

# Vitality



## Community rallies to rebuild historic mill

**Butte Creek Mill, an economic driver, rises from the ashes in Eagle Point**

**B**utte Creek Mill has been a mainstay of the economy in Eagle Point and its surroundings since it first opened its doors in 1872. Its customers then were farmers, who came with wagons filled with grain, townspeople, who gathered to socialize at the mill's general store and traders, who came bearing leather goods and berries.

More recently, the mill — still in commercial operation — was a popular destination for tourists, who came by the

busload to tour the mill, visit the gift shop and walk over the Little Butte Creek covered bridge into town. People from throughout Oregon came to buy Butte Creek Mill's specialty pancake and muffin mixes, which were also marketed nationally.

But all of that changed on Christmas Day 2015, when Eagle Point residents awoke to learn that the 143-year-old mill had burned down, a victim of antique wiring. "I just assumed since it was there for a hundred years, it would be there forever," recalls resident Sue Kupillas. "The mill was the heart of Eagle Point."

"Everyone was so upset when it burned," says Leon Sherman, former police chief and mayor of the town. "It's not just a part of history, it was a part of our community and an important community attraction that went up in smoke."

### Community rallies

The community quickly rallied behind mill owner Bob Russell, forming lines to clean up the daunting mess. Although the mill was insured,

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Storytelling. See page 6.

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### Community Vitality

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**Butte Creek Mill before the fire in 2015 that destroyed it.**

PHOTO: JOHN TRAX

## Communications specialist

**M**andy Elder has joined The Ford Family Foundation as a communications specialist, a new position. Elder plays a pivotal role in supporting strategic communications across the Foundation, helping coordinate internal communications and disseminate the Foundation's work externally.



**Mandy Elder**

"Mandy's background as an independent consultant, providing research, evaluation, writing and facilitation services, makes her an excellent fit for our needs," says Kasi Allen, the Foundation's director of learning and knowledge management. "Plus, her roots are here: She was raised in Douglas County, Oregon, the home county of the Foundation."

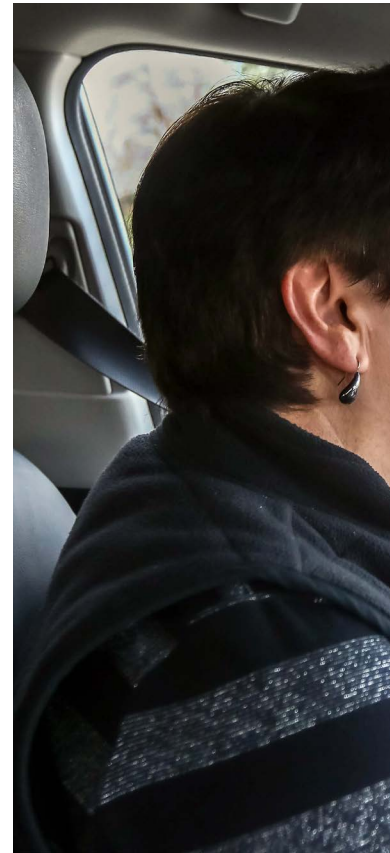
Elder has worked as an evaluation consultant for several nonprofit organizations, including the

Oregon Community Foundation. She is the board chair and co-founder of Women's International Leadership and Learning, a nonprofit organization that promotes the personal and professional development of young women in rural Mexico.

Elder has served on the Roseburg Public Library's advisory commission and as a board member for the Roseburg High School Foundation and Downtown Roseburg Association.

Elder, a Ford Scholar alumna (Class of 2009), earned two master's degrees from Portland State University in public administration and sociocultural anthropology. She has a bachelor's degree from Portland State University in child and family studies and Spanish, and studied in Mexico on a Fulbright-García Robles Scholarship. She worked for eight months at The Ford Family Foundation in 2017-2018 as a Hatfield Resident Fellow.

**Barb Hofford travels throughout Douglas County to share how mental illness has affected her family. She volunteers as an instructor for the National Alliance on Mental Illness.**



## Sharing the rec

### Mental health youth programs expand to serve rural Oregon

**Y**oung people struggling with mental illness, and their families, face a double whammy in rural areas of Oregon — lack of awareness and acceptance coupled with a shortage of services. And that's a problem. Research in the last decade has demonstrated that about 50% of all people with mental health disorders first develop symptoms before the age of 14, and 25% between the ages of 14 and 25.

NAMI (National Alliance on

Mental Illness) is a grassroots, volunteer-based organization that provides education and support to people living with mental conditions, along with their families. In Oregon, NAMI is working to expand educational opportunities in rural areas of the state, offering local training and expanding its volunteer base in order to reach more families.

Two of NAMI's programs are specifically aimed at youth:

**NAMI Basic**, a shortened version of NAMI's signature 12-week course, is a six-week class designed for parents and caregivers with school-age children in their households who have a mental health issue.

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The views expressed by the authors in bylined articles are not necessarily the views of the Foundation. If you'd like to be added to (or removed from) our mailing list, or have a suggestion, send an email to [communityvitality@tfff.org](mailto:communityvitality@tfff.org). Please help us make this publication a valuable resource by sharing your comments or ideas.

**Community Vitality**

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PHOTO: MIKE HENNEKE/THE NEWS-REVIEW

**When he was 24, our son finally got into a treatment program that lasted a year. Now he's a straight-A student at Columbia University.**

— Barb Hofford

# covery process

**Ending the Silence** is an awareness program aimed at high school and middle school students. The 50-minute presentation is delivered in middle and high schools by a pair of trainers — a family member ex-

**You don't have to apologize or explain anything. We know because we live it; we know what you are going through.**

— Chris Bouneff  
Executive Director  
Oregon NAMI

perienced in dealing with mental illness and a young person who has actually experienced it.

A grant from The Ford Family Foundation has helped NAMI offer trainings in Southern Oregon for the volunteers who conduct the sessions. The instructors can then bring the trainings to their communities. "We are able to bring the trainer in from NAMI national and hold the training in Roseburg rather than Portland," says Chris Bouneff, executive director of the Oregon state office of NAMI. Financial support has also helped NAMI with outreach to potential partners, marketing and recruitment of new volunteers.

