

WFED Site Visit Reports 2020/21 Grant Year

El Dorado Fire Safe Council

\$8,000 Impact Grant – Defensible space for seniors, veterans and low-income applicants

Contact: Ernie Lory, ernielory@aol.com, 530--394-3194

Liaison: Janeen Stewart

Site Visit: Friday, October 9, 202. Attended by Emogene Haller, Janeen Stewart, Julie Willson, Pam Roberts.

The goals of the El Dorado Fire Safe Council are to accomplish up to eleven contracted defensible space development efforts using the grant funds. They rely on the WFED grant as well as grants from other funding sources, and coordinating these grants with COVID shutdowns was more complicated than in past years.

Five defensible space development jobs were completed in May-July, which were applications carried over from fall 2019, as weather prohibited work to be done in Oct-Nov. For this grant period, there were 66 applicants. Not all sites require clearing, but were getting inspections to see if they comply with county regulations. Seven defensible space jobs were slated to be completed or scheduled in August-October 2020.

We observed defensible space work in progress on a property in Pollock Pines. Upon acceptance of the homeowner's application, Ernie Lorie inspected the property. All of the needed work may not be possible if work exceeds the total budget for that project. Therefore, he provides a priority list to the owner. (ex: clearance around propane tanks are the highest priority). As having the contractor remove debris is expensive, this homeowner designated where debris was to be deposited on the property. Some was set aside for a burn pile, and some was placed along the road frontage for the Fire Safe Council chipping program to complete. (Chipping program funded by sources other than WFED). Ernie stated that upon completion of the work, he conducts a telephone follow up with the homeowner to get feedback on owner satisfaction with the project.



Update since our site visit: Ernie submitted their final report on January 29, 2021. From June to November 2020, the EDCFSC program for veterans, seniors and low-income families completed 12 defensible space jobs (9 seniors, 1 senior/veteran, 2 seniors/low-income families). The WFED grant funds were used to improve defensible space for veterans, seniors, and low-income efforts as a bridge until grant funds were received from other sources.

El Dorado High School

\$30,000 Inspiration Grant – Vaping, Drugs, Alcohol and Violence Prevention and Intervention Program - the Connections Project. Revised to include Friendly Faces program “So no one eats alone.”

Contact: Judy Knapp, judyknapp60@gmail.com, 530-417-0256

Last updated: 5/12/21

Liaison: Ahnalties Glass/Emogene Haller

Site Visit (delayed): As a reminder, the original grant proposal was never signed. It was revised to adjust for the pandemic circumstances, and the agreement was finally signed on October 26, 2020 (all other grant agreements were signed on June 1, 2020), so they had quite a late start. At first it looked like the grant work might be completed this grant year, but then school schedules changed again and we granted an extension. Here is where things stand now:

After winter break the Brief Intervention Program got very busy, with 18 students between the two schools (EDHS and Union Mine) all at once. The schools decided to wait for the second program, Friendly Faces, until fall when school will be open full time again (fingers crossed!). School is opening full time starting Monday, April 12, but with only 5 weeks left after that, it still makes sense to wait until Fall.

Judy Knapp will submit an interim report in June. We will plan a site visit in the fall, which will include the Friendly Faces program (no one eats lunch alone).

MFSG – Military Family Support Group

\$8,000 Impact Grant - Free safety accommodations for low income seniors and the disabled

Contact: Lisa Rodriguez, webmaster@mfsgonline.org, 530-497-0878

Liaison: Pam Roberts

Site Visit: Friday, March 5, 2021 via Zoom, attended by Amarik Singh, Emogene Haller, Pam Roberts

During our Zoom “visit,” Lisa described their operation and then took her computer around so we could see the entrance, office space, packed clothes closet (lots of people cleaned out their closets during COVID), pantry, commercial kitchen, large community room, and even the shadowbox uniforms on display, so we really got a feel for the scope of the work of the Military Family Support Group. Two other volunteers, Jennifer and Mary, also talked with us and described their experience of volunteering. They have an all-volunteer crew. Their MFSG van is used to take vets to their medical and other appointments, and they have just acquired another van.

They feel their services have been even more essential during the COVID-19-related economic downturn. They have had to make adjustments such as utilizing disinfectant supplies, communicating remotely, creating drive-thru food pantry access events, and distributing Annual Angel Tree gifts outdoors. They have been able to continue to provide food pantry access, a clothing closet, assistive device assistance, transportation to VA appointments, bus passes, and Christmas gifts for the children of Veterans/Military Service members. They also held special events such as a take-and-make at home full Thanksgiving meal for Veteran/Military Service families in need.

They have distributed over 3,000 pantry items, provided over 260 Christmas gifts for their Annual Angel Tree event, distributed about 80 bus passes, provided camping items for those faced with homelessness, helped Veterans with household items needs through community furniture donations, and provided transportation to over 50 VA appointments! They are subject to the directives of the El Dorado County Public Health Officer and the Governor of California and have had to change the way they operate in general.

