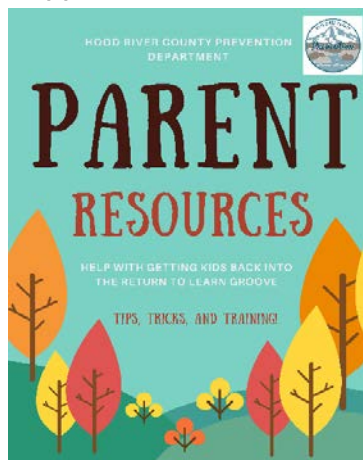


4,000 BAG RETURN TO LEARN EVENT

By Hood River County Prevention Department
541-386-2500 option 3 / kathy.smith@co.hood-river.or.us

4,000 packets. Dozens of man-hours and volunteers. So many awesome sponsors. All coming together to support and encourage our kids heading back to school, also known as 'return to learn', virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hood River County School District, Hood River County Prevention Department, and One Community Health got together to provide every student K-12 in the School District with the tools to start their virtual school year. The School District distributed not only iPads and handouts, but hand sanitizer, masks, fidget toys, and an apple. One Community Health resources included information about the School Based Health Center. Hood River County Prevention Department provided the majority of the plastic bags for the packets as well as a Parent Resource Packet including upcoming parent workshops, Toddlers 2 Teens workshops, Parents 'What's your Message' information, and pencils. The Gorge Happiness Month calendar was also included.



So many caring people and organizations worked together to make the Return to Learn event successful, which ultimately means they worked together to make our youth successful. We want to offer our sincere 'Thank You' and express our gratitude to you all.

- ❖ Print It donated printing costs for some of the thousands of paper handouts.
- ❖ Gorge Grown Food Network donated apples; one for each of the 4,000 bags.
- ❖ Randy Kiyokawa donated apples for the volunteers working on putting the packets together.
- ❖ Hood River Alliance Church donated the use of their space.



- ❖ Ten Speed and Ben Saur donated coffee to the volunteers putting the packets together.
- ❖ Weatherly Printing provided discounted printing for thousands of sheets of paper.
- ❖ The Next Door, Inc provided hand sanitizer and masks for Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker children's packets.

- ❖ Hood River County Emergency Management donated 2,500 masks.
- ❖ Hood River County Parole and Probation work crew put together 4,000 individual-size bottles of hand sanitizer and delivered apples and the packets to the schools.



- ❖ Down Manor and Down Manor residents for putting School District and Prevention Department stickers on almost all the bags.



- ❖ To many fabulous volunteers to name. The gym of the Alliance Church was filled with busy hands and smiling faces that were socially distanced and temperature checked.

- ❖ Jade Dowdy, HRVHS graduate and Health Media Club member, for using her artistic skill to create posters for each school to encourage staff that they are supported by their community. Volunteers decorated and signed each of the posters.



And finally, the completed packets waiting to go into the eager hands of our students.



RESOURCE DIRECTORY FOR THE COLUMBIA GORGE

By Kathy Smith, HRCPD Office Manager
541-386-2500 option 3 / kathy.smith@co.hood-river.or.us

I know we have written about the Columbia Gorge Regional Resource Directory in past newsletters, but now that it is ready, we just want to share more about this important resource for our Columbia Gorge communities. It has been a long process, made much longer by the COVID-19 pandemic, which made meeting to discuss the process and progress of creating the directory much more difficult.

A bright spot, however, was having Heidi Venture as our technical assistance, through a small grant from the Ford Family Foundation. Heidi facilitated meetings between all the partners during the planning stages, coordinated partners work on gathering different resource guides, checking resources, and creativity. And when COVID-19 could have shelved the process until life was 'back to normal', she coordinated with all the workgroup partners to continue meeting and moving forward.

This month the Resource Directory for the Columbia Gorge was printed by the Columbia Gorge News. The Columbia Gorge News did a great job and was an amazing partner! Chelsea Marr and Niki Piacente were so patient and enthusiastic about the project. They found great sponsors who made the printing possible. Sponsors including FISH Food Bank, Kidz Dental Zone, One Community Health, Washington Gorge Action Programs, and so many more.

