



For Immediate Release – February 3, 2025

Southwestern Oregon Nonprofits Receive \$50,000 in Donations from the BottleDrop Fund

Donation will support two local nonprofits in Jackson County

CLACKAMAS, Ore. – The [Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative](#) (OBRC), which operates the [BottleDrop](#) network, announced today that it has donated \$50,000 through its BottleDrop Fund to two nonprofits operating in Southwestern Oregon: The Crest and Pollinator Project Rogue Valley.

The recipient organizations plan to use funds in the following ways:

- [The Crest at Willow-Witt Ranch](#), a nonprofit based in Ashland that is cultivating the integral connection between people and nature by engaging their community in hands-on, intimate experiences with nature via outdoor education, received \$25,000 to help support their operational costs.

“Thanks to this BottleDrop Fund grant from the Oregon Community Foundation, the Crest will now be able to provide farm/forest/wetland-based field trip experiences at no-cost to more than 700 K-8th grade students in Jackson County, whose families are low-income and who might not otherwise be able to visit a mountain farm,” said Carrie Vath, Ph.D., chair for the board of The Crest at Willow-Witt Ranch. “The BottleDrop program is a fantastic win-win opportunity. It not only allows community members to contribute positively to the environment by recycling, but it also supports our local students, enabling them to explore and engage in the wonders of the outdoors. I love knowing that I am making a meaningful difference in both ecological preservation and educational enrichment.”

- [Pollinator Project Rogue Valley](#), a nonprofit based in Phoenix that is inspiring, engaging, and educating their community about the ecological importance of native pollinator species and the diverse native plant communities essential for their survival – and ours, received \$25,000 to support their outreach, educational programs and professional development.

“Many of today's seemingly unsolvable issues have simple solutions that can make the world a better place, healing it and ourselves in the process. Planting a pollinator garden with school kids, or growing native plants for the community, or educating adults on the wonders of Southern Oregon butterflies - these are just some of the things we do that can help change the



world, right here where we live,” said Kristina Lefever, president and volunteer director for Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. “We are so grateful to be working with a community who not only supports, but engages with us, in this important work.”

These donations will further empower these nonprofits in their missions to help connect communities with nature and preserve the natural environment in Southeastern Oregon.

“Supporting organizations like these reflect OBRC’s commitment to enhancing environmental education and stewardship in communities throughout Oregon,” said Devon Morales, vice president of external affairs at OBRC. “We are thrilled to support these nonprofits and their programs in Jackson County.”

The [BottleDrop Fund](#), created in partnership with Oregon Community Foundation, supports nonprofit organizations in Oregon that are operating in the spirit of the Bottle Bill through annual grantmaking. The Fund’s priorities include litter and waste reduction, environmental conservation, environmental education, recycling, public-private partnerships that work to solve a community problem in Oregon, and skill-building and job training for low-income residents.

Photos

Photos from Pollinator Project Rogue Valley are available [here](#).

About BottleDrop and the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative

The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative is the industry steward of Oregon’s nationally recognized beverage container redemption system and the operator of the BottleDrop network. On behalf of the beverage industry, OBRC helps Oregonians conveniently redeem and recycle more than 2 billion containers every year, dramatically reducing litter in Oregon’s special places and boosting the state’s recycling outcomes. To learn more, visit [BottleDrop.com](#) or [OBRC.com](#)

About Oregon Community Foundation

Since 1973, Oregon Community Foundation has worked to improve the lives of all Oregonians through the power of philanthropy. We partner with donors, volunteers and nonprofits to strengthen communities in every county in Oregon. OCF distributed more than \$220 million in grants and scholarships in 2024. Individuals, families, businesses and organizations can work with OCF to create charitable funds that support causes important to them. To learn more, please visit [oregoncf.org](#).