



Community Service

Continuing to give to Washington State

Local Stories and Ideas



Washington State School Retirees' Association

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July 16, 2020

WSSRA Members –

Thank you for your interest in community service and for the many hours that you have devoted to making your community a better place to live. What follows are summaries of 2019-20 community service projects, mini-grants, and scholarships given to local charities and needy folks by the 17,900 members of the Washington State School Retirees' Association.

The purpose of this booklet is to generate ideas and interest in expanding or refining community service activities conducted in each of the 30 WSSRA local units. We exist as an organization for several purposes, one of which is to “foster involvement by school retirees in educational and community activities and organizations.” What you read below reflects thousands of volunteer hours provided by dedicated retirees who continue to give to their communities after retiring from a career educating our state’s kids.

And, at WSSRA we certainly do give. During 2019-20 our membership accumulated 133,000 volunteer hours, awarded \$135,000 in mini-grants to local educators, and granted \$276,000 in scholarships to high school seniors and student teachers!

That is a lot of giving and is reflected in the heartfelt stories of programs that help the needy all over the state. Read these descriptions with pleasure and try something new next year in community service. You will be glad you did!



Pam Francis, 2019-20 WSSRA President



Alan Burke, WSSRA Executive Director

Community Service Summaries

Clarkston-Asotin-Pomeroy SRA – Unit 01

Project #1: Kindness Connection

Purpose: To spread kindness through music.

Eight to ten members travel to assisted living facilities to sing for 30 to 45 minutes, often in a sing-along format where residents join in. At each facility Clarkston-Asotin-Pomeroy distributes a small gift to each resident. Clarkston-Asotin-Pomeroy does this three times per year: October, Christmas time and April/May.

Project #2: VIP Christmas

Purpose: Honor the office staff at area schools.

Office personnel were invited to the Clarkston-Asotin-Pomeroy Christmas luncheon/auction. Each attendee received a gift bag of items they could use at school, and attendees joined with members in an auction that distributed other goodies to them. In most cases, principals paid for their assistants' lunches and supported their attendance by shuffling staff lunch duty coverage.

Project #3: Supporting Local Schools

Purpose: In the fall, we usually collect mittens, hats, and scarves for the local elementary students. Throughout the school year, we bring in canned and dried goods for the high school food pantries.

Mini-grants

During 2019-20 twenty \$100 mini-grants were distributed to local teachers. One grant allowed a third-grade classroom to build a cardboard planetarium for their school. Another grant purchased left-hand scissors that allowed southpaws to relieve the fatigue that they often feel when being forced to use right-hand scissors for class projects.

Scholarships

Eight \$500 scholarships were awarded to seniors from area high schools.



Chelan-Douglas SRA – Unit 02

Project: Bridging the Gap

Purpose: Improve reading skills and promote the joy of reading to first graders in a high poverty school.

Ten Chelan-Douglas members offer tutoring to students one or two days per week in 60 or 90-minute sessions. The tutors become de facto members of the school community, often volunteering at school events, and taking part in school volunteer recognition events. Every June the tutors are invited to the end-of-year potluck where they share stories of interactions with first graders.

Mini-grants

Twenty-nine individual grants were awarded totaling just under \$5,000. Grants ranged from purchasing skirts for Mariachi middle school dancers to buying keyboards to link with iPads that provide light tables for instruction with math manipulatives.

Chelan-Douglas SRA – Unit 02 – Continued

Other School and community programs that were supported with funding included:

National robotics team, My Sky Exhibit at the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Lego competitions, Mariachi Northwest Festival, EKAP (Every Kid at the PAC- Performing Arts Center), grants to districts' Homeless Liaisons (2020-21), and the Alatheia Therapeutic Reading Center (2020-21).

When the coronavirus hit in February of 2020 and schools closed, that did not stop the need for helping kids. Chelan-Douglas stepped up quickly and effectively. The Cascade School District (Leavenworth to Stevens Pass) is quite rural with many students-mostly poor-not equipped with internet access at home. Of course, no internet means no online learning – not good. With that as a backdrop, Unit 2 leaders got in contact with Cascade officials and eventually funded connection fees for 13 families and 40 kids! Great work! (Note the entire project is described fully in the July, August, September WSSRA Journal.)

