Community Donations Push St. Charles Capital Campaign Over $9.2 Million Mark

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Recent donations from Central Oregon community members and businesses have pushed the St. Charles capital campaign over the $9.2 million mark, bringing the campaign even closer to its $10 million goal. The countdown continues, with only six weeks remaining for our community to raise enough funds to qualify for a $600,000 Kresge Foundation challenge grant.

"If we are able to reach our capital campaign goal of $10 million by December 31, 2006, we will receive $600,000 from The Kresge Foundation," said Doug Downer, general chair of the St. Charles Foundation's Expanding the Vision capital campaign. "This is an all or nothing challenge to our community if we don't meet our goal we donÂ¹t receive the $600,000."

Recent major gifts to the campaign include $50,000 from Central Oregon Emergency Physicians; $40,000 from Fred and Susan Breidenbach; $30,000 from Northwest Emergency Physicians of TEAMHealth; $25,000 from John and Helen Backlund; $25,000 from Bryant, Emerson & Fitch; $25,000 from Jan and Jody Ward; $17,000 from Karnopp Petersen, LLP; $15,000 from Bob and Clella Thomas; $10,000 from Community First Bank; $10,000 from Tim Maher; and $10,000 from VIK Construction. In addition, a mail and phone campaign to 10,000 area residents has raised over $200,000 for the capital campaign.

"I've been very impressed with the support our community has shown for St.Charles and our commitment to continue to meet the needs of our growing region," said Downer. "And now, as we move into the final phase of the capital campaign with this opportunity for significant support from The Kresge Foundation, I am confident that our community will continue to rise to the challenge and help us to meet our $10 million goal."

"All of us depend upon St. Charles to provide excellent services for ourselves, our families, and our neighbors when we are in need," said Jerry Andres, honorary chair of the campaign. "Now it is our turn to pitch in and show our support for our community hospitals. Every contribution counts and is appreciated, no matter what the size."

The St. Charles Foundation's "Expanding the Vision" capital campaign will help support a record $128 million investment in facilities, technology and equipment at St. Charles Medical Centers in Bend and Redmond to help keep pace with exploding growth in the region. In Redmond, projects include a three-story expansion that will include private patient rooms, enhanced state-of-the-art surgical facilities, expanded public areas and room for future expansion to meet the needs of continued growth.

Projects in Bend include an expanded emergency department, a new medical diagnostics unit, additional inpatient beds, a new power and utilities plant, a new helicopter for Air Life of Oregon and an expanded Family Birthing Center and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. The investment is also paying for the electronic

medical records system in Bend and Redmond, helping to reduce the risk of medical errors, improve patient care and increase efficiency.

The Kresge Foundation is a national foundation with $3 billion in assets.

Through its grant making programs, The Kresge Foundation seeks to strengthen nonprofit organizations by catalyzing their growth, connecting them to their stakeholders, and challenging greater support through grants. The Kresge Foundation's core grant making activity is its Capital Challenge Grants program. In this program, The Kresge Foundation focuses on opportunities to strengthen leadership and giving through challenge grants for capital projects.

An independent, private foundation created by the personal gifts of Sebastian S. Kresge, The Kresge Foundation is not affiliated with any corporation or organization. In 2005 The Kresge Foundation awarded 212 grants totaling $131,770,027 to organizations in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, South Africa and Mexico.

To learn more about the "Expanding the Vision" capital campaign and to pledge your support, please contact the St. Charles Foundation at 541.383.6996.

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