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NEWS RELEASE

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Creswell Moms Get \$20,000 for Playground

CRESWELL, OREGON--Creswell's Project Playground group has received a \$20,000 grant from Roseburg's Ford Family Foundation, bringing its fundraising total to date close to \$40,000.

The grant is the largest lump sum Project Playground has received since the project's inception in May of 2004. The group was organized with the intent to reinvent the city park, Holt Memorial Park, as a family-friendly space with new playground equipment for all ages.

"We are still in shock," says Deb Jolda, Project Playground co-chair. "This is all new to us, and the Ford Family Foundation has been incredibly supportive to us throughout the application process. They truly care about communities."

Creswell's Kiwanis Club recently announced an additional donation of \$5,000, bringing their total to \$5,400, calling for a match from the city's businesses. Creswell's Foster Farms and dentist Lonn Robertson have each contributed \$1,500, as has Jerry's Home Improvement. The remainder has come from other area businesses, private donations, and fundraising activities, notably this summer's Run for the Park road race that brought in nearly \$8,000.

"We are so thankful for all of our community support," says Juli McLennan, Chair. "We're looking forward to having an exciting new park next summer."

The grant is contingent upon the group reaching full funding. The project's initial budget was estimated at \$60,000 to cover the costs of a community-build installation. The \$40,000 in cash raised, in addition to the \$10,000 in pledged installation-day services, brings the goal within reach--to about \$10,000. If the group is able to raise more than they expected, they plan to expand on the play structures they've chosen, further improve park accessibility, and furnish the park with amenities like benches, bike racks, and picnic shelters.

About Ford Family Foundation

The Ford Family Foundation, located in Roseburg, Oregon, was established in 1957 by Kenneth W. and Hallie E. Ford "to give back to the community." The Foundation endeavors to help individuals, through organized learning opportunities, to be contributing and successful citizens, and to support non-profit activities, agencies and projects, with particular emphasis on small mid-sized rural communities in Oregon and Siskiyou County, California.

The Foundation also provides leadership training scholarships to rural communities, and Creswell is on the short list to receive such training for its community leaders.

About Project Playground

The group, formed in May 2004, consists of four Creswell mothers: Juli McLennan, Chair; Deb Jolda, Co-Chair; Monica Marquess, Treasurer; and Heidi Wegand, Fundraising Captain. The group is working under the umbrella of the City of Creswell, enabling donations to be tax-deductible. Donations can be made by sending a check made out to City of Creswell/Project Playground to Project Playground, PO Box 981, Creswell, OR 97426. More information can be found online at <http://home.centurytel.net/playground>.

A photo of the group with Santa at a recent fundraiser is attached.

Caption: Creswell's Project Playground task force pose with Santa at a recent fundraiser. From left: Monica Marquess, Deb Jolda, Santa, Juli McLennan, and Heidi Wegand. Photo by Stephen Derminer.

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