Barb Hofford is a health pro-

fessional (she works as a nurse for Douglas Education Service District) but volunteers as a NAMI instructor in her role as a family member. She has helped share Ending the Silence about 18 times.

"When we bring the program to assemblies and classrooms, I share my son's story," she says. "I look these kids in the eye and I say, I know some of you kids are dealing with these issues and I want you to get help.

"When he was 24, our son finally got into a treatment program that lasted a year. Now he's a straight-A student at Columbia University. I'm excited to tell them that."

## Personal stories

Family members like Hofford who can share their personal stories are the backbone of the program. All of the content in both courses is based on lived experiences. "We can speak to the recovery process and how important it is to reach out, how normal it really is," Hofford says. "These are very commonplace disorders. It's very normal. It's out there all around us."

The trainings are offered by local NAMI chapters, of which there are 15 in Oregon — 11 of them entirely staffed by vol-

unteers. If the training isn't available in a particular area, the state office will find a way to deliver it. NAMI also operates a helpline at (800) 950-NAMI (6264).

"It's important to emphasize that when you come to NAMI, you are among your peers," Bouneff says. "You don't have to apologize or explain anything. We know because we live it; we know what you are going through. We create safe places so people can understand what's going on in their lives and learn what they need so they can continue their journey of recovery."

School age is a critical age, according to Bouneff. "If we intervene effectively at this time, we can save people struggles in the rest of their life. It is essential that organizations like ours focus on this age range, especially with the shortage of services in rural areas." ■

## How you can help

NAMI is looking for **people who have lived with a child with a mental health condition** to be trained as instructors. **Young people who have experienced living with mental health conditions** are also being sought for the Ending the Silence program.

Volunteers don't have to be familiar with NAMI; experience with mental illness and the desire to help others are the main requirements.

People interested in volunteering and organizations interested in bringing the trainings to their communities can contact NAMI at [namioregon@namior.org](mailto:namioregon@namior.org) or (800) 343-6264. ■

# A volunteer-run radio station

## Radio Tierra in Hood River gives a voice to Hispanic community

Behind the door to a small room in a nonprofit building in Hood River comes the mighty sound of many voices. Community radio station Radio Tierra operates from a 10x20-foot room in The Next Door building, filled with a computer monitor, miscellaneous sound equipment, a bookshelf filled with CDs, and a colorful mural spread across an entire wall.

“It’s a super modest little space, but you would not guess that if you were listening to our broadcasts,” says Anna Osborn, who works 10 hours a week as the station’s only paid employee.

Radio Tierra began in 1999 as a desire by Darlo Salas, Aaron Glasgow and Norberto Maahs to give the greater Hispanic community a voice and a way to share information. The dream was realized in January 2004, when the station began opera-

**Our volunteers want to make sure their community is well informed, well educated and well entertained.**

— Anna Osborn  
Radio Tierra



**DJ Grok, The Grok Show on Radio Tierra, brings in his collection of vinyl records and turntables to play a set of tunes.**



**Humberto Calderon hosts his show, Amanecer Campirano.**

tions out of Salas’ garage. Fifteen years later, the nonprofit broadcasts 24 hours a day in Spanish and English to four counties in the Columbia Gorge area. The station went worldwide this year when it realized a years-long goal to stream programming online, making Radio Tierra accessible via computer or smartphone.

“It’s a labor of love,” says Juan Reyes, president of the seven-member board. “Volunteers spend a lot of hours running the station, DJs are volunteers, and all the board members volunteer time.”

“The station is a catalyst for community-building efforts

with the Latino community,” says Roque Barros, director of the Ford Institute for Community Building.

About 20 DJs — all of them volunteers — provide the local programming. Programs in both Spanish and English run the gamut from live music to informational programs to English lessons.

Area resident Humberto Calderon hosts a music-and-interview show three days a week. Columbia Riverkeeper community organizer Ubaldo Hernández produces “Conoce tu Columbia” (Know Your Columbia). It airs every other week. Live DJs offer high-energy programs like “The Grok Show.” The weekly bilingual program, “Habla HRV,” provides information about Hood River Valley High School. Local attorneys host shows on legal issues.

“Our volunteers want to make sure their community is well informed, well educated and well entertained, too,” Osborn says.

Reyes gave up his music show when he took on the leadership position, but his family is well represented in the DJ lineup. His two young daughters host shows: Stephanie with a storytelling segment and Alexa with English lessons. Station volunteers also go out into the community to record local events, such as the Cherry Festival Parade, for rebroadcast.

### Next steps

With the launch of the streaming service, the station is planning its next big step — a

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADIO TIERRA



Radio Tierra can be heard on

95.1 FM in Hood River

95.9 FM in Stevenson

96.7 FM in Carson

107.1 FM in Parkdale

107.7 FM in The Dalles

Programs also stream on the Internet at

[www.radiotierra.org](http://www.radiotierra.org)

# Oregon by the Numbers

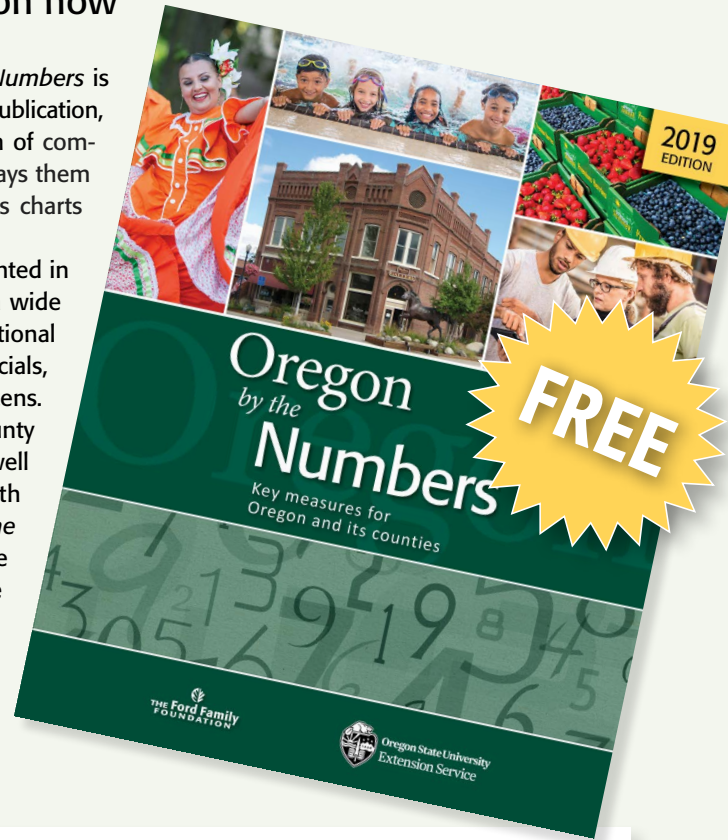
Download the latest edition now

The new edition of *Oregon by the Numbers* is now available. This comprehensive publication, updated for 2019, puts a collection of community measures in one place and displays them in an easy-to-digest format that includes charts and infographics.