Clallam County SRA – Unit 03

Project: CCSRA Children's Book Drive

Purpose: Giving children books to take home.

Members collected gently used and new children's books to give to Clallam County First Steps organization that serves young families with children. Clallam County First Steps has a reading nook with bookcases full of books that children take home and keep or borrow. Clallam County also gives to Sequim Head Start that award books to needy children. Clallam County has about 15 members who provide books from September to May. Between 400 and 800 books are delivered in May each Year. CCSRA has been involved in this project for the past 20 years.

Mini-grants

Total number of grants awarded in 2019-2020: 13

Dollar total of grants awarded in 2019-2020: \$6,339.24

One grant for \$2000 was given to Carrie Cobb, Spanish teacher in the Crescent School District, who is taking students to Costa Rica for 10 days. This trip is the culmination of a two-year quest for funding and a commitment from the students to attend.

Scholarships

Total number of scholarships awarded in 2019-2020: 50+ (Varies from \$50 to grants that provide full tuition at Peninsula College).

Dollar amount of scholarships awarded in 2019-2020: \$56,000.00

Columbia Basin SRA – Unit 04

Project: Books for Babies

Purpose: Assist new parents in developing a habit of reading to their children through “Book for Babies” program.



CBSRA provides a book for all newborns with a message to read, read, read to your children. Books are provided in English and Spanish. The program began in 2013. One thousand books are purchased annually, and over a dozen members participate in the purchasing and preparation of the book packets. This project is a partnership between the Moses Lake Lions Club, The Moses Lake Womens’ Club, and the CBSRA.

Mini-grants

Twenty-five \$200 grants (\$5,000 total) were given to teachers for a variety of projects, classroom supplies, and special activities. Building model rockets, pumpkin patch growth in the fall, and board games for indoor recess time in poor weather are examples of projects that were funded.

Scholarships

Six student teacher scholarships at \$500 each were awarded (\$3,000 total).

Grays Harbor Pacific SRA – Unit 05

Project: Book Donation for Deceased Members

Purpose: Honor a deceased member by donating a book to the school library where they taught.

This program has been ongoing for several years and is appreciated by the school and the family of the deceased member. Sixty-one books have been donated.



Scholarships

Three \$500 scholarships are awarded to high school senior in the area. In addition, a \$1,600 scholarship was granted to a Grays Harbor Community College student majoring in education.

Southwest King SRA – Unit 06

Project #1: Sponsoring a Humanities Washington Speaker

Purpose: Bring relevant speakers to area retirement homes.

For the past two decades unit 06 has sponsored a Humanities Washington Speaker at local retirement homes. The unit pays for travel and a small honorarium for the speaker, who then makes presentations that are always well received.

Project #2: Goodie bags for new school district employees

Purpose: Meet new staff and let them know about SW King SRA and how it helps educators.

New employee goodie bags are prepared and delivered to new teachers and classified employees in area schools.

Southwest King SRA – Unit 06 - Continued

Mini-grants

Forty-eight grants were awarded to local educators totaling \$14,759.

One particularly important grant was used to support homeless students with basic needs as determined by school nurses. A second grant supported librarians with book and supply budgets.

Jefferson County SRA – Unit 07

Mini-grants

Thirteen mini-grants were awarded for a total of \$2,773. Grants supported field trip costs, guest speaker stipends, classroom libraries, PE equipment, classroom supplies, tech support (headphones, LEGO we-do 20 core set), art materials, and engineering kits.

Kitsap County SRA – Unit 08

Project: Donation of clothing, toys, and gifts for underprivileged children

Purpose: To meet the needs of children who live in challenging circumstances.

KCSRA members annually partner with the Community Resource Center to provide needy children with hats, gloves, and scarfs for winter preparation. In addition, we assist the Bremerton area Christmas Angel program by donating unwrapped toys, clothing, and various gifts for holiday distribution.

Mini-grants

KCSRA awarded six mini-grants to teachers in the South Kitsap School District. Grants are awarded annually to teachers in one area district on a rotating basis. Notable SKSD grants supported classroom libraries, sensory and PE supports for adaptive/life skills students, and art supplies and support for family art night.

Kittitas County SRA – Unit 09

Project: Rescue

Purpose: To assure that neglected pets are transported to the proper facility and prepared for adoption.

