Over the last three issues, we reported on the organization’s progress towards our strategic plan goals. We are pleased with our progress and happy to report that the organization should meet or exceed all its goals from the organization’s ambitious five-year strategic plan. With the three issue article coming to a close, The Works decided to change its publication schedule for the better!

Moving forward, our publication will devote one issue to each of our five-counties. Our hope is to outline all the future and past projects for the year in the particular county in order to better inform our audience on all the great things being done in each county. We are still keeping our service map on page 8-9 that shows what programs and services are running to make sure that no matter the issue, you will know what is going on in Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, or Josephine County.

Our Coastal Team has been really busy this year and we can’t wait to report on their activity so far and preview what is to come.

Volume 2, Issue 3, May/June 2019
We had a great time at the Downtown Roseburg Street Faire on June 9th! Join us September 8th at 11 am for our next event.

Our Financial Capabilities classes and ABC’s of Homebuying classes have opened registration! Visit nwumpqua.org/event to see what classes are available or visit nwumpqua.org/classes to sign up!

We are recruiting for our next DreamBuilders site! Roseburg’s build site will be next to our new multifamily development and will have a veteran’s preference for applications. Make sure to have prospective applicants visit nwumpqua.org/dreambuilders
What have we done so far in Coos?

Dockside Discussions

In the first part of the year, we held Dockside Discussions and worked with MIT students to better the local fishing industry. The Dockside Discussions were an opportunity for local fishermen and crews to learn and talk about opportunities for the South Coast fishing industry. We presented on Dream$avers, Selling to Schools, Seafood Throwdown Events, Business Assistance, and more! The Dockside Discussions provided an excellent opportunity for the organization to interact with local fishermen.

Later in the year, our staff attended a presentation from the MIT students. The students visited the area to research and propose creative opportunities for improving livelihoods in the seafood sector. We had a great time listening to the student’s presentation in Boston this May. They had a lot of great suggestions for improving local community outcomes.

Tax Preparation and Filing Numbers

NeighborWorks Umpqua finished its second year of free tax preparation and filing and posted big numbers for tax credit value and the number taxes filed and prepared for Coos County!

613
Taxes prepared & filed

155,114
Total value of Earned Income Tax Credit filed with all applications
Adding Staff and Capacity

To help create more impact in the area of housing, NeighborWorks Umpqua hired a new rehab specialist specifically for the Coos and Curry region of its service area. Robert Whitsell is a welcome addition to the team. Raised by a carpenter who taught him to understand framing and construction, Robert loves his position and working with the fabulous coastal community. In addition to Robert, we have new AmeriCorps! Mary Schuchard & Tasha Powell-Oliverson are our new AmeriCorps VISTAs that will work on two projects in Douglas County.

We are still on the hunt for new staff in a number of different positions and capacities. Visit nwumpqua.org/jobs for more details and to apply!

Great Falls Information Exchange

In case you didn't know, NeighborWorks America organizations, like NeighborWorks Umpqua, are spread throughout the country! Our staff had a fantastic time visiting with another NeighborWorks organization in Montana. NeighborWorks Great Falls hosted a peer learning exchange for other organizations to learn about resident leadership and community development. This included talking with local city councilors and Montana Highway Patrol. These two groups explained how they intersect with community development work completed by organizations like NeighborWorks Umpqua. We enjoyed the chance to talk with the two groups to understand how they can be leveraged in community development work. The Highway Patrol also talked about their progress with taking over the drug return program that was started through a local Community Leadership Institute program.
The Importance of DEI Work in Rural Communities

Our Director of Policy and Advocacy was invited to present at the Oregon Statewide Food Systems Network about our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (known as DEI) work in rural communities. NeighborWorks Umpqua talked about our journey to increase the delivery of equitable services to our communities in our service area. To accomplish this goal, organizations need to participate in DEI conversations in rural spaces, ensuring that all voices are heard. These conversations can be very uncomfortable but are completely necessary for serving the community. Without the perspectives of the underserved and unheard, nonprofits are effectively handicapping their impact.