*Oregon by the Numbers* was first printed in 2018 and quickly proved popular with a wide audience, including business and educational leaders, local and state government officials, nonprofit professionals, and engaged citizens.

The publication features compact county portraits for all 36 Oregon counties as well as corresponding measure profiles, with rankings whenever possible. *Oregon by the Numbers* is a collaboration between The Ford Family Foundation and Oregon State University Extension Service.

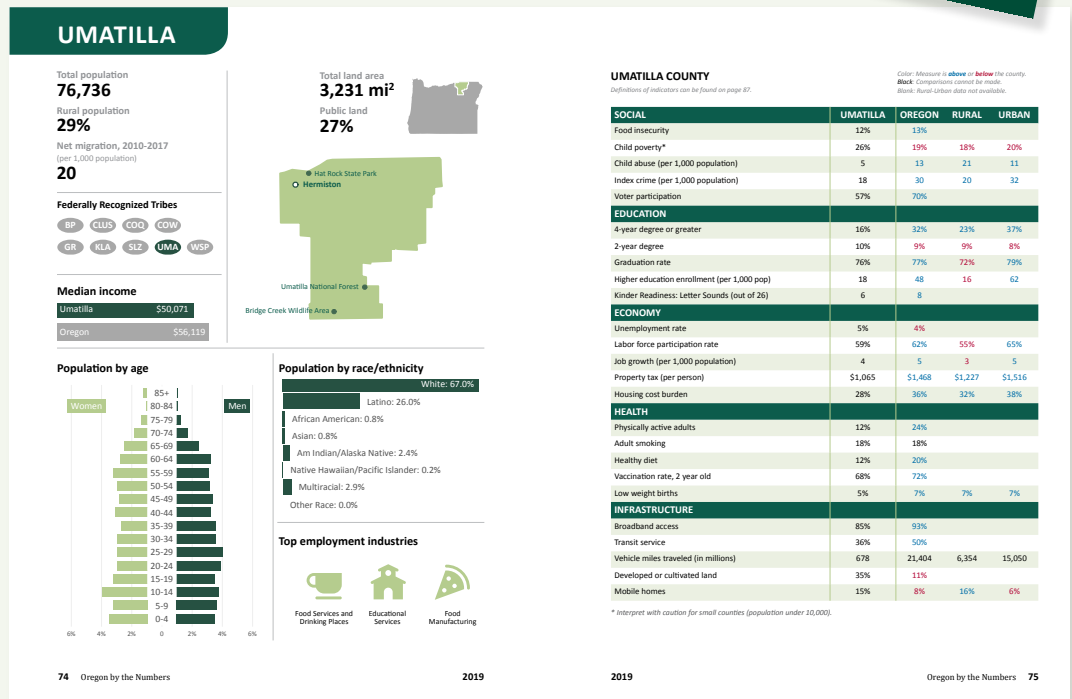
It is an outgrowth of the Foundation's long-term investment in the Rural Communities Explorer, an online tool that helps leaders explore data and statistics about their own communities. ■



yearlong community outreach plan. With the help of a grant from The Ford Family Foundation, Radio Tierra is conducting a series of focus groups in English and Spanish to engage residents in deciding how the radio station can support them around community building efforts.

"We will identify a leadership team from those focus groups," Osborn explains, "and from there create an action plan around community building and community ownership for Radio Tierra. We expect to be finished in June 2020."

"We hope this listening phase will increase Radio Tierra's role as a community connector and facilitator between the cultural differences that exist in the area," Barros says. ■



The 2019 edition of *Oregon by the Numbers* is available as a free PDF. Each county receives a close-up look. Download the publication at [www.tfff.org/OBTN](http://www.tfff.org/OBTN).

# Bridging divides with story

Oregon-based organization produces projects worldwide

**I**n a time of increased polarization, an urgent need exists to bridge divides and bring people together. How to do that? By telling stories to each other, according to Mark Yaconelli, the founder and executive director of The Hearth Community.

“The power of storytelling goes beyond the normal debates we have. It takes us into a place of connection,” says Yaconelli. “What most of us long for is a good question and a listening ear.”

The Hearth, a nonprofit organization based in Oregon, helps cities and organizations produce personal storytelling projects. It has produced events in Oregon, North Carolina, Texas, California, Indiana,

**It’s really the power of building community. People get together, and they are so honest in telling a story.**

— Steve Roe  
Grants Pass



**Mark Yaconelli addresses a crowd that has gathered for an evening of storytelling sponsored by The Hearth. “The power of storytelling goes beyond the normal debates we have. It takes us into a place of connection,” says Yaconelli, who is the founder and executive director of The Hearth.**

New Mexico, Minnesota, Washington, Florida, New York and the United Kingdom.

Several communities in Oregon are holding regular Hearth events, and the launch of a recent certificate program (see sidebar) promises to expand the program into more towns.

In Grants Pass, where Hearth events are held at Bethany Presbyterian Church every quarter, more than 200 people gathered in July to hear stories on the theme of “Going Wild.” Admission was free, but participants were encouraged to make a donation benefiting featured nonprofit Wildlife Image, which made a quick presentation. New York musician Lipbone Redding entertained the audience before the storytelling began. Six local residents presented their

10-minute stories, interspersed with more music.

“It’s really the power of building community. People get together, and they are so honest in telling a story,” says Grants Pass co-organizer Steve Roe. “And it keeps going — I almost feel sorry trying to get people back from intermission. The audience is out there sharing their own stories — it’s like a Hearth within a Hearth.