Members devoted 250 hours to transporting neglected pets from rural parts of Kittitas County to rescue facilities in Ellensburg.

Mini-grants

Awarded 30 mini-grants for \$4,100.

Notable grants supported an archery class at a rural k-12 district, and funded equipment for a start-up K-5 Marimba band class.

Columbia Gorge SRA – Unit 10

(Note: first year of operation in 2019-20)

Mini-grants

Awarded the Klickitat County Early Intervention Birth - Three years program a \$200 mini-grant to help implement a Community Play Group program for children and their families/caregivers. Money will be used for materials/supplies, books, and snacks.

Lewis County SRA – Unit 11

Mini-grants

Lewis County awarded seven mini-grants for \$200 apiece. One that was particularly interesting was support of a teacher from Onalaska Middle School in art project carving soapstone animals led by a master carver from Tenino.

Scholarships

Awarded three \$1500 scholarships to Lewis County high school graduates.

Lower Columbia SRA – Unit 12

Mini-grants

Combining forces with the local credit union, 50 grants were awarded for a total of \$6,000.

Scholarships

Three \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to high school seniors in the area.

Mason County SRA – Unit 14

Mini-grants

Eleven mini-grants were awarded to teachers in local schools totaling \$2,232. Grants included buying seven art canvasses that allowed school artists to enter a statewide context. Another supported the learning needs of 55 incoming Latino students at Shelton High School.

Scholarship

For the first time in many years we revived a scholarship for a needy student at the Shelton branch of Olympic Community College.

Do WSSRA members give to their communities? You bet they do!

During the 2019-20 school year, the 18,000 WSSRA members accumulated 133,000 hours of volunteer work, gave \$135,000 in mini-grants to educators in our local schools, and awarded \$276,000 in scholarships to high school seniors and student teachers.

We are an organization that believes in public education and community well-being, and we walk our talk!

Congratulations and thanks to all who have generously given their time and money to help those in need.

Okanogan County SRA – Unit 15

Project #1: Support Food Bank

Purpose: To provide financial resources (\$100) to the Oroville Food Bank.

This year the OCSRA chose the Oroville Food Bank (OFB) as the county food bank to support. In previous years (15 total) the association has supported other county food banks. The OFB serves 161 families and is staffed by volunteers.

Project #2: Support Food Pantry

Purpose: To provide financial support (\$200) for the Okanogan County Outreach School's food pantry. These funds were designed to provide food for the County's needy children while they were being transported to school.

Project #3: Support Gas for Grants

Purpose: To provide financial resources (\$200) for "Gas for Grants", a program to help students of Wenatchee Valley Community College (Omak Campus) with transportation costs.

Project #4: Support Local Support Center

Purpose: To provide new or gently used (and clean) clothing and household goods to the Support Center, which serves victims of domestic violence and sexual assault (and their families) in Okanogan County.

Project #5: Support the Cariboo Restaurant

Purpose: To provide financial support (\$300) to offset canceled OCSRA meetings due to COVID-19

Mini-grants

Fifteen \$200 grants were awarded to OCSRA members actively working or volunteering in local schools.

Scholarship

A \$1,500 scholarship was awarded to an Okanogan County graduate who reached junior or higher status in college while majoring in an educational field.

East King SRA – Unit 16

Mini-grants

Thirteen mini-grants were awarded to local educators totaling \$3,456. A portion of funds for these grants came from a silent auction held in December. One grant of \$300 was given to a science teacher at Mt. Si High School who is engaging in a pilot program to investigate animal populations in the area – including analysis of a large herd of elk that often graze near the high school. The money from the grant will be used to purchase outdoor trail cameras.

East King SRA made monetary donations to Big Table and to the Holocaust Center for Humanity.

Individual members of East King SRA devoted time to public libraries, senior centers, Hopelink, and a variety of other local non-profit organizations.

Pend Oreille SRA – Unit 18

Project: Food Bank Donation

Purpose: Each year members provide food and financial contributions to the local area food bank. The most recent POSRA donation was \$150.

Mini-grants

Three \$200 mini-grants were given to area teachers. One provided funds for a heated seed mat used for germinating seeds for vegetables and flowers for a high school greenhouse. Another replaced worn out music stands for a grade 6 - 12 vocal music teacher. A third grant purchased a mini-laminator, photo paper, and ink to produce student portfolios for kindergarten students.