It wasn’t all serious dialogue and questions, however. We also had a chance to showcase our art skills! We had a lot of fun visualizing the two strengths of our organization through words and the featured artistic rendering courtesy of our staff member! 🎨

Like what you have seen so far? The past projects listed above and the future projects on the following pages are just a select few of the projects and work we are doing in Coos County. Want to help or have a new project in housing, finance, or community for Coos County? Reach out to us and let’s see what we can do! Email info@nwumpqua.org. Check out page 6-7 for a few of our upcoming projects!
Across several of our departments, NeighborWorks Umpqua engages our older adult population. In our home rehab program, we offer services for aging in place modification funding and are implementing Universal Design practices in our development projects moving forward. This allows our older adults to stay in their homes as they age. We are also a VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) authorized site and the majority of our customers are 50+ years old. We also offer foreclosure avoidance programs and reverse mortgage counseling to our customers. While these services are great for engaging with our senior clients, we want to do even more. That is why we are excited to talk about our latest proposed project: the AARP Community Challenge.

What are we planning to do for the AARP Community Challenge? We are hoping to leverage the work completed about two years ago by the Port Orford Main Street Program at the south end of town. Volunteers put in benches and did beautification work that lent itself to the City of Port Orford being featured in the 2018 edition of the AARP magazine Where We Live – section "Provide Places for People to Sit". We would like to expand this work and do a similar project at the north entrance of the town. We currently own one of the properties in this area and are interested in doing our part to expand the beautification work started by the Port Orford Main Street Program. We will partner with other property owners located in that same area to create a welcoming entrance to the community. First, we will build 6-8 growing spaces for container gardens or flowers. Then, we will install two additional benches to encourage folks to walk the length of the town and still have places to rest.

The garden beds will be purchased as kits from Durable GreenBed. The kits are designed using an eco-friendly, recycled woodchip/concrete composite that will last for 25-years and can withstand the severe coastal climate. The two wooden benches will be bolted to two of the Durable GreenBeds.

Rebuilding Together volunteer crews will supply the labor to build the Durable GreenBeds, add soil and amendments, plant flowers and vegetables in the beds, and install the two benches. Volunteers will be coordinated by NeighborWorks Umpqua’s Volunteer Coordinator and a Rebuilding Together AmeriCorps participant. If approved for funding, this project will be a great boon for our community! Follow this project and others by following us on Facebook at fb.me/NeighborWorksUmpquaCoosCurry/.
With 90% of individuals over age 65 saying they want to live at home, successful and replicable aging in place models continue to challenge aging services. At the heart of this challenge is the risk of social isolation many older adults may face. NeighborWorks Umpqua is looking to combat this challenge with the addition of Rebuilding Together and our latest proposed Coos County project: Ramp It Up. Rebuilding Together NeighborWorks Umpqua (RTNWU) will partner with the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to identify seniors (age 65 & over) that need aging in place modifications to improve mobility issues at their manufactured homes. We will work with local high school career tech programs to have students build exterior ramps for use with manufactured homes.

Exterior ramps are a consistent need shared by AAA as they are doing home visits, delivering meals, or making referrals. RTNWU volunteers will install the ramps at each of the 10 project sites. Additionally, if we identify veterans (age 65 & older) in need of this assistance, we will partner with Operation Rebuilding Hope (ORH), a nonprofit organization who serves our veteran population through volunteer work, to also build and install exterior ramps.

We expect to accomplish a minimum of 10 projects at a cost of approximately $5,000 per build. The Rehab Department of NeighborWorks Umpqua completed 20 such builds last year through similar partnerships. The biggest barrier we have experienced with other types of repair funding is that we have not been able to work on manufactured homes that are in parks or over a certain age (built pre-1975). This is often the exact type of home that many of our seniors are living in, especially in southern Oregon. Kendall Charitable Funds would allow our team to work in this over-looked type of home that is restricted by most home repair program funding.

As the backbone agency, RTNWU will act as the coordinator for all projects and will ensure the scope of work to be completed, coordinate volunteers, and engage the schools for construction of the ramps. AAA will assist the project by identifying and referring clients over the age of 65 that need ramps. We understand that with the help of multiple volunteers and donation of hard labor, we will be able to significantly reduce the cost of the ramp installations.

The nature of this type of project makes it very easy to replicate. We will continue to identify ways of attracting funding that allows us to address these types of projects (like older manufactured homes in parks) that fall outside of the traditional and restrictive funding sources. Successful completion of this project will allow us to demonstrate the need for these types of repairs.

