

Sept. 16, 2021

United Rotary prepares to wrap up grant program

United Rotary Clubs of Southern Oregon is heading toward the finish line in our fire relief Back to Work grant program for small businesses and single operators. Following the Sept. 8 fires of last year, we began raising money to assist the small businesses affected by the fires and have to date raised about \$370,000 that will be distributed. So far, we have provided grants to about 160 family-owned businesses.

We began September with approximately \$180,000 remaining to distribute and by the end of the month our Rotary teams will have handed out another \$72,000 in checks to the businesses. That will leave about \$108,000 remaining and our goal is to distribute all of it by the end of October.

We are also working with the city of Phoenix to assist them in rebuilding the Blue Heron Park playground, which was destroyed by the Almeda fire. Phoenix has state and federal funds to purchase the necessary equipment, but they have asked if we can provide Rotary volunteers to help them with the construction. Stay tuned for more detail on that, hopefully in the near future.

We plan to produce a final report on the Back to Work program and will present that to the 10 participating clubs once we have wrapped up. Thanks to all the Rotarians who have donated and/or worked on this project – you've made a real difference in the lives of many Rogue Valley business people and their families.