Renton South King RSEA – Unit 19

Project #1: Pregnancy Aid of Kent

Purpose: Provide children and clients of the area with diapers, layettes, clothing, and other essential supplies.

On a weekly basis, unit volunteers assist this Pregnancy Aid of Kent to help supply needy new parents and children with essential items. In 2019 PA of Kent served over 1000 clients and gifted over 67,000 items – including toys, car seats, books, and Christmas gifts.

Project #2: Nails Spa at Brookdale Retirement Home

Purpose: To provide a monthly, no cost, nails spa to residents

Once a month unit volunteers arrive at a local nursing home to provide free nail spas for residents. In addition, homemade gifts with a seasonal theme are brought to distribute. Twenty to twenty-five residents are served each month in a program described by the nursing home director as the most popular that is offered.

Mini-grants

Fifty-six grants were awarded totaling \$3,750.

Grant #1: Random Acts of Kindness. Teachers and classified employees were asked to list important school supplies that were not provided by the district in a “GO-fund-me” – like format. Grants were limited to \$25 each, with a total budget of \$2,000.

Grant #2: The unit chooses schools in a different geographical area each year and then focuses on a school with high needs. This past year \$3,000 was awarded to an elementary school to purchase books, math stem challenges, emotional support games, and three cup towers for improving hand-eye coordination. Once the school is chosen, unit volunteers spend time with the principal to determine the highest value needs of the school.

Seattle SRA – Unit 20

Project: Support Social Service Programs

Purpose: Individual members devoted time to a variety of social service programs designed to improve lives of those in need.

Individual members volunteered at the following social, governmental and cultural events, and activities: public libraries, church/homeless programs, Habitat for Humanity, Senior Centers, tutoring, and coaching in schools, city park department, Interracial Families Association, Euthenics of Greater Seattle, South Seattle Community College Professional Educational Standards Practicum, Japan floral designs, and choir director assistance.

Mini-grants

Eleven \$200 (non-member) and ten \$500 (member) grants were distributed (total \$7,200). Funds supported field trips, summer school art activities, Career and Technical Education conference attendance, school supplies, and art supplies.

Scholarships

A total of \$42,500 was distributed in the following manner:

Four \$2,500 grants were awarded to Seattle Public School seniors
Four \$5,000 grants were awarded to student teaching interns in their last year of study
Seattle Public Schools Foundation received \$12,500 for scholarships

Skagit-Island-San-Juan REA – Unit 21

Project #1: Canned Food Drive

Purpose: Following a long history of service, aided the needy through a canned food drive. One hundred lbs of non-perishables were collected at unit meetings and distributed throughout the fall and winter.



Project #2: Boys and Girls Club Support

Purpose: Donated \$250 to the local Boys and Girls Club to promote programs after school and weekends.

Project #3: League of Women Voters Homeless Student Forum

Purpose: We partnered with the League of Women Voters to sponsor a homeless student forum designed to make the community aware of the need to support the educational and social-emotional challenges facing homeless children. One of the outcomes of the forum was a financial donation to a local school district for use in filling gaps to their homeless program that is partially supported through McKinney Vento federal funds.

Mini-grants

Twenty-seven mini-grants were awarded for a total of \$3,950. Chapter books, art supplies, and STEM supplies were among the many notable projects that were supported.

Scholarships

A student teacher was awarded \$1,500 through an internship scholarship.

Sno-Isle SRA – Unit 22

Project #1: Support Christmas House

Purpose: Collect toys and cash donations for Everett’s Christmas House.

Toys and items like doll clothes are brought to the unit’s Christmas luncheon and delivered to Christmas House. Several members also volunteer at Christmas House.



Project #2: Support Recycling for Children’s museum

Purpose: Collect recycling materials that are donated to the Imagine Children’s Museum.

Members save items like Styrofoam trays, yogurt containers, and paper tubes that make wonderful building blocks for kid projects at the museum. This effort goes on throughout the year.

Mini-grants

Forty separate educators were given a total of \$13,000 in 2019-20. One project of note provided method books for learning to play the Ukelele. (The instruments were purchased through proceeds from another grant.) Another grant supported the purchase of “mTiny robots” that teach programming basics without a computer.