“The next morning on Facebook, we post pictures of people who gave Hearth presentations, and the conversations take off from there.”

## Noche de Cuentos

Each community structures its Hearth events in its own way. In Phoenix, Oregon, Noche de Cuentos (Night of Stories) is held entirely in Spanish and be-

gins with food. After music and an art show, community members share their stories around a common theme, such as Day of the Dead or Mother’s Day.

Noche de Cuentos started out as a way to bring together the Hispanic community in Southern Oregon. “There aren’t many spaces bringing together the Latino community,” says organizer Erica Ledesma. “We started talking about how we can carve more spaces and more opportunities for the community to come together and share. With all that is going on nationally, it’s a way to control the narrative in our own community.”

When she was growing up, Ledesma explains, her parents taught her values through stories.

# telling

Three events have been held in the Medford-Phoenix area so far. Childcare is provided and sponsors provide food, such as the tamales and agua fresca donated by Southern Oregon Education Service District's Migrant Education program.

The last event drew about 250 people. "People just didn't want to leave," Ledesma says. "The project has been very well received. People are excited that we are empowering them to step into their voice."

## Building community

Hearth events have developed a loyal fan base in Grants Pass, says Roe. Many people come to support friends who are telling their stories, but Roe also sees regulars who attend every event. "There's no bad that comes out of the Hearth. Maybe someone gets up there and stumbles, but there's no

ridicule, only love at the Hearth."

"The Hearth relies on storytelling as a way of building community and deepening relationships," Yaconelli says. "It's a way for sharing the diversity of human experiences with a town or among people so we can feel empathy and address issues we have."

"Every time we gather and someone is vulnerable and willing to tell, we each come home to our humanity. We are blowing on the coals of the fire, coals that are the hearts that are gathered in that room." ■

The project has been very well received. People are excited that we are empowering them to step into their voice.

— Erica Ledesma  
Phoenix

NOCHE DE CUENTOS PRESENTA

## DIA DE LAS MADRES

Auditorio de

**Phoenix High School**

745 N. Rose st. Phoenix, OR

**Mayo 15, 2019 - 6pm**

Actividades y cuidado para niños por el programa LISTO

**Puertas Abren 6pm**

**Comida Gratis 6pm**

**Show Comienza 7pm**

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Southern Oregon ESD



Each community structures its Hearth events in its own way. In Phoenix, Oregon, Noche de Cuentos (Night of Stories) is held entirely in Spanish and begins with food. After music and an art show, community members share their stories around a common theme, such as Mother's Day.

## Certificate in storytelling

The Hearth recently launched an intensive certificate program in community storytelling. The program offers a variety of experiential exercises, individual skill-building, practical teaching, online discussion groups, and written and online resources.

Almost 60 people from around the country are in the current class, which will end in October with a four-day workshop. Participants include community leaders, a chaplain who is working with nursing staff to use storytelling in hospice, and

a board member of a group of scientists studying climate change.

"It's sort of a Hearth within a Hearth," says Steve Roe, who is in the class. "We have some really spirited discussions."

In 2020, The Hearth is offering the program as a weeklong intensive workshop, April 19-24, with additional coaching as graduates test their skills and models in real-world settings. For more information, check out <https://thehearth-community.com/> ■



# Lifting all boats in northw

## A seafood value chain has potential to improve the Garibaldi economy

**N**estled on Tillamook Bay along Oregon's North Coast lies the small city of Garibaldi, population 815. At the center of town is the Port of Garibaldi, the physical and cultural heart of the community, where around 60 small commercial fishing vessels are docked when they aren't out on the ocean in search of seven types of seafood, including Dungeness crab, albacore tuna and Chinook salmon. These boats represent local, independently owned small businesses, often employing deckhands and supporting an

array of interconnected local businesses.

This small-scale fleet primarily uses low-impact fishing gear and catches small volumes of fish on day trips allowing for delivery of high-quality, individually handled seafood.

The Port of Garibaldi, which dates to the early twentieth century, is the nearest seaport to Portland, Oregon, located about 85 miles west of the city along Highway 101. It is part of the Tillamook County port area, which is considered the second largest of the state's smaller ports by revenue generation.

Like many other small fishing fleets across the country, the Garibaldi fleet is facing a variety of challenges caused by both internal and external forces. The workforce in the fishing industry is aging (the median age is 51.5 years) and there are barriers to succession planning as well as in attracting younger workers to the field. The impacts

of industry consolidation can pose threats to small boat operators like those in Garibaldi, resulting in fewer options to sell their product and having to settle for lower prices because of a lack of competition. Other challenges include those caused by a changing climate and its impact on sea life, the high cost of fishing permits, and the general operations of running a fishing vessel.

