

# BANDON DUNES GOLF RESORT

## CHARITABLE GIVING 2024







*Dear Friends,*

For 25 years, giving back to the South Coast has been part of our commitment and a priority for Bandon Dunes Golf Resort. Today, Bandon Dunes Charitable Foundation (BDCF) is the hub for all of Bandon Dunes' charitable efforts — from community giving, scholarships and triple-bottom-line grants to new staff-focused initiatives like the Matched Giving program and team-driven donation activities.

We are excited to enlarge these giving opportunities, which encourage Bandon Dunes' staff to be active charitable partners while also extending our impact to a wider variety of organizations, communities and programs along the South Coast.

In 2024, the resort opened Shorty's, a new 19-hole par-3 golf course that directs 100% of its net proceeds to BDCF. In addition to funding ongoing triple-bottom-line projects that support conservation, community and economy, Shorty's allows us to branch out and support scholarships and golf programs for youth along with critical needs like education and community health and well-being.

We are grateful to the Keiser family for their ongoing, expanded commitment to charitable giving that fosters the South Coast's well-being and resilience.

We want to thank our partners, grantees and friends in the South Coast's closely knit communities. Their insights into local challenges and opportunities, coupled with their collaborative spirit, are a source of inspiration and are key to driving meaningful change.

The stories in this annual report show how members of South Coast communities are empowered to share their perspective, get involved and approach old problems with fresh solutions.

We are honored and thankful to work alongside you to build a thriving South Coast in 2025 and beyond.

**Marie Simonds**  
Executive Director



## OUR TEAM

**Marie Simonds**  
*Executive Director*

**Paula Thompson**  
*Program & Administrative Assistant*





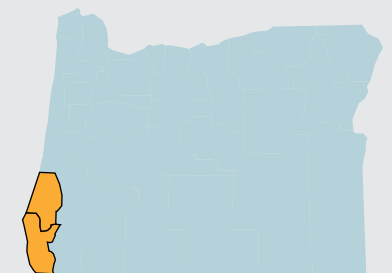


## OUR PRIORITIES

Healthy fish and species habitats, working landscapes and seascapes, sustainable tourism, community collaboration, sustainable business, community health and well-being, accessible child care, education, scholarships, workforce housing, and local golf programs.

## OUR SERVICE AREA

Communities and working lands across Coos and Curry counties, focusing on the Coquille River watershed south through the Winchuck River watershed.



# BANDON DUNES GOLF RESORT

## 2024 IMPACT

Since 2006, Bandon Dunes Golf Resort has supported hundreds of South Coast organizations through the net proceeds from Bandon Preserve — the resort’s first short course — and now from Shorty’s, its new 19-hole short course.



**\$19.5M**  
supporting the South Coast since inception



**\$2.5M**  
total charitable gifts



**69**  
grants funded



**\$75,000+**  
matched giving to charitable nonprofits



**821**  
hours of technical aid for new or expanding businesses



**>1,600**  
acres of gorse treated through grant funding



**5,304**  
gorse seedlings pulled



**37**  
miles of biking trails



**\$400K+**  
scholarships for more than 40 South Coast students



**178**  
high school students in youth employment activities



**~3,000**  
youth served in out-of-school programs



**“Through our monitoring of the Lower Coquille, we have found that the Beaver Slough site raises some of the largest juvenile coho throughout the entire Coquille. The upgraded tide gate will increase the availability of over-winter habitat.”**

—Julie Huff, Monitoring Program Coordinator,  
Coquille Watershed Association



# CONSERVATION

**THE COQUILLE WATERSHED** is a critical habitat for native fish and wildlife, including salmon, lamprey, beavers and water birds. Beaver Slough is one of the most productive spawning areas for coho salmon in the entire Lower Coquille watershed, and it also includes important agricultural working lands.

Because these lands are vital both to ecosystem and economic health, BDCF is a funder in a multipartner effort to replace the failing Coaledo tide gate, which will secure access to over-winter habitat for juvenile coho while also improving water drainage in adjacent pasturelands for ranchers like Jonathan Morse.

“These tide gates are very beneficial,” Jonathan says. “They allow us to improve and preserve our agricultural way of life.”