Scholarships

Local high school seniors interested in a career in education were awarded \$4,000.

Sno-King SRA – Unit 23

Project: Snacks for Homeless Kids

Purpose: Provide snacks for homeless students in South Snohomish County.



The Washington Kids in Transition program supplies nutritional snacks for students on buses that are transporting them through the McKinney-Vento program. Small food bags are given to students who may not have food available to them until the next day. Over the past two years 15,000 bags have been distributed to up to 125 students per day. SKSRA members volunteer to purchase and prepare the food bags once a year.

Mini-grants

Nineteen mini-grants were distributed to local educators. The total money given was \$4,299.

One grant created sensory walks in the hallways of an elementary school that houses kindergarten, first, and second graders. A second grant provided bus transportation to a high school for fifth and sixth grade students for a Black History Month event.

Scholarships

Fifteen scholarships were awarded to area high school seniors totaling \$30,000.

Spokane Area REA – Unit 25

Project #1: Annual Coats, Hats, Gloves Drive

Purpose: Provide warm clothing for the neediest within our community.

Spokane Area Outreach board member coordinates the annual project. The items are typically brought to the unit meetings, as well as our September and December luncheons. This year the items were donated to the Chaplin's Outreach Unit, Spokane Police Department. The police often come upon situations where there is an immediate need for children to be properly clothed for inclement weather conditions. Forty-one members of SAREA donated this year, many of whom have donated to this project for several years.



Project #2: Collecting Books for Children

Purpose: Provide books for children without access to reading material in classrooms/school.

SAREA members donate books that are given to local schools or organizations like homeless shelters. Each book has a bookplate identifying SAREA as the donor.

Project #3: Making masks – Meals on Wheels

Purpose: Provide masks for volunteers and recipients.

With the COVID-19 outbreak, several members reached out and wanted to help. Spokane Area REA emailed members and invited them to make masks at home that could be used by those in the community with a need. This project will continue until the outbreak has passed.

Mini-grants

A total disbursement of \$6,000 for 36 grants were awarded.

Sensory playground equipment (support activities focusing on touch, sound, sight, spatial awareness, balance, hand-eye coordination) was purchased at Lidgerwood Elementary, and a food pantry (food bank) program was supported for needy students at Rogers High School.

Scholarships

Five high school scholarships were awarded totaling \$7,000; two student teacher scholarships were awarded at \$800 each.

Pierce County SRA – Unit 27

Project #1: Sock Drive

Purpose: Collect new socks for use by Nativity House, a local homeless shelter.

This is Pierce County's fourth year for this project, and it is publicized in the Pierce County SRA newsletter. It seems easy for members to contribute socks, and approximately 50 members contributed 300 pairs of socks during the late fall through December. This project requires no budget, just a willingness of members to contribute socks and volunteers to deliver them.

Pierce County SRA – Unit 27 - Continued

Project #2: Empty Prescription Bottles

Purpose: Collect empty prescription bottles for donation to a homeless shelter.

The bottles are used for filling and distribution of personal supplies - shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc. From December through February members donated over 300 empty pill bottles. This project also requires no budget but needs a few willing volunteers to collect and distribute the bottles.

Mini-grants

Thirteen grants were funded for a total of \$2,675. One interesting grant focused on assisting a teacher with online lessons necessary for instruction due to coronavirus school closures. This teacher used funds to upgrade the Wi-Fi router in his home, since both he and his wife work for the district, must be in the same room, and have two small boys, age one and three years. The new appropriate Wi-Fi router will enable them to video stream throughout the house and insure no dropped meetings or slowdowns occur while teaching.

Scholarships

Three at \$1,500 = \$4,500 for high school seniors interested in a career in education.

Thurston County SRA – Unit 28

Project #1: Salvation Army and Food Bank Donation

Purpose: Help out two local charities in need.

Each year Unit 28 donates to the Salvation Army and the Thurston County Food Bank by accepting cash donations at our November and December luncheons. This year we collected \$1,611 for the Salvation Army and \$1,391 for the Food Bank.



Project #2: Food Bank Super Sorts

Purpose: Provide volunteer labor for the local food bank.

This year a dozen interested members participated in Food Bank Super Sorts. This activity provides collection and staging services so food bank personnel can efficiently distribute food to the needy.