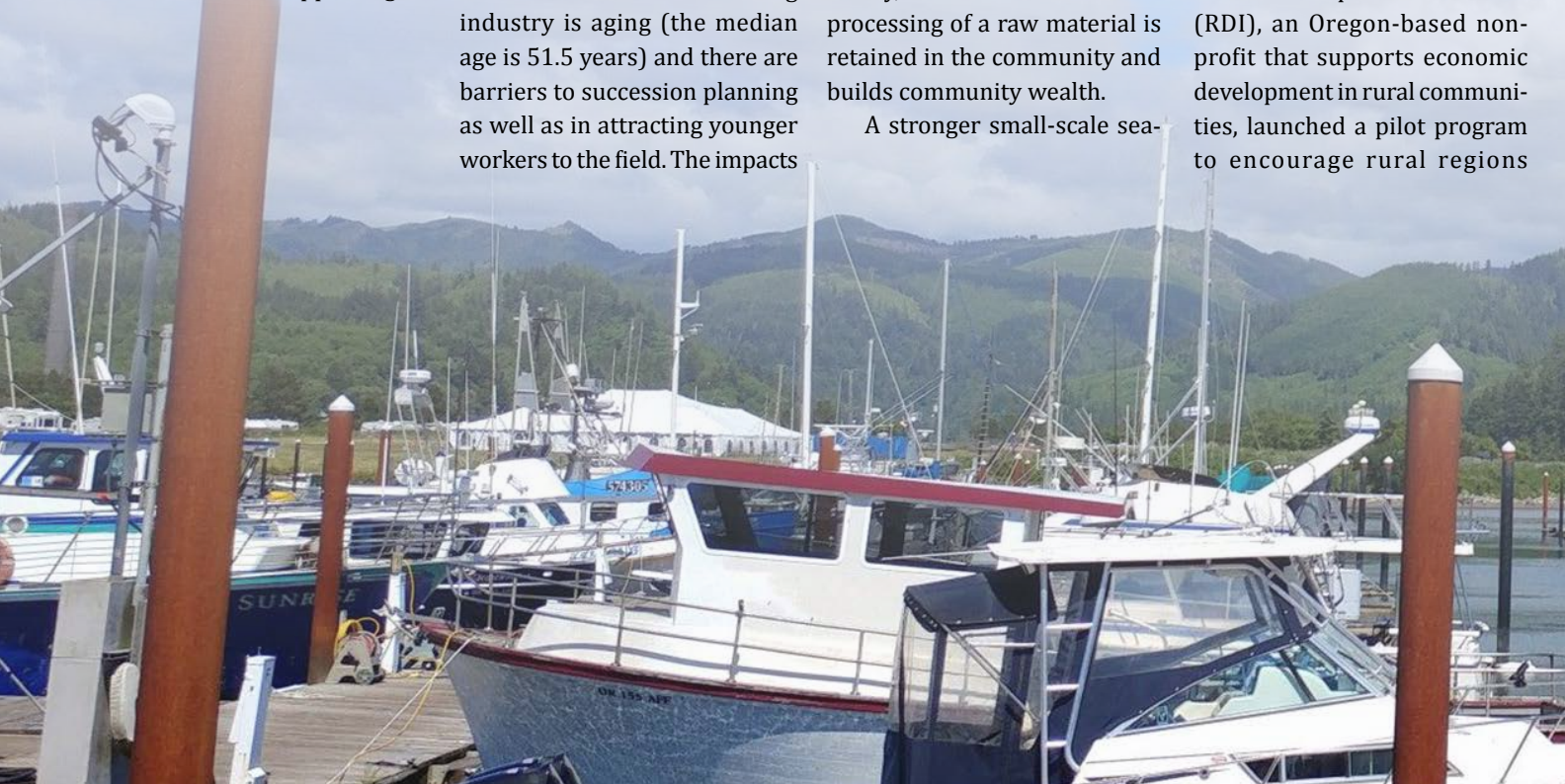
### The value chain

The concept of the value chain is an essential part of any discussion of Oregon's small-scale seafood market. A value chain is the full range of activities that businesses go through to bring a final product or service to their customers. When more of those steps happen locally, the value added to the processing of a raw material is retained in the community and builds community wealth.

A stronger small-scale sea-

food value chain for Garibaldi and wider Tillamook County has the potential to improve the economy in a place where the unemployment rate is over 6% and median income is 77% of the median for the rest of the state. By expanding economic opportunities for selling their product and providing stability for North Coast fishermen, a well-functioning value chain can improve the livelihoods of boat owners, crew, processors, retailers and others living in the area, all while keeping the community's strong maritime identity alive.

Efforts to develop value opportunities for small-scale seafood businesses in Garibaldi and Tillamook County date back to 2013. That's when Rural Development Initiatives (RDI), an Oregon-based nonprofit that supports economic development in rural communities, launched a pilot program to encourage rural regions





# West Oregon

throughout the state to explore the principles of WealthWorks. These principles include building value chains and identifying assets and different forms of wealth. A diverse group of partners serving the area came together to drive this initiative and explore the possibilities for the North Coast.

In addition to RDI, the organizations included the Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District (Col-Pac), a private, nonprofit organization focused on encouraging economic diversification and resilience throughout Northwest Oregon; the Port of Garibaldi, which promotes local economic development and manages the waterfront and supports vessels; the Economic Development Council of Tillamook County, the county-wide economic development organization; Visit Tillamook Coast, the local tourism entity; and the Tillamook Bay Community College Small

Business Development Center. The strength of this coalition is its breadth of expertise and the mix of resources each organization brings to the initiative.

In January 2017, Col-Pac contracted with two staff members from Ecotrust (with over 20 years' experience serving fishing communities) to serve as value chain coordinator. Ecotrust, located in Portland, is a nonprofit focused on advancing social equity, economic opportunity and environmental stewardship.

"Fishing communities across the country are grappling with the interrelated challenges of maintaining or reviving their economic, social, cultural and ecological well-being in the face of change," says Kelly Harrell, one of the value chain coordinators with Ecotrust. "WealthWorks offers a different model of economic



**The Port of Garibaldi is home to about 60 small commercial fishing vessels that harvest seafood, including Dungeness crab.**

PHOTOS: CARLINRV.COM, TRAVEL OREGON



and community development that addresses root causes that are at the core of thriving fishing communities."

The partners took a deep dive into analyzing and understanding the intricacies of the local seafood industry. This included conducting research, organizing partner meetings, carrying out interviews and surveys with fishermen and regional partners, participating in local events, and mapping out the value chain.

Through this effort, key priorities emerged for grow-

ing the value chain: improving seafood industry infrastructure; monitoring and enhancing local fisheries access and ownership; and supporting fishermen and seafood businesses in business development and connections to markets. ■

*Editor's Note: This article is adapted from a case study appearing on the WealthWorks website. For the rest of the story about this work in progress, visit [www.wealthworks.org](http://www.wealthworks.org) > Success Stories.*



# Scholar finds fulfillment through art

## Ford Opportunity Scholar Margaret Hartsook earns Bruce Award

By Holly Scholz

Ford Scholar Class of 1998

When Margaret Hartsook was a young student, she didn't learn in the same way as other kids. Recognizing her unique learning style, teachers often encouraged her to incorporate art into her lessons.

"Art has always been a place where I process things and sort things out," Hartsook says. "It helped me make sense of the world as a young person." When she received the Ford Opportunity Scholarship in 2001, she knew exactly what she wanted to study — art therapy. Today, Hartsook shares her love of art while working as a clinical art therapist for Legacy Good Samaritan Cancer Healing Center in Portland and as an art program consultant for Memories in the Making, an Alzheimer's Association program.