The Resource Directory includes wonderful articles written by our community partners: Terri Vann, the Importance of Early Childhood Education; Debby Jones, YouthThink Director, Emotional Literacy and Secure Attachment; Susan Gabay, Suicide Prevention in the Gorge; Leslie Naramore, Executive Director, Washington Gorge Action Programs; Jordan Haas, Gorge Grown Food Network; and Claire Ranit, Trauma Informed Practices. These are diverse articles with lots of great information for community members.

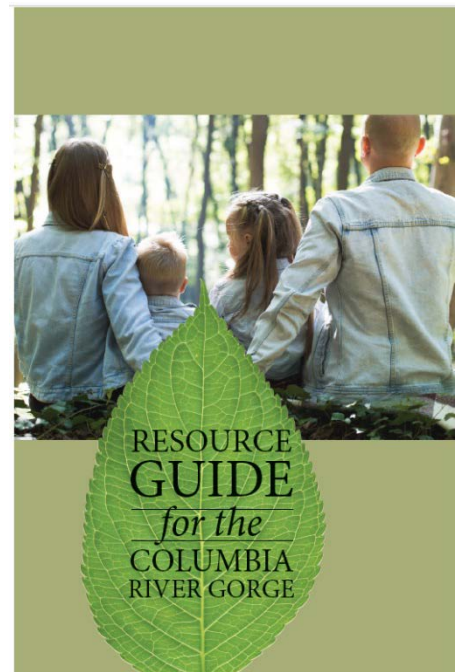
The resources themselves encompass more than just basic needs such as food, housing, employment, healthcare, and education. We have included a wide variety of resources to help with

issues that crop up such as where to call if your dog or cat is missing (animal control / shelters), if you need childcare, where to go to pay traffic tickets / fines / taxes (city / county government), or if you are looking for veterans services.

Because the group felt it was very important that the resource directory could be used by everyone, we added descriptions and category names in Spanish. We also added a key so the user would know if the organization they were searching for has bilingual staff or materials or website. It is very important to all of us that this resource is useful to all the members of the communities in the Columbia Gorge. For that reason, we also added a section specifically for Tribal resources.

When the Resource Guides for the Columbia River Gorge arrived a couple of weeks ago, it was like birthdays and Christmas combined. Box after box stacked up in our office, a total of 6,000 directories. We have started distributing them and have either distributed or will have distributed over 3,000 by the end of September.

But we want to be sure all five counties (Hood River, Klickitat, Sherman, Skamania, and Wasco) have directories for as many of their organizations who work with clients who could benefit from knowing about these resources as possible. So, please feel free to spread the word. There is no cost to any organization that would like some. You can contact Kathy Smith by email: kathy.smith@co.hood-river.or.us.



The Resource Directory workgroup is now looking at moving forward with the next step, which would be to put the Directory on-line so that it can be updated and added to as organizations grow, change, and more come into our communities. We have a small group who are interested in helping move the directory on-line. When we were researching resources for the regional resource directory it was amazing to discover all the help

out there for people who need it. We would also like to add a searchable calendar of free social service events. If you are interested in participating in the workgroup to put the directory on-line, or are just interested in more information, please contact the Prevention Department at Belinda.ballah@co.hood-river.or.us or kathy.smith@co.hood-river.or.us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER:

7 - Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Coalition Meeting (ZOOM electronic meeting @3:30pm)

31 - Halloween  

NOVEMBER:

4 - Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Coalition Meeting (ZOOM electronic meeting @3:30pm)

26 - Thanksgiving Holiday  

DECEMBER:

2 - Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Coalition Meeting (ZOOM electronic meeting @3:30pm)

25 - Christmas Holiday  



Please reach out to our office with any questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns. You can reach our main office line at 541-386-2500.

We look forward to connecting with you!