With strong support from BDCF, the Coquille Watershed Association has spearheaded the Coaledo Tide Gate Replacement and Beaver Slough Fish Passage Project in partnership with

an advisory team comprising representatives of the Coquille Indian Tribe, local ranchers, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other organizations that are committed to maintaining healthy and resilient ecosystems and economies across the Coquille watershed. As an added benefit, the new tide gate will facilitate fish counts and other data collection.

“Projects like these are beneficial to everyone who lives and works on this landscape,” says Anna Pfeifer, Coquille Watershed Association’s restoration program coordinator.

“It also supports our local contractors,” adds Helena Linnell, an environmental biologist and planner formerly with the Coquille Indian Tribe. “The people doing this work are local to Coos County.”

With its shared focus on environmental, economic and community benefits, this project exemplifies the triple-bottom-line approach that BDCF has championed from its inception. ■



**PHOTOS**  
*Construction of the new tide gate at Beaver Slough.*



## GRANTEES



**Coos County STEP Association**  
Fishing access, South Fork Coquille.



**The Nature Conservancy**  
Expanded monitoring for new tide gates.



**Coquille Watershed Association**  
Coaledo tide gate work; capacity-building.



**Oregon Agricultural Trust**  
South Coast working farms study.



**Curry Soil & Water Conservation District**  
Gorse removal; 11 acres of rearing habitat in the Rogue estuary; youth education.



**Wild Rivers Land Trust**  
Community drinking water source capacity and stewardship planning.



**Curry Watersheds Partnership**  
Organizational development funding.



**Rogue-Siskiyou Regional Training Facility**  
Disaster response site preparation.



**“It’s not just the students but also the parents and educators who might not understand the opportunities that are available in their backyard. We’re giving them the space to dream big and then giving them the tools to actually move forward with that dream.”**

—Natasha Garrison, Business Services and Recruit HIPPO Manager, Southern Oregon Workforce Investment Board



# ECONOMY

In 2019, the Southern Oregon Workforce Investment Board launched Recruit HIPPO (Helping Individuals Pursue Professional Opportunities) to guide regional high school juniors and seniors toward work readiness and a viable career. The program initially placed youth employment advisors at high schools in Coos, Curry and Douglas counties, giving roughly 4,000 students opportunities for practical work experience, personalized mentoring, job shadowing and industry tours.

In 2024, with support from BDCF and other donors, Recruit HIPPO hired a new full-time advisor to serve more remote schools in northern Curry and southern Coos counties. As a result, HIPPO has already been able to connect with 178 new students who might otherwise have fallen through the cracks — an increase of 258%.

“Our focus was on students who didn’t know what direction they wanted to go after high school,” Natasha explains.

“Especially in really rural areas, some students aren’t quite ready to go to college. We wanted to put them on a pathway where they could earn a livable wage while working for an industry or a business that was going to help move them forward.”

Regional businesses have been essential partners, helping students get a feel for the skills a specific career path requires.

“Businesses were just waiting to figure out how they could be a part of assisting their community,” Natasha says. “And this is a really easy part for them, because it’s something they do on a regular basis when they bring in a new employee. It’s been really fantastic to see the response we’re getting from them.” ■



**PHOTOS**  
*South Coast high school shop students assemble donated aluminum jet boat kits as part of a Recruit HIPPO program to support vocational careers.*

## GRANTEES



**CDC Business Development**  
Technical assistance programs.



**Southern Oregon Workforce Investment Board**  
Child care business accelerator project.



**City of Bandon**  
Support for library and police.



**South Coast Development Council, Inc.**  
Business retention and expansion programs.



**City of North Bend**  
Land bank authority project.



**The Salvation Army**  
Funding for 8 units of transitional housing.



**Coos County Habitat for Humanity**  
Land preparation using the community land trust model.



**University of Oregon Foundation**  
Student internships and scholarships at Charleston Marine Life Center.



**Two Rivers Housing, LLC**  
Developing a strategic housing plan and initiating a community land trust.



**Wild Rivers Coast Mountain Biking Association**  
Capacity funds to manage and develop mountain bike trails.



“Bandon Dunes plays a big role in our school district. Beyond the programs they support, they help with needs we wouldn’t be able to fund otherwise. Whether it’s a freezer we haven’t been able to replace or upgrades to our communication systems, they reach out to us and find out where the true need is.”