Project #3: Little Red Schoolhouse

Purpose: Provide needy students with school supplies and clothing

The Little Red Schoolhouse (LRS) is a local organization committed to serving needy families and children in Thurston County, with the goal of sending the students back to school with pride. School supplies, backpacks, new and gently used coats/sweatshirts, new socks and underwear are provided at no cost so that children can begin the school year with their basic needs met. We support LRS by donating new socks. Members bring the socks to our luncheons. This year our goal was to collect 1000 pairs of socks. With the March, April, and May luncheons canceled, we fell short of this goal, collecting just short of 600 pairs. In addition, many Thurston County members participate in an August work party, organizing the donated items and helping with distribution to students.

Thurston County SRA – Unit 28 - Continued

Mini-grants

Elementary Mini-Grants: Thirty-nine grants were given totaling \$7,000.

We received requests for a wide variety of projects. Science-related requests included magnifying glasses, frog hatchery kits, and owl pellets for dissecting. Chess sets, LEGOS, CD players, rhythm instruments, and music books were also purchased. We also funded an African Biome Map and an IditaRead Reading Challenge using iditarod.com.

Secondary Mini-Grants: Seventeen grants were given totaling \$4,500

Funds were provided to purchase suturing kits for a Sports Medicine class, headsets with microphones to record and edit interviews for an oral history project, molecular model kits, high interest games for classrooms, and orchestra festival registration fees.

Scholarships

One award was made for \$1,000 to a local high school senior interested in a career in education.

Benton-Franklin SRA – Unit 29

Project #1: Helping All Kids

Purpose: Provide school supplies to needy children.

Each August the unit collects necessary school supplies and provides them to needy children in the area. This involves the collection, organization, and delivery of supplies to a wide area.

Project #2: Salvation Army Toy Drive

Purpose: Provide toys, books, and educational games to needy children at Christmas.

Each November unit members bring new or gently used books, toys, and educational games for distribution to needy children at Christmas.

Mini-grants

Thirty-two grants were awarded totaling \$5,857.

The grants included support for literacy, classroom libraries, STEAM projects, music supplies, nuclear forensics material, Coding with Kinders, DECA competition support, ecology experiments, center time manipulatives, VR Google Goggles, light painting, and an elementary GLAD program.



Scholarships

Student teachers from WSU Tri-Cities, CWU, EWU and Heritage were awarded \$15,000

Southwest Washington SRA – Unit 30

Project #1: Canned Food Drive

Purpose: To provide food and cash donations to the local food bank.

Each year Southwest Washington SRA asks members to bring non-perishable food and cash to unit meetings. Those items are then sent to the local food bank for distribution.

Project #2: Donation to School Foundations

Purpose: To support local school foundations with cash

Each year \$1,000 is given to foundations in the Vancouver School District, the Battle Ground School District, and the Cascadia Technological Academy

Mini-grants

Eleven mini-grants were awarded totaling \$3,010. Notable grants supported student volunteer efforts at a local food bank, assisted a music teacher with purchasing sheet music, supported after-school chemistry tutoring, purchased resources to help primary students regulate their emotions, and bought books and games to develop reading skills.

Scholarships

Two scholarships totaling just under \$1,000 were awarded to Clark County Community College students who plan a career in education.

Walla Walla Columbia SRA – Unit 31

Project #1: Teddy Bear Tea

Purpose: Raise scholarship funds for high school seniors interested in an education career

Volunteers collect or make teddy bears—big ones, medium sized ones, and small ones—for display at an annual event auction. In addition to bears, local businesses donate items for the auction including Seahawks merchandise, paintings, restaurant vouchers, and a host of other items. Tea, fresh fruit, cookies, chocolate, and sandwiches are available. Attendance is always high, with kids of all ages leaving the event with a smile on their face and a teddy bear under their arm. The event typically raises \$2,000 for scholarships.

Project #2: Donation to the local Covid-19 Response Fund

Purpose: To help those negatively impacted by the coronavirus outbreak.

Five hundred dollars was donated to the Response Fund of the Blue Mountain Community Foundation (BMCF). Through April this group, managed by an advisory committee of 23 local non-profit leaders, has donated over \$180,000 to assist community food banks, to support the partial purchase of a mobile ultra-sound for recently opened COVID-19 Clinic, to provide food, security, rent and utility assistance for coronavirus-affected residents, and to support similar initiatives.

