
For Immediate Release

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As Real Estate Market Thrives, REALTORS® Work to Boost Communities

December 22, 2016-Bend, OR. On a snowy day in early December contributors to the House that Real Estate Built huddled under a tent to watch the house become a home for the Casner Family. The House that Real Estate Built was the most ambitious project of the year for the Central Oregon Association of REALTORS® (COAR), but there were many ways the association partnered with our members to give back. In November, the association's giving committee distributed \$10,000 to local nonprofits. This year contributions were made to: The Family Kitchen, Grandma's House, La Pine Community Kitchen, Oregon Adaptive Sports, Sorpotimist International of Bend, DAWNS House and the Shepherd's House.

"DAWNS House a sober living facility for women with 15 beds for displaced addict and alcoholics seeking recovery received a \$1500 immediate needs Grant from COAR this winter. These funds made it possible for our nonprofit to buy boots, coats, scarves and gloves for the women of DAWNS' house for the cold winter ahead of us. We honestly can't thank COAR enough for their assistance in these necessary items; Dawn Holland, Executive Director of DAWNS House.

Additionally over the past year, COAR has contributed to the community with these programs:

- REALTORS for Kids: This program allows local Family Access Network advocates and school counselors to apply for gift cards for students in need of glasses, winter clothes and schools supplies.
- REALTOR Relief Fund: COAR members can apply to this fund to help pay medical and other bills at a time of need for themselves and their family.
- Bend Adopt a Road: This year COAR adopted the section of NW 14th Street between Newport Ave and Colorado Ave.
- Bend Livability Conference and the Midmarket Housing Workgroup: Through grants from National Association of REALTOR's SmartGrowth program, COAR is helping the community tackle some of our biggest issues related to growth.
- Building a Better Central Oregon: In its 40th year, BBCO was able to honor 11 great projects from throughout Central Oregon and one of the event's founder, Terry Blackwell.
- Local Event Sponsorships: The Public Relations committee was able to support great local events that help build communities such as: Madras Sparklers, Redmond Old Fashioned 4th of July, Sisters Quilt Show, Bend Fireworks Show, Crooked River Rodeo and the La Pine Rodeo.

COAR looked to help support the basic needs of the communities its members serve. "The COAR donation came at a critical time for our Women and Children's program. Those dollars provided a brand new stove and range for our healthy living program. Shepherd's House Ministries is grateful for the thoughtful gift provided by Central Oregon Association of Realtors," said David Norari, Director of Development at Shepherds House Ministries.

According to Donna Burklo, Development Director at the Family Kitchen, "the donation from COAR will cover our shortfall this year for 2,000 meals. We currently serve nearly 5,000 meals each month to our neighbors in need, so this is a significant help in our community."

In addition to the work of COAR this year, members in Bend contributed over \$10,000 and many donated items from their weekly meetings to: Shepherd's House, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon, Younity, Heartwarmers, Fences for Fido, the Humane Society of Central Oregon, Harmony for Women, the Boys & Girls Club of Central Oregon, Camp Eagle, Wreaths Across America, Bethlehem Inn, Central Oregon Youth Challenge, American Cancer Society, Save a Warrior, Red Cross, Central Oregon Veterans Outreach, Sparrow Club and the House that Real Estate Built.

Each year, Redmond REALTORS and affiliates work on the Golfers for Scholars tournament and in 2016, awarded sixteen \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors in all three of Redmond's high schools. Members in Redmond teamed up for the third year in a row with the Redmond Albertsons's to provide full a full Thanksgiving dinner for 185 families by raising \$5,500 in funds. Finally, from the weekly meetings members will be distributing \$4,000 to local charities by the end of the year.

Most recently, the Oregon Association of REALTORS Home Foundation provided three grants to Central Oregon non-profits: First Story, NeighborImpact and Sisters Habitat for Humanity.

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The Central Oregon Association of REALTORS® (COAR) is your voice in real estate industry in Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson and Harney Counties. COAR serves REALTORS® by maintaining ethical standards, providing continuing education, promoting the value of REALTORS®, and advocating on behalf of the real estate industry. COAR serves the public by working to build better communities by supporting quality growth and seeking sustainable economies and housing opportunities that embrace the environmental qualities we cherish, while protecting a property owner's ability to own, use, buy, and sell property.