The timeline for the proposed project is as follows. Recruiting applicants through AAA and doing a review of eligibility will begin in January 2020. We will engage the local high school construction and woodshop students to assist with the construction of the ramps in the spring and fall of 2020. Our Rebuilding Together volunteers will install the completed ramps with the assistance of our home repair specialists beginning in late spring and extending through the fall. If we are working with a veteran homeowner, our volunteers will work with staff from ORH to install the ramps. Experience has shown that it will take 12 months from start to finish to complete the projects. If approved for funding, this project will be a great boon for our community! Follow this project and others by following us on Facebook at fb.me/NeighborWorksUmpquaCoosCurry/.

Ramp It Up with NeighborWorks Umpqua
What are we doing and where?
A look at our work in Southern Oregon.
Lane, Jackson, Josephine

- **Financial Coaching** - Looking to be part of a financial service or to save for a home? Our Financial Coaches are the required first stop.
- **Full-Service Lending** - Looking to buy a home or learn more about the home buying process? Contact our Lending Department.

Douglas

- **DreamBuilders** - We are on the hunt for our next group of DreamBuilders! Our current crop will begin building in Myrtle Creek and our next build site will be in Roseburg. This site has a veteran's preference but is looking for all applicants. For more information visit nwumpqua.org/dreambuilders
- **Newton Creek Manor** - Repairs to the infrastructure of the community were completed!
- **CDBG** - 20 home repairs are being completed in Roseburg, Winston, and Myrtle Creek
- **Financial Coaching** - Looking to be part of a financial service or to save for a home? Our Financial Coaches are the required first stop.
- **Full-Service Lending** - Looking to buy a home or learn more about the home buying process? Contact our Lending Department.
- **Community Leadership Institute** - The CLI provides community leadership curriculum to the residents of Douglas County.

Coos

- **Financial Coaching** - Looking to be part of a financial service or to save for a home? Our Financial Coaches are the required first stop.
- **Full-Service Lending** - Looking to buy a home or learn more about the home buying process? Contact our Lending Department.

Curry

- **Financial Coaching** - Looking to be part of a financial service or to save for a home? Our Financial Coaches are the required first stop.
- **Full-Service Lending** - Looking to buy a home or learn more about the home buying process? Contact our Lending Department.
Make your voice heard

Take our communication survey online!

NeighborWorks Umpqua would like to invite you to take a quick communication evaluation survey. We want our community to take part in a survey about NeighborWorks Umpqua, namely how we are doing in communicating who we are and what we do. We hope you will participate, as every opinion matters!
How can you help?

You don’t need to be a superhero to make a difference (but it helps). If you can donate a minute of time or a few dollars, you can make a difference in the lives of our fellow Oregonians. It doesn’t matter where you live, chances are there is a project near you that needs your help. Interested in volunteering? Ask our Volunteer Coordinator what projects are available. Looking to donate? Ask how your tax-deductible donation can help by emailing info@nwumpqua.org. Make sure to stay connected with our digital and physical newsletters. Commit to building a better Oregon with NeighborWorks® Umpqua by filling out the form and mailing it to:

NeighborWorks Umpqua  
605 SE Kane Street  
Roseburg, OR 97470

Prefer doing things digitally? Then you must visit our website! To donate, visit nwumpqua.org/donate; to volunteer, visit nwumpqua.org/volunteer; to sign up for our newsletter, visit nwumpqua.org/newsletter for more information, email info@nwumpqua.org.

NeighborWorks® Umpqua Commitment Form

Thank you so much for considering a contribution to NeighborWorks Umpqua! Any monetary donations are tax deductible and any volunteer time is immensely appreciated. Please fill out the following form and send it to our Roseburg office. We appreciate any support you can offer!

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Phone

☐ I would like to talk with someone about volunteering with the organization.

☐ I would like periodic updates sent to my email.

☐ I would like periodic updates sent to my address.

☐ Yes, I want to support your work in Oregon! Enclosed is a check with my tax-deductible donation of:

☐ $50  ☐ $75  ☐ $100  ☐ Other: ________________________________

Make all checks out to NeighborWorks® Umpqua.

 Prefer doing things digitally? Then you must visit our website! To donate, visit nwumpqua.org/donate; to volunteer, visit nwumpqua.org/volunteer; to sign up for our newsletter, visit nwumpqua.org/newsletter for more information, email info@nwumpqua.org.
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