Hartsook recently received the **Gerald E. Bruce Award**, established to recognize Ford Family scholarship alumni who have unselfishly worked to better their communities. "The combination of Margaret's direct volunteer service and her ability to build off that service to create programs that were replicated in other regions of the state impressed the selection committee," says Bonnie Williams, manager of scholar and alumni engagement at



Margaret Hartsook in her studio

The Ford Family Foundation.

Although she's always loved all art forms, Hartsook took an indirect route to being an art therapist. Fresh out of high school in 1974, she enrolled in California College of Art, but left school to raise a family. In her mid-40s, she won a Ford Opportunity scholarship for single parents after deciding she wanted more out of life than working in retail.

"I had already thought about doing art therapy — I am creative and I had this art background — but I hadn't done it for quite a number of years," Hartsook says. "Then, I got the scholarship, and I knew exactly what I wanted to do."

She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 2003 from the University of Oregon and a master's degree in 2006 from Naropa University in Boul-

**In her mid-40s, she won a Ford Opportunity scholarship for single parents after deciding she wanted more out of life ...**

der, Colorado, in transpersonal counseling, psychology and art therapy.

Hartsook worked as a hospice bereavement counselor and co-created a hospice art therapy program. She was also an adjunct faculty member for Naropa in addition to volunteering in an art therapy studio and at a therapeutic horse riding center. She also volunteered with Memories in the Making, an art-based program for people with dementia.

"While my work at hospice was rewarding, after six years, I made the difficult decision to leave as I was being called to return to my family in Oregon," Hartsook says.

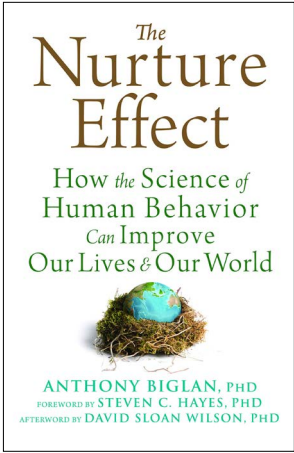
In 2011, she settled in Portland near her two grown children, who had started families of their own.

She began a volunteer Memories in Making pilot program with the Alzheimer's Association in Portland. After a few months, the association hired her to grow the program statewide, and it is now in more than 150 Alzheimer's care facilities in Oregon.

During this work, she also worked with people dealing with grief and serious illnesses. She had talked with the Legacy Health system about doing art therapy with their cancer patients, which led to a full-time position in 2012.

Hartsook has chosen Forward Stride, a therapeutic horse riding center in Hillsboro, to receive the \$5,000 grant that accompanies the Gerald E. Bruce Award. She volunteers with Forward Stride, which enhances the quality of life for people with special needs through horse-centered activities and therapies.

"What I value most in my work is the ability to make a difference in the lives of people who are struggling by using creativity and art," Hartsook says. "I am continually grateful for the opportunity to work in the field I am passionate about and to witness the depth and power of art therapy." ■



## Resources offer insights

Get the tools you need to help make a difference in your community with Select Books from The Ford Family Foundation. We provide these resources at no charge to residents of Oregon and Siskiyou County, California. Keep them, share them. The only requirement is providing us with your feedback on the publication ordered.

Here are three books on the Select List:

**The Nurture Effect: How the Science of Human Behavior Can Improve Our Lives and Our World**, by Anthony Biglan, Ph.D. This book is a fascinating look at how nurturing environments can increase people's well-being in virtually every aspect of our society. (See full review on back page.) 252 pages. © 2015.

**Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America**, by James Fallows, Deborah Fallows: On a five-year journey across the United States in a small plane, the husband-wife team visits dozens of towns to explore the challenges facing small communities — from economic hardships to the scourge of drugs. They also document the common characteristics that underwrite success in those towns — energy, generosity, determination, compassion and determination. 417 pages. © 2018.

**The Local Economy Solution: How Innovative, Self-**

**Financing "Pollinator" Enterprises Can Grow Jobs and Prosperity**, by Michael Shuman. Growing evidence has proven that the traditional approach to economic development — incentives to attract large businesses — is a dead end for most communities. This book suggests an alternative approach: nurture a new generation of enterprises that help local businesses launch and create jobs in self-financing ways.

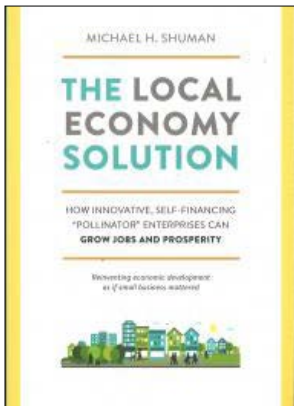
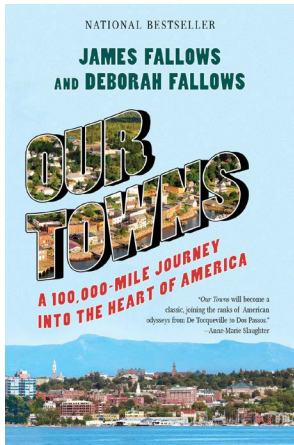
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248 pages. © 2015. See the complete list of Select Books: [www.tfff.org/select-books/](http://www.tfff.org/select-books/) ■



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We make it easier than ever to access the resources on the Select Books list. Traditionally, we've offered readers our list of approximately 70 titles in print format. We also offer versions in Kindle e-book and audio CD, and provide Spanish translations when available.

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## Two ways to read

Printed copies of *Community Vitality* are available on request. Send an email to: [communityvitality@tfff.org](mailto:communityvitality@tfff.org)



*Community Vitality* is online. [www.tfff.org/cv](http://www.tfff.org/cv)

Receive email notifications when a new online issue is available. Sign up at: [www.tfff.org/cvsubscribe](http://www.tfff.org/cvsubscribe)

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# Mill

Continued from page 1

most of the insurance proceeds were used to mitigate the fire damage. Recognizing the importance of the mill to the community's economic vitality, a group of residents formed the Butte Creek Mill Foundation and came to an agreement with Russell to buy the mill.

## National Historic Register

Enough of the mill survived to maintain its status on the National Historic Register, which recognizes it as the last water-powered grist mill still commercially operating west of the Mississippi. The millstones, brought by ship from France and then carried over the mountain by wagon, were unharmed, and the basement was largely intact.