—Shauna Schmerer, Superintendent, Bandon School District



COMMUNITY

BANDON SCHOOL DISTRICT’S value to its community is immeasurable. The district’s three schools provide 634 children and their families with exceptional education and extracurricular programming and also serve as hubs for information on food drives, health care options, fundraisers and community events.

Recognizing the importance of public schools in our home community, BDCF works closely with the district to make sure all students have what they need to learn, grow and succeed.

This includes crucial programs that the district wouldn’t be able to fund otherwise. BDCF’s support for enrichment opportunities — such as career and technical education, middle school STEAM activities, music education options (including the Bandon High School band, which has won back-to-back state championships) and the nationally competitive Bandon High School Speech and Debate Team — ensures that Bandon students have access to a wide range of rewarding electives that would not be available without this additional funding.

It also includes facility and equipment upgrades. For example, multiple previous grants have rejuvenated the middle school and high school gyms with floor refinishing, fresh paint and wall safety pads. BDCF funding has also helped to refurbish the high school’s weight room and replace its outdated equipment. “The transformation has been incredible, turning worn, dingy spaces into something spectacular,” Shauna says.

When Ocean Crest Elementary School’s playground — a central community gathering place — became worn from decades of harsh weather, BDCF’s support helped the district build a new, weather-resistant play structure in the shape of a ship, which opened in August 2024. “The students love it,” Shauna says. “And our community uses our playgrounds a lot too, so it was wonderful to see everyone’s excitement when it opened.”

Grants like these show BDCF’s strong ongoing commitment to our home school district and its mission “to empower all students to achieve their potential.” ■

GRANTEES

PHOTO  
Major updates to  
the Bandon High  
School gym.



**After-School Enrichment Activities**  
Bandon Youth Sports; Boys & Girls Club of Southwestern Oregon.



**Youth Education**  
Bandon Community Youth Center; Bandon School District; Coastal Families Relief Nursery; Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation.



**Golf Programming**  
Golf Course Superintendents of America; Oregon Junior Golf Fund; Oregon State University Foundation all local high school and Southwestern Oregon Community College golf programs.



**Nutritional Support**  
Coos Health & Wellness; Knights of Columbus; South Coast Business; VFW.



**Community Well-Being**  
Make-A-Wish Foundation; Oregon Community Foundation Leadership Fund; South Coast Hospice and Palliative Care; Southern Coos Health Foundation.



**Community Operational Support**  
Coos Historical Museum, Bandon Historical Museum, City of Port Orford, Gold Beach Main Street.



**“BDCF’s funding has allowed us to leap forward years ahead in growing our goat herd and infrastructure. This will open up new opportunities to expand and make a larger positive impact on our community and ecological area.”**

—Mike Roberts, Wild Rivers Resources



# SMALL GRANTS

**THE SOUTH COAST** is home to many unique, well-adapted native plant species that are threatened by noxious invasives like Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, common tansy, and gorse. In addition to competing with our native plants, these species can cause serious problems for wildlife, farmers, utilities and homeowners. And in some cases, they can increase both the risk and severity of regional wildfires.

BDCF has long supported innovative and environmentally friendly efforts to remove invasive plants. In one such effort last year, Wild Rivers Resources brought 19 goats to graze on unwanted plant species around the Pistol River watershed. The goats’ grazing was limited with electric fencing, and their legendary appetite soon took a serious bite out of Himalayan blackberry and common tansy in the area.

To support the expansion of this project to other properties, including environmentally fragile watersheds, BDCF gave Wild Rivers Resources a grant to buy

more electric fencing as well as 23 more goats. Breeding within this herd soon produced 21 kids, leading to a 331% increase in the population of hungry goats.

Having demonstrated the appetite of their herd and the reliability of their fencing, Wild Rivers Resources is now receiving requests for weed control services from regional landowners.