By the end of December they had spent \$4645 of their \$8000 grant and are on track to expend all their funds by the end of the grant year.

New Beginnings

\$8,000 Acorn Grant – Automotive training program for at-risk youth and clients released from juvenile hall or prison

Contact: Emily Burns, eburns@newbeginningsgoldcountry.org, (530) 903-7401 (mobile), New Beginnings (530)344-7200. E.D. is Randy Haskins

Liaison: Amarik Singh/Emogene Haller

Site Visit: Monday, April 5, 2021. Attended by Emogene Haller, Julie Willson, Pam Roberts.

We met at the New Beginnings Thrift Store for an introduction to the work of the nonprofit by Executive Director Randy Haskins and his assistant Emily Burns, who came out of juvenile hall and turned her life around with help from New Beginnings. Then we attended the first part of the automotive class being conducted at Cornerstone Automotive. The class series lasts 15 weeks and will wrap up before the end of the grant year. There are 7 students enrolled; all but one student is from the New Beginnings re-entry home for men. Since schools did not have in-person classes for a good part of the year, they were not able to expand the program to reach at-risk youth this year.

The class is being taught by a graduate of the program from a past year, who has since opened his own body shop. He opened with a Christian prayer and read a passage from the Bible. He then directed one of the students to remove the front wheel of the motorcycle standing there, leaving the brakes, while the class observed and engaged in discussion. They also found some damaged parts that needed to be replaced.

During the 15-week course of study the class will participate in taking apart this motorcycle, diagnosing problems and fixing them, and reassembling the motorcycle into a smoothly operating machine which can be sold. The students seemed very interested and engaged. The shop also has 3 types of welding equipment as well as an electronic diagnostic Scanner which would cost \$18,000 new, but which Randy acquired for \$4000 using our grant money, and the seller also threw in a pre-smog-test machine. Class attendees will not be certified in welding or auto mechanics, but are expected to gain enough experience to get a starting job and work their way up. The remaining \$4000 will be used to pay the instructor.

We also toured their wood shop next door, where their students and clients can repair and make and chalk-paint wooden items to be sold in the Thrift Store or in Home Inspirations on Main Street. They are not using our grant money for the Wood Shop but it is another good way to provide work and skills and self-esteem for their clients.

Here is a link to photos taken during the site visit: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/Fi6nahRjdt9ejuiR7>

Pinewood Elementary School

\$8,000 Acorn Grant – Broccoli, Bugs and Butterflies-Restoring the Pinewood School Garden

Contact: Kim Little (Principal), klittle@ppesd.org, 530-644-5416

Other Volunteers: Mary Zaun, Grant Writer; Jan and Mike Mannion, Volunteers (other contributing volunteers not present are Kaely & Daniel Mummy)

Liaison: Valerie Bradley

Site Visit #1: September 30, 2020 with Kim Little, Principal; Mary Zaun, Grant Writer; Jan & Mike Mannion & Kaely Mummy, Volunteers; by Site Visit Committee members Emogene Haller, Janeen Stewart, Julie Willson, Pam Roberts, Steve Schwarzbach, and Valerie Bradley (liaison); and Dickson Schwarzbach (WFED Chair)

- They are able to maintain their \$8,000 budget, as some of their supplies were either donated or sold to them at a reduced price.
- Volunteers continue to support the project. In the fall they loaded the weeds and the old lumber from the original garden into a 20-yard dumpster, and stained and pre-cut the redwood for the new boxes.

Site Visit #2: April 6, 2021 with Emogene Haller, Janeen Stewart, Pam Roberts, Steve Schwarzbach, Valerie Bradley

Pinewood is a small elementary school in Pollock Pines. The school spent the first part of the year in a virtual environment, then switched to a hybrid model, and now have returned to full day instruction as of 3/22/21, with spring break occurring from 3/29/2021-4/2/2021. The Broccoli, Bugs and Butterflies garden restoration project got underway in mid-September. The project is near completion and students have begun to use the garden with great enthusiasm. It will continue to grow and evolve over time. The following items have been completed:

- Old planter boxes and 20 yards of debris were removed.
- 14 new redwood planter boxes were installed.
- New topsoil was added to the boxes.
- Irrigation was upgraded.
- Fava bean cover crop was planted in November and tilled under in April.
- Center table with umbrella and 8 new benches were installed.
- In one corner a Butterfly and Fairy garden was built for the TK (Transitional Kindergarten) and K classes
- In another corner native plants have been planted.
- In a third corner there are flowers and a young dogwood tree.
- Wood chips were added to the pathways, and decorated stepping stones from the old garden were incorporated.
- Some of the plants seen at the site visit:
 - Strawberries
 - Marigold
 - Snapdragons
 - Pansies
 - Trumpet vines
 - Grape vines and thornless raspberry vines from the original garden have been left to grow up along the fence in the corner by the native plant garden
- They have plans to plant the following:
 - Tomatoes
 - Radishes
 - Onions
 - Sunflowers
 - Squash
 - Green beans
 - Young Japanese maple tree
- Each classroom has been assigned a garden box with assignments for specific plantings. Every box will have a Sungold cherry tomato plant for students to harvest and

Last updated: 5/12/21

taste. The kindergarten boxes are planted with flowers which the students will be able to pick, perhaps for May Day.