The foundation's goal is to rebuild the mill with careful attention to historical accuracy, and operate it as a commercially viable, tourist-friendly enterprise. So far, \$2.1 million of the \$2.5 million goal has been raised, much of it through private donations. Eagle Point resident and entertainer Jim Belushi has hosted two benefit concerts.

"We had people from all over the U.S. sending checks," says Kupillas, president of the Butte Creek Mill Foundation board of directors. "We did quite a bit of fund raising without even asking for money. It was totally amazing."

Mill construction has proceeded as money allows. "We had a unique situation because of the urgency to get the building closed in to avoid damage by water and weather," Kupillas says. "Most projects, you raise



money and then you do it, but we had to raise money and build at the same time. It was pretty hand to mouth for a while."

The mill is being reconstructed just as it was originally built in 1872, with contributions from craftsmen from all over Oregon. The two-foot-square pillars are hand-hewn with a broad ax from local wood. The frames for the mill walls were put together on the ground with wooden pegs and raised up to create the walls and roof trusses.

## Tourism country

The mill sits between two of the state's largest tourist attractions — Crater Lake and

**The Butte Creek Mill Foundation's goal is to rebuild the mill with careful attention to historical accuracy, and operate it as a commercially viable, tourist-friendly enterprise.**



**Top: The rebuild and restoration of the 1872 Butte Creek Mill in Eagle Point continues after a devastating fire in December 2015. Above: The week after the fire, the community came out in force to sort through and save anything that survived.**

TOP PHOTO: MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE. ABOVE PHOTO: BUTTE CREEK MILL FOUNDATION

Ashland's Oregon Shakespeare Festival. The nearby covered bridge is a popular destination for people touring Oregon's covered bridges. "Between the mill and the covered bridge, literally thousands of people came through every year," Kupillas says.

The foundation received a grant from Travel Oregon for ADA modifications, which include access to the lower level, where people can watch the mill stones grind the wheat. The Butte Creek General Store will

reopen, and an exhibit room will showcase local culture, Native American history and milling history. The room itself will be an exhibit as its vaulted ceiling showcases the mill's timber frame construction.

A few more chores remain — hiring a miller, installing the electrical system, HVAC and plumbing — but organizers hope to open the mill doors late this year. "Eagle Point is a nice town and everybody is going to be thrilled when that mill is finally done," Sherman says. ■

# Hallie Ford Fellows for 2019

## Five Oregon visual artists recognized

Five artists from throughout Oregon were recognized in June for their talent and potential when they were named 2019 Hallie Ford Fellows in the Visual Arts. A jury of five arts professionals selected **Niraja Lorenz** of Eugene, **James Lavadour** of Pendleton, and **Corey Arnold**, **Jess Perlitz** and **Sharita Towne** of Portland from an exceptionally diverse pool of nearly 190 applicants.

They each received a \$25,000 unrestricted award and joined 35 of their peers selected over the last nine years as Hallie Ford Fellows.

"Their talent cuts across the spectrum of disciplines," said Anne Kubisch, president of the Foundation. "They represent contemporary

forms of expressions that convey ideas and stories that encourage viewers to think about our world in a different way."

The selection of the 2019 Fellows followed extensive individual review and joint discussions.

Jurists came from New York, Cleveland, Portland and Los Angeles. They determined that the awarded artists are at a pivotal moment in their careers and an infusion of resources now may help to catalyze their practice in transformative ways.

These fellowships honor the late Hallie Ford, co-founder of The Ford Family Foundation, who left a legacy based on a lifelong interest in and support of the visual arts. She believed strongly that others should have the opportunity to realize their talents. ■



Five artists from throughout Oregon were named as 2019 Hallie Ford Fellows in the Visual Arts. A jury of five arts professionals selected Jess Perlitz, Sharita Towne, Niraja Lorenz, James

Lavadour and Corey Arnold (inset) from a diverse pool of nearly 190 applicants. In June, an exhibition at the Pacific Northwest College of Art (top) featured their work.

PHOTO: HAROLD HUTCHINSON

# Artist-run exhibition space

**Ditch Projects gains national attention, provides museum-quality space for Oregon artists**

About 10 years ago, Eugene artist Mike Bray and a group of fellow MFA students from the University of Oregon began looking for a venue to show contemporary art from around the country. Display space is rare, and they had nearly given up when Bray (a 2013 Hallie Ford Fellow in the Visual Arts) stumbled on a warehouse section near downtown Spring-

field. Nondescript from the outside, the warehouse, part of an old lumber mill, opened up to a massive space with rustic charm.

The group quickly set to work transforming the environment, painting half the walls gallery white and leaving half in their original state. And soon, Ditch Projects (named for a dried-up creek in the complex) was born.

In the intervening years, Ditch has built a national reputation as an artist-run exhibition and performance venue with a unique exhibition space. "In the artists' scene, you always hear about what's happening at Ditch," says Amy Bernstein, a Portland artist who showed her work in February 2018. The gallery's spacious walls allowed Bernstein to show a 28-foot painting she had just completed on commission to a fashion house. "The space is

phenomenal — it's the size of an airplane hangar — and there's nothing like it anywhere else in Oregon."

## **Collaboration, camaraderie**

Ditch Projects is run more like a co-op than a traditional gallery, a feature that adds to its allure among art circles. Members pay dues and hold twice yearly pitch meetings, where they decide which artists should be invited to show. None of the works are for sale; artists come to have a show in a museum-quality space, to work with fellow creatives and to try out new work without fear of failure.

Setting up the shows is a collaborative affair, with exhibiting artists and Ditch members working together. It's come a long way from the scramble of early shows and a nearly non-existent budget. "We had a lot of hiccups in the beginning," Bray says. "It was hard to engage the community. We didn't have any money, so we would have an artist coming from L.A. and sleeping on a couch. And sometimes we would be installing on Friday and opening on Saturday.

"Word of mouth gave us the time to grow and develop naturally, and I'd say we were better known in L.A. and Chicago than we were in Eugene or Springfield," Bray says.

