

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Contact:

Patricia Wigney, Bridgeway House Executive Director, (541) 345-0805, bridgewayhouse@comcast.net

BRIDGEWAY HOUSE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED RECEIVING 3 GRANTS TO AID FAMILIES, INDIVIDUALS WITH ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Eugene, Ore. – Bridgeway House recently received three essential grants to assist with providing services to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families. The grants were from the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, the Autzen Foundation, and the Eugene Rotary Club.

The Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation grant will support Bridgeway House's Home Therapy Program. Bridgeway House's Home Therapy Program utilizes different therapies to help build the necessary foundations for the success of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families. As the child progresses and grows, these goals are changed and adapted. Therapies are provided in the client's home so parents and siblings become skilled at interacting with the child, making the whole family healthier. Occupational, music, and speech/language therapies are also available if needed. The Home Therapy Program strives to ensure that children with ASD receive the intensive therapies necessary to help them meet their full potential.

The Autzen Foundation grant will support the Bridgeway House Theatre Troupe's Annual Theatre Production. Bridgeway House's Theatre Troupe puts on an annual theatre production with performers who are affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder on some level. The performance is held at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts in Eugene and tickets are available to the public. These productions provide participants with the opportunity to fulfill a dream and to learn about the art of theatre. The works performed range from original works created by the performers (or their own or with a group) to works that are personally meaningful to the performers but not original to them. The 2012 theatre production will be on April 13th.

The Eugene Rotary Club grant will support Bridgeway House's Social Group Program. Bridgeway House's Social Group Program consists of small groups of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder learning social skills in a facilitated, supportive setting. Arts, crafts, games, field trips, and topic-specific conversations provide an opportunity to work on social skills and build lasting friendships with peers. A child with ASD who lacks social skills generally takes that disability with them into adulthood which may lead to difficulties in finding and keeping a job, friends, and the ability to be a productive member of society. Helping children with ASD learn social skills gives them tools they can use throughout their lifetime and enriches any community they live in as well.

Founded in 2002, Bridgeway House works to bridge the gap of services in Lane County. Most services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder end when they are 5 years old; however, since Autism Spectrum Disorder is a lifelong condition, continuing support is vital. Bridgeway House has created many services and programs to help with the overwhelming needs of these children. Bridgeway House strives to help this diverse group of children meet the challenges of Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as helping their families cope with the social, emotional, and financial challenges they face.

For more information about Bridgeway House, please visit <http://www.bridgewayhouse.org>.

About Bridgeway House

Bridgeway House was founded in late 2002 and offers treatments, therapies, counseling, education, instruction, training, advocacy, support, and resource information for children and families of all income levels with autism and related disabilities.

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