- On either side of the entrance to the garden, coreopsis plants and wildflower seeds have been sown to create flower gardens.
- Before the end of the grant cycle they plan to complete 2 more garden boxes with rebar arches on which squash vines will grow, and squash will hang down from the arches to be picked.
- In the fall they are hoping to serve the harvest from their garden in their own cafeteria!!
- \$500 from the WFED grant has been reserved for the purchase of plants and seeds in the fall.

Photos from both site visits can be seen at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/dqWh4hGfQVwn8n4k7>.

SAFE-D of El Dorado County Inc.

\$8,000 Impact Grant - Free safety accommodations for low income seniors and the disabled

Contact: James Wassner, staff@safe-d.link, 530-394-3194

Liaison: Julie Willson

Site Visit: Tuesday, February 11 at a mobile home park in Pollock Pines to observe an installation. Attended by Ahnalties Glass, Emogene Haller, Julie Willson, Pam Roberts.

SAFE-D is a small, all-volunteer nonprofit which supplies and installs home safety accommodations such as grab bars, step rails, shower seats, non-slip bath mats, raised toilet seats with handles, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, night lights and bed rails to increase safety and accessibility for lower-income seniors (60+ in age, \$2200/month or less in income) or people with a disability.

We watched the volunteer team upgrade a stair railing to a better height and attach a grab bar per the request of the resident. They also installed an elevated toilet seat with handles and transition bars. In some cases they have removed shower doors and installed shower curtains/rods to allow more access to the tub or shower. These improvements will make a big difference in the safety of the home for the occupants, in this case was the owner and the person he is caring for, who is blind.

Applicants are fewer this grant year due to fears of the coronavirus. As of their January 8 interim report, the SAFE-D team had assisted 34 clients and spent \$3661.88 of their grant money. They are reaching out to mobile home parks and hope to spend all their grant money assisting clients by the end of the grant year.



Studio 81

\$6,000 Acorn Grant – Produce *Ranked, the Musical* with students from all 5 major high schools in the district and perform it for the community in the now defunct Carl Borelli outdoor amphitheater

Contact: Paul Tomei, Maggie Bush (maggiebush@madronavineyards.com)

Liaison: Steve Schwarzbach

An extension was granted until the end of June to complete the grant work. Auditions were held and the casting was announced just before spring break (March 29-April 2). Work on the set has begun, and rehearsals will start soon. The play will be performed over a two-week period in June, outdoors, in the Carl Borelli amphitheater. Our site visit will be to attend one of the performances. In response to a request from Maggie Bush, Amy sent 1-2 paragraphs about the Women's Fund Mission and how people join, as well as a logo, to include in the program.

According to rankedmusical.com, Studio 81 will be performing the musical June 10-19 in Placerville, but tickets are not yet for sale.

The Upper Room Dining Hall

\$29,100 Inspiration Grant – Purchase and install a generator to preserve food during power outages, to be able to provide meals to hungry members of our community 365 days/year

Contact: Charles McDonald, director@upperroomdininghall.org, (530) 919-7894

Liaison: Denise Pané

Site Visit: 10/13/2020 at the Upper Room. Attendees: Denise Pané, Emogene Haller

The Upper Room has completed the generator project and have already put the generator to use. Charlie, the Director of The Upper Room, worked very hard and jumped through a lot of hoops to get the generator permitted and installed. An unexpected obstacle occurred when, as part of the permitting process, they were required to bring their wheelchair ramp up to code, and had a difficult time finding someone to do the work. They obtained funding from another source to pay for the work. They also constructed a cement pad for the generator and a lot of wiring to hook everything up.

The generator is making a HUGE difference in their ability to serve their clients reliably. They serve about 300 meals a day including dinner and a sack lunch for the next day. With the generator, they are able, for the first time, to be open during PSPS days and well as unplanned power outages. In addition., they can now reliably keep their food, in particular meat valued at about \$25K at any given time, safe from spoilage during power outages.

An unexpected positive consequence of having the generator is that they are applying with PG&E to be a "warming or cooling spot" during power outages. They are hoping there is some funding from PG&E to be such a spot.