Walla Walla Columbia SRA – Unit 31 - Continued

Mini-grants

Thirty-two grants were awarded for a total of \$6,400. Among the items provided were Accelerated Reader, Scholastic, social skills and Margaret Hiller books, wireless speakers to allow outdoor dance practices, an Apple Music subscription, light shades to control too-bright sunlight, a hammock swing for kids with emotional disorders, and noise cancelling headphones for kids with sound sensitivities.

Scholarships

Two \$2,000 scholarships for student teachers from Teddy Bear Tea proceeds.

Whatcom County SRA – Unit 32

Project #1: Food Bank Support

Purpose: To provide food and cash donations to the local food bank.

Each year Whatcom County asks members to bring non-perishable food and cash to unit meetings. Those items are then sent to the local food banks for distribution.

Project #2: General Community Service

Purpose: To support local charities and local foundations in their goal to support needy members of the community

Members routinely support those in need physically or economically through volunteering at local hospitals, rehabilitation centers, parks, nursing homes, and serving as transporters of disabled seniors to medical appointments.

In addition, the unit gave a total of \$5,800 to local and state foundations (NW Indian College, Whatcom Community College, Bellingham Technical College, and WSSR-Foundation).

Mini-grants

Thirty-five mini-grants were awarded for a total of \$7,025. A notable grant supported a fifth grade teacher as she built up her classroom library, with a special emphasis on purchasing biographies that that became central to a unit that had each student learn about an important historical figure. The unit culminated with the students dressing up as their subject as they spoke in first person about the person's accomplishments.

Whitman County SRA – Unit 33

Project #1: Books for Head Start

Purpose: Support the local Head Start program with books that can be taken home by the children.

Members purchased new and gently used books to be distributed to Head Start kids at the beginning of the summer to fill a need during vacation. This program is long-standing and is effective county wide.

Whitman County SRA – Unit 33 - Continued

Project #2: Grants for Active Teachers, helping teachers with materials not paid for by school districts.

Purpose: Whitman County Retired Educators have been offering mini-grants to Active Teachers in our group for many years. This past school year we presented the teachers with over \$2600 in grants, for 10 teachers in 4 different school districts.



Project #3: Books for new school not paid by the school district.

Purpose: Whitman County SRA also granted a \$1000 to the librarian at Pullman's newest elementary school to purchase books and visual materials. The librarian is a member of Unit 33.

Whitman County SRA has made donations to the Pullman Depot Heritage Center. This is part of the Whitman Historical Society, to which many of the Whitman County Retired Educators belong.

Mini-grants

Ten area teachers received \$2,614 in grants over the year. Bouncing balls were provided and became a hit with primary kids.

Yakima County SRA – Unit 34

Project: General Community Service

Purpose: YCSRA supports a variety of community organizations that help the needy.

During 2019-20 YCSRA donated \$1000 to eight community organizations. They were:

- Trailseekers: At-risk students and their parents are given opportunities that incorporate nature into their lives. Camping, hiking, and help with social/family issues are emphasized.
- Rod's House: Homeless at-risk youths 13 – 24 get help finding jobs, beating addiction, and staying in school.
- Extra Mile (Grandview): Tutoring and an after-school place to hang out, do homework, and have fun are central to the mission of Extra Mile.
- LaCasa Hogar: Connections with Latinx families on items like English language literacy, adult education, financial literacy, parenting skills, and citizenship education are emphasized.
- Madison House Community Youth Center: A safe hub for youth to do homework, learn personal responsibility, and encouragement in character is provided.
- Voice for Children: The support of students in foster care with nutrition, health care, legal issues, and general support is given.
- Pegasus Project: Provides therapeutic assistance for youth with special physical and emotional needs.
- Central Washington Agricultural Museum: Preserves cultural and agricultural history of the Valley, and provides tours (including hands-on experiences) for school aged students.

Mini-grants

Thirty-three mini-grants were awarded with a total dollar output on \$12,904. Awards were made in amounts up to \$500 per grant.

Scholarships

Two \$1000 scholarships were awarded to high school students seeking a career as a music educator.