As the herd increases, the organization hopes to deploy it for larger-scale projects where typical weed control methods would be difficult or undesirable due to environmental sensitivity or rough terrain. ■



**PHOTOS**  
*Goats are helping to rid the Pistol River watershed of noxious invasive plant species like Himalayan Blackberry, English ivy and common tansy.*

## GRANTEES



**OSU GEMM Labs**  
Gray whale research internships.



**Friends of Bandon Parks & Recreation**  
Outdoor enhancement support.



**Bandon Boosters**  
National golf tournament support.



**MoneyWise of Oregon, Inc.**  
Volunteer-based financial assistance.



**Bandon Chamber of Commerce**  
Support for the Cranberry Festival.



**Port Orford Main Street**  
Enriched visitor experiences.



**Circles in the Sand**  
Accessible beach labyrinths.



**The Bandon Shed**  
Free community music and education.



**Coquille River Detachment**  
Free fishing poles for kids under 15.



**Travel Southern Oregon Coast**  
Convening regional tourism stakeholders.



**Curry Public Library District**  
Summer youth programs.



**Wild Rivers Resources LLC**  
Weed abatement project.



**“The matching funds have been an amazing help, allowing our 4-H program to hire coaches for horse riding lessons and our OHSET athletes to pay their state, district and stall fees. I’m so grateful for this program!”**

— Kristen Friesen, Benefits Specialist,  
Bandon Dunes Golf Resort

## MATCHED GIVING

**THIS YEAR**, Bandon Dunes Golf Resort launched an employee gift-matching program to amplify the generosity of team members and boost their charitable giving.

Not only does the resort now match employee donations dollar for dollar, but it will also provide a portion of annual matching gifts for volunteer hours up to \$5,000 per employee. This doubles the impact of gifts to the local causes our team members care about most.

Together, we have achieved remarkable results, contributing \$52,791 to charitable organizations. This amazing impact is driven by the hard work and generosity of our team, including:

- \$18,210.43 in direct donations.
- 1,100 volunteer hours.
- \$34,580 in matched-giving contributions from the resort.

Although the program supports charities nationwide, our greatest impact in 2024 was right here on the South Coast.

Local recipients included:

- \$5,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of Southwestern Oregon.
- 197 volunteer hours and \$2,955 in matching funds to Bandon Senior High School.
- 346 volunteer hours and \$5,190 in matching funds to Bandon Youth Sports.

These generous contributions from Bandon Dunes staff are bolstering youth sports, educational and other programs on the South Coast while



### PHOTOS

*The Myrtle Point High School Equestrian Team in action.*



also strengthening our vital community resources.

For many team members, this is a perfect opportunity to broaden their support for causes they are already passionate about. Benefits Specialist Kristin Friesen was able to deepen her impact on two local organizations that are close to her heart: Oregon 4-H and the Myrtle Point Oregon High School Equestrian Team (OHSET).

“I’ve always been an advocate for volunteering, especially when it benefits kids,” Kristin explains. “In 2022, I started volunteering with 4-H as a leader of the Oregon Outlaws group and as an assistant advisor for the Myrtle Point OHSET. Both groups rely heavily on fundraising, so I was excited to hear that Bandon Dunes would donate funds for each hour I volunteered.

“The matching funds have been an amazing help, allowing our 4-H program to hire coaches for horse riding lessons and our OHSET athletes to pay their state, district and stall fees. I’m so grateful for this program!”

As we celebrate the initial successes of our Matched Giving program in 2024, we are inspired to see how much more we can achieve together in 2025. ■



“I was definitely gonna go to college no matter what, whether that meant taking out loans or not. But getting the Seeley scholarship has seriously helped me with that; I haven’t had to take out any loans, so I’ve been very fortunate. The amount of workload it’s taken off of me has been amazing.”

—Naomi Martin, Jim Seeley Memorial Scholarship Fund Recipient

# SCHOLARSHIPS

**BORN AND RAISED** in Bandon, Naomi Martin graduated from Bandon High School ready to pursue her dream of a career in medicine. “I’ve always known I wanted to go into the health field,” she says.

Four years later, with help from the Jim Seeley Memorial Scholarship, Naomi has earned her degree in human physiology and is moving forward with plans to become a physician’s assistant.

The Keiser family created this renewable, full-tuition scholarship in 2020 to honor Jim Seeley, the late executive director of Wild Rivers Coast Alliance (now known as Bandon Dunes Charitable Foundation). “He was an incredible mentor to have,” says current executive director Marie Simonds.

