvement and development of a community garden, and one boomer volunteer has subsequently joined the organization’s board of directors. Most boomer volunteers at CDS are placed in the classroom, where they are able to support staff by working one-on-one with children who have a variety of physical and developmental disabilities. CCRN and the Jackson County Library developed a literacy program in which boomer volunteers regularly visit in-home child care providers to offer story-times to the children in care.

New Project Grants (2011-2013)

Family Building Blocks

Family Building Blocks, Marion and Polk County’s relief nursery, will collaborate with another relief nursery that participated in the Boomers & Babies Learning Community: the Family Development Center in Roseburg. Together they will create a Boomer Volunteer Toolkit that will eventually be available to all relief nurseries in the state to assist them with effective Boomer volunteer engagement.

Gladstone School District I 15

The Gladstone Center for Children and Families, a partnership between the Gladstone School District and several early childhood non-profit agencies including Head Start, Healthy Start, John Wetten Elementary and the Family Stepping Stones Relief Nursery, will be developing a center-wide volunteer program to streamline and coordinate the engagement of Boomer volunteers. These volunteers will support learning directly in the classrooms and "activity zones" as well as provide necessary administration assistance to the center.

NeighborImpact

NeighborImpact, the Community Action Agency providing emergency, housing and early care and education services for Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties, will engage Boomer volunteers to assist with Story Time, School Readiness, Social-Emotional Development and Math Kits in Head Start classrooms and in home child care settings. Bilingual volunteers will work directly with ESL children. The Education Service District and the Deschutes County Library will work together to identify the children with needs and provide volunteer training.

Support for the NeighborImpact project comes from the PGE Foundation.

Umatilla-Morrow County Head Start Inc.

Umatilla-Morrow County Head Start (UMCHS) will expand and sustain a culture of volunteerism across the seven rural counties it serves. Boomer volunteers will work in each of UMCHS's 17 classrooms as well as be trained to do home visits for families, as part of the agency's parenting education Hub project. There will be a focused effort on engaging retired Hispanic community members as volunteers and on long-term volunteer retention.

Volunteers of America Oregon

The Family Relief Nursery at Volunteers of America Oregon (VOA) will expand its volunteer program to effectively engage Boomer volunteers to work directly in the classrooms as well as provide administrative capacity to the organization. Viewed as a pilot program for VOA, its strategies will eventually be implemented in other VOA programs to expand the impact of older adult volunteers throughout the wider organization.