But one thing hasn't changed



PHOTOS: DITCH PROJECTS

**Top: "Unknown, the Witch," an exhibition at Ditch Projects by Amy Bernstein, 2018. Bottom: "Midnight at High Noon," by Jessie Rose Valla, 2017.**



**Mike Bray, a 2013 Hallie Ford Fellow in the Visual Arts, led a group effort to create a unique exhibition space and performance venue in Springfield.**

— the camaraderie. “It has a community feel to it,” Bray says. “We don’t think of ourselves as curators. We ask artists to come in and we help them do what they want. It’s a way to meet someone you really admire and gives you a way to know them.”

“The folks down there were so helpful and so relaxed, and I was excited to make a show that was for my peers,” Bernstein says. “It was one of my proudest shows.”

#### **From ‘no-profit’ to nonprofit**

Ditch Projects has hosted about 220 shows to date, with artists from across the country. The group recently obtained nonprofit status in order to access grants and expand its projects. “We are growing up a little bit as an institution,” Bray explains. “We are fine-tuning our model so we can support the artists coming to the show and those representing Ditch.”

As part of its 10-year birthday celebration, Ditch Projects is planning a series of events exploring the idea of exhibition utopias, looking at the artists that start these kinds of spaces and why they do it. Besides an exhibition of visual art, half from

previously shown artists and half from the collective, the event will feature readings and roundtable discussions.

“The thing that is most important about Ditch is that it’s run by artists; that changes the dynamic and it’s awesome,” Bernstein says. “It’s so needed in this mix of what we have in Oregon. We have incredible organizations that support us, but having something run by artists is the needed element in our ecosystem.”

Learn more: <https://ditchprojects.com/>. ■

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**The space is phenomenal — it’s the size of an airplane hangar — and there’s nothing like it anywhere else in Oregon.**

—Amy Bernstein  
Artist

## The Nurture Effect: A review

*Continued from page 16*

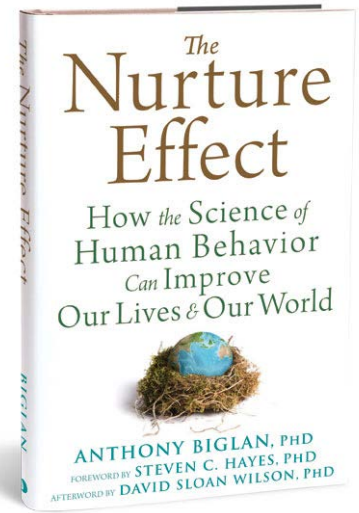
cigarette in the Kennedy Center lobby, we can create a society where it is unthinkable that a child suffers abuse, fails in school, becomes delinquent, or faces teasing and bullying.”

The book is evenly split between the science behind Biglan’s strategy and case studies that spotlight success. He provides a variety of examples of successful prevention programs and practices. All of them have one common characteristic — they make people’s homes or schools or workplaces more nurturing. Families learn how to avoid conflict. Schools encourage students to contribute. People are guided in ways to follow their dreams while avoiding negative self-talk.

#### **Prosocial behavior**

In schools, for example, researchers have identified the problem of how to help teachers move from escalating punishment to using positive reinforcement. That approach nurtures what Biglan calls “prosocial” behavior, or behavior that is positive, helpful and intended to promote social acceptance and friendship. Significant progress toward positive reinforcement strategies has occurred, including school programs such as Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support.

Teenage mothers could benefit from programs such as parenting education and home visiting, which matches teens with nurses from pregnancy through birth and beyond. Teens get the



support they need to succeed with their baby, which helps them in every aspect of their lives. In Washington state, a cost benefit analysis concluded that for every dollar spent on the program, \$3.23 was saved, a 223% return on investment.

“I am confident that, if we marshal the evidence for nurturing environments and use the advocacy techniques that worked so well for the tobacco control movement, we can truly transform society,” Biglan concludes. “Not only will we have smoke-free gatherings, we will have communities that see to the well-being of every member. We will have less crime, mental illness, drug abuse, divorce, academic failure and poverty.”

Residents of Oregon and Siskiyou County, California, can get this book for free from The Ford Family Foundation Select Books Program. See page 11. ■

BOOK REVIEW

# Nurture our well-being

Author argues that to make society more successful, we need to use human behavior to create change

**B**ehavioral scientist Anthony Biglan's premise is simple: Nearly all problems of human behavior are due to a failure to ensure that people live in environments that nurture their well-being. Abuse, drug problems, violence, mental health problems and dysfunction in families — these are the conditions that plague society.

In order to make society more successful, we need to use the science of human be-

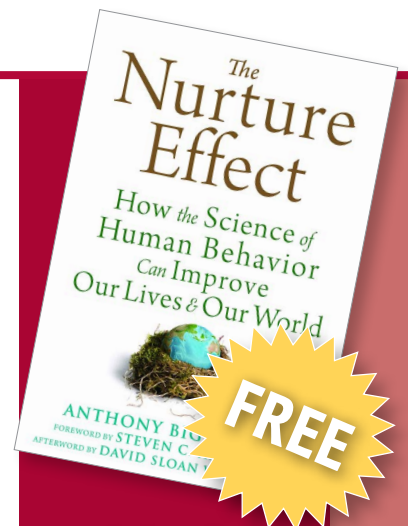
havior to create change. Cultivating a positive environment in the home, the classroom or other social contexts, will help young adults develop the background they need for productive and happy lives. It's a do-able proposition, and *The Nurture Effect* offers a road map and plenty of examples to get started down that road.

## Public health achievement

Biglan points to the tobacco control movement, one of modern history's most important public health achievements, as a model for how to achieve massive societal changes. In 1965, over 50% of men and 34% of women smoked. By 2010, only 23.5% of men and 17.9% of women were smoking. When public health officials, epidemiologists and victims of the cigarette industry united to mobilize opposition to the marketing of a product that was killing almost half a million each year, Biglan says, "they moved a mountain."

"Just as we have created a society in which it would be unthinkable to light up a

*Continued on page 15*



## This book is yours for the asking

*The Nurture Effect: How the Science of Human Behavior Can Improve Our Lives and Our World. See page 11.*



**THE Ford Family FOUNDATION**

### MISSION

Successful citizens and vital rural communities

### CORE VALUES

**Integrity:** Promoting and acknowledging principled behavior

**Stewardship:** Responsibility to give back and accountability for resources and results

**Respect:** Valuing all individuals

**Independence:** Encouraging self-reliance and initiative

**Community:** Working together for positive change



Anthony Biglan