Every year, the Jim Seeley scholarship is awarded to two high school students on the South Coast. For Naomi, the scholarship award was a particular surprise. “I was home for winter break, and the Foundation wanted to Zoom

me,” she recalls. “I had no idea what it was for! I didn’t realize I’d applied for the scholarship through OSAC, but someone else had won it and turned it down, and I was automatically put onto the list. It was pretty amazing!”

Naomi emphasizes that although the South Coast can be isolated and lack resources for youth, its tightly knit communities and committed school counselors make a huge difference for students like her. “The sense of community in Bandon is really great,” she says, noting that Bandon High School staff— like academic advisor Erin Robertson and behavior specialist Mariah McMonagle — gave her essential support throughout the application process.

Particularly for medical students, who might otherwise find themselves struggling with massive student debt, the Seeley scholarship provides a chance to broaden possibilities and aspirations — including the option of staying on the South Coast.



**TOP**  
*Naomi Martin, 2020 Jim Seeley Memorial Scholarship Fund recipient.*

**INSET**  
*Jim Seeley, former executive director of Bandon Dunes Golf Resorts’ charitable giving.*

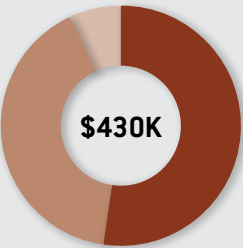


Like every community along the Oregon coast, Bandon has a shortage of medical providers, and Naomi sees herself helping to change this.




“I currently have my certified nursing assistant license,” she says. “I got it last summer. After graduation, I will be moving back to Bandon and hopefully working as a CNA for the next couple of years while I’m gaining my clinical hours. And then after PA school, I feel like I would probably come back to Bandon.”

Looking farther ahead, Naomi likes the idea of someday being able to extend a helping hand to other local youth by creating her own scholarship fund: “I just think it would be pretty amazing if I got to the point where I was successful enough to be in that position!” ■

## SCHOLARSHIP STATS



*Bandon Dunes Golf Resort has been funding annual scholarships since 2006, supporting the dreams of more than 40 South Coast students each year.*

-  **Jim Seeley Memorial Scholarship Fund** \$225,000
-  **Bandon Dunes Golf Resort Scholarship Fund** \$175,000
-  **Bandon Dunes Golf Resort Community Scholarships** \$30,000



# TEAM-DRIVEN EFFORTS

**IN ADDITION TO** Matched Giving, Bandon Dunes Golf Resort supports local activities and programs in which our staff are involved, ranging from children's extracurricular programs to community events that benefit the South Coast. On request from a team member, Bandon Dunes may donate swag bags for fundraising

auctions or purchase tables or tickets at events staff wish to attend. This is another powerful way to strengthen South Coast communities by boosting staff volunteerism and engagement. These photos show a few of the community organizations, programs and events that the resort has supported in response to staff requests. ■



**LEFT**  
*Coos County Youth Sports.*

**TOP**  
*Bite of Bandon Culinary Showcase.*

**CENTER**  
*MarLo Dance Studio classes and performance.*

**BOTTOM**  
*Oregon Coast Culinary Institute.*



**TOP**  
*National Night Out.*

**CENTER**  
*Community education series.*

**LEFT**  
*Donated swag from Bandon Dunes Golf Resort for local fundraising events.*





## OUR FOUNDER

When Mike Keiser (*right*) imagined the 13-hole, par-3 Bandon Preserve golf course, he also envisioned a sustainable way to benefit the South Coast. The Keiser family — including Mike's two sons, Chris and Michael L. — continue to support what their father started: using the creation of world-class, links-style golf to sustainably promote a thriving South Coast of Oregon.

## OUR STEERING COMMITTEE



### COLUMN 1

Steve Denney  
Wayne Krieger

### COLUMN 2

Jena Carter  
Mark Grenbemer  
Mary Wahl

### COLUMN 3

Carlos Garcia  
Cam Parry

### COLUMN 4

Marjorie Crook  
Al Johnson  
Joe Whitworth

### COLUMN 5

Rich Goche  
Matt Swanson

## THANK YOU!



**Bandon Dunes Charitable Foundation**

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Bandon, OR 97411

